

Keefe and his co-counsel, Tara L. Knight, withdrew as special public defenders and were replaced by high-profile Hartford lawyer Hubert S. Santos and his co-counsel, Hope C. Seeley. But Santos and Seeley have been unable to prepare for the Carpenter case because they have been spending extensive time in the death penalty case of Chasity West, who was convicted of murder July 13 but has not been sentenced. As a result, Santos and Seeley withdrew from the Carpenter case Friday.

Carpenter is accused of conspiring with Haiman Clein to hire a hit man to kill Anson "Buzz" Clinton, who she suspected was abusing her then-3-year-old niece. The plot was carried out, police say, in March 1994, when Mark Depres, Clein's drug dealer, lured Clinton to a road off I-95 and shot him five times in the chest. Clein was once a flamboyant real estate attorney who handled scores of cases in three different courts. Today, he is an admitted felon and drug addict after pleading guilty to charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with Clinton's death.

Carpenter has pleaded not guilty to charges of capital felony, murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Her attorneys say she had no role in the killing, saying that Clein hired Depres to impress the woman he loved.

Jury selection in the case is now scheduled for Nov. 13.

*Courant Staff Writer Colin Poitras contributed to this report.*

# Keefe Back As Carpenter Defense Counsel

By CHRISTOPHER KEATING  
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In another twist to a high-profile crime, a prominent defense attorney who had withdrawn from a murder-for-hire case is now back.

New Haven attorney Hugh Keefe was restored Friday as the defense counsel for Beth Ann Carpenter, an Old Saybrook attorney who is accused of conspiring with her former lover to hire a hit man to kill her brother-in-law to resolve a child custody dispute.

Keefe voluntarily recused himself from the case last year after it became apparent that he would be called to testify at Carpenter's trial. Keefe had visited Carpenter in London and Ireland before her extradition to the United States in 1999.