



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **MAXIMUM SENTENCE IN WOMAN'S HIT/RUN DEATH**

The 26-year-old man who pleaded guilty earlier this year in connection with the hit/run death of 32-year-old Laura McDermott has been sentenced to the maximum number of years in prison today.

**Dennis Esquibel** (dob: 01-17-87) pleaded guilty to *leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death* (F3) and was sentenced to 24 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections. He was also ordered to pay \$10,544.74 in restitution.

In the early morning hours of September 23, 2012, Esquibel was driving southbound on Broadway at a high rate of speed when he hit McDermott, a pedestrian, at the intersection of Broadway and Cedar Avenue, and then fled the scene. The car involved in the crash was later found in the 1300 block of South Jason Street and Esquibel was later identified as a suspect.

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey noted that a Crime Stoppers tip played an instrumental role in arresting Esquibel. He also said, "We have had too many horrendous hit and run cases with tragic results. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Laura's family and to her fiancé."

Denver Deputy District Attorney Lara Mullin, one of the prosecutors on the case, asked for the maximum possible sentence as did several family members. The courtroom was filled to capacity for the hearing