

Los Angeles Times



Former Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor, right, leaves court with attorney Arthur Aidala after he was cleared in a civil trial Friday. (Mary Altaffer / Associated Press / October 26, 2012)

By Dan Loumena

October 26, 2012 2:43 p.m.

Lawrence Taylor, the former New York Giants superstar linebacker and Hall of Famer, won his civil trial Friday when a jury rejected claims he assaulted a 16-year-old girl during a sexual encounter in 2010. While leaving court, Taylor said that he was ready to "concentrate on my own broken life and try to repair that."

Taylor, who already pleaded guilty to misdemeanor criminal charges of sexual misconduct and engaging in sex with an underage prostitute, admitted that "I've done a lot of things I need to address," adding that, "we're not in the '80s. We're not in the '90s anymore. You have to govern yourself accordingly." The former All-Pro linebacker, who failed drug tests numerous times during his playing career and ran afoul of the law several times after his retirement, admitted that he paid the girl \$300 for sex but denied that he ignored requests to stop because he was hurting her.

The girl told police that she was beaten by another man and forced to have sex with Taylor. "I feel for what she has gone through," said Taylor, who is serving six years' probation on the misdemeanor charges. "At the time, I wasn't a bad person, and if I had known what was going on, I would have helped her. I hope the best for her."

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NEW YORK POST

We hear . . .

Posted: 11:28 PM, November 23, 2012

That after he won a lightning-quick verdict for **Lawrence Taylor**, defense attorney and Fox News legal analyst **Arthur Aidala** dropped by **Alan Dershowitz**'s Harvard Law School class to guest-lecture.

The Washington Post

Ex-NY Giant Lawrence Taylor wins case brought by teen who had sex with him in hotel for \$300



Frank Franklin II/Associated Press - Former New York Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor leaves federal court Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012, in New York.

A teenager who has accused Taylor of sexually assaulting her when she was 16 cried as she described her encounter with the NFL Hall of Famer at the start of a civil trial. Taylor has pleaded guilty to having sex with her in 2010.

By Associated Press, Published: October 26

NEW YORK — Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor celebrated with a cigar on Friday and pledged to concentrate on his “broken life” after a jury rejected a woman’s claims that he assaulted her by failing to recognize her distress when he had sex with her in a hotel room when she was 16.

The jury in U.S. District Court in Manhattan deliberated for about an hour before siding with Taylor, who appeared relieved as he turned around and gave a thumbs-up to a friend on a court bench behind him. Outside court, Taylor signed a copy of the verdict sheet belonging to his lawyer, Arthur Aidala, and then spoke about his future and his past. Taylor, who led the New York Giants to Super Bowl titles in 1987 and 1991, said he wanted to go home to Pembroke Pines, Fla., and “concentrate on my own broken life and try to repair that.”

Asked to elaborate, he said: “I’ve done a lot of things I need to address. I look forward to going home.”

Outside the courthouse, Taylor, whose post-NFL life has been marred by missteps including drug and tax charges, smoked a cigar. When asked what kind, he said, “Redemption.”

The verdict came after a four-day trial in which Taylor testified that he had sex with a “very, very pretty” prostitute in 2010 but denied accusations that he ignored obvious signs she was a teen runaway who had been beaten and forced to meet with him. He said she told him she was 19.

The meeting occurred in his room at a Holiday Inn in Montebello, just north of New York City, where he paid \$300 to Cristina Fierro after the sexual encounter.

Fierro said another man forced her to have sex with Taylor. She said she brought the lawsuit to hold Taylor accountable.

The Associated Press doesn't normally publish the names of accusers in sexual-assault cases unless they agree to be named or identify themselves publicly, as Fierro has done.

One of Fierro's lawyers, Nathan Goldberg, said after the verdict that the case gave Fierro a chance to stand up for herself after she was delivered "like a piece of meat to the hotel room where Lawrence Taylor had sex with her."

"(Fierro) believes that by bringing this case and the facts to light that she has stood up for herself and for other children and shown that they, too, can have a voice and let people know what happened to them," he said.

Taylor said he regretted that he did not know when he met Fierro about the true circumstances of their meeting.

"I feel for what she has gone through," he said. "At the time, I wasn't a bad person, and if I had known what was going on, I would have helped her. I hope the best for her."

He shook his head as he spoke quietly about his missed opportunity.

"I'm a sensitive person. I love people," he said. "She was in good hands."

During the trial, Fierro wept as she described the sexual encounter, saying the hulking Taylor failed to stop having sex with her even after she told him it hurt and tried to push him away.

"I kept telling him I didn't want to be there," she said. "He's much bigger than me. I couldn't do anything."

Taylor testified that Fierro "didn't seem to have a problem" and "didn't tell me to stop."

Taylor, who played in the NFL for 13 seasons and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team, had already pleaded guilty to misdemeanor criminal charges of sexual misconduct and patronizing an underage prostitute and is serving six years of probation.

Outside court, he cited "changing times" and said there were many lessons to be learned from his encounter with Fierro and everything that came afterward.

"We're not in the '80s. We're not in the '90s anymore," he said. "You have to govern yourself accordingly."

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