

## **Defense says lawyer was just doing his job**

05/02/2007

Walker Duncan

The tax-evasion trial involving local attorneys Alan Saturn and Alan Mazer moved into its second day this morning with an opening statement from Mazer's attorney, David Raybin.

Raybin, in a very animated fashion, told the jury simply: "Alan Mazer did nothing wrong." He then proceeded to walk the jurors through a series of documents pertaining to the sale of residential property at 1049 Hickory Hollow Road that is at the center of the government's case.

According to the indictment handed down last August, Mazer and Saturn helped adult bookstore proprietor Jerry Pendergrass hide his ownership of the property so that the IRS could not come after it as a way to satisfy two tax liens against Pendergrass. Pendergrass is on trial alongside the two real estate attorneys.

As Raybin introduced the relevant documents he, attempted to make it clear that at no time was Mazer attempting to hide anything, and at no time did he step beyond the bounds of simply doing his job.

Later in the presentation, Raybin hinted that others involved might have committed improprieties. But attorneys for all three defendants have previously stated that they will not attempt to shift the blame between them.

After Raybin finished, the prosecution began its case by calling IRS personnel to testify about the liens filed against Pendergrass. The trial is expected to outlast this week and would then go into recess for another week, as Judge Robert Echols is scheduled to attend a judicial conference.

*NashvillePost.com* will continue to cover highlights of this case as it moves forward.

Still in the offing is the expected testimony of Metro District Attorney General Torry Johnson, whom Mazer plans to call as a character witness.