

TRIAL

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The only holdout was a union pipefitter who said that only God — not the justice system — can stand in judgment. The man wrote on his questionnaire: "I don't like your court" and "I don't think your conclusions are good."

Some prospects expressed reluctance to serve on the trial, which could last several months.

As the prospective jurors took the stand to talk about everything from their view of the justice system to their opinions on the O.J. Simpson case, they were hidden behind a partial wall from nearly everyone in the audience section of the courtroom. U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch has promised the prospective jurors that their privacy will be protected during the questioning.

Given the slow pace, it could take several weeks for lawyers to choose 12 jurors and six alternates from a pool of hundreds, and all those picked must be willing to consider the

death penalty as punishment.

Heightened security was evident at the stone-and-glass courthouse, which is ringed by concrete barriers, heavy planters and temporary metal fences.

Police officers on foot, on horseback and in cruisers made regular passes around the complex, and at least one sharpshooter, wearing military fatigues, was stationed at the top of a parking structure across the street.

Reporters and observers were screened by two sets of metal detectors, before being allowed into the second-floor courtroom.

Only a few victims' families showed up to watch, and an auxiliary courtroom, set up to handle an overflow crowd, was filled mostly with reporters.

And fewer than 75 people showed up to watch the telecast 600 miles away in a 320-seat auditorium set up under tight security at Oklahoma City's Federal Aviation Administration complex.

Congress created the closed-circuit hookup to accommodate the survivors and the victims after the trial was moved from Oklahoma City because of the intense publicity.

"Whether there's one person or a closed-circuit television needed to be said Dr. Paul Heath, a survivor of the bombing. "The opportunity is here, and that is the point of the closed-circuit feed."

Jones focused much of his questioning on media, since only last week he claimed the pool was poisoned by the purported actions of his client in stories by The Morning News and Playboy.

McVeigh, a tall, slender 28-year-old grew up in working-class Pendleton, served with distinction in the Gulf War.

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