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Erie Times-News (PA)

3 trials, acquittals for gynecologist

December 27, 2006

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Section: Front Page Page: 1 LISA THOMPSON

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One woman came forward in October 2004 and accused then-69-year-old gynecologist Dr. Tae Hyung Bu of sexually molesting her during a medical exam. After her claims became public, other former female patients also accused Bu of improperly touching them.

Bu wound up facing multiple molestation charges stemming from five women's office visits between August 2001 and September 2004.

He was cleared of the charges in 2006.

Three juries heard the claims of three separate women and, in each case, the jury acquitted Bu. The last trial was in September.

The defense argued Bu's contact with the women was medically necessary.

Jurors said there was not enough evidence to prove the prosecution's claim that the doctor's contact crossed the line between professional and personal.

The defense said the verdicts showed that Bu, who is now retired and living in the Philadelphia area, was innocent.

Prosecutors countered that their case was crippled after Erie County Judge **William R. Cunningham** ruled Bu was entitled to separate trials, or one for each accuser. That decision prevented one jury from hearing from all the accusers' respective accounts.

In the end, District Attorney Brad Foulk dropped the remaining two cases against Bu in October. Assistant District Attorney Erin Connelly said after seeing what happened in the first three trials, the two remaining women did not want to go forward.

Bu declined to comment throughout the duration of the case. One of his lawyers, **William Weichler**, said he was sure the prosecutor's decision to drop the remaining cases thrilled and relieved Bu.

Weichler said a criminal prosecution is one of the worst things a person could endure in life.

"He's been through it three times," **Weichler** said.

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