

Lawyers seek new location for trial

Claim publicity affects jury pool in Carpenter case

By Cynthia Baran
Shoreline Bureau Chief

NEW LONDON — Beth Carpenter's lawyers will argue next week why their client's trial for capital felony murder and conspiracy should be held in another judicial district.

Carpenter, 36, a former lawyer in Old Saybrook, is charged with conspiring with her former law partner and lover, Haiman Clein, 60, to kill her brother-in-law, Anson "Buzz" Clinton III allegedly because she viewed him as an unfit stepfather to her niece.

Clinton was found shot to death March 10, 1994, on Exit 72 of Interstate 95 in East Lyme.

Tuesday, Carpenter's attorneys, Hugh Keefe and Tara Knight, submitted briefs in support of their motion for a change of location for her trial to Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy.

Handy has scheduled three afternoons next week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sept. 14, for oral arguments on that motion and others.

Keefe said he and Knight have suggested that Carpenter's trial be moved to Superior Court in Bridgeport. Saturation publicity about the case in the New London area will make it impossible to find jurors who don't know at least some of the details, they claim.

Present as spectators during Tuesday's three-minute court session were Clinton's parents, Dee and Anson Clinton, and his sister, Suzanne, who was 11 when he died and who just began her senior year in high school.

On the opposite side of the spectator section were Richard and Cynthia Carpenter, the defendant's parents.

Carpenter has been incarcerated in Connecticut since June of last year, when she was returned here from Ireland. The state claims she fled to Europe as the police investigation into Clinton's death was closing in on Clein and her.