

## **Commonwealth v. Dew Case Brief**

**Location:** Dorchester, Massachusetts

**Defendant:** Anthony J. Dew

**Date:** June 15, 2023

### **The Accused**

Anthony J. Dew, a Black Muslim man from Dorchester, Massachusetts, faced multiple felony charges related to human trafficking and drug distribution.

### **The Charges**

Human trafficking, drug possession with intent to distribute, assault with a dangerous weapon, and rape.

### **What Happened**

In March 2015, Dew was indicted on 19 felony charges. Because he could not afford a private attorney, the court appointed Richard Doyle to represent him.

During the case, Doyle advised Dew to accept a plea deal rather than go to trial. Evidence later showed that Doyle made racist and Islamophobic comments both publicly and privately. Doyle reportedly told Dew not to wear his kufi, a traditional Islamic head covering, in court and refused to meet with him while wearing religious attire.

Dew later claimed that Doyle's behavior affected their attorney-client relationship and made it difficult to trust his legal advice.

### **The Legal Process Before Trial**

#### **Indictment (2015)**

Dew was formally charged in Massachusetts state court on multiple felony counts.

#### **Plea Agreement**

Doyle encouraged Dew to accept a plea deal to avoid the possibility of a much longer sentence if convicted at trial.

#### **Guilty Plea**

In 2016, Dew pleaded guilty to several charges, including human trafficking and drug offenses. The rape charge was dismissed as part of the agreement.

#### **Trial Results**

Dew was sentenced to 8–10 years in prison.

After the conviction, evidence of Doyle's racist and anti-Muslim behavior became public. Dew appealed his conviction, arguing that his constitutional right to fair legal representation had been violated.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court later vacated Dew's convictions and ordered a new trial.