



Brandon Balthrop found not guilty

Posted: Apr 24, 2012 4:21 PM PDT

Updated: May 07, 2012 9:03 AM PDT

DUNCAN, Okla_ Brandon Balthrop has been found not guilty.

The jury handed down the verdict around 5:45 Tuesday evening.

Balthrop was accused of using his authority as a Stephens County deputy to sexually assault several women he pulled over during routine traffic stops.

In today's closing arguments, the prosecutor described Balthrop as a rogue officer who preyed on vulnerable women and teenagers. But, his lawyer argued the accusations came from less-than-credible alleged victims.

Both closing arguments were rather lengthy as the state repeated the accusations of each of the women.

The defense responded that none of the women were credible, due to their young age or past criminal record.

But the state said it was too coincidental that all the women shared similar testimony into how exactly Balthrop sexually abused them.

The state asked the jury members to consider several missteps taken by Balthrop that happened over the course of his brief employment with the Stephens County Sheriff's Department. Including the three traffic stops he made that involved two teenagers and a woman who would all later claim he strip searched them or groped them without just cause.

Two of the alleged victims claimed Balthrop forced them to pull their underwear away from their bodies before shining a flashlight down their pants and shirts.

One of those alleged victims, who was 16 at the time, also claimed Balthrop told her several times that she was young and beautiful and even asked for her phone number.

Phone records did show the two had exchanged text messages, but after the girl had stopped, Balthrop continued.

The girl told the court Balthrop told her not to tell anyone, and that she didn't tell her parents what had happened since she had been drinking and had also missed her curfew and was afraid of getting into trouble.

A second teenager at the time said she had witnessed Balthrop pull her friend over, but when she approached after getting out of another car that he noticed a bulge in her pocket that turned out to be money but used that as reason to grope her and stick his hand down her pants.

The defense then argued there was no way Balthrop would have been able to hold a flashlight while allegedly groping the women.

The defense also pointed out that one of the alleged victims was a four time convicted felon who was charged with DUI the night Balthrop allegedly sexually assaulted her.

While witnesses testified they did see the woman show Balthrop her breasts, while she claims it was at his request to search her, the defense said she did it willingly while intoxicated.

Another point that the state brought up in closing was that Balthrop had never contacted the juveniles' parents to let them know what had happened.

Also statements taken from one of the alleged victim's by another deputy at the time had been lost after a computer it was taken on crashed.

Again Balthrop was found not guilty.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2013 WorldNow and KSWO. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).