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'Varsity Blues' Parents Could Be Headed For 3 Trials This Year

By **Chris Villani**

Law360, Boston (January 17, 2020, 5:30 PM EST) -- The case against Lori Loughlin and other parents charged in the college admissions scandal known as "Varsity Blues" could be headed for as many as three trials later this year, a Massachusetts federal judge said in court Friday.

Lawyers for the wealthy parents, all of whom are fighting accusations that they bribed coaches and other officials in order to guarantee admission to college for their children, were in court for a status conference Friday. U.S. Magistrate Judge M. Page Kelley said the presiding judge, U.S. District Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton, has said the trials in the high-profile case will happen this year.

With 15 parents still opposing the government charges, one trial is unlikely, Judge Kelley said.

"I have tried a five-defendant case before him, and that seemed like enough defendants to me," Judge Kelley said. "I assume he would include husbands and wives in the same trial. I think three groupings depending on how many defendants the government thinks will make it that far could be a good resolution."

Loughlin and her husband, famed designer Mossimo Giannulli, are not the only couple proceeding in the case. As a blueprint for the upcoming trials, Judge Kelley pointed to a recent trial against members of the gang MS-13 in which the defendants were divvied up into trials lined up one after another.

The case against the parents is set to return to federal court in May and then again in June for status conferences. Trial dates have not yet been set. A total of 19 parents were charged, with the government superseding its indictment **for the fourth time** on Tuesday. Four parents changed their pleas to **guilty** in October.

A separate case involving six coaches and officials tied to the scheme also returned to court Friday. Judge Kelley suggested trial dates were not imminent in that case either.

In both cases, defense attorneys said they facing an avalanche of government documents.

Nina Marino of Kaplan Marino PC, who represents former University of Southern California administrator Donna Heinel, said prosecutors have turned over more than 1.5 million pages of emails, nearly 500,000 additional documents, more than 2,000 pages of legal documents and more than 4,000 intercepted and recorded phone calls and text messages.

More than 400,000 pages of discovery centers on her client, Heinel, who the government alleges worked with "**Varsity Blues**" mastermind William "Rick" Singer, multiple coaches and dozens of students.

Martin G. Weinberg of the Law Offices of Martin G. Weinberg PC, who represents two parents, said the amount of discovery is "almost unquantifiable," and asked that the court consider ordering the

government to produce a detailed exhibit list either 90 or 120 days before trial.

"It's simply impossible for us to put our hands around literally millions of emails, millions of documents, thousands of audios and be able to put together a targeted, meaningful defense," Weinberg said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Rosen said during both conferences that the government is doing all it can to produce discovery in a timely fashion. Disputes over whether the government is turning over everything have already popped up, however, including a former casino executive who claimed in December that the government is **holding back** FBI reports that could help prove his innocence.

Judge Kelley did not take any action regarding discovery Friday, urging both sides to continue to talk it out. She also suggested the case against the coaches and officials return to court in early April.

The government is represented by Eric S. Rosen, Alexia R. De Vincentis, Justin D. O'Connell, Kristen A. Kearney and Leslie Wright of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts.

Parent David Sidoo is represented by Martin G. Weinberg of the Law Offices of Martin G. Weinberg PC and by David Z. Chesnoff and Richard A. Schonfeld of Chesnoff & Schonfeld

Parents Amy and Gregory Colburn are represented by David S. Schumacher, Jordan R.C. Kearney and Patric Hooper of Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC.

Parent Gamal Abdelaziz is represented by Brian T. Kelly and Joshua C.H. Sharp of Nixon Peabody LLP and Donald J. Campbell of Campbell & Williams.

Parents Diane and Todd Blake are represented by Stephen H. Sutro of Duane Morris LLP and David E. Meier and Melinda L. Thompson of Todd & Weld LLP.

Parent I-Hsin Chen is represented by Chase A. Scolnick, Jennifer L. Keller and Reuben Camper Cahn of Keller Anderle LLP.

Parent Mossimo Giannulli is represented by Mark E. Beck of Mark Beck Law, Perry J. Viscounty, Roman Martinez, Sean M. Berkowitz and William J. Trach of Latham & Watkins LLP and George W. Vien Joshua N. Ruby of Donnelly Conroy & Gelhaar LLP.

Parent Lori Loughlin is represented by David C. Scheper of Scheper Kim & Harris LLP and Perry J. Viscounty, Roman Martinez, Sean M. Berkowitz and William J. Trach of Latham & Watkins LLP.

Parent Elisabeth Kimmel is represented by Eoin P. Beirne, Mark E. Robinson, R. Robert Popeo and Cory S. Flashner of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC.

Parent William McGlashan Jr. is represented by Jack W. Pirozzolo and Joan M. Loughnane of Sidley Austin LLP and by John C. Hueston and Marshall A. Camp of Hueston Hennigan LLP.

Parent Marci Palatella is represented by Allen J. Ruby, Jack P. DiCanio and Michael K. Loucks of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP.

Parent John Wilson is represented by Andrew E. Tomback, Michael Kendall and Yakov Malkiel of White & Case LLP.

Parent Homayoun Zadeh is represented by Tracy A. Miner, Megan A. Siddall and Seth B. Orkand of Miner Orkand Siddall LLP.

Parent Robert Zangrillo is represented by Martin G. Weinberg of the Law Offices of Martin G. Weinberg PC, Matthew L. Schwartz of Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, Nicholas C. Theodorou of Foley Hoag LLP and Michael Pabian of Michael Pabian Law Office LLC.

Former coach Gordon Ernst is represented by Tracy A. Miner, Megan A. Siddall and Seth B. Orkand of Miner Orkand Siddall LLP.

Former administrator Donna Heinel is represented by Nina Marino, Casey Clark, Jennifer Lieser and Richard Kaplan of Kaplan Marino PC and Michelle R. Peirce of Barrett & Singal PC.

Former administrator Niki Williams is represented by Eric B. Tennen of Swomley & Tennen LLP.

Former coach William Ferguson is represented by Dane C. Ball, Kearns Davis, Shaun G. Clarke and Alexander M. Wolf of Smyser Kaplan & Veselka LLP.

Former coach Jorge Salcedo is represented by Thomas C. Frongillo and Christina Nicole Lindberg of Pierce Bainbridge Beck Price & Hecht LLP and Susan G. Winkler of Winkler Law LLC.

Former coach Jovan Vavic is represented by Stephen G. Larson, Koren L Bell and Paul Rigali of Larson O'Brien LLP, Irwin B. Schwartz and Nicholas R. Cassie of BLA Schwartz PC.

The cases are U.S. v. Sidoo et al, case number 1:19-cr-10080 and U.S. v. Ernst et al, case number 1:19-cr-10081, both in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

--Editing by Alanna Weissman.