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Victim's father offers thanks

Metairie

My wife and I and my surviving children want to publicly acknowledge the outstanding work by the New Orleans Police Department and District Attorney Harry Connick's office in the prosecution and conviction of the LSU Medical School doctor who was responsible for the death of my daughter, Michelle "Shelly" Haensel.

Particular thanks goes to George Hurban of the New Orleans Police Department and prosecutors Gregory Kennedy and Sharon Andrews of the district attorney's office. These dedicated public servants devoted many hours in preparing for and during the lengthy four-day trial. In spite of evidence that appeared to have been altered by doctors at Charity Hospital, the prosecutors were able to obtain a conviction.

Our belief in the criminal justice system was tested by this ordeal. Our belief in the justice system remains firm. We had no prior experience with this process.

I commend Judge Dennis J. Waldron for the manner in which

he runs his court. With the increase in crime that is occurring in our community, the criminal court dockets are choked with cases. Judge Waldron works diligently in his courtroom.

Thanks must also be given to the witnesses who testified to the facts in this case, to the jurors who had the courage to stand up for justice and to our family and many friends who supported us. We drew strength and courage from these people.

We want to share our experience with other victims who may feel hopeless during the prosecution of the criminals involved in their case. Work closely with the police and the district attorney's office. Provide them any information you can and participate in the process. Don't give up even when you know people are lying about the facts of the crime. Finally, pray.

The prosecution and conviction of criminals can occur only through hard work and persistence by everyone involved, including the surviving victims.

W.B. Haensel Jr.