



**SCOTT W. STOREY**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

**For Immediate Release August 2, 2005**

**Contact:** Carl Blesch  
303-271-6868

**RE:** First Degree Murder Convictions

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A Jefferson County District Court jury today returned convictions of Murder in the First Degree, Kidnapping, Attempted Robbery and Conspiracy to Distribute a Schedule II Controlled Substance (cocaine) against Rodney Valenzuela, age 28, of Denver.

The case was filed by the Lakewood Police Department following the death of Danie (pronounced "Danny") Gene Monk, age 42, of Lakewood. Testimony in the case indicated that Monk was killed on January 17, 2004, following an argument over a drug debt.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 26, 2005, in Division 11 of the Jefferson County District Court. A sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole is mandatory. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Joe Gilmore and Jim Stanley.

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