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✓ Bandler, Richard RP 12/4/87

Bandler trial recessed to search for witness

By NANCY BARR
STAFF WRITER

A one-week recess has been called in the murder trial of psychotherapist Richard Bandler to give investigators a chance to track down the prosecution's key witness.

Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Christopher Cottle said he called the recess at the request of Assistant District Attorney Gary Fry. Bandler's attorney, M. Gerald Schwartzbach, did not protest the delay, Cottle said.

Bandler, 37, is accused of killing Corine Christensen, 31, in her Live Oak condominium just over a year ago. The pro-

secution's key witness is James Marino, 54, the only other person present when Christensen was killed.

At Bandler's preliminary hearing, Marino testified that Bandler shot Christensen, apparently because he believed she was behind an attack on Marino the week before that left him seriously injured.

Marino was subpoenaed to appear in court when jury selection began five weeks ago, but never showed. Investigators have been looking for him without luck.

If he does not appear, Fry will have the entire transcript of his earlier testimony read back to the jury.