

A former attorney for James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., lost a preliminary courtroom battle yesterday attempting to free his law firm from entanglement of an injunction sought by Ray.

Arthur J. Hanes Jr. said his father, who was dismissed from the Ray case shortly before it was due for trial, no longer has any connection with the case and is embarrassed by the suit.

A hearing has been set for Dec. 1 on the request for an injunction by Ray to prohibit Mr. Hanes, attorney Percy Foreman of Houston, Texas, and author William Bradford Huie of Hartselle, Ala., from publishing any articles or books about Ray.

"We're not connected with, part of or kin to any publication... of this story," said Mr. Hanes, who is representing his father.

Mr. Hanes said his father's rights to 30 per cent of the profit from a book Mr. Huic intends to publish were transferred to Mr. Foreman when he entered the case.

United States Dist. Judge Robert M. McRae Jr., who rejected Mr. Hanes' request yesterday, has said Ray will not be required to attend the hearing. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in the state prison in Nashville for the sniper assassination of Dr. King here April 4, 1968.

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