Harvey Weinstein Guilty: Jury Convicts Him of Rape, Criminal Sexual Act

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A jury of 12 men and women has found former movie mogul <u>Harvey Weinstein</u> guilty on two of the five potential criminal charges he faced in his New York County trial.

Weinstein has been convicted of criminal sexual assault in the first degree, based on the testimony of former *Project Runway* production assistant Miriam Haley, and rape in the third degree, based on the testimony of one-time aspiring actress Jessica Mann.

The verdict was announced on Monday after the jury of seven men and five women spent five days deliberating on his fate.

Weinstein was remanded into custody against the protests of his lawyers, who cited his health. He looked ashen and unstable as he was surrounded by court officers who helped escort him out of the court room.

Weinstein will be sentenced on March 11. He's facing five to 25 years for the criminal sexual assault conviction and 18 months to four years for the third-degree rape conviction.

The Weinstein jury was called in and dismissed shortly after 12 p.m. on Monday.

Judge James Burke thanked the jury for their service. "Thank you for the care and concentration, concern and attention you have given to your deliberations," he said. "You are now dismissed. You may leave the court room."

On Friday afternoon, the jury <u>appeared to suggest</u> that they were deadlocked on the two most serious charges Weinstein is facing — predatory sexual assault — but possibly unanimous on the three lesser charges (criminal sex act, first-degree rape, third-degree rape).

In New York State, a person can be convicted of predatory sexual assault when a jury has determined that the person committed a first degree rape, criminal sexual act or aggravated sexual abuse against more than one other person.

While Weinstein's lawyers said on Friday they would accept a partial verdict, the lead prosecutor said she would not, and Judge James Burke told the jury to "continue your deliberations."

Speaking after the verdict, Weinstein's top lawyer <u>Donna Rotunno told reporters</u> it was a "bittersweet day" and that Weinstein's team will "absolutely be appealing" the verdict. "We

are disappointed. We knew we came in and we were down 35-0 on the day that we started this trial," she said. "The jurors came in knowing everything they could know about this case. We couldn't find a juror who had never heard of Harvey Weinstein. The fight is not over." The verdict is the capstone to a lengthy, highly charged and emotional trial that began on Jan. 6 and included the testimony of six women who said — under oath — that Weinstein had sexually assaulted them over the last three decades.

Weinstein also faces four charges in Los Angeles County.

Over the last few weeks, Weinstein has appeared to grow more visually confident in his chances of acquittal, though he has grown mum during the deliberation process, refusing to answer questions posed by journalists in the hallway of the court house.

While limited, his New York County conviction marks a victory for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., who has faced criticism for not indicting Weinstein sooner, and for lead prosecutor Joan Illuzzi.

"Rape is rape," Vance said at a press conference after the verdict was announced, where he read the names of the six witnesses who testified against Weinstein, followed by prosecutors Joan Illuzzi-Orbon and Meghan Hast.

In a press conference outside the court with the attorneys who represent witnesses who testified against Weinstein, attorney Debra Katz said, "Harvey Weinstein is exactly where he should be now: behind bars."

Attorney Douglas Wigdor added, "Thank you to those women for lending a voice to those who cannot be directly heard."

Wigdor also thanked some of the journalists who reported on Weinstein's misconduct, including Ronan Farrow, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey.

"We would not be here without that reporting and without those sources," he said.