

PROSECUTOR CALLS LAWYER GREEDY PRISON SUGGESTED FOR CULPEPPER

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Detroit attorney W. **Otis Culpepper** was a man motivated by greed when he evaded federal income taxes, not a small-town innocent adrift in the big city, according to a sentencing recommendation from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Culpepper, convicted in April of evading more than \$75,000 in taxes between 1978 and 1984, tried to portray himself as a "country man from Dayton, Ohio, unable to handle the pressures of Detroit . . . unsophisticated in the requirements of the laws and protected himself from his drug abuse by putting money into other accounts" in other people's names, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Foran in a 28-page memorandum to U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn.

"This story is more fitting of Walt Disney," Foran said.

Culpepper is to appear before Cohn on Aug. 11. He could be sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined \$210,000.

In his memo, in which he asks that **Culpepper** be sentenced to at least five years in prison and 10 years' probation and pay a \$10,000 fine, Foran said **Culpepper** "was motivated purely and simply by greed."

"This is an attorney who lied whenever it was in his best interest, and concealed assets and accounts," Foran said in the memo. "Yet he exhibited all the trappings of wealth, luxury cars, trips to the Caribbean and an estate in Hamburg, Mich."

Culpepper, 39, gained prominence for his defense of drug- ring figures and murder defendants, including members of the Young Boys Inc. The government charged that **Culpepper** took gifts, such as a 1982 Rolls-Royce and a 1976 Mercedes-Benz, from Young Boys leader Milton Jones as payments for his services.

Culpepper's attorney, Hugh Davis, said Friday he had not read the memo.

"It appears to be a continuation of the government's position that they either want to get **Culpepper** in order to make an example of him, or they want to get **Culpepper** in order to coerce him into becoming their lackey in their ongoing investigations of Detroit's two courts," Davis said. "We think that such a sentence is unrelated to any sentence of substantial justice."

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Attorney W. **Otis Culpepper** gained prominence for his defense of drug-ring figures and murder defendants.

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