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AURORA THEATER SHOOTING TRIAL
 COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE: DENVERPOST.COM/THEATERTRIAL

GUILTY



24 counts of murder • **140 counts** of attempted murder
1 count of possession of an explosive device
1 sentence enhancement of crime of violence

JURY: JAMES HOLMES SANE, ELIGIBLE FOR DEATH PENALTY



Arapahoe County District Attorney George Brauchler, center, puts his head in his hands as Judge Carlos Samour Jr., right, reads a verdict of guilty on the count of murder in the first degree of 6-year-old Veronica Moser-Sullivan, the youngest victim. Gunman James Holmes stands at left. Arapahoe County Court TV

“WEIGHT LIFTED” WITH VERDICTS

By Noelle Phillips and John Aguilar
The Denver Post

CENTENNIAL» Sadness. Relief. Shudder. Those were the words used Thursday by survivors of the Aurora theater shooting after a jury found the defendant guilty on 165 counts.

“I didn’t know how I was going to feel,” said Jansen Young, whose boyfriend, Jonathan Blunk, was killed. “There was a weight lifted that I didn’t even know was there that I’ve been carrying for three years.”

When Judge Carlos Samour Jr. read the first verdict, “Guilty,” the survivors knew the jury had carried out their wishes.

“As soon as we heard the first ‘guilty,’ we knew the dominoes were going to fall,” said Tom Sullivan, whose son, Alex, was killed.

REACTION » A

INSIDE SANITY STILL A BIG QUESTION

Jurors rejected James Holmes’ insanity plea, but legal experts say the question will play a larger role in the sentencing phase. » 9A

The victims. Remembering those killed. » 8-9A

What’s next. Jurors will be back in court on Wednesday. » 9A

By John Ingold and Jordan Steffen *The Denver Post*

CENTENNIAL» James Holmes is guilty of murder for killing 12 people in an Aurora movie theater three years ago, a jury decided Thursday, ending the legal limbo for one of the worst mass shootings in American history.

In count after emphatic count, jurors rejected the defense’s argument that what happened at the Century Aurora 16 theater on July 20, 2012, was a tragic act of insanity. It was a deliberate crime, jurors said.

Holmes now faces possible execution as punishment.

The jury of nine women and three men found Holmes guilty of 24 counts of first-degree murder — two for each victim slain — as well as 134 counts of first-degree attempted murder, six counts of attempted second-degree

murder and one count of explosives possession.

In the wood-paneled courtroom before the verdict was read, tension pulled the spectators taut. Parents who lost their children in the attack held hands with clenched grips. Holmes’ parents leaned stiffly against one another, a box of tissues resting on Robert Holmes’ lap.

Then, over a single, unrelenting hour in Arapahoe County courtroom 201, Judge Carlos Samour Jr. called out

TRIAL » A

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