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November 27, 2012

Victims Courage Secures Guilty Verdict Against Perpetrator

Hagåtña, Guam- After thoughtful deliberation, a Superior Court Jury found Zachery Gagan guilty of first degree criminal sexual conduct as a first degree felony for sexually penetrating his victim back in March of this year.

The victim, who was spending the night at his best friend's house, awoke to find his shorts had been unzipped, his boxers pulled partially down and Gagan sexually assaulting him. The victim immediately pushed Gagan off, out the door and into the hallway where the light was on, allowing the victim to identify Gagan. The next day, Gagan asked the victim "How did it feel?"

The victim, who was embarrassed and not wanting his friends and classmates to know about what had transpired, did not report the incident until May.

"I would like to thank the victim for finding the courage and strength to stand up against his perpetrator; to recognize that what happened was not his fault and that justice had to be served for him and other victims of criminal sexual conduct," said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

"Convicting this perpetrator would not have been possible without the bravery of the victim; my heartfelt thanks to him," said prosecuting attorney Matthew Heibel.

"I'd also like to thank the Jury for their careful evaluation of the evidence and testimony during trial, and to my colleagues for their efforts in making this a successful win for our island residents," he continued.

Gagan is facing 15 years to life imprisonment and must register under the Sex Offender Registry. His sentencing is scheduled for January 10, 2013.

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