

Full Coverage: Harvey Weinstein Is Found Guilty of Rape

 [nytimes.com/2020/02/24/nyregion/harvey-weinstein-verdict.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/24/nyregion/harvey-weinstein-verdict.html)

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The jury delivers a guilty verdict.

Harvey Weinstein, who long reigned as one of the most influential producers in Hollywood, was found guilty on Monday of two felony sex crimes after a Manhattan trial that became a watershed moment for the #MeToo movement.

But the jury acquitted Mr. Weinstein of the two most serious charges against him, predatory sexual assault.

Dozens of women had come forward with similar allegations against Mr. Weinstein. For many, the trial was a crucial test in the effort to hold powerful men accountable for sexual harassment in the workplace.

The jury found Mr. Weinstein guilty of two counts, criminal sexual assault in the first degree and rape in the third degree. On the two counts of predatory sexual assault, the not guilty verdicts suggested that the jurors did not believe the testimony of Annabella Sciorra, an actress best known for her work in “The Sopranos.”

He faces a possible sentence of between five and 29 years.

Mr. Weinstein leaves in an ambulance, and the jury foreman speaks.

As the jury walked into the courtroom to announce that it had reached a verdict, Mr. Weinstein sat between his lawyers, staring straight ahead, as four court officers stood behind him.

Mr. Weinstein appeared unmoved as the verdict was read. “But I’m innocent,” the producer repeated three times to his lawyers. Cyrus R. Vance Jr., the Manhattan district attorney, was nearby, in the front row.

After the verdict was read, Justice James M. Burke thanked the jurors for their “care and concentration” before they left the courtroom. As they filed out, Juror No. 6 stared at Mr. Weinstein.

The judge then announced that Mr. Weinstein would immediately be sent to jail to await his sentencing. But as court officers approached him, the producer seemed stunned and refused to move.

Moments later, he was handcuffed and removed from the room, limping with two officers standing by his side.

His lawyers said that Mr. Weinstein left the courthouse in an ambulance at about 4:30 p.m. to be taken to an infirmary on Rikers Island, the city's sprawling jail complex. He was taken first to Bellevue Hospital Center after complaining of chest pains and showing signs of high blood pressure.

Donna Rotunno, the lead defense lawyer, said he was "fine," but would not elaborate on the producer's condition.

After back surgery in December, Mr. Weinstein began using a walker. On Monday morning, that walker was carried out of the courthouse by his friend, William Currao, who attended the trial most days.

Also in the afternoon, the jury foreman, Bernard Cody, said at his apartment building in Harlem that the deliberations had been exhausting. "It was stressful," he said. "The whole thing was long, long. I've been away from my family a long time."

Ms. Rotunno said at a news conference that she would appeal his conviction after he is sentenced on March 11. She also was planning to challenge his immediate detention.

"It's absolutely horrible for me to watch my client taken into custody," she said. "Harvey is very strong. He took it like a man. He knows this is not over."

In May, Mr. Weinstein had asked Ms. Rotunno, a criminal lawyer in Chicago who built a career defending men accused of sexual misconduct, to lead his legal team after parting ways with two sets of lawyers led by men.

Ms. Rotunno argued in court that Mr. Weinstein's accusers had willingly had sex with him to further their careers and only years later, after he had been accused in news reports of sexual harassment, began to remember their encounters with him as nonconsensual.

In an earlier interview with The New York Times, Ms. Rotunno said that even if the #MeToo movement had helped the feminist cause, it had come at too high a price.

"You can't just have it both ways and say, 'I should be able to do whatever I want without consequences,'" she said. "Having voluntary sex with someone even if it is a begrudging act is not a crime after the fact."

On The Daily, The Times's news podcast, Ms. Rotunno said that she had never been sexually assaulted "because I would never put myself in that position."

Women who accused Mr. Weinstein hail the verdict.

The verdict was celebrated on social media on Monday by several women who had accused Mr. Weinstein of sexual assault and harassment, including the actress Ashley Judd. Ms. Judd was the first woman to go on the record about Mr. Weinstein's misconduct for The Times's 2017 investigation of the producer.

"For the women who testified in this case, and walked through traumatic hell, you did a public service to girls and women everywhere, thank you," she wrote on Twitter.

"Harvey Weinstein is now a convicted rapist," the Italian actress and director Asia Argento, another early accuser, wrote on Instagram under a picture she posted of herself with another woman. "Two survivors cry and celebrate. Thank you God."

The actress Rosanna Arquette, another accuser, wrote on Twitter, "Gratitude to the brave women who've testified and to the jury for seeing through the dirty tactics of the defense."

Ms. Judd, other key figures in the #MeToo movement and legal scholars also spoke to The Times moments after the verdict was read.

"Most of us will never see the inside of the courtroom, but these women got to take the stand, look him in the eye and say, 'You did this to me,'" said Tarana Burke, the activist who started the original #MeToo movement more than a decade ago. "He will forever be guilty. That's a thing we have."

Manhattan D.A. calls Mr. Weinstein a 'vicious serial sexual predator.'

Mr. Vance, the district attorney, said at a news conference immediately after Mr. Weinstein was remanded that the producer had "finally been held accountable for the crimes he committed."

"The women, who came forward courageously and at great risk, made that happen," Mr. Vance said. "Weinstein is a vicious serial sexual predator who used his power to threaten, rape, assault, trick, humiliate and silence his victims."

Mr. Vance then listed the names of the six women who testified during the trial — Dawn Dunning, Miriam Haley, Jessica Mann, Annabella Sciorra, Tarale Wulff and Lauren Young — as well as two of the prosecutors, Meghan Hast and Joan Illuzzi.

“Eight women who have changed the course of history in the fight against sexual violence,” he said. “These are eight women who pulled our justice system into the 21st century by declaring that rape is rape and sexual assault is sexual assault, no matter what.”

He added: “To the survivors of Harvey Weinstein, I owe, and we all owe, an immense debt to you.”

In 2015, Mr. Vance declined to prosecute Mr. Weinstein after an Italian model accused the producer of groping her breasts during a business meeting at his office in Manhattan’s TriBeCa neighborhood.

At the time, the prosecutor said the evidence did not support charging Mr. Weinstein with forcible touching, a misdemeanor.

Weinstein is also facing charges in Los Angeles.

Regardless of the guilty verdicts in New York, Mr. Weinstein still faces charges in a separate case in Los Angeles. In a highly unusual move, California prosecutors announced their indictment on the first day of Mr. Weinstein’s trial in Manhattan.

The Los Angeles case is based on the accounts of two unidentified women, who have accused him of attacking them — just a day apart — in February 2013.

One of the women, an Italian model and actress, has told prosecutors that Mr. Weinstein raped her in the bathroom of a Beverly Hills hotel after she met him at a film festival.

The next day, the other woman has said, Mr. Weinstein invited her and another woman to his room in a West Los Angeles hotel after meeting them in the restaurant downstairs. There, prosecutors said, Mr. Weinstein trapped his victim in a bathroom, grabbed her breasts and masturbated.

Weinstein faced five charges in Manhattan.

Six women testified at trial that he had sexually assaulted them, though Mr. Weinstein had faced criminal charges in connection with only two of them. The others were allowed to testify to establish a pattern of behavior.

The indictment rested on the accusations of Miriam Haley, a former television production assistant who testified that Mr. Weinstein forced oral sex on her at his Manhattan apartment in 2006; and Jessica Mann, a former aspiring actress, who says he raped her in a Midtown Manhattan hotel room in 2013.

Ms. Mann and Ms. Haley both acknowledged that they continued to see Mr. Weinstein after the alleged assaults and later had consensual sex with him, testimony that complicated the prosecution's case.

Justice Burke allowed the prosecution to call four women as witnesses to corroborate the five charges stemming from Ms. Mann's and Ms. Haley's claims against Mr. Weinstein.

One of those witnesses was Ms. Sciorra, who says she was raped by Mr. Weinstein nearly 30 years ago in her Manhattan apartment. She was called to support the charges of predatory sexual assault, which require proving that a defendant attacked at least two victims. The jury ultimately did not convict Mr. Weinstein on those counts.

The three other women were permitted to testify to bolster the prosecution's contention that Mr. Weinstein engaged over time in a pattern of sexually abusive behavior.

None of the four women's accounts could be formally charged as crimes on their own because the alleged attacks were too old to prosecute under New York's statute of limitations.

Prosecutors had described Mr. Weinstein as a clever predator who kept his victims close to control them, using his power over their careers in the film industry as leverage.

But defense lawyers had said the women had willingly had sex with Mr. Weinstein to further their careers and only years later, after he had been accused in news reports of sexual harassment, began to remember their encounters with him as nonconsensual.

Here's a timeline of the path toward a verdict.

Accusations of sexual misconduct and assault against Mr. Weinstein swirled for decades in New York and Los Angeles. The trial in Manhattan was only the latest step in a lengthy saga.

Mr. Weinstein had avoided prosecution in connection with an alleged groping incident in 2015, and was indicted in New York in 2018 only after scores of women came forward to accuse him in the media.

Here is a timeline of events, from March 2015 to February 2020, of Mr. Weinstein's journey toward a verdict.

These six women testified against Weinstein.

One actress accused Mr. Weinstein of raping her in the early 1990s. A second woman said he forced oral sex on her in 2006. A third accused him of raping her in 2013.

In all, six women testified against Mr. Weinstein at his trial:

Annabella Sciorra testified that after a dinner party in the winter of either 1993 or 1994, Mr. Weinstein barged in to her Manhattan apartment and raped her. The alleged attack was too old to be prosecuted separately as rape under New York law.

Miriam Haley told jurors that in 2006 the producer forced oral sex on her at his apartment in Lower Manhattan, despite her protests. Mr. Weinstein was charged with one count of criminal sexual act and predatory sexual assault involving Ms. Haley, who previously went by the name Mimi Haleyi.

Jessica Mann testified that Mr. Weinstein injected his genitals with an erection medication and raped her in a hotel room in Midtown Manhattan. He was charged with first- and third-degree rape, and predatory sexual assault involving her allegations.

Dawn Dunning accused Mr. Weinstein of touching her genitals in a hotel room in Manhattan's TriBeCa neighborhood.

Tarale Wulff testified that Mr. Weinstein pulled her into a secluded stairwell in a lounge in Manhattan's SoHo neighborhood and masturbated.

Lauren Young told jurors that the producer pulled down her dress, groped her breasts, masturbated and ejaculated onto the floor in a hotel room in Los Angeles.

Ms. Young's account, like those of Ms. Dunning's and Ms. Wulff's, were allowed in an effort to show the producer's history of abuse, prosecutors said.