



Jack Walls III

Walls' Boy Scouts sex trial in 3 cases scheduled Feb. 3

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LONOKE — Jack Walls III is to be tried Feb. 3, 1998, in the alleged sexual assaults of three boys, two of whom belonged to Lonoke County Boy Scouts Troop 103, for which Walls was assistant Scout leader.

During a hearing Tuesday, Lonoke County Circuit-Chancery Judge Lance Hanshaw set that trial date and two others for Feb. 25 and April 1. In the three trials Walls is to face eight of the 10 charges filed against him in November.

Walls, 51, who is being held in lieu of \$1 million bond in the Lonoke County jail, is charged with six counts of rape, two counts of violation of a minor and two counts of solicitation to commit murder.

The hearing originally was to determine whether Walls' bond should be reduced. But at the last minute Walls' attorney, Hubert Alexander of Jacksonville, withdrew the motion.

"It's real simple," Alexander said of why he withdrew the motion. "The least the judge would See TRIAL, Page 12B

Trial

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have set bond was \$100,000, and Jack would have had to post \$10,000 to get out, and he doesn't have \$10,000."

Walls, dressed in an orange jumpsuit, sat quietly, except for discussions with Alexander, throughout the hearing.

No alleged victims or members of the community supporting them made their presence known during the hearing. At an earlier hearing for Walls, scores of residents and relatives of the victims wore yellow ribbons in a show of support for the boys.

During Tuesday's hearing, Hanshaw also approved a motion to have Walls undergo a mental evaluation at the jail.

Alexander, who made the motion, said that did not suggest he was going to use an insanity defense for Walls.

Prosecuting Attorney Betty Dickey of Pine Bluff is handling the case after the local prosecutor, Larry Cook, stepped aside because of possible conflicts.

Dickey, who had said recently that the investigation into Walls' alleged sexual activity with the

Scouts was continuing, said Tuesday that she wasn't sure if any more charges would be filed.

"You reach a point where the sheer magnitude of research and preparation for each count reaches such a point that you wonder what's the purpose in it," she said.

Dickey has said she is not ruling out a plea agreement.

"I'm not saying we're discussing it," she said. "All I'm saying is, it's always a possibility in these kinds of cases. The judge has said we have until Jan. 6 to decide."

During the Tuesday hearing, Alexander argued against trying Walls on the three rape charges and one count of violation of a minor in a single trial set for Feb. 3.

"Would you want to face one rape charge or three in one trial?" Alexander said.

Dickey argued that the three cases were related.

"These are events that are intertwined, and we cannot separate them," Dickey said.

After the hearing, she said that to separate the trials of the three victims — known as John Doe 1, John Doe 2 and John Doe 4 — would cause the boys to be "revictimized at separate trials."

According to the affidavits filed in court, the assaults of the first

victim, John Doe 1, began in 1991 when the boy was approximately 12 years old and continued until he turned 14. Walls also is charged with violation of a minor because Dickey accused Walls of continuing to have sex with John Doe 1 until he turned 18 in 1997.

Walls is accused of sexually assaulting John Doe 2 from 1992, when he was approximately 11, until he turned 14, according to affidavits in court.

Walls is accused of sexually assaulting John Doe 4 from 1991 until 1992, when he was 12 to 13, according to the affidavits filed in court.

The trial for another alleged victim, John Doe 3, is to begin Feb. 25. Walls is accused of sexually assaulting the boy beginning in 1986, from the time he was about 10 until he turned 14 in 1990. Walls is also accused of having sex with John Doe 3 after the boy turned 14 and until he turned 18.

"This trial could take a little longer," said Dickey, who added that a gag order from Hanshaw prohibited her from saying why.

Hanshaw said that the John Doe 3 case "needs to be by itself" but did not explain why.

The judge said he would wait to set a trial date for the rape charges filed on behalf of two

more victims — John Doe 5 and John Doe 6, both of whom were about 13 in 1987, when Walls is accused of first sexually assaulting them, according to affidavits filed in court.

Hanshaw also set April 1 as the first day of trial for two counts of solicitation to commit murder filed against Walls. He is accused of trying to arrange the murders of Cledis Hogan and his son, Doug Hogan, both of Lonoke County. The alleged unsuccessful plot is said to have been planned after Doug Hogan, now 21, accused Walls of soliciting a sexual act during a Scouts campout in 1992.

The accusation caused area Boy Scouts authorities in January 1993 to prohibit Walls from further participation in the organization.

The Hogans have said authorities refused at the time to press criminal charges against Walls. Misdemeanor charges were filed against Walls in Carlisle Municipal Court in 1993 accusing him of assault in the third degree and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Walls was found innocent of those charges in April 1994.

The Hogans filed a civil lawsuit against Walls in 1993. The case was settled out of court.