

Ray Returned To Cell After Trial Denied

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray was returned to his maximum-security prison cell after losing a bid for a new trial in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"This hearing was only the beginning," said Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, one of Ray's three new lawyers. Ryan said he will take the case to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. of Criminal Court in Memphis held yesterday that Ray waived any right of appeal when he entered a guilty plea March 10 in the shooting of King.

"It is the opinion of this court that the guilty plea entered was properly . . . knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered," Faquin said in a written order.

"Judge Battle had ample evidence in finding that the defendant was fully advised and has waived, intelligently and understandingly, his rights to a motion for a new trial."

Judge W. Preston Battle died three weeks after accepting Ray's plea of guilty in exchange for a 99-year prison sentence.