

Killer's lawyer points at system

■ Attorney says Marcus Moorer could have been prevented from killing

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Staff Writer

The lawyer for convicted murderer Marcus B. Moorer fired verbal shots Tuesday at a social system he contends could have prevented his client from killing in Geauga County.

Cleveland attorney Michael A. Partlow also said a juvenile court judge erred in binding over his client to an adult system that stuck him with hardened criminals and no chance for rehabilitation.

Partlow is appealing that Moorer, 18, return to the juvenile system, which could offer rehabilitation until he would be released upon turning 21.

Yet former Assistant Geauga County Prosecutor Darya Jeffreys Klammer, who acknowledged imperfect and poorly funded social services, said Moorer earned his spot in the Madison Correctional Institute in London.

The lawyers duelled in the oral arguments for Moorer's 11th District Court of Appeals case in Chardon before Appellate Judges Judith A. Christley, William M. O'Neill and Cynthia Westcott Rice.



Moorer

"The system didn't pull the trigger; Marcus Moorer did," Jeffreys Klammer said.

Moorer was the admitted gunman of a teen trio that robbed a Chester Township Clark Oil station on Feb. 18, 2000. Then 15, Moorer shot three bullets from a .38-caliber revolver that killed attendant Danielle A. Kovacic, 19, of Chester.

Jeffreys Klammer emphasized Tuesday that Moorer likely would have killed Rachael Cogswell if his gun had not run out of bullets as he stood over Kovacic's best friend. One shot grazed her scalp.

Moorer, sentenced to 43 years to life in prison, will be eligible for parole in 2043.

Partlow argued Moorer was making progress at a residential treatment center from age 10 until officials discharged him at 13, partly because of lacking funding.

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