



Lafourche Parish District Attorney's Office IN THE NEWS

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THIBODAUX – After an hour of deliberation, a Lafourche Parish Jury returned a verdict of guilty as charged against a Golden Meadow man charged with attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Benjamin Sanchez, 25, was convicted of shooting another man following an argument over the telephone on July 26, 2015. After the phone call, Sanchez armed himself with a handgun and drove to what would be the scene of the crime at the corner of Pierce St. and North 3rd in the South Lafourche community.

“The fact that the defendant, who was already a convicted felon, armed himself and drove his vehicle to confront the victim was tremendously important in demonstrating that this crime was not committed in self-defense,” said Assistant District Attorney Allie Fournet, who tried the case along with ADA Benjamin Caillouet.

The victim, who was shot in the abdomen, survived and was one of nine witnesses to testify at trial.

“We are first and foremost thankful that this was only an attempted murder and not a homicide,” said District Attorney Camille A. Morvant, II. “But as a society, we can never tolerate using a firearm to settle a dispute. My office will always take a strong stance against gun violence, and today we feel justice was served.”

The defendant asserted at trial that he shot the victim in self-defense, despite the fact that the victim was unarmed. Caillouet said that the quick jury verdict reaffirmed the prosecution's view that there was no merit to the defense's arguments. “I think they saw right through that,” he said. “This was a pretty straightforward case, and the jury got it right.”

Sanchez faces a sentence of between ten and fifty years in prison at hard labor for the conviction for attempted second degree murder. On the charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, he faces between ten and twenty years in prison. Formal sentencing is set for June 21 at 1:30 p.m. before the Hon. Steven M. Miller, who presided over the trial.