

Man, woman sentenced for roles in violent carjackings

STAFF REPORT
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U.S. Attorney Richard W. Moore of the Southern District of Alabama announced on Friday that Earnest Jonathan Law, 26, and Kiara Shantel Green, 27, both of Mobile, were sentenced in federal court for their respective roles in a series of violent carjackings that took place in Mobile during April and May of 2018.

According to information released by federal officials, Green pleaded guilty to three charges in January 2020, which included one count of conspiracy to commit carjacking and two counts of carjacking. Law is noted to have pled guilty to two charges in August 2020, which are reported to have been one count of carjacking and one count of discharging a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence.

In connection with his guilty plea, Law is reported to have admitted that during the early morning hours of May 16, 2018, he intentionally drove his vehicle into the rear of another car at an intersection in Mobile. Law said that following the collision, Green engaged the two occupants of the car in conversation. Law said he then pointed a black and silver handgun at the two people and held the victims at gunpoint, during which time he stole both victims' cell phones before ordering the victims to run into an adjacent field. Law went on to say that as the victims ran away from the scene, he began yelling "faster" as an indication for them to run faster. As the couple ran away, Law testified he used the handgun to fire a shot into the air. Law said he then got into the victims' car and fled the scene.

Approximately nine hours later, police found Law driving the stolen car.



Earnest Law



Kiara Green

Metro Jail. Law instructed Green to return to the area where police had caught him in order to retrieve his gun, which he said he had thrown behind a stack of tires. Police testimony in the case was that when Green informed Law she was not able to find the gun, Law suggested the police must have found it. Law reportedly told Green, "I need money. You were fixing to go sell that."

Police later found the gun, a loaded black and silver .40-caliber pistol, which had been tucked behind a stack of tires at the location Law had referenced on his jail calls.

In connection with her guilty plea, Green admitted to her role in the May 16, 2018, carjacking. Green further ad-

mitted that in the late evening hours of April 9, 2018, she and a male co-conspirator carjacked another victim after intentionally ramming into the victim's car at an intersection in Mobile.

Green testified that as she approached the victim and engaged the victim in a conversation, the male assailant grabbed the victim by the neck and put the victim in a chokehold so severe that the victim nearly lost consciousness. Green said that as the assailant was choking the victim he repeatedly struck the victim on the top of the head. Green continued to say that the male assailant punched the victim in the face and stole the victim's cell phone before fleeing the scene in the stolen car. Law denied any involvement in the April 9, 2018, carjacking.

On Nov. 18, 2020, Senior U.S. District Judge Callie V.S. Granade sentenced Law to a total term of 183 months' imprisonment, consisting of 63 months on the carjacking charge and 120 months on the gun charge, ordering that the sentences run consecutively. Law will serve a term of three years on supervised release upon the completion of his sentence.

For her role in these offenses, Green was sentenced by Judge Granade to 24 months' imprisonment and a three-year term of supervised release. Law and Green were not ordered to pay a fine, but the judge ordered the defendants to pay victim restitution of at least \$760, with further restitution to be determined. The court also ordered that Law and Green pay \$200 and \$100 in special assessments, respectively.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Mobile Police Department. It was prosecuted in the U.S. Attorney's Office by Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin Roller.



Albert Lee Phillips of Chunchula has been arrested at least 26 times in his life and has been charged with numerous criminal acts including multiple drug-related charges and multiple traffic violations.

Trespassing charge just latest arrest

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A Chunchula man was arrested by Mobile County Sheriff's deputies last week after he was found trespassing at a home south of Citronelle, the MCSO said.

Albert Lee Phillips, 38, of John Shinn Road in Chunchula was taken into custody Nov. 18 and charged with possession of burglary tools, possession of a controlled substance, two counts of unlawful breaking into a vehicle, two counts of criminal trespassing, possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal mischief.

All of the charges placed against Phillips on this date stem from Phillips being found at a home in the Gulfcrest community, armed with a knife, and he is accused of vandalizing an ATV and a pickup truck.

The homeowner in the case, whose name is not being released, said Phillips was found at her residence hiding near a storage building and was holding a knife. The homeowner said when she approached Phillips he ran, but with the help of relatives he was quickly located and identified. The victims in the case advised that Phillips ran from the scene before deputies arrived at the scene. Having been identified, Phillips was quickly found and taken into custody.

The property owner reported finding the ignition wires on both her ATV and truck had been cut.

Phillips has a long list of arrests with the Mobile County Sheriff's Office. According to arrest records he was first arrested in 2001 when he was 19.

Since that time Phillips has been arrested 26 times and has been charged with numerous criminal acts including multiple drug-related charges and multiple traffic violations.

As of press time, Phillips was still in Mobile County Metro Jail.

USA completes its \$150 million Upward & Outward campaign

SUBMITTED SPECIAL
TO THE CALL NEWS

MOBILE — Officials with the University of South Alabama announced last week that USA has completed its \$150 million Upward & Onward campaign on September 30, exceeding its goal by \$10.9 million by raising \$160.9 million.

The campaign publicly kicked off in 2015 with an emphasis on supporting five strategic priorities: during the period, more than 23,000 individuals, businesses and foundations donated to the campaign. Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Angelia Stokes, both USA alumni, served as co-chairs of the Upward & Onward campaign.

"Angelia and I have been honored to serve the University in this ambitious campaign," said Stokes. "USA has given us so much, and we are confident that, because of the success of this campaign, many more students and the community will reap the benefits for years to come."

Upward & Onward is the second, and largest, campaign in the University's history. Since 2015, the University and USA Health have completed funding for 11 capital building projects, adding more than 718,000 square feet to the University's facilities. A few of the projects include Hancock Whitney Stadium, the Health Simulation Building, the Fanny Meisler Trauma Center and the MacQueen Alumni Center.

Longtime USA supporter Abraham "Abe" Mitchell invested a record \$50 million gift in 2013, during the quiet phase of the campaign, which led to the creation of the University's landmark Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative. Throughout the campaign, the Initiative matched more than \$17.5 million in gifts, for a total of \$35 million raised in support of student scholarships.

"We have not only increased the ability to serve more people through the addition of new facilities," said USA President Dr. Tony Waldrop, "the campaign has elevated every aspect of the University by opening doors for students, advancing groundbreaking research and enhancing life-saving treatments for the people of the Gulf Coast region."

Highlights of the Upward & Onward Campaign's impact:

Overall Campaign

- More than \$35 million raised for scholarship funding, including \$17.5 million matched through the Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative.
- A total of \$7.7 million donated by 6,356 current and retired USA employees.
- 15,297 individuals gave to the University for the first time.
- Donors from all 50 states and nine countries supported the campaign.

Student Access and Success

- More than 430 new or enhanced endowed scholarships were established to open doors for thousands of students.
- Since March 2020, \$176,212 has been

raised in support of Pandemic Emergency Funds, including student assistance funds.

- New and renovated facilities will provide state-of-the-art academic and athletic training for USA students, including the Health Simulation Building, the Mobile County Commission Center for Academic Success, the Jon Lieber Baseball Clubhouse and renovations to Marx Library.

- A new Honors College was established in 2017 to provide a diverse community of interdisciplinary excellence for highly motivated students. Since that time, 126 students have graduated from the program.

Enhancement of Research and Graduate Education

- Over \$11 million raised from 1,700 donors to support graduate education and to enhance life-changing research.
- 211 endowed funds established or enhanced.
- \$1.2 million donated to improve access to healthcare in medically underserved areas of Alabama.

Global Engagement

- Sixteen scholarships established or enhanced for study abroad opportunities.
- Seven scholarships established or enhanced for international education.
- Almost 600 students impacted through Study Abroad programs and scholarships.
- Students have experienced learning in 52 different countries since 2015.

Excellence in Healthcare

- More than \$5.5 million raised through fundraising events that attracted thousands of participants.
- Funding was secured for seven new or expanded buildings, including the Strada Patient Care Center, Fanny Meisler Trauma Center, Children's & Women's Hospital Pediatric Emergency Department, USA Health Freestanding Emergency Department, USA Health Mobile Diagnostic Center Midtown, and USA Health Mapp Family Campus, Baldwin County.
- More than 16,000 cancer patients were treated in Mobile and Baldwin counties.
- Over 11,400 USA Health employees donated to the campaign.

University-Community Engagement

- Through the support of regional businesses, Mobile County Commission, alumni and the community, Hancock Whitney Stadium opened on September 12, 2020.
- Alumni and friends gave more than \$4.8 million to build the 15,000-square foot MacQueen Alumni Center.
- Two scholarships were created for students who demonstrate leadership and a commitment to social justice and perseverance.
- More than 3,600 USA alumni volunteered 10,972 hours of community service since 2015.

— SMALL CHANGE —

BIG DIFFERENCE

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Program your thermostat to 68° or lower.



Set ceiling fans to run clockwise in winter.



Raise your blinds to let the sun help heat your home.

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