

CLEVELAND COUNTY
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Cleveland County Jury Convicts Three Defendants for the 2022 Rape on Campus Corner

[Cleveland County, June 18, 2024 -] On Tuesday evening a Cleveland County jury returned guilty verdicts on Arkavis Moore, Darius Evans, and Jacob Howard for three counts each of Rape in the First Degree and three counts of Forcible Sodomy. In the early morning of December 7, 2022 these defendants committed these counts of Rape and Forcible Sodomy in an alley on Campus Corner between Asp Avenue and Buchanan Avenue. The Norman Police Department identified the first two defendants within 48 hours of the crime and then identified the third defendant within the week.

“Women should feel comfortable enough to walk alone at night, should be able to wear what they want, and to go out and let loose, but men like this are the reason we have rules like this in our society,” ADA Merydith Harmon said in her closing statement.

“Our office deeply appreciates the swiftness and integrity of the investigation into this case by the Norman Police Department, and particularly Detectives Jackson and McGuire,” says District Attorney Greg Mashburn. “Thank you also to ADAs Merydith Harmon and John Salmon for prosecuting this case with great passion and dedication to justice. I am proud to have prosecutors who fearlessly defend victims in the courtroom.”

The jury recommended Life with the Possibility of Parole for each defendant on all six counts. Formal sentencing will be September 13, 2024.

A Cleveland County Jury found Charles Smith guilty of Kidnapping and Domestic Assault and Battery by Strangulation for the events that occurred on July 27, 2022 with his ex-girlfriend. Mr. Smith kept his ex-girlfriend trapped in a hotel room where she could not escape and subsequently strangled her in that hotel room. When she was able to escape she alerted the hotel desk clerk who notified the police.

“Our office takes strangulation cases extremely seriously due to the physical and emotional damage strangulation can cause,” says District Attorney Greg Mashburn. “Thank you to the Norman Police Department for responding quickly in this case so ADAs Beau Dismukes and Justin Kemp could be the voice for the survivor in the courtroom and seek justice.”

The jury recommended 14 years for the Kidnapping charge and 3 years for the Domestic Assault and Battery by Strangulation in the Department of Corrections. That is the maximum sentence for a Domestic Assault & Battery by Strangulation charge. He will be formally sentenced on 9/11 at 2 PM.

Additionally, another jury found Jermarcus Allen guilty of Robbery in the Second Degree for taking \$4,500 in cash from the victim when he was exiting his car at his home. The robbery was caught on video by a neighbor’s camera. Thank you to the Norman Police Department and ADAs Anna Day and SuAnne Carlson for your dedication to protecting the community by holding this defendant accountable.

The jury recommended 20 years in the Department of Corrections. He will be sentenced on June 20th.

The District 21 DA's Office serves Cleveland, Garvin, and McClain Counties under District Attorney Greg Mashburn. DA Mashburn's mission is to seek justice, protect communities, and represent those who have been victims of crime.

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