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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Attorney Monique Worrell’s Announces Carjacking with a Firearm Conviction

ORANGE COUNTY, FL (January 20, 2023) — Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Monique H. Worrell announces a jury in Orange County found Kevin Steplight, 35, guilty of carjacking with a firearm.

On the night of Saturday, October 16, 2021, the victim in this case was driving from out of town to drop his friend off in Orlando. The victim and his friend stopped at a WAWA gas station to get some food. They parked their vehicle at a gas pump, went inside to get sandwiches, and returned to eat while parked at the gas pump. The defendant is at the same gas station and can be seen on surveillance video walking around the area aimlessly.

While the victim is in his vehicle, another vehicle pulls up to a different gas pump and two individuals exit the vehicle. At the same time, the defendant can be seen crossing the street and walking towards the gas pumps towards the two individuals that just arrived. The defendant takes out a firearm and begins shooting at those two individuals causing them to take cover and return fire. The defendant is then struck by a bullet to his leg and falls to the ground. The other participants in the shootout get in their car and flee. The defendant gets up and approaches the victim who is eating a sandwich in his vehicle. The defendant points a gun to the victim’s head, threatens to kill him, takes his vehicle and flees in their vehicle—stopping only to pick up a second gun that he dropped on the ground during the shootout.

The defendant crashes the victim’s vehicle less than a mile down the road, and officers find him on the ground immediately outside of the driver’s door. In the vehicle, officers located a handgun and a gun that is classified as a handgun but looks more like an assault rifle.

Through the tireless efforts of Assistant State Attorneys Alen Trobradovic and Stephen Pena, the jury ultimately returned a verdict of guilty on January 20, 2023.

Mr. Steplight was recently released from prison for a firearm offense in June of 2020 after serving a 3-year sentence. Because Mr. Steplight was released from prison within 3 years of committing a dangerous offense, he is eligible for a prisoner release reoffender enhancement and will be sentenced to life in prison on February 6, 2023.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit’s State Attorney’s Office thanks the Orlando Police Department, and specifically, Detective Patrick Cavanaugh for his diligent work on this case.

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The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the

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area is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Keisha Mulfort at kmulfort@sao9.org.