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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: Murder Trial Conviction: People v. Leslie Chance, BF166441A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a murder trial today. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Arthur Norris and Assistant District Attorney Andrea Kohler, a Kern County jury found defendant Leslie Chance guilty of first-degree murder and found true an enhancement that she personally used a firearm to cause the death of her husband, Todd Chance. An additional allegation asserting that the murder was conducted for financial gain was found by the jury to be not true.

At about 9:00 a.m. on August 25, 2013, the body of Todd Chance was found at an almond orchard near Enos Lane and Noriega Road. Todd Chance and an adult female were seen leaving the Chance residence in Todd's vehicle between 7:30 and 8:00 am on the day of Todd's death. Todd's vehicle was found later that same day, abandoned, unlocked, with a revolver identified as the murder weapon on the floorboard. The revolver belonged to Todd and Leslie Chance. Investigation by the Kern County Sheriff's Department revealed video footage of a woman, believed to be Leslie Chance, leaving the area where the vehicle was abandoned. The woman was spotted on several different business surveillance cameras, and the video showed that she had changed clothes, discarded items, and further showed her use a pay phone to call for a taxi cab which ultimately picked her up and dropped her off at another business near the Chance residence.

Additional investigation by the FBI established that Leslie Chance was not on her computer, as she had initially claimed, during the time of Todd's murder.

Detectives further discovered Leslie Chance, who had a history of being opposed to the use of firearms, had handled and fired the murder weapon for the first time just weeks before the murder. The Chance family had also taken a vacation to "CSI: The Experience," in Las Vegas, where topics of criminal investigation were discussed, including the use of cellular phones to track perpetrators.

Notified of the conviction, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "Leslie Chance's

meticulous premeditation in the killing of her husband did not prevent our law enforcement community from exposing the truth of Todd Chance's murder. Today's verdict is a reminder that we will continue to hold anyone who takes the life of another accountable for their crimes."

Leslie Chance's sentencing is scheduled for March 2, 2020, where she faces a sentence of up to 50 years to life in prison as a result of the conviction.