



Kevin Petroff
First Assistant

Johnny Freeze
Chief Investigator

**Zonia Wiltturner-
Smith**
Chief Executive
Officer

Press Release

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WILLIAM REECE INDICTED FOR MURDERS OF LAURA SMITHER AND JESSICA CAIN

GALVESTON, TX – Criminal District Attorney Jack Roady announced today that a Galveston County grand jury has returned two indictments against William Lewis Reece for the 1997 murders of Laura Smither and Jessica Cain.

Earlier this year, law enforcement officials approached William Reece - who was serving a 60 year kidnapping sentence in Texas and had already been charged for the 1997 murder of Tiffany Johnston in Oklahoma - to see if he would cooperate with investigators in connection with the 1997 disappearances of Laura Smither, Kelli Cox and Jessica Cain.

Based on information learned from Reece, in February 2016 a number of law enforcement agencies and volunteer groups came together to search several tracts of land in Houston in an effort to locate Jessica Cain's body.

Those efforts concluded in late March, after weeks of excavation, when human remains were discovered buried on the property and were identified as belonging to Jessica Cain.

Meanwhile, Reece also provided information that led to weeks of excavation at a site in Brazoria County, involving these same law enforcement agencies as well as the Denton Police Department. These efforts led to the recovery of remains which were identified as belonging to Kelli Cox. The Denton County District Attorney's Office has that investigation and will be making their charging decision.

After the remains of Jessica Cain and Kelli Cox were recovered, the Texas Rangers and the Friendswood Police Department conducted further investigation concerning the death of Laura Smither. The work of all these investigators has today led to the indictments for the murders of Laura Smither and Jessica Cain.

Contact:

Galveston County
Justice Center
600 59th Street
Suite 1001
Galveston, Texas
(409)766-2355
(409)766-2290 (fax)