

# Bartush jury to be selected

◆ **STAMFORD** — The Norwalk man is charged with manslaughter following his wife's suicide death.

By **BRIAN FRAGA**  
*Hour Staff Writer*

Jury selection will begin May 11 in Stamford Superior Court in the trial of Norwalk resident Steven Bartush, who is charged with second-degree manslaughter in connection with the October 2001 suicide-death of his wife,

John Thygerson, Bartush's attorney, said he anticipates jury selection to last two to three weeks based on the hot-button topics that the trial will entail, which include suicide, firearms and mental illness.

The case marks the first time in Connecticut that an adult is charged with contributing to the suicide death of another adult who suffered from depression.

Bartush, 36, was arrested in October 2003 by Norwalk police, two years after his wife, Joan, shot and killed herself with a gun he kept in a dresser drawer in the couple's bedroom.

Interviews with family members led police to believe Bartush contributed to his wife's death by being aware she suffered from depression and had suicidal tendencies when he left his guns in their home.

Judge John Kavanewsky will be presiding when the trial begins on June 2.

"This case is breaking new ground in the area of liability in the State of Connecticut," said Thygerson.