

Ray Hires 3rd Lawyer to Aid Retrial Bid

MEMPHIS (AP)—Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. was named today to succeed the late Judge W. Preston Battle as the presiding judge in the James Earl Ray case.

NASHVILLE (AP) — James Earl Ray has hired a third lawyer, this time in an effort to help him win a new trial in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King was assassinated in Memphis a year ago tomorrow.

State Corrections Commissioner Harry S. Avery said today Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, previously turned away by prison officials, has been hired by Ray to represent him in criminal matters. There was no word when Ryan might seek to visit Ray again.

Ray previously sought a new trial in a letter to Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr., who died of a heart attack Monday. Battle had sentenced Ray to 99 years in prison after Ray pleaded guilty in the King death.

There is legal dispute whether he will get the new trial. Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett of the State Supreme Court has said Ray's guilty plea March 10 closed the door to a new trial or appeal.

On the other hand, Judge Charles Galbreath of the State Court of Criminal Appeals says state law requires that any prisoner who has asked a new trial will get it if a

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Continued from Page 1

judge died before he has a chance to act on it.

Ryan was turned away by prison officials when he sought last week to visit Ray. Warden Lake Russell explained at the time that he was not properly accredited.

See RAY— Page 4