

Ex-Wife Links Nichols, Documents at Trial

April 7, 2004 | Associated Press News Service, The

Author: AP TIM TALLEY Associated Press Writer | Section: U.S. Domestic

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) - Terry Nichols' handwriting is on a variety of documents that investigators have linked to the Oklahoma City bombing plot, Nichols' former wife testified at his murder trial Wednesday.

The documents identified by Lana Padilla include motel registration cards, prepaid calling card applications and rental agreements filled out in the names of Joe Kyle, Darryl Bridges and other aliases that have been linked to Nichols.

Prosecutor Sandra Elliott showed Padilla telephone records and questioned her about calls that were placed in 1994 and early 1995 to or from her home in Las Vegas with a calling card connected to Nichols.

Padilla, who was married to Nichols for eight years, said Nichols was the only person who could have made calls from her home with the prepaid card. Although they were divorced in 1989, Nichols occasionally came to her home to visit their son, she said.

She also identified a Dec. 18, 1994, call to her home from a pay phone in Gilman, Ill., as coming from Timothy McVeigh. She said McVeigh was trying to get in touch with Nichols while Nichols was in the Philippines.

McVeigh was convicted on federal murder charges in the bombing and was executed in 2001.

Nichols is on trial on state charges that could bring the death penalty. He is already serving a life sentence on federal charges for the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people.