

DAILY NEWS

News Crime Junior Gotti's defense considering putting Sammy

Junior Gotti's defense considering putting Sammy Gravano, turncoat who put John Gotti away, on stand

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ABC News/AP

Salvatore 'Sammy the Bull' Gravano, the famed mob turncoat whose testimony helped bring down John Gotti, may be called to testify..

Junior Gotti is thinking the unthinkable - putting the rat who doomed his dad on the stand to save himself from a murder charge.

John A. (Junior) Gotti's defense team said it plans to speak to Salvatore (Sammy Bull) Gravano - the same mob turncoat whose testimony sank the late Dapper Don, John Gotti.

"I'll interview him and I'll see what we do," lawyer Charles Carnesi said.

The shocker came as Manhattan Federal Judge Kevin Castel dismissed a second juror after the 39-year-old portfolio manager said his business was tanking because he could not keep on top of the market sitting on the jury. Several more weeks of testimony and the possibility of months of deliberation would cost him big time, he complained.

"Managing portfolios of equities requires almost constant real-time supervision," the juror wrote the judge. "If I am unable to have computer access, then I have no choice but to respectfully ask that I am relieved."

Castel said a juror worrying about his livelihood is not a good juror.

Earlier, a female juror was dropped after a car "bumped" her and she feared it was related to the trial.

As for Gravano, the ex-Gambino goon would be grilled about another murder the feds are trying to pin on Junior - the 1990 killing of soldier Louis DiBono in a World Trade Center garage.

Gravano has testified about the DiBono killing in other trials, but never mentioned Junior.

Joseph DiBenedetto, who once represented Junior's uncle, Peter Gotti, said putting Gravano on the stand "could be a double-edged sword."

"The government can then question him about crimes he committed with [Junior] or any member of the conspiracy," DiBenedetto said.

Gravano was in the witness protection before he was busted for running an ecstasy ring in Arizona in June 2000. He's serving a 19-year sentence in an Arizona state prison.

Putting Gravano on the stand has backfired.

Six years ago, wiseguy Thomas (Huck) Carbonaro was on trial for trying to rub out the mob turncoat - on Peter Gotti's orders. Carbonaro's lawyers hoped Gravano he would testify Carbonaro would not try to kill his friend. Instead, he said Carbonaro would have been killed for disobeying orders.

Gotti is on trial for a fourth time on racketeering charges and at least three murders. His other trials ended in either a mistrial or a hung jury.

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... for the defense of Gotti's son, John A. Gotti Jr.