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Guilty Verdicts Obtained In Case Involving Shooting At Bakersfield Heart Hospital: *People of California v. Brandon Clark*: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF171472A

Bakersfield -- District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. In a case prosecuted by Chief Trial Deputy Ken Russell, a Kern County jury found defendant Brandon Clark guilty of five counts of Assault with a Semi-Automatic Firearm while using an Assault Weapon, Shooting at an Occupied Building, Possession of an Assault Weapon, being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and being a Felon in Possession of Ammunition.

On Friday, December 1, 2017, at about 5 pm, Clark approached the employee-only entrance of the Bakersfield Heart Hospital and demanded entrance to the hospital. When hospital security contacted Clark, he threatened a security guard with a handgun, then brandished an assault weapon. Hospital staff then locked Clark out of the hospital, called 911 and began their lockdown procedures for an active shooter.

Clark fired four times with his assault rifle through the glass employee doors and used the damage to make entry to the hospital. As he was stalking the back hallways of the hospital, he encountered several victims and pointed his assault rifle at them from as close as 15 feet. As officers from the Bakersfield Police Department were arriving, Clark fled back through the employee doors into the parking lot where he was confronted by responding officers at the Bakersfield Police Department, at which point an officer-involved shooting took place, which culminated in Clark being shot and taken into custody. Clark was inside the hospital for about 3 minutes, and though he assaulted various victims by pointing a loaded firearm at them, additional shots were not fired inside the hospital.

When officers with the Bakersfield Police Department conducted a search at Clark's house, they found over 4,000 rounds ammunition for the assault weapon and the handgun. As a previously convicted felon, Clark was legally prohibited from even possessing firearms or ammunition of any type.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "Crimes targeting sensitive areas, like hospitals, affect the community at large by eroding the relative safety that everyone should be allowed to enjoy. To open fire upon a busy and operating hospital and then terrorize the people inside is

an act of unprovoked violence for which I offer no leniency. We will be seeking the maximum punishment permissible under the law.”

The sentencing is set on July 21 before the Honorable Judge John Brownlee in Department 6, where Clark faces a maximum sentence in excess of 30 years in prison.

Brandon Clark:

