

Stella's Column

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THE SCOOP: Look for fireworks as five members of the Chicago Police Department face a federal civil trial on April 16 in the courtroom of Judge Ruben Castillo over the death of well-known South Side blues drummer Fred Grady. Grady died in 2003 while in lockup at the 12th District.

The lawsuit claims officers beat Grady to death. The Cook County medical examiner cited a heart attack as the reason, but couldn't explain why Grady sustained injuries to his head and hands.

Grady's attorney, Berve Power Jr., will talk about this case on Cliff Kelley's WVON radio show today.

Attorney Liza Franklin, who represented the city in the 1999 police shooting death of Northwestern University football player Robert Russ, is leading the defense team. By the way, the city lost that wrongful-death case in 2003, and Russ' family was awarded \$9 million.