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For Immediate Release

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Murderer of Retired La Jolla Biotech Executive Sentenced to Life in Prison

Defendant Stole Millions from Victim's Personal Accounts

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) today announced Kent Thomas Keigwin, 61, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for killing a retired biotech executive in his La Jolla apartment in 2010, then stealing nearly \$9 million from the victim's accounts.

"Our Economic Crimes Division did an excellent job preparing and prosecuting this case of murder for financial gain," DA Dumanis said. "I commend Deputy DA Sharla Evert and her team for working to hold the defendant accountable for his actions."

Last November, a jury found Kent Thomas Keigwin, 61, guilty on all six felony counts including murder, grand theft, burglary, identity theft and forgery. John G. Watson's body was found in June of 2010. He had been strangled to death.

Keigwin was a financial adviser who committed the murder during a robbery and for financial gain. Those special allegations make him eligible for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

Keigwin had been tracking Watson the day he died and the two men had a struggle inside the victim's apartment. Keigwin fired a stun gun at Watson, hitting him in his back. He then strangled the victim and took his wallet. Keigwin then used Watson's personal information to impersonate him and transfer millions from the victim's bank to another account.

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