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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY SENTENCES MAN TO 20 YEARS FOR FELONY STALKING

July 15, 2015

GALVESTON – Today a jury convicted David Wayne Harris of the felony offense of Stalking and sentenced him to 20 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Harris was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Candice Freeman and Jennifer Ott in the 56th District Court, with Judge Lonnie Cox presiding. Lynette Briggs represented the defendant.

The victim testified that during the months from March to July 2014, she received numerous unwanted text messages and phone calls from Harris. In many of the text messages, Harris threatened to either kill or injure the victim. The victim further testified that she made numerous complaints to the police and that although he was arrested twice during the four to five month period, the threats and harassment did not stop until Harris was finally arrested for stalking in July 2014.

Detective Greg Hayes, with the Galveston County Sheriff's Office, testified that he was requested to review two terroristic threat cases that had been filed against Harris. Through a review of the case reports and interviewing the victim, Detective Hayes determined that Harris was continuing to threaten and harass the victim. During the interview with the victim, Detective Hayes took numerous images of the victim's phone showing the text messages that had been received from Harris. Detective Hayes also testified that he eventually subpoenaed the cell phone records of both the victim and Harris. The cell phone records, submitted by the State, showed 100s of phone calls and over 300 text messages from Harris to the victim, all sent or made during the four to five month period.

After a day and a half of testimony, the jury deliberated for about 45 minutes before returning a guilty verdict. The Defendant faced a sentencing range of two to 20 years because of one felony enhancement for a 1989 conviction for burglary of a building. During the punishment stage, the State presented evidence about the

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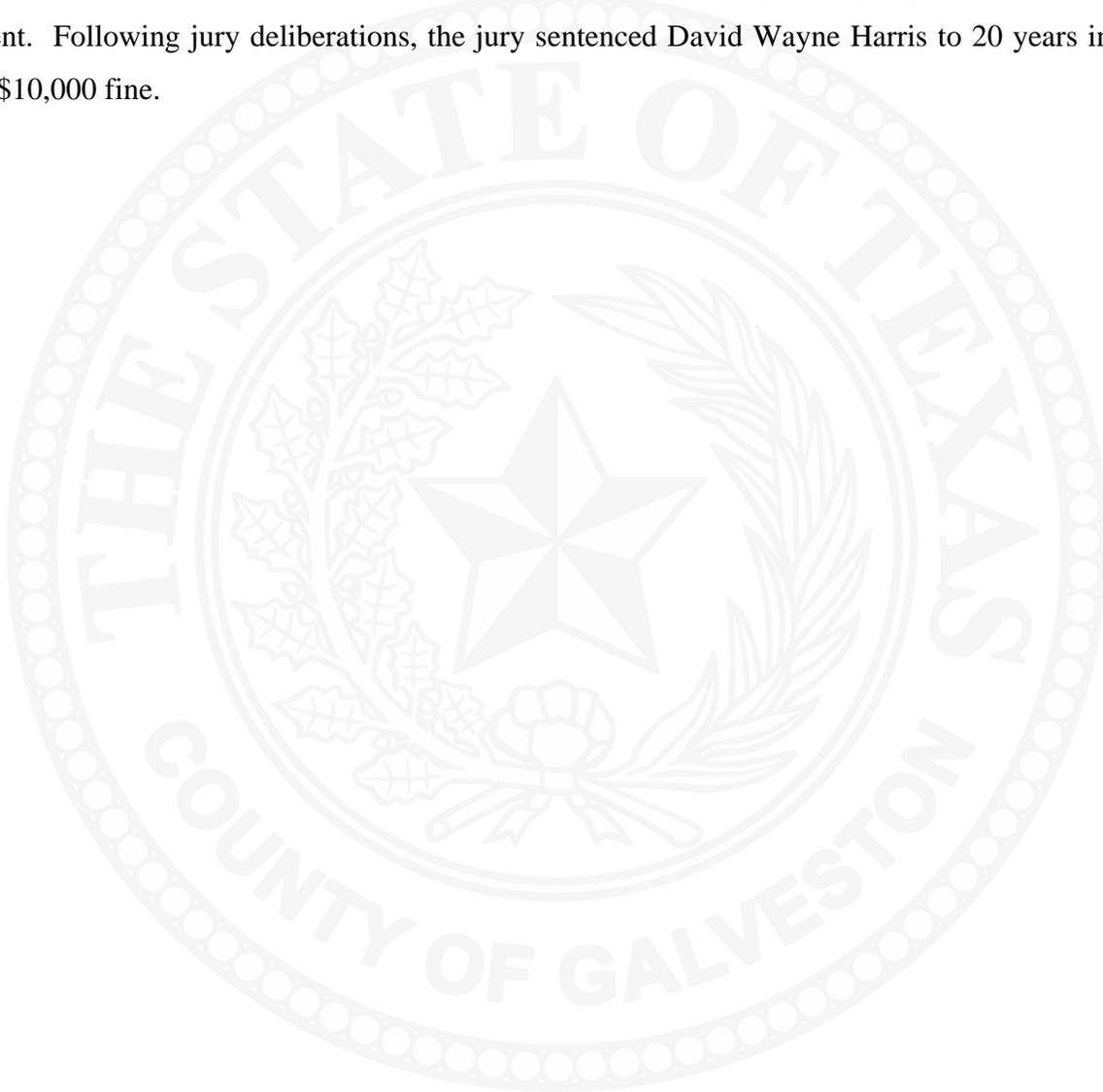
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felony enhancement and also submitted evidence showing Harris also had a second 1989 felony conviction for burglary of a habitation and a 1994 conviction for assault causing bodily injury with family violence enhancement. Following jury deliberations, the jury sentenced David Wayne Harris to 20 years in prison and assessed a \$10,000 fine.



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