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For Immediate Release

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Jury Returns Guilty Verdict in 1986 East County Cold Case Homicide

DNA Evidence Linked Killer to Crime Scene Two Decades Later

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie Dumanis](#) today announced a first-degree murder conviction in a cold case homicide where the defendant stabbed his ex-girlfriend's mother to death 25 years ago. Marc Exter Jernigan, 44, was found guilty in the slaying of June George, who disapproved of the defendant dating her 19-year old daughter, Kathy Keller.

"I want to thank the jury for their service and commend Deputy District Attorney Jill Schall for her excellent work during the trial and for obtaining a conviction in this difficult case," said DA Dumanis. "This guilty verdict holds a murderer accountable for his crime and brings a measure of justice for the victim's family and friends on the 25-year anniversary of the murder this week."

Witnesses testified during the four-day trial that Jernigan and Keller had broken up about two weeks before George was stabbed more than 78 times on August 8, 1986. Jernigan was arrested in February 2006 after tests matched his DNA to blood found on the victim's bed spread at the crime scene. The defendant's blood was also found on a towel, George's wallet and her eyeglass case. Jernigan, who was working as a real estate agency in Carmel Valley at the time of his arrest, faces 26 years-to-life in state prison.

Sentencing is currently scheduled for Tuesday, October 11 in Department 17 of the El Cajon Superior Court.

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