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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 8, 2008**

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**On Friday, December 5, 2008, after a two-week trial, a jury found local resident Richard Jesus Valentine, age 28, guilty of rape by use of an intoxicant, in the Superior Court of Humboldt County. The jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning its verdict. The Honorable John Feeney, Judge of the Superior Court, presided over the trial.**

**The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation of the rape, which occurred on May 19, 2007. At trial, prosecutors Arnold L. Klein and Christa K. McKimmy, introduced DNA evidence through Department of Justice DNA expert Amy Rojas, eyewitness testimony, and testimony by investigating Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Deputy (now Detective) Cheryl Franco.**

**Sentencing will be on January 6, 2009, at 4:00 PM., in Department 4. The defendant faces a minimum of three years and a maximum of eight years, plus any additional time for probation violations, and a pending sentencing for felony possession of heroin. The prosecution expects that the victim will provide an impact statement to the court at the time of sentencing.**