

## Man denied early parole for armed bank robbery

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**La Plata, MD** - Sometimes the court says yes, and other times it says no.

In the case of Trent Lewis Singleton, 29 of Temple Hills, there was a resounding "no" issued by Charles County Circuit Court Judge H. James West Tuesday, April 28 during a sentence reconsideration hearing.

Singleton was sentenced in 2006 to 45 years with all but 25 years suspended for the armed robbery of a Wachovia Bank in Waldorf in 2005.

"He has served 10 years of his sentence," said Singleton's attorney, Rachel Kamins. "He has a remarkable institutional record. His GED is done, he has participated in all the programs DOC has to offer, he has received certificates of achievement and accomplishment. He has been an excellent academic student. He has a great deal of family support. We're asking you to reduce his sentence so he can go home."

Although family members, including Singleton's twin brother, implored the court to release their family member, Charles County Assistant State's Attorney John Stackhouse painted a picture far less rosy than the defendant's attorney and family.

Stackhouse said that the case dates back to June 10, 2005 when the defendant and two co-defendants held up the Wachovia Bank in Waldorf, pointing handguns at employees and customers. They fled the scene in a green station wagon with a white fender, which was eventually spotted by a Charles County Sheriff's Office deputy on northbound Route 301.

When patrol units surrounded the vehicle and searched it they found \$6,750 in the car and a semi-automatic handgun.

"Everything starts there," Stackhouse said. "I hope the court recognizes the severity of this crime and the terror employees and customers of the bank both felt."

Stackhouse said that while Singleton has done "some things" while in prison, he has also garnered a laundry list of infractions, including possession of a controlled dangerous substance while incarcerated.

"He got a 25-year sentence, he's eligible for parole after 11 years this coming March," Stackhouse stated. "He's already gotten a huge break. Now, he's coming in here asking for more of a break."

"I'm not the same person I was when I committed that crime," Singleton told West. "I even got letters of recommendation from officers at DOC and they just don't do that."

"You've got a great family," West told the defendant. "I know they want you to go home, but the reality is, I have a difficult time cutting a sentence. In a crime such as a robbery with a handgun, if he paroled out, God bless him, but I am going to deny your motion."

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