

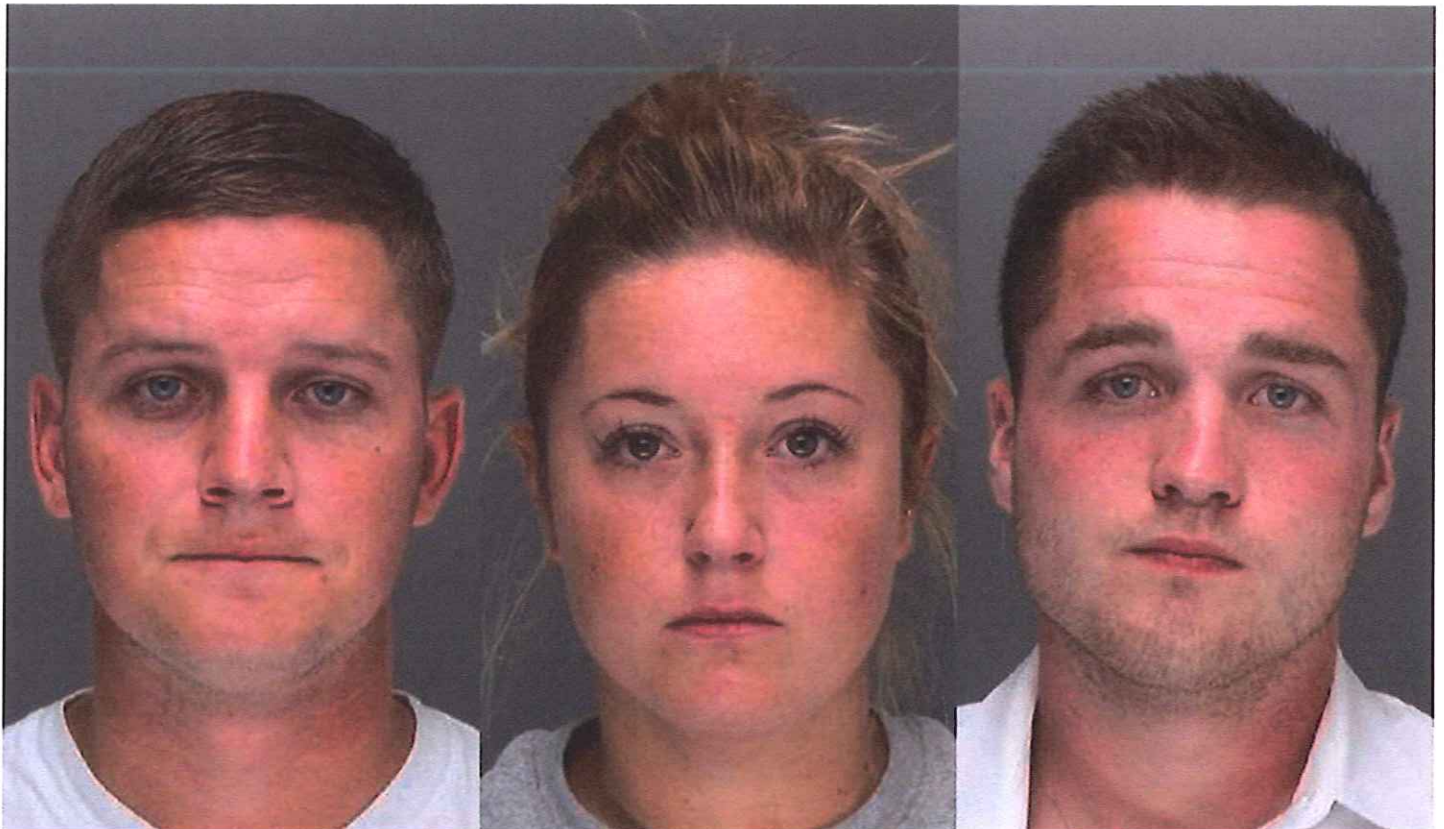


NAVIGATION ▼

Center City Gay-Bashing Defendants Considering Plea Deal

Could they escape hard time?

BY **VICTOR FIORILLO** | JULY 13, 2015 AT 4:33 PM



Defendants Kevin Harrigan, Kathryn Knott and Philip Williams

It has been 10 months since Bucks County residents **Kevin Harrigan, Kathryn Knott and Philip Williams** were arrested for the **attack on two gay men** at 16th and Chancellor streets in Center

City that left one victim in the hospital with a broken jaw and two broken cheekbones. And with a trial looming later this year, G Philly has learned that all three defendants are now considering plea deals proffered by the Philadelphia District Attorney's office.

Sources on both sides of the case confirm that all three suspects now have plea offers in hand and that they are are weighing their options.



"On behalf of my client, we are reviewing a plea offer from the District Attorney," says Williams' attorney **Fortunato Perri**. Williams stands accused of punching both victims, **Zachary Hesse** and **Andrew Haught**, according to **court documents**. Haught suffered the greatest injuries, requiring hospitalization.

Louis Busico, attorney for Kathryn Knott, says that he's "always happy to have open lines of communication" with prosecutors but wouldn't say whether Knott is going to take the deal. While Williams and Harrigan were allegedly the more physical aggressors, it was Knott who received the brunt of public backlash after **homophobic rants** were found on her Twitter feed.

Harrigan's attorney, **Josh Scarpello**, did not return calls seeking comment. According to an **affidavit of probable cause** in the case, Harrigan initiated the confrontation when he called the victims "faggots," and he struck Hesse.

Trending: Local Gay Catholics React to Archbishop's Statement on Fired Gay Teacher

Cameron Kline, spokesperson for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, says that the office does not comment on plea offers but tells us that if convicted on all charges, the maximum sentence could be as high as 34 to 68 years in prison, though no one expects that the judge would hand out anywhere near the maximum sentence, especially considering that these are first offenses.

None of the attorneys nor the D.A.'s office would comment on the specifics of the plea offer, so we asked prominent Philadelphia criminal defense attorney **Chuck Peruto** to walk us through the thought process.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Suggested: Vacation Season is Car Show Season in Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania

"If they can tell who did what exactly, a good deal for the guy that did the most damage is two to four years state time," says Peruto. "And the ones that did minimal damage, maybe 11-1/2 to 23 months in county. If my clients got an offer like that, they'd probably take it. This is Philadelphia and you don't want a gay-bashing case as a criminal defense attorney. There are a lot of gay people here, and you can't tell who is gay on your jury."

Each suspect **has been charged** with conspiracy and two counts each of aggravated assault, simple assault and recklessly endangering another person. They remain free on bail.

Last Thursday, the case was continued so that the defendants could consider the plea offers. If no plea deal is made, Busico says he expects jury selection to begin in September or October.

Follow @VictorFiorillo on Twitter.

Read More About: Gay Bashing

[« Previous Post](#)

[Next Post »](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE



**Gay-Bashing
Suspects Will Face**



**Gay-Bashing
Suspects Appeared in**



SPONSORED CONTENT

**Q&A: Local Physician
Assistant Weighs In**



**Gay Bashing Suspects
Held On All Charges**