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## **Parish could serve time in medical facility**

By Scott Miller , Staff Writer

Al Parish's defense team will ask a judge Thursday to recommend the former economist serve his sentence at a federal medical facility near Raleigh, N.C.

Citing Parish's declining health, defense attorney Andy Savage said Tuesday he will request Parish serve at the Federal Medical Center in the Butner Federal Correctional Complex. The medical center houses about 900 inmates of all security levels, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Web site.

Parish, 51, has an array of physical ailments, including coronary artery disease and Type 2 diabetes. He was released from the Medical University of South Carolina this weekend after undergoing a procedure to clear a blocked artery.

"We're requesting Butner because it's the closest medical facility to his home," Savage said.

Savage can request a federal prison where Parish will serve, and the judge can make a recommendation. Ultimately, the Federal Bureau of Prisons will make the determination after Parish is sentenced.

U.S. Attorney W. Walter Wilkins, who is prosecuting the case, generally does not recommend a prison and will not in this case, spokeswoman Nancy Wicker said. Wilkins typically doesn't comment on the defense's requests either, she said.

The public information officer and the warden at the Butner medical facility were unavailable for comment Wednesday.

Parish's sentencing hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at the U.S. District Court at Meeting and Broad streets in downtown Charleston.

Parish pleaded guilty Oct. 5 to three federal charges of securities fraud related to investment offerings that raised \$112.5 million from up to 650 investors. Federal sentencing guidelines call for him to serve 24 to 30 years behind bars.

Prosecutors want Parish to serve the maximum sentence for stealing or squandering some \$80 million through his Ponzi investment scheme. His defense, meanwhile, is seeking a shorter sentence, saying his deteriorating health would equate a 30-year sentence to a death sentence.