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## Despite similarities, trials for Aurora shooting and Boston Bombing have one important difference

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The trial of Aurora movie theatre shooter James Holmes will soon be underway, overlapping with the Boston Bombing trial.

Two terrible American tragedies are culminating in murder trials for the people who caused them. Around the same time as the trial for the Boston Bombing, the Aurora Theatre shooter will stand trial for his crime.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev detonated two bombs in April 2013 during the Boston Marathon that killed three and wounded dozens. His trial has proven challenging because it is difficult to find impartial jurors in Boston, which is still deeply affected the bombings.

A Boston defense lawyer, Martin Weinberg, said it's imperative to have the trial in Boston. "If we don't want military tribunals, if we don't want Guantanamo Bay, we have to demonstrate in Boston – or wherever it's moved – that this criminal justice system can give this most unpopular man a very fair trial," said Weinberg.

James Holmes is on trial for a shooting in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado. The shooting killed a dozen people and injured dozens more.

Both trials have many similarities. The cases are high-profile cases involving a large number of casualties dying in public settings. Holmes and Tsarnaev could also both face the death penalty if convicted.

One pivotal change in the trials is that Holmes has pleaded insanity. Holmes' defense attorneys argue that if convicted, Holmes should go to a psychiatric facility instead of prison. Some legal experts say that may not work in Holmes' case.

"Many people believe that the insanity defense is a loophole that allows guilty defendants to 'go free,'" wrote Kathleen Bantley and Susan Koski in the analysis of the Holmes trial. "In one survey, sixty-six percent of respondents believed that the insanity defense should not be available."

With over 60 percent of Coloradans supporting the death penalty, it appears Holmes may receive the death penalty if he is convicted of murder. No matter what the outcome of the trials, Americans will be watching these infamous trials very closely.



**Ella Vincent** - Ella Vincent is a Chicago-based freelance writer for State Column and Apartments.com. She loves political memoirs, 90's rock music, and deep-dish pizza.