

BACKDROP

Attorneys Winning Battle

Of Bias?

On the surface, Mark Lane and former
Criminal Appeals Judge Charles
Galbreath fell just short of being the dy-
namic duo in Criminal Court Thursday.

Associates in the campaign to free
James Earl Ray or to further muddy the
toss of legal water over the dam, they suc-
ceeded in ejecting the staff of Atty. Gen.
Hugh Stanton Jr. from the latest bout be-
tween Ray and the state.

Stanton briefly assisted his father,
Hugh Stanton, as Ray's public-defender
lawyer before Ray's 1939 guilty plea. It
could have made him "privity to informa-
tion detrimental to Ray," Lane successful-
ly argued before Criminal Court Judge
William H. Williams.

In the hearing, Galbreath was
dictated. Ray stands no chance in the ap-
peal court effort. "I'd see the case go to
the state or last on appeal. I don't think
it's going to be any more to be heard."

case, the judge readily agreed.

The judge was then asked to remove
himself from the case, since he was a mem-
ber of the Judicial Standards Commission
which recommended Galbreath's censure
last year, partially because of Galbreath's
Hustler-magazine endorsement of oral sex.
Williams carefully declined, saying he has
the "highest regard" for Galbreath and
has considered himself a friend of the for-
mer judge over the years. For good mea-
sure, he added that Galbreath is an "out-
standing attorney."

Any appellate judge pondering a new
trial motion based on Williams' "bias"
would have to do a double take.

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