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PRESS RELEASE **DOMESTIC ABUSER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON** **FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER OF HIS WIFE**

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On November 3, 2021, Michael Daniel Martin, aged 41, was sentenced to 27 years to life in State Prison by the Honorable Francisca P. Tisher of Napa Superior Court.

On October 4, 2021, a Napa jury convicted defendant of deliberate and premeditated Attempted Murder of his wife. Defendant was also found guilty of one count of Assault with a Deadly Weapon, one count of Assault with Force Likely to Produce Great Bodily Injury, one count of Corporal Injury to a Spouse, and one count of Criminal Threats. The jury also found true special allegations that the defendant personally used a deadly weapon, a vehicle, and that he personally inflicted great bodily injury under circumstances involving domestic violence after a twelve-day jury trial.

The convictions are the result of the defendant's violent attack on his wife on the night of December 19, 2019. That night, the defendant drove his wife up Mount Veeder Road into the hills of Napa, where he threatened her, punched her repeatedly in the face, pulled out her hair, and strangled her with his hands. When she escaped the vehicle and tried to run away, he chased and hit her with the car, causing both her and the car to fly off the roadway and 60 feet down a steep embankment. The victim suffered serious injuries, including multiple major broken bones. After the defendant left the scene, the victim pulled herself to the car to shelter from the rain and cold, and she spent the night inside the car where she was found the next morning by drivers on their way to work.

Technological evidence from the car's internal computers, along with cell phone records and medical evidence, helped to corroborate the victim's account of what happened at trial. Testimony by domestic violence expert District Attorney Investigator Melissa Kelly showed that this case illustrated common ways domestic abusers use power and control tactics to keep their partners entrenched in a cycle of violence. Additionally, Napa Police Department Detective William Hernandez, testifying as an expert on the topic of strangulation, noted that victims of strangulation by an intimate partner are 750 times more likely to be killed by that partner.

The case was prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Nicole Noonan-Miller who stated:

"The victim in this case is a true survivor. She survived years of abuse at the hands of the defendant, a man she loved and someone she had hoped would protect her. She survived a terrifying night and a

horrific series of violent acts, during which she was sure she would die. And she survived a lengthy wait for the case to go to trial before she could find closure and move forward with a new chapter in her life. I am grateful for this survivor's courage in telling her story, and the jury that honored her courage with their verdict."

Napa County Sheriff's Office Detective Joseph Perry led the investigation. Deputy District Attorney Katie Gross and District Attorney Investigator Melissa Kelly assisted in the prosecution. Napa Police Department and the California Highway Patrol also participated in the investigation.

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.