

# Jury convicts Leavenworth man of racketeering charge

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CASE NUMBER: LV-2023-CR-300119

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – A 23-year-old convicted felon has been found guilty of a charge related to racketeering following a two-day trial that ended June 4, 2024.

A Leavenworth County jury found Jack H. Thomas guilty of **Violation of the Kansas Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO)** and not guilty of **First-Degree Murder** in the 2022 death of Rylee James Styler.

Kansas RICO is a state law similar to the federal statute that punishes organized crime. “Racketeering activity” is defined as committing, attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, or soliciting, coercing, or intimidating another person to commit certain felony and misdemeanor crimes enumerated in the act.

According to court documents, between June 1, 2021, and June 1, 2022, Thomas was engaged in a criminal enterprise that distributed controlled substances.

Others are facing RICO charges related to this case; they are innocent until proven guilty.

Styler’s body was found on February 14, 2022, after emergency crews were dispatched to a vehicle fire in the area of Santa Fe Trail and 195th in Leavenworth County. Once the flames were extinguished, Riley’s body was discovered in the trunk of the burned vehicle. While investigating the death of Styler, detectives later discovered persons of interest in the death of Styler were possibly involved in an illegal enterprise dealing illegal drugs in Leavenworth.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, “This conviction occurred due to the hard work of our Leavenworth County Sheriff’s Department and my prosecutors, Chris Lyon and Jose Guerra. This is not a simple case. State RICO charges are complex and aren’t extremely common; this is the first RICO case I know of in Leavenworth County’s history.”

Thomas’ case is scheduled for sentencing on July 10, 2024.

Any Defendants are Innocent until Proven Guilty. If a defendant is discussed within this email, they are innocent until proven guilty.