

Celebs say he'll beat it

Panel calls Jacko evidence weak

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With the King of Pop's judgment day drawing near, the Daily News turned to some famous faces for an all-star jury to predict the outcome of the case.

Most of the lawyers, politicians and sex experts we contacted figure Michael Jackson is very unlikely to be convicted of child molestation; some think he may fall on some lesser charge, and many think the prosecution's case was weak.

Here's our jury of 12:

- 1. Celebrity lawyer Raoul Felder:** "He'll be convicted of something. ...[His] appearance sometimes speaks louder than anything anybody can say ...the lipstick, the makeup, all this stuff. You're basically telling [the jury] you don't care about them, [their] perceptions..."
- 2. The Rev. Al Sharpton:** "I think it will be a hung jury because I think that there clearly was not enough direct evidence to convict....Whether he has some strange behavior, yeah, but I think that's about all he's proved."
- 3. Former Mayor and "People's Court" Judge Ed Koch:** "Well, I believe he is guilty, [but] I think [the jury] will ultimately decide that the government failed to produce evidence beyond a reasonable doubt."
- 4. Defense lawyer Joseph Tacopina:** "He should be acquitted in short order based on the evidence in this case."
- 5. Jami Floyd, anchor, Court TV:** "I think they'll acquit and I think they'll come back quickly. The prosecution has made a very strong case with respect to some other boys, but the case with regard to this boy is very weak - and the case is about this boy."
- 6. Bruce Cutler, the late John Gotti's lawyer:** "I just hope [Michael Jackson] wins. He's a wonderful person and he's a sweet man. Why they ever brought this case is beyond me...the case never should have been brought."
- 7. Defense lawyer Mickey Sherman, who represented convicted Kennedy kin Michael Skakel:** "Not guilty....We know he is strange, we know he is weird and quite bizarre. He loves to sleep with young boys - but that oddly enough doesn't prove that he has molested them."
- 8. Sexpert Dr. Judy Kuriansky:** "I think that he may get acquitted, but I do think that something did go on, and in my mind it's unfortunate, because he's probably one of those so-called pedophiles who has arrested development and probably doesn't really believe he did anything wrong."
- 9. Abner Louima lawyer Sanford Rubenstein:** "My prediction is a hung jury. The question is whether he was proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt - and that's a hard decision for a jury to come to."
- 10. Leslie Gold, "The Radio Chick," Sirius Radio Network:** "I think he'll get off. I personally think he's guilty, but Macaulay Culkin testified that Michael Jackson didn't touch him, and he was a cute kid."
- 11. The Rev. Jesse Jackson:** "He'll be acquitted. All of the [prosecution]witnesses seemed to melt under cross-examination about money as a motivation."
- 12. Sexpert Dr. Joyce Brothers:** "He will be judged innocent. I think they have not proved anything - other than the possibility that the boy's family might have had ulterior motives in bringing this to trial."

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