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# Calley Called Victim of Publicity

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Attorneys for William L. Calley Jr., seeking reversal of his Army murder conviction, argued yesterday that Calley was the victim of "damaging and inflammatory" pretrial publicity.

"Every single juror was exposed to the most inflammatory, damaging publicity in the history of the Republic," said attorney J. Houston Gordon of Covington, Tenn.

"The jurors had every salient fact presented to them before they even became jurors," said Gordon, who was one of Calley's defenders when he was convicted in 1971 of murder charges stemming from the My Lai massacre.

Gordon cited news accounts quoting former Army Captain Ernest Medina, General William C. Westmoreland, other soldiers involved in the March 1968 assault and "gruesome pictures" published before the trial.

"The military judge was so impotent in any power to restrain the press that the trial was a farce," Gordon said.

Government attorneys argued that the civilian court did not have authority to rule on such an issue.

Captain Arnold Vickery of the Army's Office of General Counsel said, "The scope of federal court review is limited to questions of jurisdiction and whether the military court fairly considered true constitutional questions."

Vickery said the Constitution does not require that jurors "be completely ignorant of the facts . . . but that they cast aside any preconceived ideas."

*Associated Press*