

Jury Acquits Firm's Client on First Degree Murder and Robbery Charges

June 2021 – DES MOINES – A jury in Story County, Iowa determined that Jordan Nicole Bryant, who was represented by Mark Weinhardt and Todd Lantz of The Weinhardt Law Firm, was not guilty of the charges of First Degree Murder and First Degree Robbery. The jury also rejected the charges of Second Degree Murder and Second Degree Robbery, instead finding Bryant guilty of the lesser offenses of Involuntary Manslaughter and Robbery in the Third Degree. Bryant was sentenced on June 11, 2021 and is expected to be released in early 2022. Had she been convicted of First Degree Murder, she would have been sentenced to serve the remainder of her life in prison without the possibility of parole.

As reported in local news media, the case involved four defendants allegedly involved in an armed robbery that resulted in a shooting death in Ames, Iowa. Bryant was accused of aiding abetting the robbery and, by extension, she was also charged with “felony murder.” The investigation of this incident was one of the most complicated in the history of the Ames Police Department. The state’s discovery file included a terabyte of data and hundreds of witness interviews. Weinhardt and Lantz began working on Bryant’s defense in April 2019. Among their many efforts, they conducted nearly thirty depositions of the State’s witnesses.

Rather than accept a plea offer, Bryant chose to have a jury resolve the charges against her, notwithstanding guilty pleas by two of her co-defendants on lesser charges and a previous jury verdict finding another co-defendant guilty of First Degree Murder and First Degree Robbery. Weinhardt and Lantz represented Bryant at her trial, which ended with a jury verdict rejecting the heaviest murder and robbery charges in the case.

Bryant was “very grateful for the jury’s careful attention to the evidence and their conclusion that she did not commit either murder or first degree robbery,” according to Weinhardt. “While she was convicted of two lesser included charges, she will avoid a lengthy prison sentence. Having spent more than two years in jail while facing the possibility life without parole for first degree murder, Jordan is thrilled that she will get her life back.”

About The Weinhardt Law Firm

The Weinhardt Law Firm is a boutique firm that specializes in the litigation of complex civil and criminal cases. The firm has extensive experience in all types of civil and criminal matters, but its attorneys concentrate their practices in complex business disputes and the defense of white collar criminal matters. The firm practices in federal and state courts in Iowa and across the United States. The Weinhardt Law Firm is located at 2600 Grand Avenue, Suite 450, Des Moines, less than 10 minutes from the U.S. Courthouse and the Polk County Courthouse, and eight minutes from the Des Moines International Airport. To learn more, visit www.WeinhardtLaw.com or call (515) 244-3100.
