

# DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Brittney B. Lewton*



# 13<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Counties of Kit Carson, Logan,  
Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick,  
Washington, & Yuma

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Subject: DA Lewton Files Notice of Intent to Seek Death Penalty**

This afternoon, District Attorney Brittney Lewton of the Thirteenth Judicial District filed a Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty in the cases of People vs. Brendan Lee Johnson (2014CR99) and Cassandra Ann Rieb (2014CR98). The filing can be requested by calling the Logan District Court at 970-522-6565.

Mr. Johnson, 20 of Sterling, and Ms. Rieb, 18 of Sterling, are charged with 14 and 13 felony counts, respectively, including two counts of First Degree Murder After Deliberation each. The charges stem from the May 20, 2014 murders of Sterling residents Charles Roger and Shirley Anne Severance.

Mr. Johnson's next hearing will be a Motions Hearing on October 27, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Logan District Court, Division A. Ms. Rieb's next hearing will be on a Preliminary Hearing on September 19, 2014 at 9 a.m. in the Logan District Court, Division A. The Honorable Judge Michael Keith Singer presides over both cases.

At this time, the victims respectfully request that the media not contact them until further notice.

Due to a court-issued order relating to pretrial publicity, our office has no further comment at this time.

The charges against the defendants are accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent unless convicted in a court of law.