



NEWS RELEASE –

October 4, 2017

Contact: Ken Lane, 720-913-9025

**FORMER UCD STUDENT CONVICTED OF 2015 CAMPUS
KIDNAP & SEX ASSAULT SENTENCED TO PRISON**

A Hawaii man convicted in June of kidnap and sexual assault of a University of Colorado-Denver student in the fall of 2015 was sentenced today in Denver District Court.

John D. Kennedy (dob: 03-11-1994) was sentenced by the court to a prison sentence of nine years indeterminate after a jury found him guilty in June on all charges tried: one count of *second degree kidnapping-victim of a sexual offense* (F2), one count of *sexual assault-victim physically helpless* (F3), one count of *sexual assault-victim incapable of appraising nature of her conduct* (F4), and one count of *unlawful sexual contact* (M1).

“I thank our district attorneys and our staff and the citizens of the jury who, respectively, obtained the successful conviction and returned the guilty verdict, and I commend the victim and witnesses for their courage and determination throughout this lengthy case,” Denver District Attorney Beth McCann said. “Today’s sentence sends the message that campus sexual assault is not ‘business as usual’ and that this is a serious criminal act.”

On November 1, 2015, Kennedy, a student on the Auraria Campus, sexually assaulted the 23-year-old victim, a fellow student, while she was unconscious following a night of celebrating Halloween. After waiting until the other students had left a shared hallway, the defendant carried the unconscious victim from one apartment--where she had been placed for safety by friends—to his apartment. When the victim was discovered missing, a friend of the victim found her and Kennedy in his apartment. At that time, the victim was unaware she had been moved and was unaware she had been sexually assaulted. She did not consent to any sexual contact. The next day, building surveillance footage was discovered showing Kennedy carrying the unconscious victim down the hallway. The police were notified and the victim went to Denver Health for a sexual assault examination. DNA evidence, witness statements, plus the defendant’s own confession ultimately established that Kennedy had kidnapped and sexually assaulted the victim.