

The Sun

Howard judge gets Tripp wiretap case

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October 5, 1999 Page(s): 2B

Edition: FINAL

Section: LOCAL

Length: 110 words

Index Terms:

MARYLAND

Record Number: 9910050043

A Howard County circuit judge has been assigned to the wiretapping case against Linda R. Tripp, the Pentagon employee indicted in July on charges brought by State Prosecutor Stephen Montanarelli that she illegally taped a conversation with White House intern Monica Lewinsky in December 1997.

Judge Diane O. Leasure said yesterday that she would hear the case but had not looked at the file.

Tripp, who lives in Columbia, has refused to accept a plea bargain. No trial date has been set.

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