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# Press Release

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## Jury gives man 99 years for drug possession

For the third time in a month, a Tarrant County jury has sentenced a defendant to 99 years in prison for a drug offense.

The latest verdict came down on Thursday when jurors convicted Brandon Robinson, 27, of possession of cocaine with intent to deliver 4 to 200 grams and possession of heroin under one gram.

During the trial, prosecutors Sherri Wagner and Andrea Townsend presented evidence that on October 31, officers were patrolling a high-crime area in Arlington when they saw Robinson stumbling around outside an apartment complex. He was arrested for public intoxication and officers found cocaine, heroin and hydrocodone in his possession.

He told officers at the jail

that he sold cocaine, but the hydrocodone and heroin were for his personal use.

During the punishment phase of the trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Robinson had twice been to the penitentiary for drug offenses and violated parole both times he was released. The jury also heard evidence of his possible gang affiliation.

Afterward the jury deliberated less than three hours in assessing the 99-year term for cocaine possession and 10 years for heroin possession. The sentences will run concurrently.

Robinson's sentence marked the third time in a little over a month that a jury has imposed a 99-year sentence for a drug offense. Coincidentally, all of the verdicts have been imposed by juries in Judge Sharen Wilson's Criminal District Court No.



**Brandon Robinson**

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On February 17, a different jury sentenced Shawn Venabelle, 47, to 99 years for manufacturing methamphetamine in a van outside a Saginaw motel room.

On February 2, another jury sentenced Andrea Robles, 32, to 99 years for dealing drugs from her Fort Worth home.

**“This defendant had refused to change his behavior after multiple drug convictions and trips to the penitentiary,” said Assistant District Attorney Sherri Wagner. “Tarrant County jurors have sent the message loud and clear that drug offenders will not be tolerated in their community.”**

