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Prosecutor ordered off Plants perjury case

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A Detroit judge ordered the lead state prosecutor off the case of a retired Wayne County judge, two cops and the former head of Wayne County prosecutor's drug unit.

Detroit 36th District Court Judge David Robinson ruled this afternoon that assistant Attorney General William Rollstin has to step aside because he acted as an investigator in the case and may be called as a witness.

But Robinson denied other defense motions in the cases against retired Judge Mary Waterstone, and Inkster Police Sgt. Scott Rechtzigel and Officer Robert McArthur, and ex-prosecutor Karen Plants

The four are accused of perjury-related felonies in connection with a 2005 cocaine trial in which false testimony was given to cover up the key witness's role as a paid police informant.

Robinson said there was no conflict of interest for the Attorney General's office to handle the criminal case even though it had defended Waterstone in a related federal civil lawsuit.

Also denied was a motion that Waterstone could not be charged with a crime for making a judicial decision, even though the decision was wrong.