
NY man fares poorly as own lawyer in behead trial

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) - Legal experts say a former New York television executive accused of cutting off his wife's head might have fared better at trial if he hadn't represented himself.

It took less than an hour Monday for a jury to convict Bridges TV founder Muzzammil Hassan (moo-ZAHM'-mel HAH'-sahn) of second-degree murder.

The Pakistan-born Hassan had fired three lawyers. He failed to convince the Erie County Court jury he'd killed Aasiya (AH'-see-ya) Hassan because she'd abused him.

Retired University at Buffalo law professor Charles Carr says it's almost never a good idea for a defendant to represent himself. He likens it to putting a person who's never played baseball in the outfield and telling him he'll catch on.

Buffalo defense attorney Joseph Terranova says Hassan could have advanced his battered-spouse claims under questioning by his lawyer without taking over the defense.

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