

Hale lawyers allege misconduct proof

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Attorneys for white supremacist Matthew Hale , who is accused of soliciting the murder of a U.S. District judge, should be allowed to present evidence of misconduct by investigators and an FBI informant, they argued in a filing late Monday.

Hale, who is scheduled to go on trial early next month in federal court in Chicago, is charged with soliciting the murder of Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow and three counts of obstructing justice. Hale allegedly tried to get a follower--who was an FBI informant--to kill Lefkow after she enforced a court order that directed Hale's World Church of the Creator to change its name after it lost a copyright infringement lawsuit.

In a pretrial motion filed late Monday, Hale's attorneys argued that "evidence of the informant and the FBI's conduct is relevant for a variety of reasons related not to the government's `bad conduct,' but to guilt or innocence."

Hale's attorneys, Patrick Blegen and Thomas Durkin, argued that they should be allowed to present evidence at Hale's trial that they say will show that the informant tried repeatedly to get Hale to ask him to kill the judge, and Hale resisted.

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