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Man acquitted of Ibrahim slay

By Staff Writer

Defense attorney Robin Lord scored another legal victory yesterday, when her client was acquitted of murder charges.

"Thank God for the jury system. Justice prevailed," Lord said triumphantly.

The jury deliberated for just two hours following two weeks of testimony in the trial of Russell Ligon, 40, who was accused in the February 1994 slaying of 42-year-old Fikry Ibrahim.

"The jury saw through the nonsense the state put forth," added Lord.

Ibrahim was slain in his North Brunswick Avenue kitchen on Feb. 17 while preparing to leave for work.

Officials said the murder took place while Ibrahim's two sons, ages 5 and 9, were asleep in an upstairs bedroom and his wife, Hoda Ibrahim, was in an upstairs bathroom taking a shower.

She discovered her husband's bloody body about 15 minutes after the murder had occurred.

An autopsy revealed that Ibrahim died from blunt force trauma to the head, which caused skull fractures and multiple stab wounds to his torso.

Ligon worked for the city's court system from December 1997 until he was fired in June 1988 after the New Jersey Board of Parole called to ask about his employment.

Officials discovered that Ligon had given a false identity and failed to reveal that he had been convicted of murder as a juvenile nearly 20 years before.

Ligon was a previous Trenton resident and an employee of the municipal court system where he ran a program for juvenile drug offenders.

Police said Ibrahim, a native of Egypt who moved to this country in 1977, worked as an assistant test engineer at Public Service Electric and Gas in Maplewood.

Ibrahim allegedly had a \$500,000 insurance policy.

A motion by Lord to introduce evidence that Hoda Ibrahim had failed numerous polygraph tests regarding the murder was disallowed.