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## *News Release*

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### **Armed Robber Sentenced to Life Without Parole Under South Carolina's 2 Strikes Law**

**Charleston, S.C. – A Charleston County jury has found Denen L. Johnson, a convicted armed robber, guilty of his second armed robbery offense late this afternoon. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson sought a life without possibility of parole sentence under the State's "two strike" law. "This defendant will never prey upon the citizens of Charleston County or anywhere else for that matter," said Solicitor Wilson.**

**In South Carolina, Armed Robbery carries a potential sentence ranging from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of 30 years. However, for a second armed robbery conviction, the State can seek a sentence of life without the possibility of parole by filing proper notice of intent to seek a life term. Upon the conviction, Circuit Court Judge Markley Dennis sentenced Johnson to a term of life without the possibility of parole.**

**The case was tried on Monday and Tuesday by Assistant Solicitor Rutledge DuRant and centered around the issue of whether Johnson was armed during the commission of the robbery at the Howard Johnson's motel in North Charleston on February 18, 2004.**

**The undisputed facts were that Mr. Johnson walked into the Howard Johnson's around 9:00 p.m. He went directly to the front desk and asked the clerk, Gail Campbell, for a piece of paper and a pen. He wrote the words, "Please don't make me hurt you. Just put the money in the bag," and handed the piece of paper to Ms. Campbell.**

**The incident was captured on surveillance video. The jury took less than two hours to find Mr. Johnson guilty of Armed Robbery.**

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