



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales
District of New Mexico

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACTS:

Albuquerque

Elizabeth Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

Las Cruces

Terri Abernathy
Senior Litigation Counsel
terri.abernathy@usdoj.gov
575.522.2338 ext. 233

For Immediate Release

March 8, 2012

RETIRED ATTORNEY SENTENCED TO PROBATION
FOR ASSAULTING NEWS REPORTER

LAS CRUCES – This morning, **Marjorie Reese Stewart**, 75, a retired attorney from Kingston, N.M., was sentenced to a one year term of probation, a \$250 fine and 10 hours of community service for her misdemeanor assault conviction.

Reese Stewart was charged in a criminal complaint filed on September 29, 2011 that alleged that Reese Stewart physically assaulted a Las Cruces Sun-News reporter in the federal courthouse in Las Cruces on September 19, 2011. Reese Stewart was convicted of simple assault on January 4, 2012 after a bench trial before a U.S. Magistrate Judge on January 4, 2012.

The evidence at trial established that on the afternoon of September 19, 2011, Reese Stewart and the reporter attended a proceeding in the case *United States v. Reese*, during which a U.S. District Judge overruled an order permitting defendant Remington Reese from being released to the custody of his grandmother, Reese Stewart, and ordered Remington Reese detained pending trial. After the proceeding, while the reporter was standing outside the courtroom, Reese Stewart elbowed the reporter “hard” in the stomach as Reese Stewart walked out of the courtroom. Shortly thereafter, as the reporter approached a female acquaintance with the intention of greeting her, Reese Stewart extended her right arm and hand and grabbed the reporter by the neck and left shoulder. Reese Stewart then shoved the reporter away from the female without saying a word to the reporter. Reese Stewart walked away after speaking briefly

with the female. One of the security cameras in the courthouse recorded Reese Stewart's actions as she grabbed the reporter and shoved her away.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case was investigated by the U.S. Marshal's Service and the U.S. Federal Protective Service, a federal agency responsible for conducting general federal police duties and enforcing federal law on federal property. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron O. Jordan.

###

12-75