

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, July 27, 2021  
Canton, Georgia

### **Robert Aaron Long Sentenced to Life Without Parole in Cherokee County, Georgia**

On July 27, Robert Aaron Long was sentenced to four-consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole plus thirty-five (35) years to serve before the Hon. Ellen McElyea, Chief Judge of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. Mr. Long was represented at the plea hearing by his attorneys J. Daran Burns and Zachary H. Smith.

“It has been Mr. Long’s desire to accept responsibility for his actions on March 16 from the time that he interviewed with police after his arrest. The Cherokee County District Attorney Shannon Wallace worked with us to negotiate this case to achieve today’s result bringing finality in Cherokee County. It is our hope that the Fulton County District Attorney follows D.A. Wallace’s example and agrees to a similar resolution in that county,” said Mr. Smith.

Mr. Long entered a plea of guilty to the offenses of malice murder; felony murder; criminal attempt to commit murder, aggravated assault; aggravated battery; possession of a gun during the commission of a crime; and criminal damage to property, first degree. Pursuant to this plea deal, Mr. Long will serve the remainder of his life in prison.

“For the past 133 days, we have worked diligently to bring a resolution to this case on our client’s behalf,” said Mr. Smith. “Our representation successfully kept the death penalty off the table here in Cherokee County.”

Mr. Burns and Mr. Smith of the Burns Law Group, P.C. were appointed to represent Mr. Robert Aaron Long by the Cherokee County Office of Indigent Defense.

Mr. Long has been indicted in Fulton County for acts that occurred on March 16, 2021. In Fulton County, Mr. Long is represented by the Office of the Capital Defenders. The case is still pending there.

**About Burns Law Group, P.C.:** The Burns Law Group, P.C. is a law firm in Canton, Georgia. For nearly three decades our lawyers in Cherokee County have represented clients throughout northwest Georgia. Attorneys in the Burns Law Group, P.C. practice in areas of criminal defense, divorce, family law, juvenile, probate, wills, and trusts.

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