



ROBERT HILL
Ray's new lawyer
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Ray's Story Of His Guilty Plea

Nashville, Tenn.

James Earl Ray charged yesterday that he was "pressured" into pleading guilty to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to protect the story and movie rights to his life — rights which might be "worth millions."

In an apparent attempt for a new trial, Ray filed a petition in Federal Court contending he could have done just as well with a student "fresh out of law school" and asked the court to void his contracts with famed trial lawyer Percy Foreman and author William Bradford Huie.

Ray contended that Foreman "never intended for him to have a fair trial and testify in his own behalf because this would make the facts and testimony public property and no one would or could have exclusive (story) rights in the matter."

Huie wrote several magazine articles on Ray after purchasing the rights to his life story, and Ray used the money to hire attorneys.

In the petition filed yesterday by one of his new attorneys, Robert Hill of Chattanooga, Ray contended that he was not aware at the time he traded a guilty plea for a 99 year sentence that there had not been an execution in Tennessee's electric chair for nine years. He now claims he is not guilty and wants a new trial.

He said the bargaining for the 99-year term "could easily have been done by any student fresh out of law school," and that no "ability, experience or exhaustive research" was necessary to carry out the bargaining.

Ray asked the court to enjoin Foreman and Huie from disclosing any additional "alleged facts" linking Ray with the slaying of King in Memphis April 4, 1968, and also to void his contracts with another of his previous lawyers, former Birmingham mayor Arthur Hanes Sr. *United Press*