

Lawyer Is Convicted of Murder in Rampage

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Body

A white immigration lawyer was convicted today of murdering five people in a racially motivated shooting rampage last year in the suburbs of Pittsburgh.

The lawyer, Richard Baumhammers, 35, was convicted in Allegheny County Court of five counts of first-degree murder and eight counts of ethnic intimidation in the April 28, 2000, rampage that left a sixth victim paralyzed.

Mr. Baumhammers, who could face the death penalty, shot two men from India, two Asian men, one black man and a Jewish neighbor, and vandalized synagogues. Prosecutors said Mr. Baumhammers, the son of Latvian immigrants, was trying to make a statement against nonwhite immigration.

Mr. Baumhammers's lawyer admitted his client did the shootings but said Mr. Baumhammers was delusional and did not know the actions were wrong.

Jurors will return on Thursday to start hearing testimony in the penalty phase of the trial.

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