

## Man Convicted of Aggravated Assault at Applebee's

2/17/22: The Douglas County District Attorney's Office tried and convicted Dakota Pitts for multiple counts of Aggravated Assault. His co-defendant Coren Boye-Owusu was also tried and convicted of Tampering with Evidence. The case was investigated by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and tried by Assistant District Attorney Roland Turner in front of Judge Cynthia Adams the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>.

On June 6, 2019, Defendant Boye-Owusu was a cook at Applebee's on Thornton Road and got into an argument over an order of guacamole with the victim, who was employed as a server. During the argument, both parties alluded to a physical altercation. Witnesses to the altercation attempted to diffuse the situation. Defendant Boye-Owusu's shift ended and her boyfriend, Defendant Pitts, arrived at the location. When the victim's shift ended approximately one hour later, the Defendants were still on the premises. When the victim left the restaurant, a physical altercation with Defendant Boye-Owusu began. During the altercation, Defendant Pitts brandished a firearm and began indiscriminately shooting in the direction of the victim and the victim's family, who had arrived to pick her up from work. A bystander was shot in the ankle and a vehicle was also damaged. After the shooting, Defendant Boye-Owusu took the firearm from Defendant Pitts and concealed it in her bag and later attempted to conceal it under pine straw.

During the week-long trial, Defendant Pitts asserted self-defense and defense of others to justify the shooting. Through testimony by Douglas County Sheriff's Office deputies, testimony by multiple eyewitnesses, and surveillance video, the jury rejected Defendant Pitts' claims and convicted him of four counts of Aggravated Assault, one count of Criminal Damage to Property in the First Degree, and one County of Possession of a Firearm During Commission of a Felony. Defendant Boye-Owusu was found guilty of Tampering with Evidence.

"The citizens of Douglas County should be able to enjoy a meal at a local eatery without the worry of gun violence. We will not stand for this egregious and dangerous behavior in our community", said District Attorney Dalia Racine. "By holding these offenders responsible, we are sending a message that Douglas County will remain a place where law-abiding citizens can enjoy, work, and reside."

Sentencing for both Defendants will be held at a later date. Pitts is facing a maximum of 95 years in prison and Boye-Owusu is facing a maximum of 3 years.

