

STATES-ITEM

SEPTEMBER 30, 1969

Court Upholds Ruling In Shaw-Linked Case

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Offer**

The Louisiana Supreme Court has ruled that Clay Shaw's attorneys did not have to testify in a case against Thomas Bethell, a former assistant district attorney charged with furnishing information to the defense in the Shaw conspiracy case.

The court thus upheld a decision by Criminal District Court Judge Matthew L. Braniff last June 27 when the judge ruled that the attorneys, if testifying, would violate privileged communication between attorney and client.

Bethell had been charged by the district attorney with unlawful use of movable property, for allegedly showing the state's trial memo in the Shaw case to a Shaw attorney, Salvatore Panzeca.

The material was alleged to have been garnered by Bethell in August of 1968 while Bethell was serving as an assistant DA.

Attorneys subpoenaed to testify were Edward Wegmann, William Wegmann, F. Irvin Dymond and Panzeca.

The case was taken to the Supreme Court by Attorney Robert J. Zibilich, who had been appointed by Jim Garrison to try the Bethell case.