

# Local P.I. hired to shore case against O.J.

By Judith Brimberg  
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Four friends of O.J. Simpson's murdered ex-wife have hired a Denver private investigator to buttress the prosecution case against the former football star because they fear a "travesty of justice" like other high-profile cases tried recently in Los Angeles.

"Essentially, they don't want the defendant to walk," R.W. "Pete" Peterson said yesterday in a telephone interview from Los Angeles. "They're afraid there'll be a travesty of justice. They don't feel the prosecution is

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cept. They're doing everything possible and will, but they're up against it."

Peterson, known for tracking down TV star Roseanne's illegitimate daughter, has been combing records, interviewing people and looking for hard data in behalf of his clients, whom he refused to name. Three knew Nicole Brown Simpson and the fourth is active in the area of spousal abuse, he said.

Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and a friend, Ronald Goldman, 25, were stabbed to death on June 12 outside the woman's condominium in the Los Angeles' Brentwood area.

"We're looking at other things that may shed new light" on the bitter relationship between Simp-

son and his former wife, "and we're trying to talk to people who have been reluctant thus far to come forth," Peterson said. One witness described shouting matches in restaurants and other public places, the investigator said.

"People saw him (Simpson) grabbing and doing other things that follow the classic pattern of a stalker," Peterson said. "He apparently had someone else tailing her and writing notes in a notebook. It's classic stalking by an obsessed man."

After he launched his investigation, Peterson himself received a call from a speaker who said, "We're friends of The Juice (O.J.). You better be looking over your shoulder." The Denver investiga-

tor said he didn't know whether the threat was genuine or a hoax.

"We're working on some things that may be hard evidence, but I'm not sure at this point," he said. "Hopefully we'll have a bombshell so we can relax a little." He refused to say what that hard evidence might be.

Peterson also is seeking to discount allegations of racism leveled by the defense team against Los Angeles police detective Mark Fuhrman, who found a work glove on the Simpson property linking the football star to the murder scene.

"We're trying to re-establish that Fuhrman is not a racist," the investigator said.

Peterson started his career doing criminal defense work but

switched sides "because especially in this city (Los Angeles), the scales get tipped so far in favor of the defense."

Although Denver is home base, Los Angeles also is familiar territory to Peterson.

"Forty percent of our firm's work is done here," he said.

Peterson became well-known when he tracked down Roseanne's daughter in 1989 for the National Enquirer. While it had been rumored that the TV star had given birth to a child out of wedlock almost 18 years earlier, Peterson was the investigator who found the daughter at the University of Texas in Austin, where she was majoring in communications.

Staff writer Stacey Baca contributed to this story.