Remap called ‘favor’

By JOHN LaPLANTE
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An attorney who helped convince a federal court to throw out Louisiana’s congressional maps says the ruling proves the Reagan Justice Department was doing a favor for Gov. Treen when it approved the plan last year.

Bill Quigley said that if federal officials had properly reviewed the plan, they would have come to the same conclusion as the court — that the district lines adopted by the state in 1981 are unfair to blacks.

He said Justice Department staffers had objected to the plan on racial grounds but were overturned by their bosses, who are appointees of President Reagan.

“This is the first time in history that a court has found discrimination where the Justice Department did not,” said Quigley, a civil rights attorney in New Orleans.

“Treen was acutely aware of the racial consequences of his actions and those racial considerations formed the basis of his actions,” Kwan said.

His recommendation was overruled by Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, an appointee of President Reagan.

“The Justice Department is satisfied that the Governor’s role in the redistricting process was political, and was in no respect informed by racial animus,” Reynolds said.