

Review of Law License Denial

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White Supremacist Fails to Gain

CHICAGO--The Illinois Supreme Court refused yesterday to reconsider the denial of a law license to a white supremacist, one of whose disciples carried out a racist shooting spree earlier this year.

The court said it would not review the case of Matthew Hale , head of the World Church of the Creator, and let stand a decision by its Committee on Character and Fitness that said Hale lacked the moral character to practice law.

One of Hale's followers was Benjamin Smith, 21, of suburban Chicago, who went on a three-day shooting rampage targeting blacks, Asians and Orthodox Jews over the July Fourth weekend. He killed two people and wounded nine before taking his own life. Smith belonged to Hale's church until last May and after the crime spree Hale called him a "martyr for free speech."

Hale, 27, has a law degree but has been unable to persuade Illinois to admit him to the bar. His church operates via an Internet Web site.

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