

Hammond judge to hear Hale case

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A detention hearing for white supremacist Matthew Hale , arrested last week on charges of soliciting the murder of a Chicago federal judge, was postponed Monday after the defense asked that a judge from outside Chicago preside over the case.

Before the end of the day, a federal appeals court in Chicago had assigned Hale's case to Judge James T. Moody, a U.S. district judge in Hammond for more than 20 years. He will preside over the case in Chicago.

The charges allege that Hale solicited the murder of U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow. Concerns were raised that no federal judge in Chicago should preside over a case involving a colleague.

Hale, who pleaded not guilty last week to murder solicitation and obstruction-of-justice charges, appeared briefly in court Monday in the bright orange jumpsuit of a federal prisoner. Prosecutors, who want Hale held in custody until the trial as a danger to the community, brought recording equipment into court, apparently to play undercover tapes of the alleged murder solicitation.

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