

Dever steps down

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Judge James C. Dever III, the federal judge slated to handle the sentencing of former House Speaker Jim Black, has stepped aside.

He cited the public's need for closure and said reassigning the case to another judge would be in the people's best interest. While a private practice attorney, Dever sued Black and other state officials on behalf of state Republican leaders. His impartiality has been questioned by Black and others.