

## Prosecutors to argue for Simon death sentence Wednesday



Doug Finger/ Staff photographer

Eldrick Simon attends opening statements at the Alachua County Criminal Justice Building in Gainesville Tuesday, May 25, 2010. Simon was previously declared incompetent to stand trial, now is facing the death penalty for the killing two people in a shooting spree at the Candlelight Estates Mobile Home Park in 2005.

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On Wednesday morning prosecutors will begin making their case for Eldrick D. Simon to be sentenced to death.

Simon, 32, was found guilty Friday of two counts of first-degree murder in connection with shooting spree at Candlelight Estates Mobile Home Park on July 14, 2005. Under state law, the only possible sentences that can be imposed for Simon are life in prison or the death penalty.

Simon was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Robert Thomas, 48, and Donald Mitchell, 39. Jurors also found him guilty of five counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of shooting into an occupied dwelling. Another attempted first-degree murder charge was dismissed because the victim did not show up, according to Mann.

Simon was acquitted of one other count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of attempted first-degree arson.

Spencer Mann, spokesman for the State Attorney's Office, said three days have been set aside for Eldrick's sentencing. Prosecution and defense attorney will both be given an opportunity to present witnesses and arguments for and against the imposition of the death penalty.