

# OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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**March 25, 2022**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Several high-profile cases heard and/or resolved this week**

There were several high-profile and media-interest cases on the court docket over the past week. In an effort to reduce the number of releases and emails sent out, here is a summary of what happened:

#### **Vaughn Jarod Coklas sentenced March 17**

- Court file number 02-CR-20-6896: Sentenced to 216 months in prison with credit for 477 days already served. Coklas was charged with and convicted of one count of second-degree unintentional murder.
- Previous press releases: [Nov. 25, 2020](#)

#### **Mark Allen Lacek sentenced March 22**

- Court file number 02-CR-20-5545: Sentenced to 180 months in prison, with credit for 552 days already served, on one count of attempted first-degree murder.
- No previous press releases. The criminal complaint can be found on the court's online records system: <https://publicaccess.courts.state.mn.us/>

#### **Siblings Nicholas and Melissa Zielinski sentenced March 23**

- Nicholas Zielinski, court file number 02-CR-20-5227: Sentenced to 225 months on one count of second-degree murder (with intent, not premeditated). Credit for 571 days already served.

- Melissa Zielinski, court file number 02-CR-20-5418: Sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole on charges of first-degree intentional murder and second-degree intentional murder (not premeditated).
- Previous press releases: [Feb. 4, 2022](#), [Sept. 11, 2020](#), [Sept. 1, 2020](#)

#### **John Robert Jones sentenced March 24**

- Court file number 02-CR-21-6324: Sentenced to one year in jail with credit for 138 days already served, to be followed by 180 days on electronic home monitoring. A 69-month prison sentence is stayed for 10 years; defendant will be placed on supervised probation and will be required to follow the court's conditions. Jones was charged with and convicted of one count of criminal vehicular homicide.
- No previous press releases. The criminal complaint can be found on the court's online records system: <https://publicaccess.courts.state.mn.us/>

#### **John Joseph Hare first appearance March 24**

- Court file number 02-CR-22-1107: Hare was extradited from Nevada and made his first appearance in Anoka County District Court, where bail was set at \$2 million. His next court hearing has been scheduled for April 21. Hare is charged with second-degree murder (intentional but not premeditated).
- Previous press releases: [Feb. 28, 2022](#)

#### **Valentin V. Andonii sentenced March 25**

- Court file number 02-CR-19-6205: Convicted of seven counts related to the possession and sale of THC vaping cartridges. Sentenced to 65 months in prison with credit for 83 days already served.
- Previous press releases: [Jan. 10, 2022 \(includes amended complaint\)](#), [Sept. 25, 2019](#), [Aug. 21, 2020 MDH release on dangers of Vitamin E acetate](#)

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