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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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D.A. BROWN: FLORIDA MAN CONVICTED OF RAPE
OF 14-YEAR-OLD SISTER-IN-LAW

Began Sexually Abusing Victim When She was Only Nine; Defendant Faces Up to 7 Years in Prison

_____ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 36-year-old Florida man has been convicted of sexually abusing his sister-in-law in her Queens home starting when she was nine years old and culminating in a rape when she was fourteen.

District Attorney Brown said, "The victim was only a child, a member of the defendant's own family, when he first began subjecting her to what would become a five-year nightmare of sexual abuse. This young woman is to be commended for coming forward and confronting her attacker at trial. She testified with dignity and grace during her time on the witness stand. The defendant changed her life forever beginning eight years ago, and hopefully this conviction provides her with some small measure of help in overcoming the trauma she experienced during his assaults on her."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Luis Gomez, 36, formerly of 2406 Placetas Court in Kissimmee, Florida. The defendant was found guilty today by a jury of second-degree rape, second-degree course of sexual conduct against a child, first-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child. Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Aloise, who presided at the one-week trial, set sentencing for September 27, 2007, at which time he faces up to seven years in prison. The defendant, who had been held in jail on \$500,000 bail since his arrest in December 2006, was ordered remanded.

District Attorney Brown said that according to trial testimony, the defendant sexually abused his sister-in-law on more than two occasions between November 10, 1998, and May 31, 1999, before sexually abusing and raping her sometime between November 26, 2003, and November 31, 2003.

Assistant District Attorney John D. Carroll, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and 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: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.