



# Maricopa County Attorney

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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Man gets Death Sentence in Double Murder**

*Manuel Ovante killed 2 people and injured a third*

County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today that Manuel Ovante Jr. (DOB 10/7/86) has been sentenced to death for a triple shooting that killed two people and injured a third.

According to the probable cause statement, on June 11, 2008 Phoenix Police received word of a shooting at 5126 North 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. Officers arrived and found a deceased woman and an injured man. Later that day the body of another man was found several miles away. He had been shot to death. As police investigated they discovered the fatal shooting was related.

Thanks to witness statements and a police investigation Ovante was arrested in July of 2008 and indicted on two counts First Degree Murder and one count of Aggravated Assault. No motive was ever established in the shootings. However, the defendant knew all three victims and later admitted to being under the influence of meth at the time of the shootings.

In December 2009, Ovante pled guilty as charged. On February 24, 2010 a jury sentenced Ovante to death for the murder of male victim. He was given a life sentence for the murder of the female victim. Deputy County Attorneys Jason Kalish and Belle Whitney prosecuted the case.

Thomas stated, "Drug abuse often has deadly consequences and this case is a tragic example. The community owes thanks to the police who made this arrest and the prosecutors who obtained the guilty plea and sentences."

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