

Man gets 1 year for threatening judge

Left expletive-laced message at courthouse

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Staff Writer

A Pasadena man has been sentenced to one year in jail on charges of threatening the life of a county judge who sentenced the man's brother to 18 years in prison.

Harvey Branston Burroughs Jr., 59, pleaded guilty Tuesday in District Court in Annapolis to threatening a state official, Circuit Court Judge Paul F. Harris Jr.

Burroughs called Harris' offices multiple times and left expletive-laced messages regarding the sentence

the judge handed down in April to his brother, Dennis Ray Burroughs, according to the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office.

An Aug. 4 message specifically contained a threat on Harris' life, prompting Harris' administrative assistant to contact deputies.

"I'm going to get you for this (expletive). ... This (expletive) is not over," Harvey Burroughs said, according to deputies.

Deputies investigated and confirmed that the voice mails were from Harvey Burroughs.

District Court Judge R. Patrick Hayman, a visiting

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judge from Somerset County, sentenced Burroughs to three years in prison, but suspended all but one year, to be served at a local jail. Upon his release, Burroughs will be on probation for four years. Harris declined to comment on the sentence, but commended the county Sheriff's Office's handling of

the investigation.

"They are there to protect the judges and they did a great job with me," he said.

Sheriff Ronald Bateman said the sentence was "reasonable."

"I take it personally when my extended family — those here in the courthouse — are threatened," he said.

The sentence is slightly shorter than the last one handed down for this offense in Anne Arundel County.

Curtis Lee Owens Jr., 22,

of Baltimore, was sentenced Aug. 27 to 18 months in jail as part of a plea agreement with the state. Prosecutors said he threatened the life of District Court Judge Robert C. Wilcox during a hearing April 18, 2008, in Annapolis.

"I'm going to blow your brains out if I catch you," he told the judge as he was led from the courtroom, according to a court recording.

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