NATIONAL

Prosecutor Shows Personality With Roll of Eyes, Sarcastic Tone

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Lad prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson **S**ouble-murder case is tenacious and confident in the courtroom, some- Division etimes rolling her eyes or turning sarpastic to make her point.

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, trying a case with unrelenting media coverage, has made it clear she will not be intimidated by the opposition - lawyers Robert Shapiro, F. Lee Bailey and Alan Der-

During an evidence hearing ecuted last week, she smiled frequently, savings looked skyward on occasion and took an exceedingly civil tone as she agreed to share prosecution evidence.

There was even a bit of oneupmanship when she accused Shapiro of trying to head the district attorney's office.

"She seemed comfortable, confident and set on saying the defense will not direct the prosecution's game plan," said Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor law at Loyola Law School.

Clark brought some levity to the Municipal Court during talk about dividing hair samples for on Shapiro. genetic tests._

"Yes, your honor, we have follicle and shaft. . . . But hairs, uh, cannot be split," Clark told the court in a-bit of inadvertent wordplay.

Clark was at the center of one of the most dramatic courtroom moments so far when she was forced to concede last week that a piece of gence and dignity and a straightfor-- widely reported evidence didn't

Shapiro demanded to examine a bloody ski mask.

After talking her way around it. Clark finally told the judge: "There is no ski mask." There was, however, a knit cap, she said.

Clark will be back in the courtroom for a preliminary hearing, scheduled for Thursday,

Director William Hodg man, who has tried more than 40 murder cases and prosand loan executive Charles H. Keat-

> Since the first Simpson news con-

which she who's now a professor of criminal answered reporters' questions with

, no-nonsense responses, the darkhaired, self-possessed special trials deputy has shown she's ready to take

"She can be a very worthy opponent to any defense attorney she faces in this case," said Barry Levin. a defense lawyer who worked opposite Clark in a death penalty case a

"She's been handling herself extraordinarily well, with intelliward style that wears well," said Susan Estrich, professor of law and political science at the University of Southern California. "If you see the men line up on the defense side, her clear strong voice becomes even more striking.

The defense team has been growing in size and national stature since Clark first was assigned to the prosecution. It now includes Shapiro. celebrity attorney Bailey, Harvard



ference in O.J. Simpson shown with his attorney Robert Shapiro. Law Professor Dershowitz and Ger-

ald Uelmen, dean of the Santa Clara University Law School. Levin said Clark was "born to

be a trial prosecutor." She is particularly skilled at going before a jury and standing in the shoes of the victim, he added.

In this case the victims were Simpson' v-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend, waiter Ronald Goldman, 25. They were slashed to death on June 12 outside Nicople Simpson's condominium. Simpson, who was jailed June 17 without bail, has pleaded innocent to two counts of murder.

Clark's most well-known conviction came in the 1991 trial of Robert John Bardo for the stalking murder of Rebecca Schaeffer, an actress in the "My Sister Sam" TV series. Clark, 40, joined the Los Angeles district attorney's office in 1981. She's a native of Berkelev and graduate of UCLA and the Southwestern University School of Law.

Man Accused in Shooting Says He Had No Grudge Against Muhammad

SEATTLE (AP) — The man Khallid Abdul Muhammad calls him- impressed by that." Bess said. self a "simple fellow" who doesn't bear any grudge against Muhammad.

James Edward Bess, a defrocked Nation of Islam minister from Seattle, said he supported Muhammad's suspension by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan after Muhammad, in a speech, called Jews "bloodsuckers" and urged the killing of South African whites.

Bess has pleaded innocent to charges of attempted murder and five counts of assault with a deadly weapon in the May 29 shooting after a speech by Muhammad on the University of California-Riverside campus. Muhammad and five other people were wounded. Some Nation of Islam members have said Bess was ejected from his ministry in Seattle by either Khallid Muhammad or close ally Wazir Muhammad.

But Bess, speaking by telephone from his California jail cell, denied being expelled and said he had never spoken with Muhammad about his ministry in Seattle.

"I don't know if Khallid Abdul Muhammad knew what I was teaching. I never had a conversation with Khallid Abdul Muhammad," Bess told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

"I didn't harbor any ill will toward him. I supported the statement that the Honorable Louis Farrakhan gave with respect to the statements made by Mr. Khallid."

On the advice of his attorney, Bess, 49, would not discuss the shooting. If convicted, he faces life in

He claimed Farrakhan had personally endorsed his ministry in Seattle and throughout the Northwest in the early 1980s. Bess has been wellknown for his cable TV religion programs for several years.

Bess said his ministry extended the teachings of Farrakhan to all races, not only to blacks.

"He gave me the approval to accused of trying to assassinate for- teach the principles of the Nation of ken arm and dislocated shoulder susmer Nation of Islam spokesman Islam to everyone. . . . He was tained from a beating by an angry

> "That doesn't resonate well with everybody, with the members of the Nation of Islam and outside." he added. "There's a double problem. there's a problem with a lack of tolertalk about loving humanity."

> > 1976

Bess is recovering from a brocrowd after the shooting

And despite his imprisonment. Bess said he intends to continue his ministry. I want to be actively engaged in the ministry of selfimprovement of myself and encourance and ignorance as well....In the age all others to improve them-Nation of Islam it isn't popular to selves," he said, "That's all I'm about. I'm a real simple fellow."

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