

U.S. opposes Hale bid to move trial

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Federal prosecutors in Chicago oppose moving white supremacist Matthew Hale 's trial on murder solicitation charges Downstate, saying such a change of venue isn't warranted by pretrial publicity in the case.

In a court filing made public Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Atty. M.David Weisman said much of the publicity cited by the defense has been "self-generated" by Hale and came before he was charged in January.

"The coverage of the charged offense has been relatively limited," Weisman wrote.

In seeking to have Hale's trial moved out of Chicago, his lawyers in a motion in May called the news coverage of Hale's arrest "nothing short of overwhelming."

Hale is head of the Creativity Movement, formerly the World Church of the Creator. He is charged with soliciting the murder of U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz after she tried to enforce an order that he change his church's name as part of a trademark lawsuit.

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