



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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FORMER STUDENT ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR AT KARATE DOJO FOUND GUILTY OF AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

March 19, 2019

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces that Luke V. Bakula, 31, of Haskell, was found guilty after a jury trial before the Honorable Joseph A. Portelli, J.S.C., of two counts of first degree Aggravated Sexual Assault, two counts of second degree Sexual Assault, and two counts of third degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Luke V. Bakula is a former student assistant instructor at Porta's Karate Dojo Academy in Pompton Lakes. The State presented evidence at the trial that between November 21, 2005 and July 2006, Mr. Bakula sexually assaulted a nine year old female student at Porta's Karate Dojo Academy and at her home in Bloomingdale. In 2015, Luke Bakula ceased being a student assistant instructor based upon the allegations.

On March 12, 2019, a Passaic County jury convicted Mr. Bakula on all counts. Sentencing is scheduled for June 7, 2019 before Judge Portelli. Bakula faces a maximum of 40 years in New Jersey State Prison with 85 percent of his sentence to be served before parole eligibility, subject to the No Early Release Act.

Passaic County Assistant Prosecutor Kathy I. Oviedo, Esq. represented the State during the four week jury trial. Mr. Bakula was represented by Peter W. Till, Esq. and Louis J. Keleher, Esq.

Media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Prosecutor Kathy Oviedo of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Sexual Investigations Unit at (973) 837-7714 or koviedo@passaiccountynj.org.



LUKE V. BAKULA