

## CULPEPPER IS OUT OF GOINS CASE

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Detroit defense attorney W. **Otis Culpepper** said Tuesday he will withdraw from the Cary Goins murder case because "my presence would do more harm than good."

**Culpepper** said he feared jurors could be prejudiced against Goins -- accused of murdering Detroit Police Officer William Green and wounding Officer Eric Byers -- because of **Culpepper's** past defense work for alleged members of Young Boys Inc., a city-wide drug ring.

Goins, 17, identified by some police sources as a "lieutenant" in the drug ring, allegedly shot the undercover policemen as they approached a group of youths on Woodward Avenue near Leicester on the night of March 29.

"HE DOESN'T need what I would bring into the courtroom," **Culpepper** said. "I'm afraid of spillover -- an overreaction to Young Boys Inc. and the ridiculous belief that I . . . am their corporate counsel."

**Culpepper**'s announcement came four days after Chief Recorder's Court Judge Samuel Gardner ruled **Culpepper** had been improperly removed from the case by 36th (Detroit) District Judge John Perry.

GARDNER RULED Friday that Perry should have held a hearing before granting a motion by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office that **Culpepper**'s representation of Goins would deny the state a fair trial.

Assistant Prosecutor Timothy Kenny had argued that **Culpepper** should be removed because he had successfully defended Ernest Files, an eyewitness to the Green shooting, in another murder case. Kenny said Files' testimony might be influenced by loyalty to his former attorney.

"It's guilt by association," **Culpepper** said Tuesday, adding that current widespread law enforcement gossip has labeled him the "mouthpiece" of Young Boys Inc.

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