

4 Arrested in Watts Riots File High Court Appeal

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 8 (AP) — Four Negroes arrested in the south Los Angeles riots asked the State Supreme Court today to halt proceedings against them.

Alleged grounds: Judges did not provide them with adequate counsel.

The petition for a writ of prohibition named 18 Superior Court and three Municipal Court judges as respondents.

The case is of "grave public importance, as it raises fundamental questions of the constitutionality and authority of the respondents to proceed with criminal prosecution of over 4000 defendants," the petition asserted.

The 4000, both adults and juveniles, were arrested during the Aug. 11-15 rioting in the Watts area of Los Angeles that left 34 persons dead and about \$45 million worth of property destroyed.

Bringing today's action were Doris Watkins, Janelle Hylton, Larry D. Robinson and Clarence L. Proctor.

The petition alleges that judges hearing riot arrest cases have denied defendants constitutional and statutory rights by failing to appoint counsel "with adequate preparation" and facilities for complete investigation of the arrests.

The petition said the Office of the Public Defender cannot aration and facilities for comtion or thorough preparation for defense.

The petitioners claimed also that the judges had failed to offer defendants an opportunity to obtain private counsel if they had financial means to do so.