



*Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney  
City of Alexandria*

*Press Release – 2014 - 004*

## **Charles Severance Indicted for Three Murders**

**2014 - 004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 8, 2014**

On September 8, 2014, the Grand Jury for the City of Alexandria handed down a ten-count indictment against Charles Severance, alleging that Mr. Severance murdered Nancy Dunning, Ronald Kirby and Ruthann Lodato.

Severance was charged with a total of ten counts: 1) Capital Murder of Ruthann Lodato, 2) Use of a Firearm in the Commission of Murder, 3) Malicious Wounding, 4) Use of a Firearm in the Commission of Malicious Wounding, 5) Capital Murder of Ronald Kirby, 6) Use of a Firearm in the Commission of Murder, 7) First Degree Murder of Nancy Dunning, 8) Use of a Firearm in the Commission of Murder, 9) Felon in Possession of a Firearm and 10) Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

The Commonwealth has informed the Circuit Court that it does not intend to seek the death penalty. Therefore, the maximum penalty for these offenses is life in prison.

Rule 3.6 of the Virginia State Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys states, in pertinent part: "A lawyer participating in or associated with the... prosecution ... of a criminal matter that may be tried to a jury shall not make or participate in making an extrajudicial statement... that the lawyer knows, or should know, will have a substantial likelihood of interfering with the fairness of a trial by jury." Therefore, the Commonwealth is prohibited from discussing the evidence, its decision to waive the death penalty, its trial strategy or its work product prior to trial.

Media inquiries to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney seeking comment on the evidence, the decision to waive the death penalty, trial strategy or work product are strongly discouraged.

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