

Bill Cosby Found Guilty on All Charges



Actor and comedian Bill Cosby arrives with his spokesman Andrew Wyatt for deliberations at his sexual assault retrial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa., April 26, 2018.

By Chris Francescani, Linsey Davis & Bill Hutchinson | [ABC NEWS](#)

It was a long, uphill battle, years in the making, but prosecutors in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, finally won the conviction on felony sexual assault charges of the man once revered as “America’s Dad.”

At the age of 80, [Bill Cosby](#) was convicted today on three felony counts of aggravated indecent assault stemming from

drugging and molesting a woman in his suburban Philadelphia home 14 years ago.

As the verdict was read just before 2 p.m. in the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pennsylvania, Cosby leaned his head down, took a deep breath and appeared to close his eyes.

Cosby's main accuser, Andrea Constand, and two other women who say Cosby also drugged and sexually assaulted them were in the courtroom and burst into tears as the verdict was announced.

"I feel like my faith in humanity has been restored," one of the women, Lili Bernard, said after hearing the verdict. "I stand here in the spirit of Martin Luther King, who said that the arc of the moral universe is long but today it has bent towards justice.

"Today, this jury has shown what the #MeToo movement is saying, that women are worthy of being believed," she said. "And I thank the jury, I thank the prosecution."

The conviction came about 11 months after a mistrial was declared in Cosby's first trial when a jury failed to reach a verdict.

The jury of seven men and five women began deliberating Wednesday and spent a little over 12 hours going over evidence presented to them over the last two weeks before rendering their unanimous decision.

"Andrea Constand came here to Norristown for justice and that is what 12 jurors from Montgomery County provided her," Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele said during a post-verdict news conference. "We have shown from our record that money and power or who you are will not stop us from a criminal investigation or prosecuting a case."

Steele, who prosecuted the case with assistant district

attorneys Kristen Feden and Stewart Ryan, added that the investigation unmasked Cosby as “a man who has spent decades preying on women that he drugged and sexually assaulted.”

Steele said he will move to get Cosby, a multimillionaire, to pay for not only the cost of this trial but the previous one as well. He noted that lead defense attorney Tom Mesereau said in his opening argument that the \$3.38 million Cosby paid in 2006 to settle a sexual assault lawsuit filed against him by Constand was a “paltry sum.”

“So clearly the cost of prosecution in this matter should not be a problem for the defendant,” Steele said.

As Steel spoke, Constand stood stoically nearby but did not make a statement to reporters.

“He used his celebrity, he used his wealth, he used his network of supporters to help him conceal his crimes,” Steele said. “And now we really know today who was behind that act, who the real Bill Cosby was and a jury has spoken with one voice in a court of law and found the defendant guilty of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand in his Elkins Park home.”

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