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MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Attorneys for James Earl Ray asked for a review Friday of the recent denial of his new trial request, a move that could bring the case before the state Court of Criminal Appeals.

Ray, who entered a guilty plea March 10 to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was refused a new trial last month by Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin Jr.

Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, a member of Ray's new team of lawyers, said he filed for permission Friday with the criminal court clerk to appeal the ruling against the new trial.

Ray said he expects Faquin to hold a hearing on the new legal maneuver Monday, or if no hearing is held, to at least issue a ruling.

Faquin said during the last year May 26 that since Ray is not entitled to a new trial since he voluntarily entered a guilty plea to King's sniper death.

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Memphis, Tenn., Ray A282, sub for 4th-5th grafs: death.

Ryan said he expects Faquin to hold a hearing on the new legal maneuver Monday, or if no hearing is to be held, to at least issue a ruling.

Faquin said during the last hearing May 26 that Ray is not entitled to a new trial since he voluntarily entered a guilty plea to King's sniper death.

Ryan said etc. 6th graf A282

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Ryan said if Faquin allows it, the appeal to that ruling will be filed with the Western Division of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

If Faquin denies the request of the attorneys, Ryan said they plan to ask the appellate court to accept a direct appeal.

"If this appeal gets knocked down, we still have other legal routes open," said Ryan.

Ray was returned to the state prison in Nashville to resume serving his 99-year sentence following his May 26 appearance.

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