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“Western Bandit” Found Guilty of Prison Assault
People v. Patrick Watkins: Kern County Superior Court Case DF017258A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury verdict involving a prison assault. On May 16, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jamila Ha, a Kern County jury found Patrick Watkins, age 60, guilty of assault by a prisoner serving a life sentence, assault with a deadly weapon, assault with force likely to result in great bodily injury, and possession of an inmate manufactured weapon.

On August 25, 2022, Watkins was housed as an inmate at the North Kern State Prison in Delano, California. That morning, officers were preparing to distribute medications to inmates. Officers opened Watkins' cell door and the neighboring cell simultaneously. Watkins immediately ran into the neighboring cell and attacked the inmate victim with the sharp weapon. After wounding the victim, Watkins ran back to his cell and manually closed the door. When officers responded to his cell and conducted a search, they found Watkins inside and a sharp inmate manufactured weapon on his assigned bunk next to his clothes. The victim suffered multiple slash wounds to his body that required stitches.

Watkins was dubbed the “Western Bandit” out of Los Angeles County due to the series of 23 violent crimes he committed between 2011 and 2014 including two murders, multiple attempted murders, various robberies, as well as other crimes. Watkins was sentenced to the Department of Corrections in 2021.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction; “Violent behavior will not be tolerated in any setting and will be punished to the full extent of the law. This office is committed to creating safer environments all around.”

Sentencing is scheduled for June 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 3 in the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Oglesby. Watkins is serving a sentence of life without possibility of parole, but now faces an additional sentence of up to 27 years to life in prison for the latest convictions.

Patrick Watkins:

