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Signal Hill Man Convicted of Murders

A 49-year-old man accused of killing two men in 1996 and 2007 was convicted today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Julian Recana said the jury deliberated for less than a day before finding Jeffrey Means of Signal Hill guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Ronald Henry, 67, and second-degree murder in the death of Hal Dean Shaw, 48.

Jurors also found true the special circumstance allegation of multiple murders. Additionally, they found true that Means used a jack stand and knife in the commission of the crimes.

Means is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 22 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach in Department S23. He faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

The prosecutor said Shaw was discovered bludgeoned to death in his home on June 12, 1996. Eleven years later, Ronald Henry was found stabbed multiple times in the neck. The defendant was interviewed by police after Henry's death and then arrested in connection with the killing.

After further investigation, law enforcement connected Means to Shaw's death and he was additionally charged with his killing.

In both murders, Means was friends with the victims and the last person to be seen with them before their deaths, the prosecutor said. DNA evidence also linked the defendant to the crimes.

The cases were investigated by the Whittier Police Department and Long Beach Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.