

McVeigh covering for 'John Doe 2,' says lawyer



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Timothy McVeigh failed a lie detector test when he denied there was a "John Doe 2," the Oklahoma City bomber's former lawyer says.

That test, four months after the crime, was the beginning of what Stephen Jones calls McVeigh's deception and manipulation aimed at portraying himself as the ultimate American anti-hero.

McVeigh is covering up for a still-unidentified accomplice, Jones said.

Speaking out with specifics for the first time as his former client faces death by lethal injection, Jones told of several instances in which he said McVeigh was caught changing his story when evidence surfaced of others involved.

McVeigh's intent, Jones said, was to claim the entire responsibility for the bombing that killed 168 people, while protecting others involved beyond convicted co-conspirator Terry Nichols and friends Michael and Lori Fortier. The Fortiers cooperated with the FBI and Michael Fortier is in prison.

"The greatest obstacle to defending Tim McVeigh was Tim McVeigh," Jones said. "He lied from day one. He will go to his grave saying there was no one else."

Attorney-client confidentiality normally prohibits such disclosures. But Jones said he believes McVeigh has waived that privilege by attacking him in his new biography, *American Terrorist*, written by two reporters for the Buffalo News near McVeigh's hometown in New York.

Jones has written an updated version of his own book, *Others Unknown*, adding material from his extensive talks with McVeigh.

McVeigh, to be executed May 16, admitted in early defense interviews that there was

a second person who walked into the Ryder truck rental shop behind McVeigh when he rented the vehicle that carried the bomb, Jones said.

"The way he put it, the other person came in behind him, stood next to him and behind him, smoking a cigarette, and Tim talked to him briefly," Jones said.

But McVeigh adamantly denied that this second person-the never- identified "John Doe 2" of the bombing case-was with him. He explained him away to Jones as just a bystander.

All four other people who were at the Ryder shop that afternoon, two days before the bombing, saw McVeigh enter with this second man. Business records show there was no other transaction besides McVeigh's that afternoon and the Ryder employees assumed the man was with McVeigh.

The FBI and prosecutors, unable to come up with an identity for him, later resolved it by saying the witnesses were mistaken and that McVeigh was alone.

In a polygraph test given by a defense expert in 1995, McVeigh was asked a series of questions about the crime.

Three questions dealt with whether some as-yet-unknown person had given him any help and whether he was lying in the test. On those three, out of a dozen, McVeigh showed "indications of deception," the polygraph examiner reported.

Jones listed several other instances in which he said McVeigh covered up. In one, McVeigh insisted he had not accompanied Nichols to a farm store to buy explosive ammonium nitrate.

But after learning that a clerk at the store identified Nichols and said there was a second man with him-ironically, the clerk insisted it wasn't McVeigh-McVeigh changed his story and told Jones it was him.