

## **STATE OF GEORGIA v. BEREKET JAMES LEWIS**



At approximately 5:20 p.m. on July 6, 2015, the defendant, Bereket James Lewis, entered the Best Anime Shoppe located at 4274 Shackleford Rd #B4 Norcross, GA in Gwinnett County and robbed the victims, In Bae Park and Francisco Arauz at gun point at. During the trial, Mr. Arauz stated that he was working in the back of the business when he felt an object to his neck and heard the voice of the defendant say, "where is the money?" At first, Mr. Arauz thought it was a joke because he recognized the Defendant's voice, but when he turned around, he saw that the defendant was covered up completely and was pointing a gun at him. Mr. Arauz was then forced to the front office and told to get on the ground. The Defendant turned the gun on Mr. Park who was also forced to get on the ground and asked for money. Mr. Park immediately knew that it was the defendant because he recognized his voice as he was a former employee. The defendant took approximately 70 thousand dollars, and two mini iPad's along with both victims' phones and wallets. Officer Davidson testified that one of the mini iPad's was tracked to Atlanta to an area where the defendant used to live with his mother. A surveillance video from a neighboring business recorded a black Chevy Avalanche near the business. Officer Davidson established that the defendant owned a black Chevy Avalanche.

Bereket James Lewis was found guilty of Armed Robbery (2); Theft by Taking; Kidnapping; False Imprisonment; Possession of a Firearm or Knife During the Commission of a Felony (2). Sentencing has been deferred to a later date.

The case was presented by Assistant District Attorney Lisa Pappas before the Honorable Keith Miles, Judge Magistrate Court sitting for Judge Melodie Snell Conner.