

Reporter's Involvement alleged In Motion to Quash Indictments

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By J.D. Cash with Jeff Holladay

OKLAHOMA CITY - Stephen Jones, defense attorney for Timothy McVeigh, one of the defendants in the April 19 bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building, today filed a motion to dismiss the August grand jury indictments of this client and co-defendant Terry Nichols — alleging, among other things, that a reporter for The Daily Oklahoman was privy to grand jury proceedings.

Jones also contends there is other substantial evidence of irregularities that caused the legal process surrounding the original indictments to be tainted. The Enid attorney, in his brief pled today in federal court, included allegations of a grand juror who claimed that as many as 8 members of the panel were outraged by federal prosecutors — saying they felt federal prosecutors purposely withheld evidence of other suspects that may have been involved in the conspiracy to bomb the federal building.

Included in Jones' brief was a transcript of a story from investigative reporter Lawrence W. Meyers of a publication called "Media Bypass Magazine" that alleges a Daily Oklahoman reporter had been in contact with a grand juror prior to the indictments and until they were rendered.

The reporter was identified as Robbie Trammel, an investigative reporter for the newspaper. Meyers' article said a member of the grand jury was recognized by a member of the staff of the newspaper.

Subsequently, he wrote in the transcript included in Jones' brief, Robbie Trammel regularly contacted a juror through an intermediary for the purpose of asking questions about the grand jury deliberations.

And that, Jones alleges amounts to jury tampering and taints the procedure. The Gazette's own investigation has raised a number of questions about the grand jury indictments — prompting investigative reporter J.D. Cash to wonder if other suspects might be government informants or even under-cover agents who failed to stop the deadly April 19 blast that destroyed the federal building.

Coincidentally, Lester Martz, agent in charge of the Dallas office of the ATF, confirmed to the Gazette for the first time several days ago persistent rumors, for months — that the ATF had agents involved in a surveillance operation just hours before the bombing.

While he would not say where, he did say it involved his Oklahoma City agents. But when asked if those agents were working on a "sting operation" involving Timothy McVeigh, the ATF agent declined to confirm or deny his agency's involvement.