

**October 13, 2022**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL'S OFFICE OBTAINS CONVICTION IN WAYNE COUNTY MURDER TRIAL**

**Chicago** — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced an Evansville, Indiana man was convicted of first-degree murder in the killing of a Fairfield teenager.

A Wayne County jury found Brody Murbarger, 27, guilty of first-degree murder, in the death of Megan Nichols. Murbarger faces a sentence of 20 years to 60 years in prison.

"I am pleased with the jury's decision and pray it brings some degree of healing to the family and friends of Megan Nichols," Raoul said. "I appreciate the support of the Wayne County State's Attorney's office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Illinois State Police and the Fairfield Police Department in helping us hold the defendant accountable. I am committed to continuing partnerships that help us obtain justice and protect residents from violent crimes."

According to the Attorney General's office, Murbarger and Nichols were dating and ran away together in the summer of 2014. However, when Murbarger returned home, Nichols did not. In 2017, investigators found traces of Nichols' blood in the trunk of Murbarger's vehicle. Later that year, her body was found buried in a shallow grave. Her cause of death was determined to be probable asphyxiation by homicidal violence. Murbarger was 18, and Nichols was 15 at the time of her disappearance.

The Attorney General's office prosecuted the case in cooperation with Wayne County State's Attorney Kevin Kakac's office.

"We appreciate the partnership with the Attorney General's office in such a difficult and complicated prosecution," Kakac said.

Assistant Attorneys General Michael Falagario and Myra Yelle-Clark handled the case for Raoul's Criminal Prosecutions and Trials Assistance Bureau.