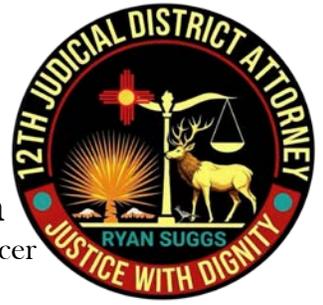




STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the District Attorney
Twelfth Judicial District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTERO COUNTY JURY RETURNS GUILTY VERDICTS IN 2014 COLD CASE

February 27, 2026

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Ryan Suggs announces an Otero County jury found Jonathan Stewart, 31, guilty of two counts of first degree murder on February 24, 2026 following a six-day trial.

On November 2, 2014, at approximately 11:42 P.M., Alamogordo Police Department Officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of Hendrix Ave., Alamogordo, New Mexico, in reference to a stationary suspicious vehicle. Officers located (2) male subjects in the front seats of the vehicle with gunshot wounds. The occupants inside the vehicle were identified as Jonathan Garnand and Devone Blake. Both victims were still alive and pleading Officers for aid. Both victims were transported to Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center (GCRMC) with life threatening injuries. Subsequently, both individuals were air lifted to the University Medical Center (UMC) located in El Paso, Texas. Jonathan Garnand was pronounced deceased on November 4, 2014, and Devone Blake was pronounced deceased on November 10, 2014.

The Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office Cold Case Unit, in addition to the Alamogordo Police Department, began actively working on this cold case again in March of 2020. Consistent case reviews also occurred over the years, but none resulted in solidified leads. Ultimately, it was learned through the investigation that Johnathan Stewart and Angel Armendariz had met with Jonathan Garnand and Devone Blake, prior to, and at the time of the shooting. Cellular phone and GPS data was eventually recovered, ultimately leading law enforcement to execute arrests.

Stewart and Armendariz were arrested in Texas on January 5, 2022. Stewart was booked into the McKinney County Detention Center and Armendariz was booked into the Milam County Jail. Both were charged with multiple alternative counts of murder.

Investigators never located the murder weapons, but two distinctively different casings were found in the rear of the car they occupied.

The cold case investigation in 2020 was supplemented with expert analysis of cell phone location data recovered from Stewart's Gmail account associated with his cell phone that was never recovered. The technology that the FBI used in their analysis was not available in 2014, but

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technology advances led them to be able to create a detailed mapping of the phone's location based on GPS.

The co-defendant, Angel Armendariz, went to trial in October of 2023 and was found guilty of two counts of felony murder. That conviction has been affirmed by the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Sentencing, which is expected to occur at a later date, will be held before the Honorable Angie K. Schneider. Jonathan Stewart will await his sentencing while being detained in the Otero County Detention Center.

This case was prosecuted by Special Prosecutors Scot D. Key and RoxeAnne Esquibel. This case was investigated by the 12th Judicial Major Crimes Unit, the Attorney General's Office, Alamogordo Police Department, New Mexico State Police, McKinney Police Department, Texas Rangers, Bell County Sheriff's Office, College Station Police Department, El Paso Police Department, Milam County Sheriff's Office, Altus Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.