

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Austin County jury convicted Hiram Tramaine Hayes, 34, of Failure to Appear/Bail Jumping in Judge Steinhauser's 155th Judicial District Court on May 6, 2019.

Jurors deliberated approximately one hour before finding Hayes guilty of missing a 2015 court date in his felony Credit Card Abuse case. Evidence showed that a warrant was issued for Hayes, and he was not captured until 2017.

Assistant District Attorney Ben Nystrom prosecuted Hayes with help from First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson. Defense Attorney Sonya Chandler-Anderson represented Hayes.

Hayes elected to have the jury decide his punishment and was sentenced to four years' probation. Hayes will serve out his probation in Arkansas, where he now resides.

Hayes's trial was the second felony trial this year held in Judge Steinhauser's court. On March 12, 2019, an Austin County jury convicted John Jasek, 53, of Bellville, of Driving While Intoxicated with 2 Prior Convictions.

The jury sentenced Jasek to 3 years in prison on the third degree felony charge.

Assistant District Attorneys Nystrom and Robinson tried that case as well, with help from Legal Assistant Lisa Tobola. Bellville Defense Attorney John Harle represented Jasek.

"We have several serious felony trials pending that have priority on our trial schedule," Robinson stated. "When one of those gets rescheduled for any reason, we are often able to use those standing trial dates to try non-violent offenses such as these."

District Attorney Travis Koehn said, "Hiram Hayes tried to flee from justice in Austin County, but it finally caught up to him."

"And repeat DWI offenders like Jasek pose a particularly dangerous threat to everyone driving on the roads in our community."

"Both convictions serve to make the citizens of Austin County safer," Koehn stated.