

IN PRO PER IN LA

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - UP CLOSE & PERSONAL . . . A JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT "TOLERATES A SUBCULT OF CRIMINAL RANKS"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2008

"FBI will Pursue All Allegations of Judicial Corruption Vigorously..."

In New York

Former jurist, GOP lawyer targeted in federal shakedown investigation

The Albany Times Union by BRENDAN J. LYONS, Senior writer - December 11, 2008

ALBANY-- A former state Supreme Court justice from Albany County was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury on attempted extortion and bribery charges in connection with a scandal that led to his removal from the bench two years ago. The felony indictment alleges that Thomas J. Spargo, 65, of East Berne, pressured an Ulster County attorney who had cases before him to give Spargo \$10,000. The money, solicited in 2003, was intended to help defray Spargo's legal bills in connection with a state judicial panel's years-long effort to have him removed from the bench, records show. "The indictment further charges that Spargo solicited the money by causing the attorney to fear that Spargo would use his official acts and influence to harm the attorney if he was not paid and, conversely, to help the attorney if he was paid," states an FBI release announcing the indictment. The investigation of Spargo was first publicly disclosed by the Times Union in Wednesday's editions. **The case is being handled by the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section in Washington, D.C., and the FBI's Albany division. "This case should demonstrate that the FBI will pursue all allegations of judicial corruption vigorously, as public corruption violations are among the most serious of all criminal conduct and can tear at the fabric of a democratic society," said John F. Pikus, special agent in charge of the Albany division, in a prepared statement.**

It's unclear why the case is being prosecuted by the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice rather than by federal prosecutors with New York's Northern District. E. Stewart Jones, Spargo's attorney, could not be reached for comment. Late Tuesday, Jones had declined to comment on the investigation.

Spargo, an expert in state election law, won an election for Berne town justice in the late 1999 and used the victory to buoy his successful bid for state Supreme Court in 2001. His victory in that election was buttressed by a cross-endorsement from the Republican and Democratic parties, which secured his name on both lines in the seven counties of the Third Judicial District. But Spargo's tenure on the bench almost immediately became clouded as the state judicial panel began examining a series of misconduct allegations. The panel determined Spargo should be removed for doling out coupons for gas and coffee and buying drinks for voters during his 1999 campaign. The panel determined this was an effort to "buy votes." Another charge sustained by the commission is that Spargo, while sitting as a town court justice, had presided in cases involving the Albany County District Attorney's Office without publicly disclosing that then-District Attorney Paul Clyne had been his client in an election law case, and still owed him \$10,000. Still, "The commission's emphasis in removing Judge Spargo was on the money transactions, the attempt to get the lawyers to give him money," said Robert H. Tembeckjian, administrator and counsel for the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Spargo is scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in Albany next week on the indictment. In May 2006, Spargo, an attorney in private practice, was removed from the bench following an approximately three-year investigation by the state Commission on Judicial Conduct. The Court of Appeals later affirmed the commission's determination that Spargo be removed. The commission's probe centered on Spargo's alleged shakedown of at least one attorney; by the fall of 2003, Spargo's legal bills to fight a removal action against him had mounted to more than \$140,000, records show.

In Los Angeles

ZIMBIO

MY ZIMBIO

Top Stories

SEARCH THIS BLOG:::

Search this blog...

Want to find all the places Sarah Jessi mentioned in this blog? Or maybe all the Honorable Jacqueline Connor, Jud Superior Court?

Use the blog search box at upper left in t

Subscribe to this blog...

Posts

Comments

HELP US OPEN THE BOOK OF JUD

TIKKUN LA 2008

Please join our petition:

Please copy the form below, and either email program, complete it and forward ASAP, to <1stamendmentLA@gmail.com into any of the Comments areas in this <http://tikkunla.blogspot.com/>.

Please note:

a) Your information will be kept confide be contacted as part of the verification p signatures on petition.

b) If you indicate your interest - you will information by email.

c) We use in this petition Electronic sign hand written "wet signature", pursuant t 2002. We will verify signatures by phon traditionally done for hand-signed petiti

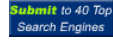
=====

TIKKUN LA 2008

1)Name

2) Phone

GOOGLEMETER TOOLS



[SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION AND SEO TOOLS](#)

GOOGLEMETER

SOME LINKS OF INTEREST

- [AMERICAN HOME OWNER'S RESOURCE CENTER](#)
- [ASSORTED LITIGATION RECORDS](#)