

Can an impartial jury be found for Couey?

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MIAMI - In the Couey case, many potential jurors seem to be struggling with the idea of 'innocent until proven guilty.'

Finding jurors who have not heard the graphic details of Jessica Lunsford's murder is challenging, and many who have heard about it want no part of it.

"Some jurors have been excused because they said they just couldn't handle it, and they've been excused because they said the death of this little girl is too much for them to become objective, and they're looking to blame someone," explained jury consultant Michael Boucher with Trial Consulting Services Inc.

Couey makes an easy target. After his highly publicized arrest and alleged confession, Boucher isn't surprised that jury selection has dragged on for days - and could last at least another week.

"A lot of consultants will argue cases are won and lost in jury selection and there's a lot of truth to that," he said.

In a high profile case like Couey's, jurors have to be prepared to take weeks out of their lives and spend eight hours a day in a courtroom. So, lawyers on both sides want to make sure they know everything they can about that person's point of view.

"Prosecutors are probably looking for someone more conservative in their values. Obviously pro-death penalty, military background is always a good one as well," Boucher explained. "The defense, someone who's more liberal, obviously anti-death penalty, someone who's understanding and looking for a cause for Couey's behavior."

Weeding the wrong people out and keeping the right ones in takes time in high profile criminal cases. Examples include the trials of Jeffrey Dahmer, Timothy McVeigh, and O J Simpson.

Couey's case is no different.

"Obviously the jury system isn't perfect. It's not flawless. It is a wonderful system," said Boucher. "I think it'll come to the right conclusion in the case."



While the judge continued questioning potential jurors, John Couey colored pictures of dinosaurs.

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