

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**
Jeffrey Brooker
Assistant District Attorney



**GEORGE MARQUEZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
940 West Main Street, Ste #102
El Centro, CA 92243
Tel: (442) 265-1175
Fax: (760) 352-4474

From: District Attorney George Marquez
RE: Guilty Verdict People v. Steven George Ambriz JCF-005740
Date: June 17, 2024

IMPERIAL COUNTY – June 17, 2024: On June 12th a jury returned a verdict of guilty on three of the four following counts: (1) murder in the first degree – with a firearm enhancement; (2) Possession of a Firearm by a Felon; (3) Unlawful Possession of Ammunition. It was also alleged that the defendant has two prior strike convictions for a Penal Code 245(a)(1) – Assault with a Deadly Weapon and a Burglary – Penal Code 459.

On the night of December 15, 2021, Brawley Police Officers received a call of a body near the old landfill and Brawley cemetery on the outskirts of the city off of Western Avenue. When officers arrived, the deceased man was identified as Jordan Schmidt, and the scene was turned over to the Imperial County Sheriff's Office. With Sargeant Aaron Michael Curiel, at the time an investigator with the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, assigned to the case, he used old school police work to put together the details of what happened the night of the homicide of Jordan Schmidt. The Defendant took Jordan Schmidt at gunpoint, drove him to the outskirts of Brawley, and executed him in cold blood while he begged for his life. Jordan was a cousin, a nephew, a son, a brother, a father, and a person.

The People charged the defendant with four counts including first degree murder, kidnapping, felon in possession of a firearm and felon in possession of ammunition. After days of deliberations the jury found the defendant guilty of all but the kidnapping.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Margaret Tafoya prosecuted this case. Sheriff's Investigator Aaron Curiel was the lead investigator. Defendant is facing up to 75 years to life. Sentencing is set for August 6.