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For Immediate Release: Dallas County Jury Sentences Kristopher Love to Death by Lethal Injection in the Capital Murder-for-Hire Killing of Dr. Kendra Hatcher

(Dallas County) – On Wednesday, October 31, a Dallas County jury took only three hours to sentence Kristopher Love to death by lethal injection in the capital murder-for-hire killing of 35-year-old pediatric dentist Dr. Kendra Hatcher. Hatcher was gunned down in the garage of her Uptown apartment complex on September 2, 2015.

"I want to thank the jury for their verdict. I also want to thank my team of prosecutors for their hard work and dedication in getting justice for the family of Kendra Hatcher," said Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson.

The series of events that led to the death of Dr. Hatcher began following a love-triangle after Hatcher's then boyfriend, Dr. Ricardo Paniagua, broke off a relationship with his ex-girlfriend 36-year-old Brenda Delgado.

Prosecutors were able to prove that Delgado wanted Paniagua back and was willing to commit murder to do it. Delgado offered money and cars to several people before finding someone willing to commit the elaborate murder-for-hire scheme. Lead Prosecutor Kevin Brooks said, "Kristopher Love agreed to commit the murder for drugs and money. This was not a crime of spontaneity. This was a premediated and well planned out crime."

His co-defendant, Crystal Cortes an acquaintance of Delgado, and the one who drove the getaway car, testified in court last week that the pair planned and executed the crime following weeks of stalking Dr. Hatcher at the direction of jilted lover Brenda Delgado.

During closing arguments today Assistant District Attorney Justin Lord told jurors, "Kristopher Love was a cold-blooded assassin. He plotted and planned to snuff the life out of Kendra Hatcher. Dr. Hatcher was an innocent woman with her whole life ahead of her."

Assistant District Attorney Glen Fitzmartin said, "He's the worst of the worst criminals. This was not a mistake. It was a choice of execution." Fitzmartin told jurors, "Kendra knew that she was going to die that day and he needs to feel that too. That he is going to die."

Ms. Hatcher's parents, along with family members and friends, were in court every day of the trial.

Cortes, 26, pleaded guilty to murder in exchange for a 35-year sentence and her testimony in Love's trial. Delgado is still awaiting her capital murder trial.

The prosecution team was led by Kevin Brooks. Members of the prosecution team included Justin Lord, Glen Fitzmartin, LaQuita Long, Robert Pfeiffer, Jaclyn Lambert and Nina Scherach.

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