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DAILY NEWS

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Every day for two weeks, [Sen. Hiram Monserrate](#) entered the Queens courthouse for his assault trial near [Eugene Savage's](#) huge, incredible mosaic called "Jurisprudence."

If he looked up, he would have seen the Seven Deadly Sins, including Envy, a twisted green man with his fists balled up. He is falling. It might have looked familiar.

On Thursday, [Queens Supreme Court Justice William Erlbaum](#) cut Monserrate a break - so to speak - deciding the burly pol was not guilty of slashing girlfriend [Karla Giraldo](#) with a broken glass.

It was an accident, Monserrate said. He'd tripped and the glass he was holding went in her face, leaving her with a gash that needed 40 stitches.

This supposed accident came just after he went into a jealous rage after finding another man's card in her purse. But Giraldo testified under oath it was an accident, too. That left Erlbaum little choice.

"The American verdict of 'not guilty' can indicate one of two things," he said. "Innocence, or the case is not proven. In the case of these [felony assault counts], the case has not been proven.

"There are only two people who have actual knowledge of what happened in that apartment. That is Karla Giraldo and the defendant."

Exactly. That night last December, Giraldo told the triage nurse at [Long Island Jewish/North Shore University Hospital](#), "He's crazy," and, "I can't believe he did this to me!"

On the stand, she told a different story. A story that's hard to believe. We won't know if Karla Giraldo perjured herself to protect her man, until they break up and she pushes a tell-all.

In the hallway after the verdict, women in jeans and lawyers' suits clustered in groups and shook their heads.

"This sets women's rights back a long time," said one female court officer.

Forgive us if we find the couple's story the most incredible coincidence since [Thomas Jefferson](#) and [John Adams](#) died on the same Fourth of July.

Erlbaum did find Monserrate - who courthouse wags have been calling Monster Rat - guilty of reckless assault, for forcibly dragging Giraldo out of the apartment in a scene caught on videotape.

It's a misdemeanor, so Monserrate gets to keep his job in [Albany](#).

The judge noted Monserrate neither called 911 nor took his beloved to [Elmhurst Hospital](#), eight blocks away. Instead, he drove Giraldo, her face gushing blood, 37 minutes into [Nassau County](#). Is [Long Island Jewish](#) so much better, or was he covering his political tail?

In a cold rain outside the Queens courthouse Thursday, Monserrate's voice echoed under an arbor of umbrellas as he said, "This has been a humbling experience. There are no winners here."

Certainly not his constituents, many of them poor immigrants, in [Jackson Heights](#), in [Elmhurst](#), in [Corona](#), whom he championed until he got distracted by this case.

Not to mention his shenanigans as assistant circus ringmaster in Albany in June, when he helped paralyze the Senate for a month.

But with a megalawyer like [Joe Tacopina](#), who's already pointing out Monserrate has no history of domestic violence, the pol could get zero jail time when he's sentenced Dec. 4.

Maybe the judge will lift the restraining order, and Monserrate and Giraldo can live happily ever after.

I'm betting against.

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