

Wife found guilty of first-degree murder

by UPI

FRESNO, Calif. -- A California jury has found guilty a woman charged with killing her husband and disposing of his body in acid for financial gain. The jurors deliberated for more than two days to reach a verdict, finding Larissa Schuster, 47, guilty of the first-degree murder of her estranged husband Timothy, the Fresno (Calif.) Bee reported Thursday. Prosecutors argued Schuster, a biochemist, masterminded the death with the help of a babysitter and former aid at her research lab, James Fagone. It was alleged that on July 10, 2003, Schuster and Fagone entered the home of Timothy Schuster, rendered him unconscious using a chloroform soaked rag and a stun-gun and disposed of his body in a 55-gallon drum filled with hydrochloric acid. Prosecutors said Schuster was motivated by financial gain. The couple was in divorce proceedings. Fagone denied involvement in the death of Timothy Schuster and testified Larissa Schuster paid him \$2,000 to help rob him. Sentencing was scheduled Jan. 16 in Fresno County Superior Court.

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