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Conn. court tosses Dr.'s conviction for fondling

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NEW HAVEN, Conn.

The Connecticut Supreme Court has upheld a decision overturning the conviction of a doctor accused of fondling female patients, ruling the cases should have been tried separately.

The high court ruled 5-2 Wednesday to uphold the state Appellate Court, which had ordered two separate trials for Dr. Sushil Gupta, a pulmonary physician who was convicted of fourth-degree sexual assault. Gupta, represented by attorneys Hugh Keefe and Tara Knight, was acquitted of charges he sexually assaulted a third woman.

The appeals court said combining the cases was unfair because the jury could use evidence from one case to convict Gupta in another case even though that evidence would have been inadmissible in a separate trial.

The high court agreed, saying combining the cases deprived Gupta of a fair trial.

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