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Wrangle on Lawyers in Quentin Case

Arraignment of six San Quentin inmates, accused of murder and assault stemming from last August's bloody prison incident, was stalled for the fourth time yesterday as the convicts sought to be disassociated from their court-appointed attorneys.

Brought together in court for the first time since their indictment, the six were ordered removed by Superior Court Judge E. Warren McGuire after an episode of shouting, cursing and chain-rattling.

The six — Louis Talamantez, Willie Tate, Fleeta Drumgo, David Johnson, John Spain and Hugo Pinnel — demand attorneys of their own choice, claiming court-appointed lawyers are "agents of the state." They are also demanding disqualification of McGuire on grounds of prejudice.

All but one of the six attorneys named to represent the six likewise petitioned the court for replacement by other lawyers. Their motions were taken under submission by McGuire.

The six inmates were ordered to appear again in court on December 13 to enter pleas.