

**IN BRIEF**

**Jury takes 25 minutes to clear man in shooting**

**NEW HAVEN** — In what some called one of the fastest acquittals during a trial at the Church Street courthouse, a Superior Court jury this week found a city man innocent of shooting and wounding another man after deliberating for only about 25 minutes.

Clarence P. Austin, 18, also known as Prince Austin, formerly of Winchester Avenue, was acquitted of the April 14, 1996, shooting of P.J. Carmichael of New Haven.

Carmichael, now 21, was shot in the buttocks while he was walking on Southeast Drive at 1:15 a.m. He has since recovered from his wounds.

Austin's attorney, Tara L. Knight of New Haven, said her client was relieved by the verdict. Lawyers who heard about the verdict said they were surprised by the jury's quick decision.

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