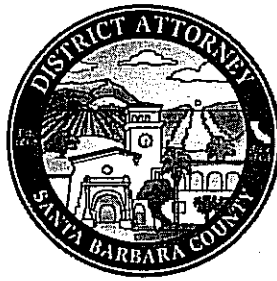


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 09-59
RELEASE NUMBER
September 8, 2011
RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Kevin Duffy Deputy District Attorney
CONTACT PERSON (805) 346-7545
Kevin Duffy

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

September 8, 2011

Re: *The People of the State of California v. Nicolas Bendle*
Prosecutor: Deputy District Attorney Kevin Duffy

On August 1, 2009, the defendant, Nicolas Bendle, murdered 68 year old Frederick Holgate as he was going for his early morning walk.

The defendant was charged with one count of murder and a special allegation that he personally used a deadly weapon.

Today the defendant pled guilty as charged.

After reviewing the evidence compiled during an extensive evaluation process the District Attorney's Office has accepted that the defendant was *legally* insane at the time he committed the murder. This conclusion will result in the defendant being committed to the State Hospital, which is a secure, lock down facility; wherein the defendant may remain for the rest of his life.

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The District Attorney's Office based their decision on the totality of the circumstances including the fact that numerous medical professionals evaluated the defendant, both at the time of the murder, and again more recently. The doctors unanimously agree that the defendant suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. Additionally, the doctors, hired both by the defense and prosecution, all concluded that his unprovoked attack on Mr. Holgate, a complete stranger, was the result of acute psychotic paranoia, auditory hallucinations and was the product of his mental disorder.

Prior to his attack on Mr. Holgate, the defendant had no criminal history, had committed no acts of violence, and was in the process of applying to college.

The victim's wife and daughter believe today's resolution of the matter was both just and appropriate, as does the lead investigating officer and the other SMPD officers and officials involved in this case.

The assigned prosecutors on the case are Senior Deputy District Attorney Kevin Duffy and Deputy District Attorney Tristan Verburgt. They can be reached at (805) 346-7545 if you have any additional questions.