

Robber given prison time

Judge doesn't believe 'goodwill' testimony

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A Lynchburg man who said he robbed a local insurance company at gunpoint to protect the owner from further harm will serve 20 years in prison.

Alberto Pagan, 39, told the judge Friday that three acquaintances of his told him they planned to tie up, rob and beat owner Jeff Clark on Jan. 4. The men said they believed Clark was conducting unfair business and asked Pagan to be a lookout for them.

'You've been on a one-man crime wave since 1982. We can't tolerate your conduct. When you're a career criminal, you forfeit your right to live in society.'

Judge Leyburn Mosby, Lynchburg Circuit Court

But Pagan testified Friday that he "took it a little further" because the idea of what the men planned to do "didn't appeal to me. I ain't like that."

Lynchburg Circuit Judge Leyburn Mosby didn't believe him.

"You've been on a one-man crime wave since 1982. We can't tolerate your conduct. When you're a career criminal, you forfeit your right to live in society," Mosby said.

Mosby sentenced Pagan to 50 years in prison, but suspended all but 15 years for the robbery. He also sentenced Pagan to a mandatory three years for using a firearm and four years, suspending all but two years, for forging another name on his fingerprint card.

Pagan pleaded guilty to the crimes in June.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmler said Pagan posed a true danger to the community and listed his New York criminal record, which includes charges of armed robbery, forcible theft of a person, conspiracy to distribute heroin and two counts of attempted murder while he was in prison.

"For all the goodwill he claims he did, this is the