

Ray Appeal Fails H

CINCINNATI — A federal court rejected an appeal by James Earl Ray who charged his own attorneys deprived him of a "fair trial" for the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The court responded to a suit filed in Tennessee in which Ray charged that attorneys Arthur J. Hanes and Percy Foreman "conspired to violate his right to a fair trial." Also named in the suit was author William Bradford Huie.

Ray never went to trial for the April, 1968, murder. He pleaded guilty to the murder charge in March, 1969, and is now serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain prison near Petros, Tenn.

Had the appeal been upheld, Ray was expected to have sought a hearing challenging the validity of his guilty plea.

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