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'So grateful'

AMANDA KNOX SAGA ENDS IN EXONERATION

By COLLEEN BARRY
AND FRANCES D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

ROME — Italy's highest court late Friday overturned the murder conviction against Amanda Knox, of Seattle, and her ex-boyfriend in the 2007 slaying of Knox's roommate, ending the high-profile case that captivated trial-watchers on both sides of the Atlantic.

"Finished!" Knox's lawyer Carlo

Dalla Vedova exulted after the decision was read out. "It couldn't be better than this."

In a rare decision, the Supreme Court of Cassation overturned last year's convictions by a Florence appeals court and declined to order another trial. The judges declared that the two did not commit the crime, a stronger exoneration than merely finding that there wasn't enough evidence to convict.

Amanda Knox spoke to media outside her mother's West Seattle house around 8 p.m. Friday.

"I am so grateful for the justice I have received. ... I am so grateful to have my life back," Knox said.

Surrounded by family members, Knox said she wasn't yet sure about her future plans.

"I'm still absorbing what all this means," she said.

See > **KNOX, A8**



TED S. WARREN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaking to news reporters Friday, Amanda Knox, center, was flanked by her fiancé, Colin Sutherland, left, and her mother, Edda Mellas.