

# METRO ST. LOUIS

## Jury convicts man in plot to kill his former wife, county prosecutor

He already is serving  
2 life terms for  
poisoning ex-wife

"Justice prevailed again," she says

By WILLIAM C. LHOTKA  
Of the Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — "I want her killed. I want her killed. I want her killed," James Boley said to Timothy Burke in the visiting room of the Jefferson City Correctional Center on Aug. 4.

Unknown to Boley, Burke was an undercover St. Louis County police officer pretending to be a hit man

and using the aliases of Billy Dean Jeesson and William Hampton. Burke was wearing a minicamera and microphone under bib overalls.

On Thursday, a jury in Cole County Circuit Court convicted Boley of conspiracy to murder his ex-wife, Donna Boley, and Carrie Costantin, a St. Louis County assistant prosecutor.

Boley's defense? He said he was coerced by another inmate under threat of being beaten, to meet with Burke, even though Boley had no intention of killing his former wife or the prosecutor. The inmate, a former cellmate, was Charles Rowell.

With the conviction Thursday, Boley, 50, could face an additional 30 years in prison when he is sentenced next month by Circuit Judge Byron Kinder.

Boley already is serving two life sentences for trying to kill Donna Boley once before. A jury in St. Louis County convicted Boley in 1995 of putting arsenic in his wife's food and milk in 1993. Donna Boley nearly died and spent months in hospitals.

Donna Boley, 47, testified briefly at Thursday's trial. She still wears braces on the calves of her legs to walk. She is a math teacher in the Normandy School District.

After the verdict, Donna Boley said: "Justice prevailed again. I'm glad it's over. I hope he has learned his lesson and doesn't try it again."

Costantin had prosecuted Boley at the trial in Clayton. She accused the former baseball coach

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