

# State of South Carolina



Charleston County  
101 Meeting Street, Suite 400  
Charleston, SC 29401  
Phone (843) 958-1900  
Fax (843) 958-1905

Berkeley County  
300-B California Avenue  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
Phone (843) 723-3800 ext. 4529  
Fax (843) 719-4588

**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

## **JUDGE SENTENCES HONDURAN MAN IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY TO MAXIMUM SENTENCE AFTER PLEA TO FELONY DUI**

For Immediate Release  
August 14, 2024

Contact: Ashley Kay  
843-958-1945

*Charleston, S.C.*— Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the Honorable Roger Young sentenced Rovilson Rivera Hernandez to the maximum penalty of fifteen years on the charge of Felony DUI, Great Bodily Injury. The Defendant plead guilty in Charleston County court on August 13, 2024. Solicitor Wilson stated, “Judge Young recognized that the perilous driving history of the Defendant, saw that this was foreseeable based on that record, and sentenced him accordingly.”

The victim was twenty years old when she was hit head on by the Defendant’s vehicle crossing over a concrete median and into her lane of travel. The victim was trapped inside her vehicle and upon a lengthy extrication process, had multiple open fractures. The victim was treated with multiple surgeries over the course of a ten-day hospital stay. She was discharged with home health services to help her re-learn to walk. Her life was forever altered. The North Charleston Police Department traffic unit investigated this case and ensured that a blood alcohol sample was collected and submitted to the SLED laboratory for analysis. The Defendant’s blood registered a .23 blood alcohol content an hour and a half after the collision.

The Defendant had a driving record dating back to 2008 that includes a prior Driving with an Unlawful Alcohol Concentration, four convictions for Driving without a License, two convictions for Speeding and two Convictions for Driving under Suspension. These cases were handled at the municipal and magistrate level. The Defendant had previously been removed from the country to his native Honduras and returned only 2 years before this accident impacted this victim. During the pendency of this case, the Defendant also posted a bond amount and was removed a second time by ICE. The Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s office applied for a bench warrant which was granted and allowed the Defendant to be immediately apprehended when he returned to the United States for a third time.

At the plea hearing on Tuesday, Assistant Solicitor Jordan Norvell requested the Court impose the maximum fifteen year sentence because this Defendant has “a prolifically terrible driving history which culminated in this event. She stated, “this accident was foreseeable and preventable.” The Defendant was represented by Christopher Lizzi, who requested the Court recognize that the Defendant cooperated with the Victim’s civil litigation and reward his assistance by imposing a time served sentence.

###