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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR SEXUALLY
ASSAULTING WOMAN IN HIS BUILDING**
Defendant And Victim Were Acquaintances; Raped Victim In Her Apartment

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to a total of 40 years to life in prison for strangling and raping a 24-year-old woman in her apartment in 2015.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant viciously raped the victim, who is hearing-impaired, in her apartment. The victim valiantly testified against her attacker during the trial. This sexual abuse took place shortly after the defendant had served 21 years in prison for two sexual assaults. I hope the sentence he received brings her some justice as she moves forward with her life. It will keep a brutal attacker off the streets for many years.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Morgan Shuler, 53, of East 156th Street, was sentenced on December 10, 2018 to 40 years to life in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick. A jury found the defendant guilty of four counts of first-degree Sexual Abuse and second-degree Strangulation on October 31, 2018. The defendant was sentenced 25 years to life on the charge of Strangulation, to run consecutively to 15 years to life for first-degree Sexual Abuse.

According to the investigation, between October 7, 2015 and October 8, 2015, the defendant and the victim, who were acquaintances, were in her apartment. As the victim escorted the defendant out of her home, Shuler put her in a chokehold and placed a rag over her mouth and nose. The rag, which had a strange odor and burned the victim’s face, caused her to lose consciousness. The defendant raped her, and when the victim woke up she was naked in the bathtub with the water running while the defendant sat nearby.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Lauren Di Chiara of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau and Johnathan Vega of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau under the supervision of James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and Rachel Ferrari, Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, and the overall supervision of Jean Walsh, Chief of the



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Investigations Division and Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Mary Jo Blanchard, Counsel to the Investigations Division, and Amy Litwin, Counsel to the Special Victims Division, and Trial Prep Assistant Rachel Steinhardt for their assistance in the case. District Attorney Clark also thanked NYPD Detective Wonjin Noh of Bronx Special Victims Squad and NYPD Detective Albert Ragsdale of the Special Victims Division, as well as the responding officers from Police Service Area 7 for their assistance in the investigation.

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