

## **Judge rules inmate can testify at Nichols' trial**

**McAlester, Okla.** — A federal Death Row inmate who claims Timothy McVeigh told him others were involved in the Oklahoma City bombing can rebut the state's star witness at bombing conspirator Terry Nichols' trial, a judge ruled Thursday.

But Nichols' attorneys lost their bid to postpone the trial, scheduled to begin Monday. They had argued a delay was needed because of previously unknown FBI documents that raise the possibility that a gang of white supremacist bank robbers may have helped McVeigh.

Nichols, serving a life prison sentence on federal bombing convictions, is charged with 161 state counts of first-degree murder in the April 1995 bombing. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

The testimony of David Paul Hammer, a former Oklahoma prisoner scheduled to be executed in June in Terre Haute, Ind., will be allowed to rebut prosecution witness Michael Fortier, serving a 12-year sentence on bombing-related charges, District Judge Steven Taylor said.

Fortier is expected to testify that McVeigh told him Nichols was deeply involved in planning the bombing.

— *From Star news services*