

GUAM DAILY POST • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

# 2012 teen rape case goes to jurors

By Andrew Roberto  
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Prosecutors and the defense made closing arguments yesterday in the Superior Court of Guam whether 22-year-old Austin Barcinas raped a 14-year-old in 2012.

According to prosecutor Sean Brown, DNA evidence and testimony from witnesses is proof enough that Barcinas should be found guilty.

"Something was taken from (the victim) right before she turned 15, and the defendant Austin Barcinas is the one who took from (the victim) her innocence, her youth, her ability to trust."

Barcinas faces charges of fourth-, second- and first-degree criminal sexual conduct, as well as assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct.

### Details of alleged assault

He is accused of having sexually



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- Sean Brown, prosecutor

penetrated the victim while she was asleep at his house in Mangilao. The victim was a guest, sleeping over with other family members at Barcinas' home.

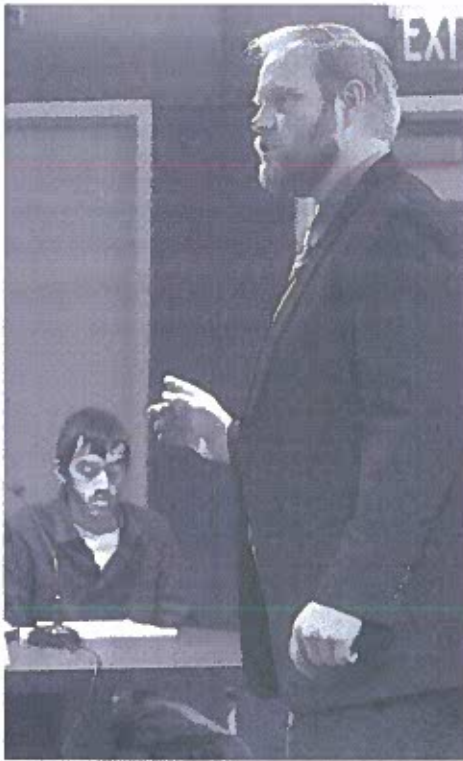
The victim, who testified in court, stated that on the night in question, she was sleeping on a couch in Barcinas' living room. She woke in the middle of the night in pain, and went to her home, where immediate family members later took her to Guam Memorial Hospital, and eventually, to the Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center.

According to Brown, semen was discovered on the interior of the victim's underwear and DNA tests link Barcinas to the sample.

Testimony from a rape expert called into trial also supported the allegations of sexual assault. On the stand, the victim testified that she woke up to bleeding and pain, according to Brown.

Brown also pointed out that while in prison, Barcinas made phone calls to his mother, brother and sister, asking different family members to speak to the victim. When asked about the phone calls, the defendant's family members denied recollection of the calls, even though phone records showed that calls occurred in 2016. According to Brown, this is further evidence that Barcinas was attempting to hide his guilt.

"Those witnesses know some-



**CLOSING ARGUMENTS:** Prosecutor Sean Brown gestures to Austin Barcinas, who faces rape charges, during closing arguments in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge Maria Cenzon yesterday in Hagåtña. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

thing," Brown said. "They know something and that's why they're doing everything in their power to protect the defendant and say whatever they need to say to help him. They know what happened that night to (the victim)."

One of the family members even

asked the victim to drop the case, according to Brown.

"Who are they trying to protect?"

However, according to the defense, the DNA evidence did not hold as strong a case as prosecutors were presenting.

"How good a DNA report is this?" attorney Rocky Kingree asked in court.

Kingree explained that the prosecution's own forensic expert, who linked the defendant to the semen sample, said there were actually two or more semen samples from the crime scene. Additionally, there was no semen found on or in the victim's body.

### Defense points to victim's stepfather

The defense attorney also attempted to shift blame for the rape to another male the victim knew: her stepfather.

According to Kingree, two hair samples were found in the victim's underwear that did not belong to the victim. When tested, these hair samples were found to belong to a Caucasian man with brown hair. Kingree pointed out that his client has black hair and is of Chamorro and

Palauan heritage.

But Kingree added that the victim's stepfather is Caucasian, and that after the case went into investigation, the victim and her family moved from Guam.

A verdict in the case has not yet been reached.

# Father, 18, allegedly threatens son with slingshot



### The charges

Setarcon Altly, 18, was charged with disorderly conduct as a petty misdemeanor and harassment as a petty misdemeanor.

By Alana Chargualaf  
alana@postguam.com

An 18-year-old father was charged in the Superior Court of Guam yester-

day after allegedly threatening his son with a makeshift slingshot.

Police responded to a disturbance at the Bonanza Apartments in Tamuning on Monday around 6:30

p.m., where a witness told them a man, later identified as Setarcon Altly, was causing a disturbance.

The witness said Altly tried to use a slingshot to shoot a rock at his son, who felt threatened after his father pointed it at his chest, according to the magistrate's complaint.

Upon approaching Altly, officers observed the man smelled of an intoxicating beverage emitting from his body. Police added he had red, bloodshot eyes, and disheveled clothing and hair.

The complaint further stated that Altly told police he had been drinking vodka, and that, when he drinks, he forgets his actions. He also admitted the slingshot was his.

Police confiscated the slingshot that Altly used.

Altly was charged with disorderly conduct as a petty misdemeanor and harassment as a petty misdemeanor.

**GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION**  
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**INVITATION FOR BID**  
IFB# GEC-18-01

**Universal Access Voting Booths**

IFB Available Date: Friday, February 16, 2018  
Due Date: Monday, March 12, 2018  
Time: 2:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time

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**GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**Regular Board Meeting,**  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
at 4:00 PM

at 850 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Rd,  
Tamuning Guam, GMH Board Room.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES On Feb. 12, \$1 was worth:	51.692 PHP	108.69 JPY	1,083.31 KRW	29.302 TWD	6.3084 CNY	1.2766 AUD	0.8143 EUR

# 'The magic of the blue box'

## Tiffany's offers gifts of a lifetime

By Alana Chargualaf  
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If there's one thing that says "I love you" to the woman in your life on Valentine's Day, it's a timeless piece of jewelry in the signature blue box from the luxury brand Tiffany & Co.

Whether it be a promise ring of fidelity to a woman, a lasting gift to a child or a necklace for a sweetheart, Tiffany & Co. is one of the luxury brands associated with the universal day of sentimental affection.

"It's just the magic of the blue box," said Tiffany & Co. Sales Manager Joseph Borja. "As soon as they see the traditional, trademark Tiffany blue, you could just see the smiles light up. That's a Kodak moment."

Every Tiffany gift comes wrapped in a Tiffany blue box, tied with a perfect pearlescent white bow.

"Watch their faces before they even open that box, before they untie the ribbon. When they finally open it, it'll follow with a scream, a yelling of happiness, joy and tears," he continued. "This is what really happens. It's really what it is."

Borja has been with the company for 17 years, and assured he's seen those reactions quite often.

One or two days before Valentine's Day, Borja said Tiffany & Co. sales spike as customers buy gifts for their wives, girlfriends, kids - any special someone in their lives. The luxury brand specifically sees a spike in engagement ring sales.

### 'A gift that will last a lifetime'

Though the gifting admirers could



**'LIFETIME MEMORIES':** The blue box that accompanies a Tiffany & Co. purchase often has been imitated, but impossible to duplicate. Norman M. Taruc/The Guam Daily Post



**PROPOSAL:** Russell Bala-an gives his fiancée, Cassandra Dimla, a kiss on the cheek after proposing marriage last December at Tiffany & Co. in Tumon.

Photo courtesy of Russell Bala-an

have gone to other places for the perfect gift, they choose Tiffany's because of the bond it creates to fulfill the connections people desire to keep "a lifetime memory."

"This is the place where you come to buy a gift that will last a lifetime. We have everything that creates lifetime memories," Borja said. "It's something you can pass on - a continuous thing."

According to Borja, there's always a story behind the Tiffany designs that customers purchase. Customers

sometimes come in to look at the designs, not knowing what they're going to buy. When Tiffany's advisers learn what occasion the piece will celebrate, they bring the buyer to the piece that would make the biggest impact.

### A Tiffany & Co. engagement

When they first began dating, Russell Bala-an brought his girlfriend, Cassandra Dimla, to Tiffany & Co. and told her that one day he would marry her. After looking around the store, Dimla found a ring she liked.

It was at that very moment he made it a goal to put that same ring on Dimla's finger when the time was right.

Last December, Bala-an took Dimla down the streets of Tumon as if it were any other day. Little did Dimla know that Bala-an was leading her to the Tiffany & Co. engagement ring she had been dreaming of.

Dimla said they walked into the

Tiffany & Co. shop because her sister wanted to look around. When Dimla turned toward Bala-an, however, he was down on one knee, and their close friends and family came out in surprise.

Bala-an told his girlfriend how he felt, and made the proposal to Dimla, now his fiancée.

"I was definitely surprised! I had a feeling he was proposing that day, but I had no idea where or when he was going to do it," Dimla said.

Bala-an said the Tiffany & Co. staff and management were extremely kind in helping him put the ring on a special display, along with a love note with Dimla's name on it, surrounded by sunflowers.

"She didn't expect it to occur at Tiffany's," Bala-an said. "She was more excited. She's been waiting for me to propose. She couldn't believe it was happening already. Tiffany's was so accommodating."

Bala-an said he frequently turns to Tiffany's when choosing a gift for a loved one.

### 'Something special and beautiful'

Nicole Raphael has received up to four pieces of jewelry from Tiffany & Co. from both her mother and her boyfriend, and said she was definitely excited and grateful every time she received one.



Nicole Raphael

"When you see the blue box or bag, you know that there is going to be something special and beautiful in there," she said.

### Fit for any valentine

Tiffany & Co. has a number of Valentine-worthy collections, from solitaire diamond rings for engagements and weddings, to the Open Heart collection of necklaces and earrings.

"We have a wide range of collections that appeal to all of our customers. The Valentine's price points are very attractive," Borja said. "It's a great Valentine's gift for anyone."

Borja suggested the symbolic heart for a gift, as many of their collections are adorned with heart pieces.

Tiffany & Co. also offers a signature fragrance, what Borja called the "smell of love."

### Pieces for men

Though the brand is mostly feminine, there are pieces for men, such as statement-making rings and cufflinks.

"I won't say there's one piece that really stands out," Borja said. "We have an amazing collection."

Tiffany & Co. shops can be found at the Tumon Sands Plaza and the T Galleria in Tumon.

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**/s/LARRY G. GAMBOA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP**  
Chief Human Resources Officer

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