

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

October 10, 2014

Man Sentenced to Life for Armed Robbery, Kidnapping at Dollar General

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that James Eddie Bailey, 50, was convicted on October 10, 2014, for the crimes of Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, Possessing a Weapon During a Violent Crime and Resisting arrest. The Honorable Steven H. John sentenced Bailey to the mandatory sentence of life in the South Carolina Department of Corrections without the possibility of parole under the South Carolina “two-strikes” law.

Evidence presented at trial by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that Bailey, on April 14, 2013, entered the Dollar General on Poinsett Highway in Greenville, shortly before closing. Once inside, Bailey took the manager hostage by holding a knife to her throat and demanding money. During the ordeal, another employee called 911 and deputies caught up with Bailey as he was leaving the store. After a brief pursuit and struggle, Bailey was taken into custody. The knife, along with \$22.00 Bailey had taken from the store, were recovered.

At sentencing, Assistant Solicitor Fretwell presented evidence of Bailey’s eleven prior convictions for Armed Robbery, triggering the State’s “two-strikes” law.