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For Immediate Release: Dallas County Jury Returns a Guilty Verdict in Capital Murder Trial of Brenda Delgado

(Dallas, Texas) – It took a Dallas County jury less than 20 minutes to return a guilty verdict in the Brenda Delgado capital murder trial following of week of testimony.

Delgado was accused of orchestrating the murder-for-hire plot that resulted in the death of 35-year old Dallas dentist Dr. Kendra Hatcher on September 2, 2015.

Prosecutors laid out a solid case that portrayed Delgado as a woman obsessed and someone who couldn't handle the fact that her former boyfriend, Ricardo Paniagua, had moved on and didn't want anything to do with her anymore. "Envy drove Delgado to kill Kendra Hatcher. Envy doesn't just make you want the other thing; it makes you want to destroy the other thing. That's what was in her heart," said Prosecutor Glen Fitzmartin one of the three prosecutors in the trial.

The evidence showed that Delgado stalked Dr. Hatcher and asked multiple people to kill her before finding someone willing to commit the crime. Criminal District Attorney First Assistant and Lead Prosecutor Kevin Brooks told jurors, "Make no mistake. Delgado was the mastermind behind this horrific murder." Cell phone records and emails back up witness testimony including the testimony of the getaway driver Crystal Cortes who took the stand and provided details of the murder plot.

Cortes told jurors how she and the gunman Kristopher Love, who was convicted of capital murder in October and sentenced to death, drove to the Uptown apartment complex where Dr. Hatcher lived, and then Love shot her in the head.

During closing arguments Prosecutor Justin Lord said, "Delgado was an obsessed stalker who wanted Dr. Hatcher executed." In his last instructions to the jury, First Assistant Brooks told jurors to send a message to Delgado, "Tell her she is never going home."

Delgao will spend the rest of her life in prison without the possibility of parole.

For her part in Dr. Hatcher's murder, Cortes was paid \$500 and Love was paid in cash and drugs.

Cortes was sentenced to 35 years in prison for her role. Her sentence was handed down this afternoon following the Delgado guilty verdict.

