

Trial begins for guard accused of gouging out inmate's eye

PROVIDED BY FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS

The trial of a former prison guard accused of gouging out the eye of an inmate started Tuesday morning in federal court.

William Hamilton Wilson faces a charge of deprivation of civil rights under color of law, a charge punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Wilson is charged with gouging out inmate Kelly James Bradley's eye as he entered Bradley's cell at

Charlotte Correctional Institute on May 21, 2008. Wilson was one of eight officers who made up an extraction team to remove Bradley from his cell and bring him to a mental health appointment.

During opening statements, Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Molloy told jurors that one of Wilson's co-workers will testify Wilson took out Bradley's eye in the cell.

But he said Bradley, who

suffers from psychiatric problems, initially told officials he pulled his own eye out because of fear of retribution. Other guards didn't report any injuries to Bradley in their use of force reports following the incident.

But Wilson's attorney, David Dee of Tampa, told jurors witness stories will conflict and that the co-worker who says Wilson committed the crime couldn't have seen it happen.