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Daniel and Diana Cohen Sentenced for Murder

District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today Daniel and Diana Cohen were sentenced after being found guilty of murdering Gordon Smith. They were both sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Daniel Cohen was also sentenced to an additional twenty-five years to life for his use of a firearm. Their sentences were mandatory because the jury convicted both of them of first degree murder and the special circumstance that they committed the murder while lying in wait.

On November 8, 2013, Daniel and Diana Cohen made preparations to murder their landlord, Mr. Smith, including taking a vehicle on a test-drive from a dealership to avoid using their own car in the murder. Afterward, they attempted to cover up the murder by hiding the firearm and returning the borrowed vehicle.

Prosecutor Celia Rowland commended the jurors for their hard work in the case. She said that Daniel Cohen's plea for mercy from the court, without any expression of remorse, was characteristic of the callousness shown by the Cohens in murdering Mr. Smith. The Cohens never once expressed compassion for the victim or his family in either their statements to Capitola Police Department or at any other time during the proceedings.

A restitution hearing to pay the Smith family for their losses as a result of Mr. Smith's murder, including a ruling to award them just over \$26,000 in cash that was in the defendants' possession, will be conducted on May 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Santa Cruz Superior Court.