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**CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Clay County Courthouse, 11 S. Water, Liberty, MO 64068

For release upon receipt  
Today is Monday, October 30, 2006  
06PR024

## **John Brinson convicted of murder 1st**

LIBERTY – Jurors deliberated just one hour and 40 minutes before handing down a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree today against John Brinson for the 2002 death of his wife says Clay County Prosecutor Daniel White.

Brinson, 54, was convicted in the death of his wife, Marilyn E. Brinson, 47, who was reported missing from the couple's home in the 2000 block of Northeast Russell Road, Kansas City in Clay County in mid-July, 2002, said White.

“What complicated this case was the fact there was no body,” said the prosecutor. “Neither the victim's body nor any of her remains were ever recovered but the physical evidence, DNA, a bloody palm print from the crime scene all pointed to John Brinson as the murderer.”

Jurors assessed punishment at life in prison without the possibility of probation or parole, said White. Judge Michael J. Maloney ordered a pre-sentencing assessment, and continued the case to November 30 for motions said the prosecutor.

“The survivors of Marilyn Brinson met with me briefly and thanked me for the work my staff and the police did on this case,” said White. “They said they felt a sense of closure and even though their loved one's body has not been recovered, they said a great burden had been lifted and the verdict helps them go on with their lives.”

White praised the work of the Kansas City Police Department and in particular the work of the Regional Crime Laboratory that compiled and impressive amount of evidence in a case in which there was no body.

“Medical testimony and science combined to tell us Marilyn Brinson was dead,” said White. “There volume of blood found in her vehicle that had been abandoned in Kansas City in Jackson County was too great for her to have lived. Plus blood evidence found near the residence and witness testimony of an apparent gunshot near the time Mrs. Brinson disappeared all made this a murder case,” said the prosecutor.

Litigating the case for the state was Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Shane T. Alexander, and Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Karen Krauser and Anthony Bologna.

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**For more information, contact Jim Roberts or Daniel White at (816) 736-8300**