

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Acworth Man Guilty of Road Rage Shooting Is Sentenced to Prison
State vs. Wade Anthony McEwen

February 16, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that an Acworth man convicted of multiple crimes related to a 2022 road rage shooting will serve the next 10 years in prison.

On February 15, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Wade Anthony McEwen, 63, of Acworth, to 30 years with the first 10 years in confinement, followed by probation. A Cherokee County jury found McEwen guilty on January 30, of aggravated battery (2 counts), aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony (2 counts), terroristic acts, reckless conduct (7 counts), and aggressive driving.

McEwen was charged with these crimes after the Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigated a road rage shooting that occurred on June 30, 2022, at the intersection of Woodstock Road and Highway 92 near CVS Pharmacy in the Acworth area of Cherokee County. While stopped at a red light, McEwen pulled out a Glock .45 caliber handgun and began shooting at the driver of a BMW car in the lane to his left. The defendant shot 14 rounds into the side and back of the victim's car.

The driver of the BMW tried to escape the gunfire by cutting across the highway median, coming to a stop in front of Lummus Supply, where passersby rendered aid. The victim was shot numerous times in his arm, side, and back. His injuries required emergency medical care and surgery.

McEwen said he acted in self-defense, claiming that the victim had pointed a gun at him.

“Although the defendant has argued that he was justified in self-defense for his actions, the evidence and ultimately the jury found his actions amounted to excessive force and an aggravated assault,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey L. Fogus. “A thorough investigation by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office determined that the defendant maliciously shot the victim by repeatedly firing multiple times, emptying the magazine as the victim drove off to save his life.”

The trial took place over the course of seven days in January, during which the State called 22 witnesses to the stand and presented nearly 300 exhibits, including the defendant's handgun, video provided by witnesses, surveillance video, and photos of the victim's injuries and car. The jury deliberated for two days before finding the defendant guilty of 14 charges.

At the February 15 hearing, Judge Baker sentenced the defendant to a total of 30 years, with the first 10 years to serve in prison and the balance to serve on probation. He will be subject to standard conditions of probation, including no alcohol or drugs, and no possession of firearms. He is also forbidden to have contact with the named victims.

“We cannot allow our roadways to become war zones, with drivers shooting at each in anger. This is not how a civilized society behaves, and this is not something Cherokee County will ever tolerate,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “This sentence ensures that this defendant will be removed from our roadways, protecting our community and its citizens. Our hope is that this case will draw attention to how quickly aggressive driving can lead to violence.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey L. Fogus, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Mackey, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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