



## **Lincoln County District Attorney**

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District Attorney

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Deputy District Attorney

**Alice Vachss**

Special Prosecutor

## **News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, February 18, 2010

### **John Larsen sentenced to 30 years in prison**

On February 18, 2011, John Sorn Larsen, 40, was sentenced by Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Sheryl Bachart to 30 years in prison. He was convicted, after a lengthy trial, of serial sexual and physical assaults against multiple victims.

The cases were prosecuted by Lincoln County Deputy District Attorneys Drew Moore and Melanie Kebler, and Lincoln County Special Prosecutor Alice Vachss. Convictions included two counts of Rape in the First Degree, two counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, three counts of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, six counts of Assault in the Fourth Degree involving domestic violence, two counts of Kidnapping in the First Degree, two counts of Kidnapping in the Second Degree, and three counts of Coercion.

The trial exposed an even darker side to the danger methamphetamine poses to our community. While Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) is the signature practice of many serial rapists, such drugs are typically used to induce a state of near-stupor, making it impossible for the victim to resist. But sexual assault using the victim's addiction to meth has never been so classified, because few prosecutions are undertaken. Meth addiction is usually not met with sympathy or understanding, and the victims are unlikely to report the attacks to law enforcement.

All predators hunt the vulnerable. Meth-addicted women, especially those with children, are likely to suffer chronic, repeated victimization and never seek help. To some predators they are the perfect target.

"We have long recognized the horrifying risks to children in homes where meth is manufactured or used," said District Attorney Rob Bovett. "This case harshly depicts the terrible risks to a less sympathetic, but highly vulnerable, population - women so addicted to meth that they have accepted sexual assault as a fact of their lives."

"We know that prosecutions for this type of violence can be very difficult," said Special Prosecutor Vachss. "Perhaps this is why they are so rare."

The prevailing myth is that meth-addicted women are a separate class of victim - those who will not be believed, and not be protected. "That myth has created a new class of predator, virtually free to rape at will," Bovett said. "It is our hope that the conviction of John Sorn Larsen shatters that myth."

“In all my years trying rape cases and running a Special Victims Bureau in New York City,” said Special Prosecutor Alice Vachss, “I cannot remember a more ignored class of victim of chronic, extreme sexual violence. The closest analogy I can think of,” she continued, “is a prostitute who barely makes it into a ‘missing persons’ log until the discovery of her body or the confession of a serial killer.”

“As in so many of our sexual assault and domestic violence cases, it was clear that this defendant made a predatory choice in his victims,” said Deputy District Attorney Drew Moore. “He saw a particular vulnerability that he could take advantage of - in this instance, the victims’ use of methamphetamine. Equally clear was the jury’s verdict - a statement that these crimes will not be tolerated in our community.”

District Attorney Rob Bovett concluded, “We hope these prosecutions prove that, in Lincoln County, ‘justice for all’ is not some hollow slogan. We are here to protect victims, all victims, not to judge their lifestyles.”

Victims are encouraged to contact the District Attorney’s Victim Assistance Program in person or by phone at 541-265-3462.

For more information, contact Rob Bovett at [rbovett@co.lincoln.or.us](mailto:rbovett@co.lincoln.or.us), 541-265-0269 (direct office), or 541-351-1033 (cell).