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TEXAS BAR ASKS FOR BAN ON BELLI

Moves in Court to Keep Him From Practicing in State

AUSTIN, Tex., March 30 (UPI) — The Texas Bar Association accused Melvin M. Belli today of "outrageous conduct" after Mr. Jack L. Ruby's trial and asked the State Supreme Court to prohibit Mr. Belli from ever again practicing in Texas.

In a lengthy brief filed by Davis Grant, general counsel, and L. Money Adams Jr., his assistant, the state bar said Mr. Belli's "flagrant violations of the canons of ethics have shocked the consciences of not the lawyers of Texas and the nation, but the public as well."

The motion asked the court's permission to file suit for a permanent injunction.

The bar accused Mr. Belli of "violent outbursts and outrageous conduct" shortly after Ruby was sentenced to death last March 14 for the murder of Lee H. Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

Attached to the 10-page brief were 40 pages of newspaper clippings. Some quoted Mr. Belli as criticizing the jury verdict as "a victory for bigotry," and calling Dallas "a festering sore . . . a little bit of Russia in the United States."

Mr. Belli has repeated these charges several times since the trial, the bar said.

News Dispatch Quoted

The lawyers cited a dispatch in the Rocky Mountain, News of Denver in which Mr. Belli was quoted as having said: "All Texas isn't like this place here [Dallas]. They're going to chastise this kangaroo pouch Judge [District Judge Joe B. Brown] who sat on this case. He didn't walk to the bench, he hopped."

Judge Brown said after the trial that Mr. Belli was one of the most brilliant lawyers ever to practice in his court, but Mr. Belli rebuked the trial

judge, the bar asserted, quoting Mr. Belli, as having said:

"I don't need Judge Brown's compliments. I'm sorry I shook hands. His hands have blood on them. He told me in private that he wouldn't have given the case up for love or money."

After the trial, Ruby's family dismissed Mr. Belli. They hired a Houston lawyer, Percy Foreman, to take his place, but Mr. Foreman quit four days later.

The chief Ruby defense lawyer now is Hubert W. Smith of Austin, head of the Law-Science Institute at the University of Texas.

Mr. Belli, whose law practice is centered in San Francisco resigned from the American Bar Association after its officials criticized his behavior in and out of the Dallas courtroom.

Known as 'King of Torts'

Mr. Belli's reputation as "King of Torts" has often prompted San Francisco mailmen to deliver to his office letters addressed simply: "Famous San Francisco Attorney, San Francisco, Calif."

Three weeks after Ruby shot Oswald, Mr. Belli appeared in Dallas and announced that he would direct the defense for the night club proprietor.

Mr. Belli told a press conference that he and another California lawyer, Sam S. Brody of Los Angeles, had been asked by Earl Ruby of Detroit, one of the defendant's brothers, to enter the case.

There was no public announcement made about the fee for the defense, but it has been reported that Mr. Belli charged the family \$75,000 plus \$25,000 for expenses.

Reportedly, the family had already paid about one-third of the fee before dismissing Mr. Belli. The largest payment came through the sale of Ruby's life story to newspapers and magazines abroad.