

Jury selection starts in Fieger trial

by UPI

DETROIT -- Lawyers in the "straw donor" trial of lawyer Geoffrey Fieger agreed on six jurors in Monday's opening round of jury selection in Detroit. Fieger and partner Vernon Johnson are on trial in federal court for illegally contributing \$127,000 to the 2004 presidential campaign of John Edwards. The jury is being culled from a pool of 40 prospects. The process resumes Tuesday. The Detroit Free Press said the only juror who was rejected Monday said he had a strong dislike of Fieger and was unable to guarantee his opinion would not influence his decision. Fieger, who once ran for governor of Michigan and represented assisted-suicide advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian, is accused of funneling contributions to Edwards' war chest through 64 recruited individuals. Federal prosecutors contend the arrangement violated campaign finance laws. Fieger has denied any wrongdoing and unsuccessfully tried to argue in pretrial motions the Bush administration's Justice Department was victimizing him.

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