



## Prosecution in Spector trial steps into high gear

By Michael Muskal, Times Staff Writer  
4:29 PM PDT, May 10, 2007

The prosecution in the murder trial of Phil Spector moved into high gear today, presenting two witnesses who recounted the music producer's actions on the night that ended in the death of actress Lana Clarkson.

The night began with dinner on Feb. 2, 2003 at the Grill on the Alley in Beverly Hills, two women testified, one a waitress and another a high school friend of Spector.

The prosecution maintains that the evening ended with Spector, 67, shooting Clarkson, 40, to death. The defense argues that Clarkson killed herself accidentally.

Today's testimony followed days of testimony by four women who told similar stories of Spector drinking heavily, becoming demanding and abusive, then waving a gun in a threatening manner. The prosecution argues that the actions form a pattern similar to what happened between Spector and Clarkson.

At dinner at The Grill, Spector ordered two daiquiris, testified Rommie Davis, a classmate of Spector's from Fairfax High School. It was Sunday night and the pair had dined together on Friday and Saturday as well, with Spector drinking throughout the weekend.

"I was very concerned about him. He took medication," Davis said of the defendant, whose occasionally violent shaking has marked stressful moments during his murder trial.

"He took medication and I knew that alcohol and medication is a lethal combination," she said.

Like the other female companions who have testified, Davis spoke tenderly of Spector and appeared solicitous, especially about the changes they said Spector went through when drinking alcohol.

"Phillip did not usually drink when I went out with him," she said. "He was not his usual self."

Defense attorney Roger J. Rosen tried to poke holes in Davis' testimony, noting that she had previously given different details to investigators.

But under questioning, Davis said she never saw Spector with a gun and she never felt threatened by the music producer, who brought her home after 11 p.m.

Davis' testimony set the agenda for Kathy Sullivan, a waitress at the Grill who knew Spector as a friend.

Sullivan said that after she finished dinner at the Grill with a friend, Spector, through another employee, asked her to go to Trader Vic's, a few blocks away. She went with him and later to another star hangout, Dan Tana's.

At both places, Spector drank navy grogs and daiquiris. The paid nibbled at a salad as well.

Then they went to the House of Blues in West Hollywood, where Spector met Clarkson for the first time. She was working as the hostess at the Foundation Room, the VIP area.

Rosen began his cross-examination, which will continue Monday. He went over many of the same incidents that Sullivan described earlier, but kept pointing out how courteously, amiably and generously Spector behaved. For example, he appeared to tip \$450 on a \$13 bill at the House of Blues, according to the checks.

Earlier this morning, Rosen grilled Melissa Grosvenor, one of the four women who have testified that they were terrorized by Spector.

Rosen raised questions about details of Grosvenor's Wednesday testimony that were absent in a 2004 interview with investigators. Rosen also questioned Grosvenor's relationship to her sister, an indication the defense may call the woman to try to impeach Grosvenor's testimony.

On Wednesday, Grosvenor testified that a drunk Spector confronted her in his home at the end of 1992. "He walked up, held the gun to my face between my eyes and said, 'If you try to leave I'm going to kill you.' "

During today's cross-examination, Grosvenor agreed with Rosen's questions that Spector had never allowed her to hold a handgun or forced her to put a weapon in her mouth.

She said that she never checked to see if the gun was loaded and agreed that it had never been fired.

"I wouldn't be sitting here if it was," she told Rosen.

"It was never discharged, was it?" Rosen repeated.

"I'm sitting here," Grosvenor said.

The two also battled over Grosvenor's sister, Angela, whom the defense may call to impeach Grosvenor's account of events with Spector.

Grosvenor tried to minimize the sister's impact by working into her testimony that the pair were estranged because she viewed Angela as a drug addict. Melissa Grosvenor said she had cut off relations with her sister and refused to give her money.

"We don't have a relationship now," Grosvenor said. "She's a drug addict. I tried to help her, put her in rehab, but I've stopped giving her money. I think she's getting money now from Spector and that's why she's doing this to me."

*michael.muskal@latimes.com*

*Staff writers Peter Y. Hong and John Spano contributed to this report.*