



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **Gearhead Barber Owner Guilty of Forcible Rape**

The owner of the Gearhead Barbershop in Chico, Anthony Eidem, was found guilty today of Forcible Rape and Disruption of Computer Services in Butte County Superior Court. A jury made up of six women and six men reached their unanimous verdict on the charges and five aggravating factors.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the case stems from an assault that Eidem, 51, of Chico, committed on October 25, 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and delays due to changes in Eidem's privately-hired defense attorneys, the case took two and a half years to get to trial.

Ramsey said that during the trial, the victim in the case took the stand and testified she was a former employee of Eidem and after he took her to several bars, he drove her to his home. There he strangled and raped her. DNA evidence and physical injuries left all over the victim's body established the brutal rape. After assaulting the victim, Eidem stole her cellular phone and went through the contents of it, keeping it for three months before law enforcement discovered Eidem had the phone.

Ramsey said Eidem's former roommate, a twenty-year-old young man, also testified against his former landlord. The young man was a hero to the victim that night, a woman whom he had never met before. When the victim came crawling into the young roommate's room, seeking help and crying, "He raped me," the young man comforted the victim, and sprang into action to safely get her out of the house and away from Eidem.

Ramsey said Eidem testified during the trial that he had consensual sex with the victim, but could not explain where the mark around her neck and multiple bruises on her body came from.

After the jury reached their verdicts, Eidem, who had been out on bail since October of 2019, was remanded into custody without bail by the trial judge, Jesus Rodriguez. He is being held in Butte County Jail until his sentencing on May 25, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. where he faces a maximum of 11 years in state prison.

Eidem had previously made statements to the press regarding the rape charges against him, saying that “I really want my day in court . . . I want justice to be served. I want the truth to prevail,” as reported by Action News on May 1, 2020.

Today, Ramsey said, “Eidem had his day in court, justice was served, and the truth prevailed when the jury found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.” Eidem’s more recent newspaper advertisements for Gearhead Barber Shop included the quote: “Guilty of nothing but a good haircut.” Today, Ramsey said, “he’s now guilty of being a violent sex offender.”

