

## **Court Rejects McVeigh Request For a New Judge**

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A federal appeals court Friday rejected Timothy McVeigh's request to bar the judge who presided over his murder case from considering his bid for a new trial.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined to issue an emergency order removing U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch from the case, saying the convicted Oklahoma City bomber failed to show there was any reason to believe Judge Matsch would be predisposed to reject his argument.

Mr. McVeigh is seeking a new trial based on a claim of ineffective counsel, and he wants Judge Matsch off the case because of comments the judge made about Stephen Jones, Mr. McVeigh's lawyer in the trial.

In a motion filed Tuesday with the 10th U.S. Circuit Court, Mr. McVeigh's lawyer, Dennis Hartley, also said Mr. Jones wrote letters to Judge Matsch's court in an attempt to "influence or manipulate" its decisions. He argued that the judge should be removed "to eliminate any appearance of bias."

Mr. McVeigh was convicted in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that left 168 dead. Mr. McVeigh's lawyer argued that Judge Matsch's favorable comments about Mr. Jones, who was fired by Mr. McVeigh, could leave his future actions on the case open to the appearance of bias.