

Merlati, Edwards plead not guilty in separate cases

Not guilty pleas were entered Monday in two high-profile cases in Cole County.

Appearing by video from the Fulton Diagnostic Center, Peter Merlati, 37, waived arraignment and had his trial tentatively scheduled for Sept. 6 before Judge Tom Brown.

Merlati is accused of killing Debbie Kolb, 48, by stabbing her multiple times at her residence at 655 Oak Creek Ct. on May 5.

Merlati is charged with first-degree murder in this case.

In other court action, Millie Edwards, 35, Fulton, had her case transferred from Division I to Division II.

She is facing a first-degree assault charge for allegedly trying to kill her husband by poisoning his IV while he was a patient at St. Mary's Health Center on June 1.