

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

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COMMISSION OF FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

PUBLIC HEARINGS

DECEMBER 7, 2000 - NEW YORK

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SHEILA BIRNBAUM, ESQ.

CHAIRPERSON

PANEL MEMBERS:

- Honorable George Marlow
- Honorable Leo E. Milonas
- Lawrence K Marks, Esq.
- Patricia M. Hynes, Esq.
- O. Peter Sherwood, Esq.
- Honorable Seymour Boyers
- Dean Howard A. Glickstein
- John J. Reilly, Esq.
- Gary S. Brown, Esq.
- Roger Bennett Adler, Esq.

Evelyn Mysch, C.S.R, R.P.R.
John Phelps, C.S.R., R.P.R.
Official Court Reporters

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going to go
2 back --

3 Is Barbara Minton here?

4 Janet Mafoud?

5 MS. MAFOUD: Yeah. I'm here, but I think it's
6 best I not talk as everything is still pending. I'm a
7 co-petitioner in a guardianship proceeding and I think if I
8 start shooting -- I share the same thoughts as she does. If
9 I start shooting off my mouth, I'll be in trouble here. So
10 in deference, I'm not going to speak today.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: If you'd like to write anything,
13 I'd be happy to accept it.

14 MS. MAFOUD: Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Allison Minton?

16 Robert Clausell?

17 ✓ George Sassower?

18 MR. SASSOWER: Good afternoon, ladies and
19 gentlemen. The only thing I want to give is a document
20 presentation. I want to talk about two cases, and I'm going
21 to put all this in writing with the documents.

22 Puccini was involuntarily dissolved 20 years ago.
23 The bribes, documented bribes to judges and judicial
24 officials is \$3.5 million, no less. That is the minimum.
25 In 20 years there's never been an accounting, not one.

1 Although the rules provide there must be an accounting at
2 least once a year. The law 12,16 the business corporation
3 law provides that the attorney general must at the
4 expiration of even months make a demand, an application to
5 the courts for an accounting.

6 In 20 years he has not made one application.
7 Again, the amount is immaterial except that it's
8 astronomical. Now, when you come to court, who defends
9 these corrupt judges who are taking bribes from a judicial
10 trust? The Attorney General.

11 When you go into Federal Court, the Attorney
12 General is barred under the 11th Amendment, no doubt about
13 it, but in Federal Court, the Attorney General defends these
14 judges and officials who are actually taking bribes openly,
15 no dispute whatsoever.

16 So not only are they stealing from trusts, but
17 they are also getting income by, taxable income by being
18 defended by the Attorney General. That is one case I'm
19 going to give you all the documents, nobody disputes the
20 facts. Nobody. Second case, do you want names? Right up
21 to Francis T. Murphy, Appellate Division, give you the
22 documents, give you the evidence, no question about it.
23 Come to the Second Department, Second Department, by the
24 way, I'm here to speak for my clients, not for myself, not
25 for the public.

1 Second Department, Ernest Signorelli. He was
2 raping trusts and estates in his court for about 15 years.
3 Again, this is what he would do. He would appoint, he was
4 involved in a matrimonial affair, where he was having sexual
5 relationships with his secretary in chambers while you sat
6 out in the courtroom.

7 When it come to paying his attorneys their fees,
8 he would say, no, I'll appoint you as the attorney for the
9 public administrator. The public administrator. And he
10 would take the fees from the estate. On one estate, the
11 Kelly Estate, Kelly died leaving practically his entire
12 estate to three motherless infants. One was three, one was
13 two, and one was four. Practically the entire estate.

14 The public administrator did not pay the taxes and
15 he was assessed penalties. Who paid the penalties? Not him
16 but the estate. The public administrator took an appeal.
17 Who was on the appeal? You can read it from the appellate
18 division. It was the IRS and the attorney for the public
19 administrator. Where was the infants' attorney? He died a
20 year before. Where was I? I was never served. I made a
21 motion to set aside the decision of the Appellate Division
22 on the grounds of jurisdiction, nobody represented the
23 infants. Denied. With a hundred dollars cost.

24 The Appellate Division Second Department approved
25 the accounting, what accounting, the accounting was filed

1 almost a year later. They approved a nonexistent accounting
2 which was filed a year later. That's it. Put this all in
3 writing with all the documents I would appreciate if you
4 would look at it.

5 Believe me, as an attorney, as a citizen of the
6 United States, born an American citizen, some of the things
7 that I see here about how the judges forget about the
8 appointees, forget about the appointees. The appointees are
9 just doing, they're taking and they're taking it back
10 someplace.

11 I was admitted in 1949. I believe some of you
12 gentlemen are my contemporaries when I went to law school,
13 I'll tell you how it works. When I went to law school, I
14 never heard the word frivolous, never heard of it. Today
15 you read decisions, everything is frivolous. If you catch a
16 judge taking bribes, that's frivolous and you're penalized.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Sassower.

18 MR. SASSOWER: Thank you very much. And may I
19 submit documents?

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: You certainly can.

21 MR. SASSOWER: Do I send it to the individual
22 members?

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: No. Send one to myself and I'll
24 give you my address and make sure all the commission members
25 get it.

1 MR. SASSOWER: Thank you very much. And thank you
2 for your courtesy.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Did anybody come -- fine. I'll
4 call the names of the people again in case we missed
5 anybody.

6 Barbara Minton?

7 Allison Minton?

8 Mr. Robert Clausell?

9 MS. GOLDBETTER: I'm not on the list, but I would
10 like to say something.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: As long as it's short because we
12 have to have a meeting after this. Tell us your name.

13 MS. GOLDBETTER: Albina Goldbetter. I've been a
14 defendant for ten years in Judge Huttner's, with Judge
15 Huttner presiding, which has cost me \$416,000 in legal fees
16 as a defendant.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: What kind of case was that?

18 MS. GOLDBETTER: I was the owner of -- 50 percent
19 owner of two buildings and 100 percent managing agent. I
20 renovated both buildings. I managed the buildings and in
21 1991, Judge Huttner sua sponte appointed receiver Becker,
22 Jerome M. Becker at that time with the political lobbyist
23 firm Davidoff and Malito and currently he's the chairman of
24 the New York State Housing Finance Agency.

25 He appointed a receiver in 1991 and, of course,