



# PRESS RELEASE

## Repeat DWI Offender Gets 30 Year Sentence

December 3, 2014

Bryan, TX — Lawrence Pena, 57, was convicted by a Brazos County Jury of DWI 3rd or More and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Pena was then sentenced by the court to 30 years in prison for the DWI charge and 10 years for the drug charge, which will run concurrently.

On August 3, 2012, Pena crashed into the rear of another vehicle at the intersection of William Joel Bryan and Texas Avenue. He fled from the scene of the crash and was followed by the victim through multiple neighborhoods until Bryan Police were able to stop the vehicle. After smelling alcohol on Pena, officers conducted a DWI investigation and found him to be intoxicated. Officers then obtained a blood sample from Pena and his alcohol level was determined to be .254, over three times the legal limit in Texas. In addition, when the police searched Pena's car, they discovered a bag of cocaine.

Following his conviction by the jury, Pena elected to have his punishment assessed by the Judge. Prosecutors presented Pena's prior criminal history which included three DWI convictions, as well as convictions on multiple drug charges. Prosecutors also presented evidence that Pena was intoxicated in a 2003 incident, in which he ran a red light in Bryan and caused a collision. However, Pena fled the scene of that crash and was not apprehended until days later. He was ultimately convicted of fleeing the scene of an accident in that case.

Because Pena had previously served two different stints in Texas prisons, he faced a punishment range of 25 years to Life. In addition to finding Pena guilty, the jury also found that he operated his vehicle as a deadly weapon. Consequently, he must serve at least half of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys R. Clay Kimbrough and Philip McLemore.

**“DWI is one of the deadliest crimes our state faces. Repeat offenders will not be permitted to continue endangering lives in this community.” - R. Clay Kimbrough**

