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LIABILITY

Slain officer's family wins \$24 million in civil verdict

A jury has awarded the family of a slain Orlando police officer more than \$24.3 million in a civil trial that targeted any future earnings his killers might collect.

Davin Smith and Hugo Terry were convicted of killing Al Gordon in 2007 and are now serving life prison terms. The off-duty officer had just retrieved \$100 from an ATM machine at a Bank of America branch when he was shot in the chest. He died in the parking lot. Jurors only had to determine damages against the two inmates. The panel deliberated for an hour before returning the verdict Friday.

Smith and Terry tried to sell their story to a TV show. The award would ensure that any earnings the men might receive from a media company or any other source would go to the officer's estate or his daughters. The estate was awarded \$677,580. Kimberly Gordon was awarded \$10.8 million, and Alexandria Gordon was awarded \$12.8 million.

The Gordons also sued the bank and shopping center where the shooting took place and came to undisclosed settlements.

Circuit Judge John Marshall Kest issued a directed verdict in favor of Gordon's family on liability March 10. The Gordons were represented by Orlando attorney Dan Newlin of Morgan & Morgan and John Leighton of Leighton Law in Miami.

— Adolfo Pesquera