

Chandler Lawyer Files

S-1 3/14/68

Garrison Contempt Charged in Motion

Cicero Sessions, attorney for Life Magazine newsman David L. Chandler, today filed a civil contempt motion against District Attorney Jim Garrison in federal district court here.

The petition charges that Garrison intentionally committed an "aggravated act of contempt" of federal court yesterday while he addressed the National District Attorneys Association during its convention in New Orleans.

Earlier this week, a three-judge federal court ruled that Chandler would not have to answer a subpoena to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury to testify in an inquiry of organized crime in the parish.

The suit said that Garrison charged, in essence, that Life Magazine is withholding evidence from him at direction of the federal government in Garrison's probe of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

The suit states further that Garrison named Chandler in his speech and said there is a federal conspiracy to withhold evidence.

In a supporting memorandum, Sessions said, "The conduct of defendant Jim Garrison in his official capacity as an attorney . . . constitutes a deliberate, intention and vicious act upon the honesty, probity and dignity of this court.

"The actions of the defendant constitute a flagrant public and deliberate violation of the duties of an attorney to the courts and the administration of justice.

"DEFENDANT Garrison's

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conduct . . . places the administration of justice in disrepute and impairs the orderly discharge of judicial functions by this court and holds this court publicly open to disrepute and disrespect."

Garrison said yesterday that the court's decision in favor of Chandler was another part of the federal government's attempt to keep him from pursuing his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

However, Chandler was to have been questioned about allegations of organized crime, not in connection with the probe, it was pointed out.

Chandler told the court prior to the decision that he felt Garrison and members of his staff had shown personal animosity to him and would attempt to entrap him if he were called before the jury.

The ginkgo tree is often called a living fossil.