

LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE AND DEATH DEFENDANTS

Mendocino County District Attorney's Office

“Murder w/ SC” = One or more counts of murder in the first degree with one or more proven special circumstances

“LWOP” = Life in state prison without the possibility of parole

Defendant	CDC#	Trial Attorney	Primary Conviction	Sentence	Orig. J&S	Prison Housing	Notes/Comments
Robert Danielson		Harris	Murder w/ SC	Death	Nov. 1986	Deceased	Found guilty by jury of the July 1982 execution-style robbery and murder of retirees Benjamin and Edith Shaffer, who had been camping in their motor home at Manchester while passing through Mendocino County. The jury further recommended imposition of the death penalty. Danielson committed suicide on September 7, 1995 while awaiting his execution on Death Row at San Quentin.
Richard Dean Clark	D73800	AG	Murder w/ SC	Death	Dec. 1987	San Quentin Death Row	Found guilty by jury of the July 1985 rape, stabbing and bludgeoning death of Rosie Grover, age 15 years, with the jury further recommending the death penalty. Rosie Grover was a 15-year-old Ukiah student at the time of her death. Clark remains on Death Row. See http://kidnappingmurderandmayhem.blogspot.com/2010/07/murder-on-doolan-creek.html
Thomas Marston	D20004	Rackauckas	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	Dec. 1985	Vacaville	Found guilty by jury of the 1984 murders of Jack Tomlinson and Jan Me in an abortive marijuana deal turned robbery.
Leif Berkson	J55735	Basner	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	March 1995	Chowchilla	Found guilty by jury of having committed the 1993 murder of Covelo rancher Harvey Lee Boynton while fleeing from one or more burglaries. Boynton was the former owner of the Willits Perko's and a respected community leader.

This is a listing of defendants who have been sentenced from Mendocino County to life in state prison without the possibility of parole or to death.

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Gerald Lester	K81962	Massini	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	Nov. 1997	Vacaville	Found guilty by jury of murdering a Fort Bragg family of four in 1986, acts that included the near decapitation causing death to a 5-year old child. Lester is the former president of the Vallejo chapter of the Hells Angels. A co-defendant, Charles Diaz, the Vallejo chapter vice-president, was separately convicted and sentenced to serve 26-years to life in state prison. Overall prosecution “roadmaps” developed by David Eyster.
Christopher McCoy	P42455	Martin	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	June 1999	Soledad	Found guilty by jury of having committed the 1998 robbery and murder of 44-year old Louis Pearson on Lake Ridge Road.
Johann Schmidt	T75979	Faulder	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	August 2002	Chowchilla	Found guilty by jury of having tortured and murdered 64-year old Christa Amo, a Willits resident. A co-defendant, Amy Andrews, was separately convicted and sentenced to 15-years to life in state prison.
Howard Raff	F79476	Nerli	Murder w/SC	LWOP	July 2007	Stockton	Found guilty by jury of the murder of a former girlfriend, then 60-year old Virginia Larkin, in the law office of the late Ukiah attorney, Hugh Preston, over Raff's \$200/month child support obligation which Raff had been dodging for 22-years. Ms. Larkin was Mr. Preston's legal secretary and the mother of Raff's child.

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Jameson Wolfgang Jackson	BR7330	Trigg	Murder w/ SC	LWOP + 32 years to life	February 2022	Delano	Found guilty by jury of the murder of a bystander who was standing nearby while a separate victim was trying to recover his stolen vehicle from Jackson. Jackson fired from the vehicle at the vehicle owner in an attempt to kill him, with the bullet grazing the vehicle owner but hitting the decedent standing in the background. Jackson had been previously convicted as a juvenile of being involved in the robbery and execution killing of a Brooktrails store owner.
Thomas Dean Jones	BS1159	Eyster	Murder w/ SC	LWOP + 172 years to life	April 2022	Vacaville	Found guilty by jury of the shooting murder of his stepson and the shooting attempted murder of his stepson's husband. Believing the stepson was going to attempt to sell his ¼ interest in a family compound (in which the defendant had no financial interest), the defendant was lying in wait on the morning in question for the two men to come out of their home to go to work. He shot them both so that the stepson's ¼ interest would transfer by operation of law to the other three property owners, particularly the defendant's sister. At the time of trial, the defendant had six prior violent felony convictions for robberies committed in Lake and Sonoma counties.

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