

\$14.9 Million Award in Ashe Court

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In Ashe County, the family of a man murdered by Freddie Hammer was awarded a \$14.9 million in a civil judgment Friday in Ashe County Superior Court. Hammer, who is already serving seven life sentences without parole in Virginia for the 2008 shooting deaths of three men at a Christmas-tree farm in Grayson County, Va., pleaded guilty last December in the murder his nephew, Jimmy Blevins. For more than two years, Hammer denied killing Blevins, but after \$15,000 reward money was placed in the control of an attorney on his behalf, Hammer told authorities where Blevins' body was buried. Blevins' body was found on Aug. 4, 2009. He'd been shot in the head, and left where he fell in a remote debris pit that was later covered. Winston-Salem attorney Cliff Britt and David Jolly, an Ashe County attorney and friend of the family, represented the family for free in successfully getting back the \$15,000 reward money and in Friday's civil lawsuit hearing.