

LAWYER DENIES BILKING FIRM'S INVESTORS

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Robert A. Hampe, a lawyer on trial on charges of felony theft, denied Monday that he had had any part in bilking investors in a computer company out of more than \$30,000.

Authorities say that Hampe and Jackie G. Turner defrauded investors in the company, CCC Computers Inc., in the 9600 block of Olive Boulevard in Olivette. A grand jury indictment against Hampe says that although four investors had put up money between August and December 1982, the money was never invested or used for the company's operations. Hampe, 41, had represented Turner in incorporating the business and had dealt with investors, authorities said.

Hampe, of the 6200 block of Westway Place, is being tried without a jury before St. Louis County Circuit Judge Edward L. Sprague.

Hampe testified that he had never acted with Turner in soliciting investors and had not known of false representations that the money would be used for the company.

Hampe said that he had come to realize that Turner - who was killed in October 1983 - had used him as "a vehicle for stealing and had tricked me."

Under cross-examination by Tim Finnical, an assistant state attorney general, Hampe acknowledged that he had accepted checks from Turner drawn on the computer company's account to pay for legal fees related to criminal charges pending against Turner. Hampe had represented Turner, who had been charged with four counts of stealing by deceit in another case.

Turner, 35, of the 1500 block of Cass Avenue, was found fatally shot Oct. 3, 1983, on Illinois Route 111.