

Hale's defense rests its case

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Closing arguments are scheduled for Wednesday in the trial of white supremacist Matthew Hale after the government finished its testimony Tuesday and the defense rested its case without calling Hale or any other witness.

After the prosecution concluded, Hale's lawyer, Thomas Anthony Durkin, asked U.S. District Judge James Moody to acquit Hale of charges of murder solicitation and obstruction of justice, but Moody turned down the request.

A federal jury that has heard the case since last week will decide the issue.

"This is the weakest case I've ever seen the government bring in a big case," Durkin said in arguing his motion. "It's absolutely awful evidence."

Hale, the "Pontifex Maximus" of the former World Church of the Creator, is on trial in federal court in Chicago on charges he solicited the murder of a federal judge who ordered the church to change its name after losing a trademark-infringement lawsuit.

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