

## **A look at witnesses expected to testify at Terry Nichols' state trial**

News wire

March 20, 2004 | Associated Press Archive

Witnesses expected to testify at bombing conspirator Terry Nichols state murder trial:

--Michael Fortier, the state's star witness. Serving a 12-year federal prison sentence for knowing about the bomb plot and not telling authorities, Fortier has testified at previous bombing trials that Timothy McVeigh told him Nichols, a former Army buddy, was deeply involved in the bomb plot.

--David Paul Hammer, a key defense witness. Hammer claims he had conversations with McVeigh while both were on federal death row in which McVeigh said others were involved in the Oklahoma City bombing and provided the identity of coconspirators, including John Doe No. 2, a mystery man some claim to have seen with McVeigh on the day of the bombing.

--Lana Padilla, Nichols' ex-wife. At Nichols' preliminary hearing, Padilla said Nichols spoke bitterly about the government's botched 1993 raid on the Branch Davidian complex in Waco, Texas, in which 80 people were killed. Authorities allege the bombing was a plot to avenge the disaster, but Padilla denied making statements to the FBI that described Nichols as anti-government.

--Peter Langan, former member of a white-supremacist bank robbery gang. Serving life in prison, Langan has said at least three fellow gang members were in Oklahoma around the time of the bombing and one later confided to him that they had become involved. Nichols' attorneys claim McVeigh had help in planning and executing the bombing and that Nichols was set up to take the blame.

--Marife Nichols, Nichols' current wife. A native of the Phillipines, Mrs. Nichols testified at her husband's preliminary hearing that she woke up on the morning of April 21, 1995, to find her husband reading about the bombing in several newspapers. She remembered little about their life together and her contact with McVeigh.

--Steven Burmeister, chief of the FBI's scientific analysis unit. Burmeister is expected to testify for the state about explosives residue found on McVeigh's clothing. Defense attorneys are expected to cross-examine Burmeister about a government report that criticized the way the FBI lab handled evidence in the Oklahoma City bombing investigation.