

No new lawyer for murder suspect

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By Charles E. Ramirez and Christina StolarzThe Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS — A Macomb Circuit Court judge on Wednesday denied a request **for a new lawyer for** a man charged in the shooting death of an Eastpointe party store clerk last year.

Winfred Roger Phillips sought a **new** attorney after a prosecution witness uttered personal attacks against his defense attorney, Timothy Barkovic, during questioning Wednesday morning.

"My client has indicated that he has lost his faith and confidence in me," Barkovic told Macomb Circuit Judge Donald Miller.

Miller denied the request and said the witness — whose testimony was thrown out — is a convicted felon who became uncontrollable on the stand.

Phillips, 28, and co-defendant Isaiah Mayweather, 26, both of Detroit, are charged with felony **murder** and other counts in connection with the Sept. 27 armed robbery at the Original Buscemi's pizza shop/party store. The trial will resume today.

Prosecutors allege that Phillips entered the store and walked to the back, where he shot the clerk, Mohammed Al-Harbi, more than 10 times. They say Mayweather jumped over the checkout counter to steal cash and then shot the store manager, Sinan Hanna, in the head. Hanna survived.

The crime was caught on surveillance cameras — placed at different angles — inside the store. The surveillance video was pieced together by investigators and played on Wednesday **for** the jury.

Defense attorneys questioned whether the video was altered and argued that it isn't clear enough to identify their clients.

"It's their most favorable presentation of the video," Barkovic said.

State Police Sgt. Everett Torley denied making any alterations to the video. "I didn't take bits and pieces," he said. "I took the running video."

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