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Testimony undercuts case against ex-FBI agent

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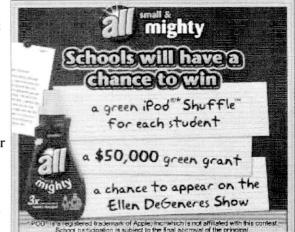
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A prosecution witness in the murder trial of an ex-FBI agent accused of leaking information to the mob seemed yesterday to undercut some of the case involving one of the four homicides charged in the indictment.

During cross-examination by a defense attorney for Roy Lindley DeVecchio, former Colombo crime family consiglieri Carmine Sessa testified that he provided information about the home address of one of the murder victims to Greg Scarpa Sr., the Colombo gangster who engineered the killing.

The testimony of Sessa, who turned cooperating witness for the FBI in the 1990s and is now free after serving more than 6 years in prison, appears to conflict with the

prosecution theory that it was DeVecchio who provided that information about the victim - Lorenzo Lampasi - to Scarpa.



DeVecchio, 67, is on trial in State Supreme Court in Brooklyn before Judge Gustin Reichbach on charges he leaked information that Scarpa used to target four victims, including Lampasi in May 1992. DeVecchio chose to have Reichbach hear the case without a jury.

Others slain were Mary Bari in 1984, Joseph DeDomenico in September 1987 and Patrick Porco in May 1990. Testimony in the case has also mentioned a fifth murder that isn't charged against DeVecchio, that of Dominick Masseria, who was killed on Halloween night 1989.

A dour man with a hang-dog face, Sessa testified about his years as an associate of Scarpa. After he was inducted into the mob in March 1987, Sessa said he rose quickly and was appointed Colombo family consiglieri in 1989.

In 1984 Scarpa asked to use his social club in Brooklyn as a place to kill Bari, 31, the girlfriend of the late Colombo consiglieri Alphonse Persico, Sessa said. Investigators contend DeVecchio told Scarpa that Bari was speaking to police and might tell them where Persico was hiding in 1984 as a fugitive.

"I was sorry this was being done but I didn't have a choice," said Sessa about the Bari murder.

During further questioning by defense attorney Mark Bederow. Sessa said that he learned the Catton Avenue address in Brooklyn of Lampasi from another associate and then passed it on to Scarpa. Lampasi, 66, was shot dead about 4 a.m. May 22, 1992, in his driveway.

Investigators suspect DeVecchio provided Scarpa with critical information about Lampasi's address and personal habits. However, at least one informant told the FBI in March 1994 that a niece of Scarpa had provided him with Lampasi's work schedule, according to court records.

Sessa said when he gave Lampasi's address to Scarpa that he didn't remember the mobster's girlfriend, Linda Schiro, being present. Schiro is slated to testify Monday for the prosecution and is considered a key witness.

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