## News Release

For Immediate Release February 4, 2011

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## ARMED ROBBERY SPREE ACROSS CHARLESTON AND DORCHESTER ENDS WITH BIG PRISON SENTENCES

## **PARTIES**

Charleston County Assistant Solicitor Burns Wetmore (442-3993)

Dorchester County Assistant Solicitor Russell Hilton (832-0150)

Defendant Bryan Leon Mulligan, DOB: 1/7/1989 (Attorney Andy Savage)

Defendant Corey Larkin, DOB: 11/21/1989 (Attorney David Haselden)

Defendant Joshua Monroe, DOB: 9/16/1988 (Attorney Milton Stratos)

For over two months in 2008, a gang of robbers targeted restaurants and businesses across Charleston and Dorchester Counties. The robbers were masks and gloves and were armed with handguns and stun guns. As employees closed for the night, the robbers forced their way in, kidnapping and assaulting the employees and stealing thousands of dollars. In one incident, the robbers forced a female employee to perform sex acts.

The Red Lobster on Mall Drive and the Applebee's, the Noisy Oyster and the Chuck E. Cheese, all on Rivers Avenue, were hit in Charleston County. The Frankie's Fun Park and the Applebee's on Ashley Phosphate Road were hit in Dorchester County. The North Charleston Police Department located a vehicle used in the robberies and arrested Brian Mulligan. Corey Larkin and Joshua Monroe were later arrested and confessed to their role in the robberies.

On Thursday afternoon, these robbers were sentenced at the Charleston County Judicial Center. Each Defendant plead guilty to four counts of Armed Robbery, one count of Attempted Armed Robbery, six counts of Kidnapping, two counts of Aggravated Assault and Battery and one count of First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct. At a hearing that lasted about two hours, Circuit Court Judge Roger Young heard from prosecutors, defense attorneys and victims. Judge Young sentenced Mulligan (22 years old) to thirty years in prison. Larkin (21 years old) and Monroe (22 years old) were both sentenced to twenty five years in prison. At the completion of these sentences, these Defendants may also face involuntary civil commitment pursuant to the South Carolina Sexually Violent Predator Act.