

## **FIRED MARSHAL DENIES CHARGE BY PROSECUTOR**

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Vincent "Pete" Wahby, a former marshal being tried on bribery-related charges, took the witness stand Wednesday to deny that he had teamed up with his attorney, Robert Hampe, to "milk money out of" two felons.

The allegation was made by the prosecutor in the case, Anthony P. Gonzalez.

Wahby, 31, has been accused of using his position as marshal of the Missouri Court of Appeals in St. Louis to extort money and favors from two convicted felons, Larry D. Sutton and Marsha C. Fredrickson.

No charges have been filed against Hampe, but Wahby's current attorney, Dennis J. Myers, has accused Hampe of being the culprit in a scheme in which Wahby has been charged.

Hampe has disappeared, authorities say. A secretary at his former office said he had left the state. Hampe's home phone has been disconnected.

Wahby is on trial on 16 charges relating to the allegations of extortion schemes and to the sale of guns to Sutton while he was a fugitive from justice. The trial began last week before St. Louis Circuit Judge Robert H. Dierker Jr. Wahby was the sole and final witness in the case Wednesday.

Sutton, 44, was convicted in 1983 of paying an accomplice to burn his vehicle, then collecting nearly \$3,000 on his insurance. Fredrickson was convicted in 1986 of promoting prostitution and evading income taxes.

Sutton has accused Wahby of hiding certain paper work in an effort to keep Sutton out of prison. Fredrickson, 36, has accused Wahby of accepting cash payments to influence her case before the Appeals Court.

Wahby, who was fired as appeals court marshal last June, has denied the charges by both Sutton and Fredrickson.

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