

# **EXHIBIT A**



# INLAND EMPIRE COURTS

## About this blog

The latest news from courthouses across the Inland Empire as covered by staff writers Will Bigham, of the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, and Mike Cruz, of the San Bernardino Sun

## About this Entry

This page contains a single entry by Will Bigham published on March 22, 2011 4:29 PM.

Woman convicted of murder for Pomona stabbing was the previous entry in this blog.

Former music teacher pleads guilty in sexual relationship with student is the next entry in this blog.

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## Rancho Cucamonga man sentenced in public corruption case

By Will Bigham on March 22, 2011 4:29 PM | Permalink | Comments (0)



Photo: Investigators found more than \$170,000 in cash in a floor safe in Kallas' home.

LOS ANGELES -- A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorney from Rancho Cucamonga was sentenced to nearly 18 years in prison Monday for taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes from immigrants.

Constantine Peter Kallas, 40, an assistant chief counsel at the agency, accepted bribes in exchange for taking steps to help illegal immigrants from being deported, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

In the course of his scheme, Kallas stole numerous immigration files, and in one instance asked a judge to dismiss removal proceedings against an illegal immigrant without authorization, according to the news release.

Kallas was arrested in June 2008 after taking a \$20,000 bribe from an immigrant at San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino in Highland. The transaction was captured by casino security cameras.

In the five years before his arrest, Kallas took at least \$425,000 in bribes from immigrants, according to the news release.

When Kallas' home was subsequently searched, investigators discovered a floor safe that contained two dozen immigration files and more than \$177,000 in cash.

A federal jury convicted Kallas in April on 36 felony counts, including conspiracy, bribery, fraud, tax evasion and numerous other crimes.

In addition to being sentenced to prison, Kallas was ordered by U.S. District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. to pay nearly \$300,000 in restitution.

"Mr. Kallas has received one of the longest sentences ever seen in a public corruption case," said U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr.

"Mr. Kallas took in hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes -- money he obtained by exploiting his knowledge of the immigration system," Birotte continued. "The lengthy sentence reflects the seriousness of the crimes, which were a wholesale violation of the public trust."

One of Kallas' methods of shielding immigrants from deportation was to submit false labor applications that listed the immigrants as employees in fictitious companies created by Kallas.

Kallas also profited through workers compensation fraud and tax evasion. He claimed "total disability" and listed his income as zero, according to the news release.

Bank records show that besides Kallas' salary, about \$950,000 was deposited in Kallas and his wife's bank accounts since 2000, according to the news release.

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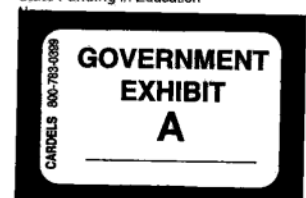
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## Dallas Division

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### Main Defendants in Dallas City Hall Corruption Case Sentenced to Substantial Prison Sentences

U.S. Attorney's Office  
February 26, 2010

■ Northern District of Texas  
(214) 659-8600

DALLAS—Today, U.S. District Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn sentenced the first three of the 13 defendants who have been convicted in what has become known as the "Dallas City Hall Corruption Case," announced U.S. Attorney James T. Jacks of the Northern District of Texas.

Former Mayor Pro Tem Don Hill, 57, was sentenced to 18 years in federal prison and ordered to pay \$112,500 in restitution. He must surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on April 27, 2010, to begin serving his sentence. Hill, who was on the witness stand for nearly six days during the June - October 2009 trial, was convicted on seven of nine counts charged, including one count of conspiracy to commit bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits; two counts of bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits; one count of conspiracy to commit extortion; one count of extortion by a public official; and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

"The sentences imposed today on Mr. Hill, his wife and his plan commission appointee hopefully will serve as a powerful reminder to all public officials and those who work with them, that seeking to personally profit by abusing the power given them by the voters can and will result in a long prison sentence," said U.S. Attorney Jacks. "Public corruption is one of the most insidious crimes confronting our communities today. It contributes to the cynicism we are seeing today from the public who feel as though all politicians are corrupt and the government does not serve the needs of those citizens who can't pay for access to their elected officials."

Jacks continued, "The investigation into the actions of these defendants was lengthy and complicated. Many questioned why the investigation was taking so long. Hopefully, the verdict and the sentences handed down today and in the future, will serve as proof of the quality of the work done by the FBI, the IRS and the prosecutors assigned to this case. Throughout the investigation, amid all the questions and criticism, they remained focused on their mission, to thoroughly examine the evidence and to present their findings in a court of law before an impartial jury. The jury's verdict demonstrates that the facts as revealed by their investigation conclusively showed the guilt of the defendants and was not a matter of interpretation or misunderstanding or selective prosecution. When corrupt politicians are exposed and punished, the entire community reaps the benefits."

Hill's wife, Sheila D. Farrington, 45, was sentenced to nine years in prison and ordered to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on the same day as her husband, April 27, 2010. Farrington was convicted at trial on five of six counts charged, including one count of conspiracy to commit bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits; one count of aiding and abetting bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits; one count of aiding and abetting extortion by public officials; and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

D'Angelo Lee, 43, Hill's Plan Commission Appointee, was sentenced to 14 years in prison and ordered to pay \$112,800 in restitution; he is currently in federal custody. Lee was convicted at trial on all seven of seven counts charged, including one count of conspiracy to commit bribery concerning a local government receiving federal benefits; two counts of bribery concerning a local government receiving

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## Former Luzerne County judge sentenced to 28 years in prison in kids-for-cash case

BY DAVE JANOSKI AND MICHAEL R. SISAK (STAFF WRITERS DJANOSKI@CITIZENVOICE.COM MSISAK@CITIZENVOICE.COM)

Published: August 12, 2011

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SCRANTON - The parents of children locked up by Mark A. Ciavarella Jr. as part of a \$2.8 million kids-for-cash racket cheered when the prosecutors who sent the former Luzerne County judge to prison for 28 years emerged from a federal courthouse Thursday.

Several crowded around lead prosecutor Gordon Zubrod to shake his hand and offer thanks. It was Zubrod who had forcefully argued in court Thursday that Ciavarella should receive a sentence "that will keep him in prison for the rest of his natural life" for taking payments from two for-profit detention centers.

Ciavarella, who was placed in federal custody immediately after his sentencing, will be 85 on his earliest possible release date, with time off for good behavior, in June 2035.

"Full justice was done," Zubrod told the media. "We got what we requested."

Ciavarella's attorneys said they will appeal the sentence and his conviction in the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

More than 200 people crammed the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Edwin M. Kosik and an overflow courtroom equipped with a live video feed to witness Thursday's

sentencing. Dozens wore white T-shirts bearing a picture of Edward R. Kenzaskoski III, who committed suicide in what his mother described as a downward spiral following his incarceration by Ciavarella on a minor drug charge.

Ciavarella, 61, showed no emotion when Kosik announced the sentence. The tense courtroom, watched over by a phalanx of anxious U.S. marshals, was quiet.

In a statement to the court prior to sentencing, Ciavarella attacked the prosecution and Zubrod in particular, arguing they had sullied his reputation with "kids-for-cash" allegations, but failed to prove that he had taken money for incarcerating juveniles.

Ciavarella told Kosik he agreed to plead guilty to fraud and tax charges in the case in 2009 based on the understanding that he would not admit to taking kickbacks or bribes for jailing juveniles.

"After my plea was presented to you for your consideration and acceptance or rejection, attorney Zubrod made a statement to the press and uttered three words that changed the whole

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tenor of this case," Ciavarella told Kosik. "As we all know, those words were 'kids for cash.'"

"Those three words made me the personification of evil. They made me the Antichrist and the devil."

In subsequent public statements, Ciavarella denied portions of the government's case, leading Kosik to reject the plea agreement, which would have sent Ciavarella and a co-defendant, former Judge Michael T. Conahan, to prison for about seven years.

Ciavarella said the "kids-for-cash" allegation drove him to fight the charges and demand a trial.

"I am about to lose the physical presence of my family, a loss which is almost unbearable to shoulder," Ciavarella told the court. "But I will never lose my will to fight against individuals who say I took cash to put children in placement when I never did."

During Ciavarella's trial in February, the government offered no testimony from juvenile offenders who appeared in his court, concentrating on payments Ciavarella and Conahan received from Robert K. Mericle and Robert J. Powell, the builder and co-owner of the detention centers.

Prosecutors said their case did not involve allegations that the two judges received specific payments for placing individual juveniles in specific detention centers. Rather, it focused on the overall scheme, which corrupted the entire juvenile court system.

"The defendant argues he didn't sell juveniles retail and we agree with that," Zubrod told the court Thursday. "He was selling them wholesale."

The state Supreme Court has vacated 4,000 to 5,000 cases handled by Ciavarella, finding he jailed juveniles on minor charges after cursory hearings, failed to fully inform them of their right to counsel and set court policies that swelled the number of detentions.

The prosecution maintained those juveniles should still be considered victims in the federal case, even if most of them were not placed in the two centers co-owned by Powell.

"I don't think Ciavarella or Conahan themselves really personally cared where the juveniles went as long as they could use their power to place the juveniles as leverage or control over Mericle and Powell," U.S. Attorney Peter J. Smith said after Thursday's sentencing.

The sheer number of victims, coupled with other factors in Ciavarella's case, inflated his sentencing score under federal guidelines, making him eligible for a life sentence.

Ciavarella was accompanied to court Thursday by his wife, Cindy, two daughters and about 20 other relatives and supporters. They declined comment Thursday as marshals escorted them to a courthouse exit.

It could not be determined Thursday where Ciavarella was being held.

In addition to the prison sentence, Ciavarella was ordered to pay \$1.17 million in restitution to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the IRS, but testimony at his trial indicated he is heavily in debt and would probably be unable to pay.

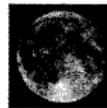
Defense attorney Al Flora Jr. said Ciavarella will appeal his conviction on most of the counts against him, but not on tax charges to which he admitted guilt during his trial.

Under Kosik's sentence, Ciavarella is to serve a 20-year sentence on racketeering and conspiracy charges that will be the subject of appeal, followed by a five-year sentence on a tax conspiracy charge, followed by a three-year sentence for filing false tax returns.

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*United States Attorney Jim Letten*

**Eastern District of Louisiana**

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MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010

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## **FORMER GRETNA CITY COUNCILMAN JONATHAN BOLAR SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - JONATHAN BOLAR**, age 48, a resident of New Orleans, was sentenced today to 17 years (204 months) in federal court by U. S. District Judge Lance M. Africk for extortion, wire fraud, structuring and tax violations, announced U. S. Attorney Jim Letten. In addition to the term of imprisonment, Judge Africk ordered that **BOLAR** pay a \$174,082 in restitution to the victims and the Internal Revenue Service. Judge Africk also ordered the forfeiture of \$85,700 and placed **BOLAR** on three (3) years of supervised release following the term of imprisonment during which time he will be under federal supervision and risks additional imprisonment should he violate any terms of the release..

Court documents show on April 9, 2010, **BOLAR** was convicted of all 13 counts of the indictment by a federal jury after a one-week trial and has been detained since that time. At trial, the jury found that **BOLAR** extorted multiple victims (4 counts) in his Gretna city council district to pay him money in return for his support in various land use matters in the City of Gretna. Next, the jury convicted **BOLAR** of 2 counts of wire fraud stemming from two incidents in which **BOLAR** purported to sell a property in his district that he did not own. Next, the jury convicted **BOLAR** of 4 counts of failure to file tax returns. Finally, the jury convicted **BOLAR** of illegal structuring cash deposits in order to avoid currency reporting requirements.

Although the otherwise applicable sentencing guidelines called for a sentence of 121 to 151 months imprisonment, the United States Attorney's Office moved the Court to sentence **BOLAR** to a greater sentence based on several factors including the harm to the victims, **BOLAR'S** disregard for the criminal justice system and acts of obstruction of justice both during the investigation and at trial. Taking note that **BOLAR** "shook down decent hard working people," "stole from parishioners of a church" and "stole from friends," the Court agreed with the Government's position in sentencing the defendant.

Speaking to today's sentence, U. S. Attorney Letten stated:

"Today, yet another Louisiana public official has been sentenced to a significant prison term for violating the public trust. Bolar's greed, arrogance, deceit, and disregard for the public trust has victimized not only those whom he preyed upon and stole from, but all of the citizens he purported to serve. The U. S. Attorney's Office and the FBI, along with law enforcement partners, will continue to relentlessly pursue corruption wherever it exists in hope that those who hold office or seek to hold office will utilize the power vested in those positions to serve the public's interests rather than use their offices as instrumentalities for self dealing."

David Welker, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, added:

"Although similar in nature to other investigations of corrupt public officials, what is most appalling with Bolar is that he absolutely refused to take responsibility for his corrupt actions. He compounded this by convincing an associate to come into federal court and lie for him. The efforts of FBI New Orleans and our law enforcement partners will continue to intensify to root out public corruption wherever we find it in Louisiana. I would also like to recognize the Gretna Police Department for uncovering Bolar's initial extortion victim. The Gretna Police Department also found two other victims and provided this information to further the investigation."

Michael J. De Palma, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations stated:

"Bolar is now facing the consequences of his arrogance, greed and egregious misuse of his elected office. It is our hope that other public servants, whether elected or appointed, will take heed of today's sentence and think twice before abusing the public's trust. Special Agents of IRS Criminal Investigation, along with our federal and state law enforcement partners, will continue to work with the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that the public trust is restored to the elected offices in our area."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys Matthew Coman, Richard R. Pickens, II and Sharan Lieberman.

\* \* \*



Northern District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Peggy Sanford

DATE: March 5, 2010

PHONE: 205-244-2020

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln) <<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln>>

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## FEDERAL JUDGE SENTENCES FORMER BIRMINGHAM MAYOR AND FORMER JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION PRESIDENT TO 15 YEARS FOR BRIBERY SCHEME

TUSCALOOSA – A federal judge today sentenced former Birmingham mayor and former Jefferson County Commission president, LARRY LANGFORD, to 15 years in prison for a long-running bribery scheme in which he sent more than \$7 million in county bond business to Montgomery investment banker Bill Blount in return for bribes worth \$241,843, Acting U.S. Attorney Jim Phillips announced.

U.S. District Judge L. Scott Coogler sentenced LANGFORD, 63, to prison and ordered him to pay \$119,985 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service, and to forfeit \$241,843 to the government.

The restitution to the IRS results from his convictions for filing false tax returns for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, in which he failed to report his income from the bribes.

LANGFORD must report to prison April 5. The judge allowed him to remain out on bond until then, subject to electronic monitoring. LANGFORD may not leave Jefferson County and must report twice a week to a probation officer.

"The sentence imposed today should say to all public officials that selling their position of trust to buy a lavish personal lifestyle will lead them to the prison door," Phillips said. "Larry Langford placed his vanity and greed above the financial well-being of Jefferson County and helped bring it to the edge of financial ruin. The taxpayers of Jefferson County will continue to suffer from the corrupt acts of Langford and his cohorts."

"Honest law-abiding citizens here in northern Alabama are reassured today that no one is above the law, especially when that person is an elected official," said IRS Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigations, Reginael McDaniel. "Public service is a privilege and those who abuse that privilege can expect to be held accountable."

"The sentence against Mr. Langford sends yet another message that individuals who use their positions of trust for personal gain will not be tolerated," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Patrick Maley.

A federal jury in October convicted LANGFORD of conspiracy, bribery, fraud, money laundering and filing false tax returns. He was convicted on 60 counts that detailed how he conspired with Blount and lobbyist Al LaPierre to solicit and accept bribes and to use his influence as Jefferson County Commission president to include Blount and his company, Blount Parrish, in county financial transactions. The business LANGFORD directed to Blount primarily involved bond and swap transactions related to Jefferson County's multi-billion dollar sewer debt.

LaPierre served as a middleman between LANGFORD and Blount in the bribery scheme and received fees from Blount.

LaPierre pleaded guilty in July to one count of conspiring with Blount and LANGFORD to commit fraud and bribery and to one count of filing a false tax return. Blount pleaded guilty in August to one count of conspiracy and one count of bribery. Both men testified for the government in LANGFORD'S trial.

Last week, Judge Coogler sentenced Blount to four years, four months in prison and ordered him to forfeit \$1 million. He sentenced LaPierre to four years in prison and ordered him to forfeit \$371,932 and to pay \$98,433 in back taxes to the IRS.

A second former Jefferson County commissioner, Mary Buckelew, also has been convicted in connection with accepting bribes from Blount, who bought her expensive items from the Salvatore Ferragamo store, as well as spa treatments, during New York City trips in 2003 and 2004, while she was a county commissioner. Buckelew pleaded guilty last year to obstruction of justice and agreed to cooperate with the investigation. In November, U.S. District Judge Inge Johnson sentenced Buckelew to three years probation.

Between 2002 and 2007, while LANGFORD was president of the Jefferson County Commission and chairman of its finance committee, he solicited and accepted \$241,843 in cash, loan payoffs, expensive clothing and jewelry from Blount and LaPierre, intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with the awarding of lucrative county financial transactions. In return for the bribes, LANGFORD used his power and position on the county commission to include Blount Parrish in financial transactions that generated about \$7.2 million in fees for Blount and his companies. Blount, in turn, paid LaPierre hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting fees.

Among the items of value LANGFORD requested and received from Blount and LaPierre were:

- \* A \$50,000 six-month, unsecured loan from Colonial Bank, which Blount engineered, despite LANGFORD's poor credit rating. When the loan became past due, LaPierre obtained a \$50,000 loan from Colonial Bank and paid off LANGFORD's loan. Blount then transferred \$50,000 to LaPierre to pay off LaPierre's loan.
- \* A \$69,000 check from LaPierre, after LANGFORD asked for money. LaPierre wrote the check after Blount transferred \$69,000 to him.
- \* A \$30,000 check from LaPierre, after LANGFORD asked for more money. LaPierre wrote the check after Blount transferred \$30,000 to him. LANGFORD used the money to pay his personal taxes.
- \* Expensive clothing and jewelry from New York shops which LANGFORD requested while on trips to New York City with Blount and others related to Jefferson County financial transactions. Several of these items were mailed to LANGFORD's county office.
- \* An account at Remon's Clothiers in Birmingham. Blount and LaPierre set up the account and, for the next several years, paid the bills as LANGFORD shopped there extensively.
- \* Rolex watches and other expensive jewelry that LANGFORD selected and Blount bought him from Bromberg's in Birmingham.

LANGFORD, Blount and LaPierre also attempted to obstruct justice. In late 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission began investigating Jefferson County financial transactions and the relationship between the three men. It issued subpoenas for testimony and documents to all three.

LANGFORD testified before the SEC in June 2007 that he borrowed money from LaPierre and the loans were secured by real property. The men earlier had conspired to conceal the bribes by calling them loans.

This case was investigated by special agents of the FBI and IRS. Assistant U.S. Attorneys George Martin, Scarlett Singleton, Lloyd Peebles and Tamarra Matthews-Johnson prosecuted it.