

MOB TRIAL SPLIT INTO 3 SEGMENTS BY JUDGE

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Author: TIM DORAN Free Press Staff Writer

Seventeen reputed mobsters will be tried in three separate **trials** , with the alleged top members of the Detroit Mafia possibly going before a jury in January 1998, a federal **judge** has ruled.

U.S. District **Judge** John Corbett O'Meara ruled Friday that nine people -- reputed **mob** boss Jack Tocco of Grosse Pointe Park; his five alleged capos, or captains, and three other reputed members of the Detroit La Cosa Nostra -- will be tried together on a 30-year racketeering conspiracy charge in one **trial** , beginning Jan. 13.

Defense attorneys argued that one joint **trial** could cost taxpayers thousands of dollars and bring O'Meara's caseload to a halt. Prosecutors wanted one **trial** , but the **judge** indicated early his intentions to **split** the **trial** .

Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Corbett had no comment Monday on the ruling. Defense attorneys could not be reached for comment.

Attorneys for the alleged **mob** leaders could get a glimpse of the government's case Sept. 9. That's when Anthony J. Corrado of Clinton Township and Paul Corrado of Grosse Pointe Farms go to **trial** on charges of obstructing justice. They are charged with getting U.S. Justice Department attorney Theodore Forman to leak a grand jury investigation **into** possible criminal income tax violations **by** Vito Giacalone.

Trial for eight other people charged in the case on various counts will start two weeks after the Corrado **trial** ends, O'Meara ruled, although he cautioned that all the dates are subject to change.

Tocco, Giacalone and the others were among 17 alleged mobsters named in March in a 57-page indictment charging extortion, racketeering and attempts to gain secret control of Las Vegas casinos.

In his rulings Friday, O'Meara also rejected Giacalone's request to have all charges against him dismissed, at least for now.

Giacalone said the government made a deal with him in 1993: If he pleaded guilty to a conspiracy count stemming from a criminal tax investigation, the government would not charge him in the alleged theft of documents **by** Forman. Giacalone served two years in prison.

But the government wants to use the theft against top members of Detroit's Mafia to possibly show the **mob** 's ability to infiltrate the government, Giacalone's attorney, Neil Fink, has said.

Assistant U.S. attorneys said they could keep their agreement with Giacalone. They would tell jurors to ignore the theft of the documents when it comes to him, but consider it against the others.

In his order, O'Meara said he plans to ensure Giacalone gets the benefit of his plea deal, and he may renew his request if the facts change.

Other issues still remain before the **trials** begin. The **judge** said he will review information in his chambers regarding wiretaps, surveillance photographs and other documents government prosecutors do not want to immediately hand over to defense attorneys.

Caption: Photo

Jack Tocco ***

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