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I think the death penalty is completely uncalled for." With that proclamation, Attorney Melvin Mouron Belli put on his crusader's armor and announced to the world that he planned to take over Sirhan Sirhan's appeal. As it turned out, his plan was all news to Sirhan. Stating that "I, Sirhan Sirhan, have full confidence in my present attorneys, Grant Cooper and Russell Parsons," the convicted assassin of Robert Kennedy indicated that he would engage them "and none other."

Legal Advice  
Sir: I didn't announce to the world or anyone else that I was going to take Sirhan's case, and I wasn't changing it as you made it appear (May 23).  
Sirhan's family has been contacting me repeatedly for the last month to "take over" his case. I have been very particular not to "announce" that I was to become Sirhan's lawyer because I have presently a conflict of interest and I fully advised the family of this on my first visit. I haven't talked with Sirhan, and if I were to represent him, this I would have to do unless I were to write the *amicus curiae* brief for the family solely.  
When the facts of my conflict of interest presently with Sirhan are fully reported, I think you will see how concerned I am that you misinterpreted my communications with the Sirhan family.  
MELVIN M. BELL  
San Francisco