



## DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL COURT SERVING ACADIA, LAFAYETTE & VERMILION PARISHES

The 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office, through a directive of District Attorney Keith Stutes, has implemented an initiative on the prosecution of gun related offenses by previously convicted felons.

On April 17, 2018 Robert Stewart, DOB 10/21/1977, was convicted of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm after 2 day jury trial before Judge Marilyn Castle. He had previously been convicted of Possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of cocaine.

In September 2015 information was received by Sgt. Jace Quebedeaux regarding the location of Robert Stewart and that he had active arrest warrants. When he was arrested by Lafayette Police Department Officer Bart Ryder and Officer (now trooper) Nathaniel Batiste on those warrants, Stewart was in possession of a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol. Assistant District Attorney Bobby Odinet tried the case through to a guilty verdict even though the defendant, who was in court for jury selection, failed to appear for presentation of evidence on the second day of trial.

Stewart is facing a possible sentence of 10 to 40 years without parole. Judge Castle issued a warrant for Stewart and ordered that he be held without bond. Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Warrant Division SWAT located the convicted defendant after the trial late Tuesday and took him into custody.