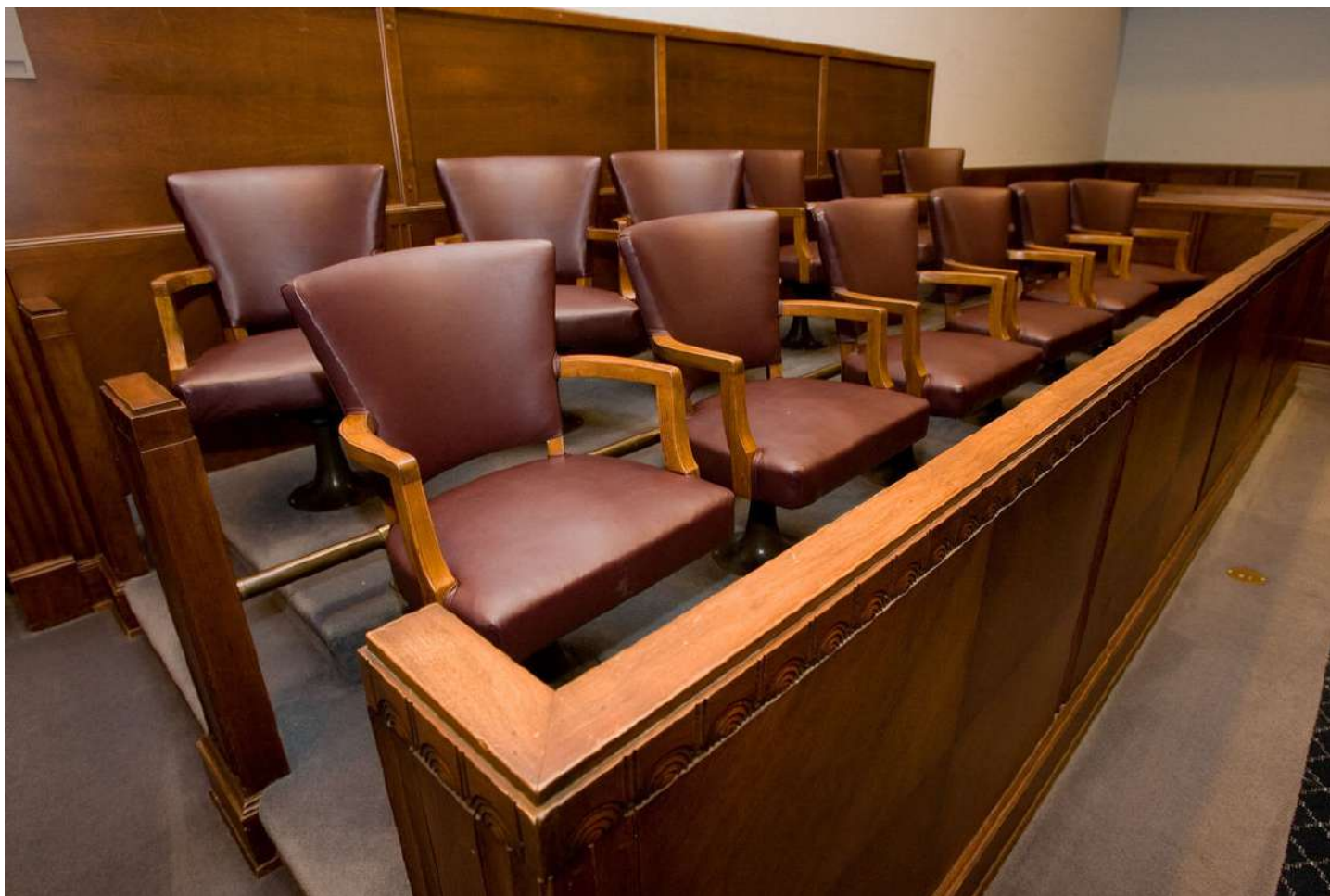




Jury deliberates 10 minutes before clearing Portage man of rape charge

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Jonathan Miano, The Times



Woman tells jurors she had no reason to fear rape until it was too late

VALPARAISO — A jury deliberated just 10 minutes Wednesday morning before returning with a not guilty verdict against a 22-year-old Portage man, who was charged with raping a former girlfriend in 2015.

Scott Chapman was cleared of the single rape charge one day after both sides presented all evidence in the case.

The jury began deliberating on the evidence at 10:55 a.m. Wednesday and was back with its verdict at 11:05 a.m., according to the court.

Chapman took the witness stand Tuesday afternoon to give his side of the story just hours after his accuser did the same.

Defense attorney Russell Brown had told jurors during opening arguments that the only evidence being presented by prosecutors is the woman's testimony.



Jury to hear claim that Portage man lured woman to home before raping her



Griffith man faces rape charges after Dec. 13 attack in his apartment

There is no physical evidence of a rape, he said.

The 22-year-old woman told jurors she had been intimate numerous times in the past with Chapman, but had no intention of that when she arrived at his house at 1 a.m. June 10, 2015.

Chapman had asked her to come over, saying his grandmother wanted to see her, she said.

But when they went to Chapman's bedroom to watch a movie, she testified that he suddenly became aggressive and raped her.

Brown had questioned why the woman would show up at 1 a.m. to see the grandmother and why, if she was yelling for Chapman to stop, others in the house heard nothing.

The woman also told Brown she did not have any bruising on her thighs, despite claims that Chapman had repeatedly pushed at her legs.

The woman said she did not immediately tell anyone about the rape, but was convinced to go to a hospital the following day, where police were alerted.

The woman said she was not falsely accusing Chapman of rape to get back at him and would not have been in the courtroom Tuesday had she not been required to be there by a subpoena.

Bob Kasarda

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Bob is a 23-year veteran of The Times. He covers county government and courts in Porter County, federal courts, police news and regional issues. He also created the Vegan in the Region blog, is an Indiana University grad and lifelong region resident.