

.G. KING ANNOUNCES COLD CASE UNIT FORMATION

July 25, 2007

(MONTGOMERY)—Attorney General Troy King today announced the formation of a "Cold Case Unit" that will be dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of difficult unsolved criminal cases from throughout Alabama. He said the unit will be "exclusively dedicated to helping those who have not yet seen justice done for the horrible acts that have been committed against them."

Attorney General King thanked the Alabama Legislature for granting his request for a \$200,000 appropriation that will be used to fund the new program. He particularly thanked Representative John Knight, chairman of the House Government Appropriations Committee, for his support of the important new initiative.

Attorney General King said he expects the program to begin operation in October. A screening committee of Cold Case Unit investigators and prosecutors will review cases submitted by local authorities to determine their appropriateness for acceptance. Factors such as the age of a case, the severity of a crime, the availability of witnesses and evidence, the existence of DNA evidence, and the susceptibility of that evidence to resolution with the use of new technology, will be used to determine which cases will be taken. Cases from the Civil Rights era will receive special emphasis.

"To the people of Alabama, know this: If someone commits a crime against you, I will work tirelessly to ensure that law enforcement and prosecutors have the resources necessary to find the guilty and to drag them to justice," promised Attorney General King. "That a case is old or cold will no longer be a reason to call off the search or not to hunt down the ones who did these evil deeds. As we reopen cases, we will seek to bring the light of justice to those who have gone too long in the darkness, by making sure that justice is won and done."
