

## **State Bombing Trial Promised Prosecutor Says Oklahoma Proceedings Could Begin By Fall**

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OKLAHOMA CITY - Jannie Coverdale, grandmother of two young victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, took comfort in one thought.

Moments after Terry Nichols was found guilty of manslaughter in connection with the bombing - possibly sparing him a death sentence - Ms. Coverdale considered what might come next. Both Mr. Nichols and convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh, she said, are "still going to be tried in Oklahoma. " Ms. Coverdale and others disappointed in a Denver jury's finding are counting on Oklahoma County prosecutor Bob Macy for the satisfaction that eluded them Tuesday.

Mr. Macy, 66, is hoping to oblige.

"I am not happy" with the verdict, he said while visiting the bomb site in downtown Oklahoma City Tuesday night. "And I intend to proceed with state charges. " Mr. Macy had vowed before the trial to file "at least 160" murder charges in the case. The 160 civilians and eight federal law enforcement officers - whose deaths formed the basis of the federal case against Mr. Nichols - made up the 168 lives claimed in the April 1995 bombing.

"It's a commitment that I made to many, many people," Mr. Macy had said before Tuesday's verdict.

The 17-year district attorney has said a state trial is necessary in case a federal conviction and penalty are overturned on appeal. Additionally, he said, it is important that prosecution occur in Oklahoma.

Last spring the Oklahoma Legislature allocated \$650,000 to help Mr. Macy pay for state prosecution. That sum is in addition to \$239,000 allocated earlier to investigate the case. Mr. Macy has said he plans to use the additional money to hire five attorneys, two investigators, staff and victim-witness coordinators.

Mr. Macy said a state bombing trial could be under way by fall, although the timetable could be delayed if the defendants acquire new defense attorneys.

Tuesday's verdict surprised him, he said. "I'm familiar with the evidence. I have a hard time understanding how the jury could reach that verdict. " Staff writer Diane Jennings in Dallas and The Associated Press contributed to this report.