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## Trial Called For Call-girl Case Judge Sets March 29 Start

March 12, 1993 | by Anthony S. Twyman, Daily News Staff Writer

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Those who missed the steamy details of a court case involving a prostitution ring allegedly run by a cop and his wife will have a second chance. The case is going to trial.

During an often humorous preliminary hearing yesterday, Municipal Judge Michael Conroy set a March 29 trial date for former Police Lieutenant Joseph Kelly, 37, his wife, Jayne Kelly, 28, and about 14 other women and men allegedly involved in the ring.

The Kellys are charged with running a high-priced call-girl ring from six downtown locations. In testimony during the hearing, men said they paid from \$100 to \$200 to have sex with the women.

Joseph Kelly's attorney, Jack McMahon, claims that while Kelly may have picked up money at locations for his wife, she ran the escort business. Jayne Kelly's attorney, A. Charles Peruto, acknowledges she ran an escort service, but said there's no proof she knew her employees were paid for sex.

During yesterday's two-hour hearing, there were some humorous moments. When McMahon seemed uncertain about the name of one woman, named Sheila, the judge asked the 30 or so people in the courtroom, "Everybody in favor of Sheila raise your hand." Many, including the alleged call girls, yelled out the name "Sheila," raised their hands and chuckled.

The Kellys sat side-by-side and showed no signs of stress. At times, Jayne ran her fingers through the back of Joseph's auburn hair. Several times they laughed at the court proceedings, and Jayne occasionally whispered to the alleged call girls who sat near her.

The hearing focused on the testimony of Detective Joseph Murphy. He said that during his investigation, one of the girls told him that when they made house calls, the rule was that a "little less than half" of the money they collected had to be given to Jayne. They could keep the rest.

Murphy also said he discovered the Kellys and Thomas Ryan, an alleged part-time manager and driver for the escort service, had wiretapped the phone of Kelly's ex-wife. Murphy said Kelly thought his ex-wife was helping in the police investigation.

However, on cross-examination, Murphy said a cassette tape found in Ryan's home, which police believed contained the wire-tapped conversation of Joseph's ex-wife and her mother talking about her helping the DA's office, had been destroyed.

Afterward, Assistant District Attorney Janet Houser said that at the trial she will present taped conversations from a month-long wiretap conducted by police and the DA's office at two of the alleged call-girl locations.

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