

FLINT JURY GETS FBI DRUG STING RETRIAL LAWYERS PIT CLIENTS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, December 19, 1992

Author: WILLIAM KLEINKNECHT Free Press Staff Writer

The fate of three Detroit area police officers and a civilian snared in an **FBI drug sting** is in the hands of a **Flint jury**, after attorneys delivered their closing arguments Friday.

When jurors begin deliberations Monday, they will sort through hundreds of pages of wiretap and videotape transcripts and weigh nearly five weeks of often conflicting testimony.

Much of the same evidence led to a hung **jury** on most of the charges when the four defendants first went on trial in Detroit federal court last summer. Judge Barbara Hackett ordered the retrial moved to **Flint** because of publicity surrounding the case.

Federal prosecutors argued Friday the evidence proves that the four eagerly provided an armed escort for cocaine and money flown into Detroit by apparent **drug** traffickers. But the traffickers were undercover **FBI** agents, and most of the cocaine was sugar.

"The one thing we ask of police is that they not sell themselves out to criminals," Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee Janice told a **jury** weary from more than six hours of closing arguments.

"Anybody who violates that trust deserves to face fully the consequences," Janice said.

Attorneys for the four defendants -- Detroit Police Sgt. James Harris, Officer Angela Canoy-Simmons, Highland Park Police Officer Julandra Young and civilian Willie Volsan -- closed with summations that at times pitted their clients against each other.

Thomas Wilhelm, Harris' attorney, tried to discredit former Detroit Police Chief William Hart's testimony on Thursday. Hart said he never authorized Harris to go along with the **drug** shipments as part of an investigation.

Wilhelm called Hart a "convicted thief and liar" who had been too preoccupied with his own legal troubles to remember discussing the matter with Harris in a police parking garage.

Hart is serving a 10-year federal sentence in California for stealing more than \$2 million from the police department's secret service fund.

Donald Stolberg, Canoy-Simmons' attorney, sought to buttress his client's claim that she was unwittingly recruited into the scheme by Harris. Stolberg told the **jury** that "everything Hart said was believable."

James Hoare, Young's attorney, whose client provided an escort for one of the shipments, said she did not hear the word "**drug** money" when one of the agents discussed it in her presence.

Timothy Murphy, Volsan's attorney, said his client knew the **drug** dealers were agents but took their money because he believed they had lured his daughter, Cathy Volsan Curry, out of **drug** treatment.

Curry was used by the agents to recruit officers into the **sting** unwittingly.

Janice reserved particularly harsh language for Volsan, saying he was "cold-blooded and calculating" for allowing his daughter to **get** embroiled in the scheme, and then "tried to hide behind his daughter's tragedy" in his defense.

Curry, Mayor Coleman Young's niece and the wife of convicted **drug** kingpin Johnny Curry, testified during the trial but was not charged.

At the first trial, three officers and a civilian were acquitted. Five other defendants pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Record Number: 9202170450

Copyright (c) 1992 Detroit Free Press