

JURY SENTENCES FELON TO 12 YEARS FOR FIREARM POSSESSION

An Austin County jury sentenced Richard Silmon, 31, of Austin, Texas to 12 years in prison after a 3-day trial before District Judge Jeff Steinhauser ending November 20, 2024.

The jury convicted Silmon of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon on Tuesday after a 10-minute deliberation.

The State presented evidence that on September 16, 2021, Sealy Police Officer Eric Bryant stopped Richard Silmon for traffic violations on Interstate 10.

After impounding the vehicle that Silmon was driving, Officer Bryant conducted an inventory search and discovered a modified, fully-automatic and loaded handgun in the glove compartment of the vehicle. The pistol had been stolen three months previously from a burglarized vehicle in Waco.

First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson presented the State's case with help from legal assistant Lisa Tobola and Assistant District Attorney Abbey Hicks.

Travis County Defense Attorney Adam Reposa represented Silmon.

First Assistant DA Robinson presented punishment evidence that Silmon was a Repeat Felony Offender, which increased Silmon's punishment range under the law.

The jury deliberated through lunch for two hours before rendering Silmon's 12-year prison sentence on Wednesday afternoon.

First Assistant DA Brandy Robinson stated, "Sealy Police coordinated with State and Federal law enforcement agencies to perform forensic testing on the weapon to make sure that the State had strong evidence of Silmon's guilt."

"The jury's quick guilty verdict is a testament to the great work done by law enforcement to prove up this case," Robinson added.

District Attorney Travis Koehn said, "Silmon had a long history of offenses involving guns and drugs across Texas and outside the State."

"The jury's verdict sends a strong message that our community will not tolerate career criminals in Austin County."