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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS BURGLAR CONVICTED
OF RAPING FLUSHING WOMAN IN HER HOME**

Faces Up To 65 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Astoria man has been convicted of burglarizing a Flushing residence and robbing and raping one of its tenants in May 2005.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant stands convicted of brazenly burglarizing a Queens home and then viciously sexually assaulting a female resident. The conviction ensures that justice has been done and that the defendant has been held accountable for a violent crime."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jean Theard, 32, of 20-65 19th Street in Astoria. The defendant was found guilty of first-degree rape, first-degree criminal sexual act, first-degree burglary, second-degree robbery, possession of burglary tools and second-degree attempted burglary.

District Attorney Brown said that a jury of eleven women and one man deliberated over the last two days following an eight-day trial and returned a verdict of guilty before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who set a sentencing date of September 5, 2006. The defendant, who has been held without bail since his arrest on May 14, 2005, faces up to sixty-five years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that according to the trial testimony, just after midnight on May 7, 2006, the defendant forcibly broke into a Flushing house and confronted a 50-year-old female tenant as she exited the bathroom. The defendant then pointed what appeared to be a gun at her and robbed her of \$200 in cash. During the approximate two hours that he stayed in the house, the defendant forcibly raped the victim multiple times. After he fled, the victim recovered from the floor a screwdriver that the defendant had left behind. Six days later, the defendant returned to the house just before midnight on May 13, 2006 and tried again to gain entry by forcing open a door. When the victim's husband heard noises, he called the police who responded and arrested the defendant. Police recovered a screwdriver and an imitation pistol that the defendant had thrown to the ground.

Assistant District Attorney Marjory Fisher, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case, under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at www.queensda.org