

Judge grants delay in LSU slayings trial

Advocate staff report

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A judge Monday granted the state's request to delay the second-degree murder trial of two Baton Rouge men accused in the December 2007 shooting deaths of two LSU graduate students from India.

Casey Jermaine Gathers, 24, and Michael Jermaine Lewis, 23, were scheduled to stand trial Monday in the slaying of Kiran Kumar Allam, 33, and Chandrasekhar Reddy Komma, 31, but prosecutor Steve Danielson told state District Judge Chip Moore that evidence collected during the investigation is still being turned over to the defense.

Gathers' attorney, Beau Brock, and Lewis' attorney, Jason Chatagnier, objected to postponing the trial with Brock arguing that Gathers' is caught "in the vortex of this investigative maelstrom." Brock also argued that some of the new information being given to the defense was never seen by the grand jury that indicted Gathers and Lewis.

Moore agreed to continue the trial and set an Oct. 25 hearing date. A new trial date was not set.