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SUBSCRIBER ONLY Boulder tailor acquitted in unlawful sexual contact case



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A Boulder tailor has been found not guilty by a jury on all charges after he was accused of improper sexual contact with clients.

Ziya Ozdemir, 46, was charged with 10 counts of misdemeanor unlawful sexual contact before one count was dismissed by the Boulder County District Attorney's Office. On Friday, following a two-week trial, he was found not guilty, according to court records.

Ozdemir had a previous trial in March 2023 that ended with a hung jury, with the judge declaring a mistrial in the case.



On Wednesday, the Boulder Police Department arrested Ziya Ozdemir, 43, on suspicion of unlawful sexual contact.

On Friday, the law office of Scott Jurdem, which represented Ozdemir along with The Eicher Law Firm, released a statement.

"Mr. Ozdemir has maintained his innocence through an incredibly difficult process over the past 3 years," Jurdem wrote. "We deeply appreciate the jurors scrutinizing a biased and rigged investigation to bring justice to a hardworking Turkish-American immigrant who is a beloved and valued member of the Boulder Community."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty also issued a statement in the wake of the verdict.

"We want to thank and acknowledge the eight women who came forward and testified at trial," Dougherty said. "They demonstrated bravery and strength in coming forward and throughout this entire process. I am grateful to our team on this case; they worked incredibly hard. As with every trial, we appreciate the time and service of the community members who served as jurors in this case."

Ozdemir, the owner of Uni Tailor, <u>was arrested in September</u> 2021 after two females, one a juvenile, reported they were touched inappropriately while their clothing was being tailored.

Following news of Ozdemir's arrest and additional investigation, the Boulder District Attorney's Office said eight more named victims came forward, with the incidents ranging from 2017 to 2021.

Charges for the eight new named victims were added to the case in December 2021.