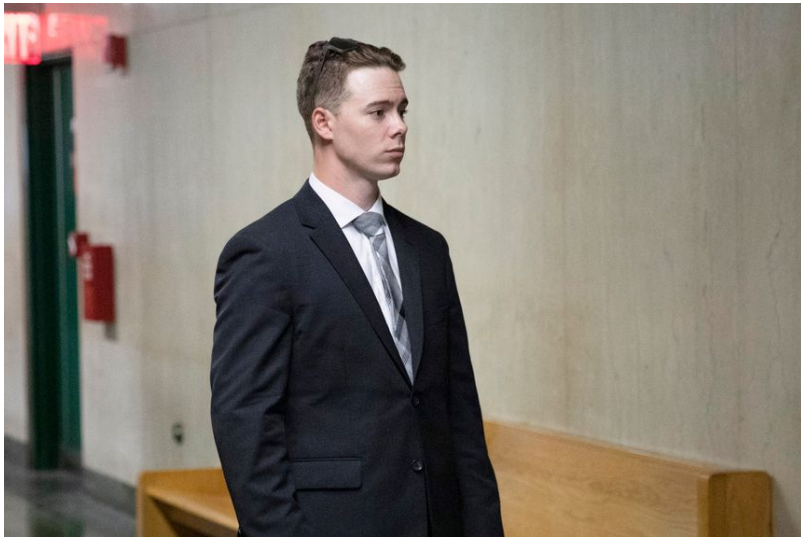


CRIME

Two Proud Boys Members Each Get Four Years in Prison for Manhattan Brawl

Men were convicted of attempted gang assault in incident involving antifascist protesters



Maxwell Hare arrived at court on July 31 in New York. PHOTO: MARK LENNIHAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Ben Chapman

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Two members of the far-right Proud Boys group were sentenced on Tuesday to four years in prison for their role in a 2018 brawl following a speech by the organization's founder at a New York City Republican club.

John Kinsman, 40 years old, and Maxwell Hare, 27, were found guilty on Aug. 12 of attempted gang assault, attempted assault and other charges after prosecutors from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office said they had attacked members of the antifascist group Antifa.

At the time of the Oct. 12, 2018, fight, New York Police Department officers were escorting Mr. Kinsman, Mr. Hare and other Proud Boys members to a subway station on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Antifa members had been outside the Republican club protesting the speech given by Proud Boys founder Gavin McInnes.

Messrs. Kinsman and Hare, who were sentenced in a criminal court in Manhattan, each faced up to 15 years in prison for their most serious crime, attempted gang assault. Prosecutor Joshua Steinglass said at the sentencing hearing that they should each receive five years in prison while the two defendants' lawyers asked for the minimum sentence, a spokesman for the Manhattan District Attorney said.

Judge Mark Dwyer sentenced each man to four years in prison followed by five years of post-release supervision, the spokesman said. Messrs. Kinsman and Hare are being held in custody following the sentencing, according to the spokesman. Defense lawyers for the men didn't respond to requests for comment.

During the criminal trial, the defense lawyers said that members of Antifa started the fight by charging at the Proud Boys and tossing a bottle toward them.

But prosecutors showed the jury a surveillance tape that captured Mr. Kinsman body slamming an Antifa member, and repeatedly kicking him against a gate. They also showed footage of Mr. Hare punching another Antifa member multiple times.

Police never identified the Antifa members who were attacked and they weren't present at the trial, despite numerous attempts from law-enforcement officials to locate them.

Mr. McInnes, who is no longer affiliated with the Proud Boys, called the sentencing of Messrs. Kinsman and Hare a "travesty of justice."

"Antifa were picking fights all night," Mr. McInnes said in an interview on Tuesday. "They lost one at the end of the night and now two men are going to prison."

The Southern Poverty Law Center has designated the Proud Boys a hate group.

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