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Galveston ex-police officer convicted in assault on woman

RUTH RENDON, Copyright 2007 Houston Chronicle | Thursday, January 17, 2008

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GALVESTON — A former Galveston police officer was convicted today of aggravated kidnapping for an incident in which he handcuffed a woman and sexually assaulted her while he was on duty.

The punishment phase for Kenneth Deshun Woods, 28, of Galveston, began shortly after his conviction this afternoon in visiting state District Judge Susan Baker's court.

Woods faces five to 99 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, said Joel Bennett, an assistant Galveston County district attorney.

According to testimony during the trial, the 43-year-old woman was sitting alone in her car on the beach early on May 27, 2006, at Apffel Park when a police officer confronted her.

The officer, whom she identified as Woods, placed her in his police car, drove her to another part of the beach, handcuffed her and sexually assaulted her. Afterward, she said, he drove her back to her car.

Also during the trial, a woman who is a known prostitute testified that she was in a truck on the beach with a client when Woods made her get into his patrol car.

She said Woods then raped her.

Woods joined the Police Department in January 2005 and was assigned to the patrol division. He was fired after being indicted.

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