

Ex-cop is guilty in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A former San Bernardino police detective who headed the controversial Roy Summers murder investigation has been convicted of nine criminal counts stemming from a bungled holdup and shootout at Caesar's Palace.

Donald James Meyer, 51, was found guilty of robbing a Los Angeles family and two other people at gunpoint in their luxury hotel room Jan. 5, then shutting them in the bathroom. His victims used a bathroom telephone to call security guards, and Meyer was arrested after a shootout in the casino parking lot.

Meyer, who was convicted Wednesday in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas, is scheduled to be sentenced there Sept. 23. He faces up to 227 years in prison for the four counts of second-degree kidnapping, 2 counts of robbery, 1 count each of attempted robbery, burglary and assault, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Meyer is best known in San Bernardino as the chief investigator in the murder trial of Roy Summers, who was jailed for three years before being acquitted Oct. 27, 1982 of fatally stabbing his ex-wife, Beverly Wise, and kidnapping her two daughters in 1977.

The 20-year veteran San Bernardino police officer was also the key figure in a lawsuit by Summers against seven present and former police officers. Summers claimed the officers — primarily Meyer — lied to and threatened witnesses, lied in search warrant affidavits, embellished evidence unfavorable to Summers and disregarded evidence tending to exonerate him.

That lawsuit was settled June 13, when the city of San Bernardino agreed to pay Summers \$400,000 rather than take the case to trial. A related complaint against former District Attorney James Cramer and another county prosecutor is pending in federal court in Los Angeles.

Beverly Wise's slaying and the abductions were highly publicized, partly because one of the girls, Brandi Jondell Summers, 5, had cystic fibrosis and needed medication to survive. People across the country reported seeing the girl, but neither she nor her half-sister, Tiffani Wise, 2, have been found.

Meyer resigned from the San

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