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## Police sergeant convicted in sexual assault

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December 11, 2007 | By FROM NEWS SERVICES

A Chicago police sergeant was convicted Monday of sexually assaulting a woman while on duty in 2004.

"The defendant's testimony was unreasonable and nothing short of perjury," Cook County Circuit Judge Joseph Claps said in finding Sgt. John Herman guilty of two counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault, one count of aggravated kidnapping and one count of official misconduct.

Claps, who presided over a bench trial last week, acquitted Herman of one count of aggravated criminal sexual assault. In closing arguments Friday, prosecutors put down as "ridiculous" Herman's claims that relations with his accuser were consensual.

Assistant State's Atty. Kimellen Chamberlain cast doubt on Herman's testimony that he and the 42-year-old woman were "sex friends" and that he didn't know she was a crack-cocaine addict. Prosecutors accused Herman of rape while on duty.

Herman's attorney, Peter Hickey, attacked the accuser's credibility, highlighting her drug use. "We not only have the testimony of an admitted crackhead, we have no corroboration," he said.

On the night of the alleged rape, Herman testified, he went to her apartment for pre-arranged sex before he started his shift at midnight. He said he drove to her apartment in his personal vehicle and denied the woman was ever in his police car.

Prosecutors said Herman's DNA matched that found on the condom found at the woman's apartment as well as a baton, which prosecutors said was used in the alleged assault.

Herman testified he did not return to the woman's house after he reported to work. He said records show he was in his patrol car having conversations with dispatchers around the time the woman said she was assaulted.

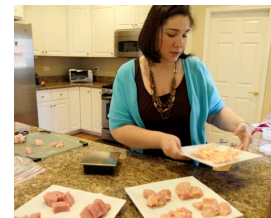
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