



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**May 22, 2025**

### **State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that after two days of testimony, **Anthony Laudicina (DOB: 8/2/1966)** was found guilty of two counts of aggravated arson and one count of residential arson after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer.

On November 30, 2024, Rockford Firefighters were dispatched to a call at North Main Manor Apartments located in the 500 block of North Main Street. Upon arrival, paramedics were approached by an adult male, later identified as the defendant, Anthony Laudicina, who had burns to his face and hands. Laudicina told the paramedics he started a fire in one of the apartments to escape men with guns who wanted him dead. Laudicina later changed his story, and even testified during trial and said he did not set the fire, but was the intended victim of the fire. Fire investigators determined that the blaze was set on purpose, and that Laudicina used a lighter and rubbing alcohol to start it. During trial, prosecutors brought several witnesses to the stand to show the jury Laudicina was the one responsible for setting the fire. Prosecutors also presented evidence Laudicina did not live at North Main Manor and that the true victim of the fire was the tenant, who was in her bed the time he started it.

Aggravated Arson is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of mandatory supervised release.

Residential Arson is a Class 1 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 4-15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of mandatory supervised release.

Laudicina is scheduled to be back in court on July 1, 2025 at 1:30 in front of Judge Schafer in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The Rockford Police and Fire Departments conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Jennifer Gadow and Emily Palmer are handling the prosecution.

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