

NEW ORLEANS

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Judges Put Off Decision on O'Hara

The nine judges of the Criminal District Court today announced they would put off for two or three weeks a decision on whether to grant Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara a retirement for mental disability.

Judge Israel Augustine, acting as a spokesman for the court, said his fellow judges wanted to give a neurologist more time to examine O'Hara before making a final decision.

On April 10, the members of the court denied O'Hara's request for the \$22,000 a year pension for life. The request was on the grounds that he was mentally incompetent.

Judge O'Hara won a new hearing on grounds that he was denied a vested property right in the retirement program without due process of the law.

Today a neurologist and a psychologist were called to testify.

Dr. Gregory Ferriss, the neurologist, said he felt O'Hara suffered from "Mild dementia," but he asked for more time to examine the judge.

Dr. Ferriss said he was not satisfied with the examinations he made, but he said he felt O'Hara's judgment was impaired.

Dr. Ferriss said the judge's condition could be improved

by lifting the depression O'Hara now feels and by abstinence from alcohol.

Dr. Miles Miller, a psychologist, was the only other witness. He said he feels O'Hara had suffered some brain damage and has difficulty in making decisions.

The judges set no date when the case would be resumed.