

## JURY URGES DEATH SENTENCE

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Author: Associated Press

CROWN POINT, Ind. -- (AP) -- A jury Saturday recommended the death sentence for three-time convicted murderer **Alton Coleman** for the strangling of a seven-year-old girl.

**Coleman**, already given two death sentences for slayings in Ohio, stood impassively as Lake Superior Court Judge Richard Maroc read the recommendation.

Maroc, who will make the decision on the penalty, set a May 2 sentencing date.

The jury Friday convicted **Coleman** of the murder of Tamika Turks of Gary and of attempted murder and child molesting in an assault on her aunt, then nine years old. The panel deliberated 1 1/2 hours Saturday before recommending that **Coleman** die in the electric chair.

**Coleman**, 30, of Waukegan, Ill., was arrested with companion Debra Denise Brown, 22, in Evanston, Ill., in July 1984. They were charged with a series of crimes committed during a seven-week period in six Midwest states.

**Coleman** is charged with kidnapping Donna Williams, 25, of Gary, whose body was discovered in Detroit.

At a penalty hearing Saturday, defense lawyer Lonnie Randolph asked the jury for mercy.

"I'm asking you at the very least to spare this man's life," he said.

But Assistant Prosecutor Richard Cook cited evidence of child molesting and **Coleman**'s murder convictions in Ohio as aggravating circumstances warranting the death sentence.

Brown is awaiting trial on charges stemming from the Indiana slaying and assault.

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