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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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After several hours of deliberation, the jury yesterday returned verdicts of guilty in the matter of *People v. Darrell Ravan Slape*. Slape was charged with one count of felony sexual penetration with a foreign object and two counts of felony sexual battery by fraud. Each count alleged that Slape fraudulently represented that the sexual conduct of which he was accused served a professional purpose, when it did not. The jury found Slape guilty of the count charging sexual penetration with a foreign object and one count of felony sexual battery by fraud, and guilty of a lesser included offense of battery, with respect to the other count of sexual battery by fraud.

The case involved two victims, referred to in the proceedings as Jane Doe #1 and Jane Doe #2, who were assaulted by the defendant during massages by him at his business, Healthy Life Alternatives, at the Back In Action building at 612 G Street in Eureka. The incident with Jane Doe #1 occurred on November 12, 2007, while the incident with Jane Doe #2 occurred on January 17, 2009.

Both women were suffering from severe back pain, and testified that they were referred to Slape's business because he offers a muscle strengthening training program on specialized exercise equipment known as MedX. Both women saw him on a single occasion, at which time he gave them each massages in private massage rooms, where the assaults took place.

Slape took the stand in his own defense, completely denying any wrongdoing. His attorney, Jerold Schultz from Encino, California, argued, among other things, that Jane Doe #1 mistook "referred sensation" experienced as a result of receiving trigger point therapy for digital penetration of her vagina.

"Obviously, the jury saw through the defendant's untruths and reached a just decision in this case," stated Christa K. McKimmy, the Deputy District Attorney who prosecuted the case for the People. "I am extremely satisfied with this outcome," said Ms. McKimmy. "This will hopefully achieve some closure for the victims in this case, who had to endure years of anticipating the unpleasant task of testifying about their experiences at the hands of the defendant, and who suffered uncertainty about what the outcome would be." Both victims testified that they were motivated to report the incidents by the desire to prevent others from becoming victims of Slape. "This conviction will achieve that goal."

Slape faces up to nine years in state prison and will be required to register as a sex offender. The Honorable W. Bruce Watson, who presided over the trial, will sentence Slape on August 3, 2012.