

Ray Request For Retrial Again Denied

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Shelby County Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin Jr. today again denied James Earl Ray a new trial.

The action was the latest step in an increasingly complicated effort by Ray to take back a guilty plea he entered March 10 to the slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

J. B. Stoner and Richard Ryan, two of Ray's new lawyers, asked Faquin for permission to go into an appellate court in an attempt to overturn his denial May 26 of a new trial for Ray.

Faquin held that his earlier decision was an interlocutory decree—one that is not finalized—and defense lawyers should file a bill of exceptions. He gave them 60 days to do this.

The lawyers said they would appeal both Faquin's May decision and the one handed down today to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.