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**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **Longest Sentence For Sexual Assault Conviction in Alaska Handed Down Today**

State of Alaska v. John Nelson Hunter, 3AN-S02-02916 CR

(Anchorage) - Anchorage Superior Court Judge Philip Volland sentenced John Nelson Hunter to 95 years in prison today, making this the largest sentence ever imposed for sexual assault in Alaska.

"All criminal prosecutions are challenging but in my estimation there are few cases more difficult to take to trial than cases involving sexual assaults," said Alaska Attorney General Gregg Renkes. "I hope today's sentence sends out a message to the victims in this case and in all sexual assault cases that the department of law will continue to fight hard to prosecute offenders like Mr. Hunter. I also wish to thank Adrienne Bachman, Anchorage District Attorney Bob Linton and their support staff for their dedication and for a job well done."

In February 2004 a jury convicted Hunter of five counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree sexual assault, two counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree robbery and assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. Prior to announcing the sentence Judge Volland made the findings that Hunter was a worst offender and a sexual predator. The maximum presumptive sentence was imposed for each count upon which Hunter was convicted. In the case of the sexual assaults this amounted to 25 years for each count. Hunter will serve 25 years on the first sexual assault count and 17 years of each of the remaining four sexual assault counts are consecutive to the first.

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