



Prosecutors say Philpot case should stay in Indiana courts

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HAMMOND | Prosecutors in the federal fraud case against Lake County Coroner Thomas Philpot say the case should not be moved to Illinois, according to a motion filed Monday afternoon.

Philpot was indicted in 2011 on three counts of mail fraud and two counts of federal program fraud. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and is scheduled to go to trial in July. The question now is where.

In April, Philpot's defense attorney, Len Goodman, filed a motion for a change of venue citing excessive pretrial publicity that would taint a Northwest Indiana jury pool.

But in their responding motion, prosecutors said the media attention was not "exceptional compared to other cases" that had been tried in the Northern District of Indiana, and that it was not unusual for an elected official's indictment to draw press attention or evoke public comments.

Goodman said they stand by the arguments set out in their motion for a change of venue. A federal judge will decide where the case is held.

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