



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Manslaughter convictions upheld for Quincy landlords in fatal fire

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Manslaughter convictions against two brothers for the three deaths in a March 2009 fire in Quincy have been upheld on appeal, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Zhan Ting "Andy" Huang was sentenced to 3 years to 3 years and one day in state prison and his brother Zhan Tang "Jason" Huang sentenced to 2 to 3 years in state prison after a Norfolk Superior Court jury convicted them in January 2012, Morrissey said. Morrissey and Assistant District Attorneys Lynn Beland and Varsha Kukafka had asked for prison terms of 12-to 15 years.

The brothers appealed their convictions claiming that evidence from the fire scene was improperly collected, statements to authorities were improperly admitted at trial and that Jason Huang was not sufficiently linked to the property to be charged, although he had collected rents and was primarily responsible for making repairs.

"The Appeals Court closely examined each of those claims in the decision issued today and rejects them all," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We thank the Court for its care and attention here and believe that this decision is just."

In addition to being convicted of three counts of manslaughter each in the deaths of Oudah Frawi, his two-month old son Hassan and his year old son Ali, the Huang brothers were convicted on four indictments each for violating one of the new laws put in place in 2004 in reaction to the deadly Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island. They were each convicted of a single count of Wanton or Reckless Violation of the State Building or Fire Code, causing serious injury or death, for each of the three who perished and the fire's sole survivor – their wife and mother. Andy was additionally convicted of perjury. All of those convictions were also upheld today.

The brothers were renting out an illegal apartment in the basement of what was supposed to be a four unit building. The basement apartment had only one way in and out when a lamp started a fire while the family slept in a room away from the door in the early hours of March 25, 2009.

Please note that although the bill crafted in response to this fire, addressing the extensive problem of illegal, unsafe apartments did not pass into law during the last Legislative session, it has been refiled by Sen. Timilty, D.A. Morrissey and Fire Marshal Coan, see: [MORRISSEY, COAN AND SEN. TIMILTY PROMOTE NEW LEGISLATION ON ANNIVERSARY OF FIRE.PDF](#)

And for background on case and conviction of co-defendant: see: also: [QUINCY LANDLORD ADMITS THREE MANSLAUGHTERS.PDF](#)

Text of opinion published here: <http://www.mass.gov/courts/docs/sjc/reporter-of-decisions/new-opinions/13p1299.pdf>