

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
2 STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

3 -----  
4 PUBLIC HEARING IN THE MATTER OF  
5 AN EXAMINATION OF THE JUDICIAL DISCIPLINARY PROCESS  
6 -----

7 Senate Hearing Room  
8 250 Broadway  
9 19th Floor  
10 New York, N.Y.

11 September 24, 2009  
12 Thursday  
13 10 a.m.

14 BEFORE: Senator John Sampson  
15 Chair  
16 Judiciary Committee

17 Senator Bill Perkins  
18 Chair  
19 Corporations, Authorities & Commissions

20 Senator George D. Maziarz

21 Senator Eric Adams

22 Senator Ruben Diaz

23 OTHER STAFF MEMBERS:

24 Shelly Mayer  
Majority Counsel

Lisa Lashley  
Counsel

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1 First of all, thank you.

2 SENATOR SAMPSON: Can you do all this  
3 in ten minutes?

4 MS. GKANIOS: I'm going to try.  
5 Senator Sampson, thank you, Senator Maziarz,  
6 thank you for holding the hearings.

7 And I also have to include I know  
8 Governor Patterson, if it was not for  
9 Governor Patterson in 1992 I do not know  
10 what would have happened to my children.  
11 Probably foster care.

12 What started out as a simple divorce --

13 SENATOR SAMPSON: The Governor needs  
14 stories like that.

15 MS. GKANIOS: You know what, I intend  
16 to go meet with Governor Patterson. He fell  
17 in love with my daughter and he will be  
18 proud of what she's become today.

19 And he has to know.

20 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Be careful about  
21 saying that.

22 MS. GKANIOS: You know, as an 8 year  
23 old child, I mean I can't tell you.

24 Any way, what started out as a simple

1 divorce turned into a 21 year nightmare with  
2 over 30 judges on one simple case.

3 Throughout my unwanted 21 years  
4 experience in the courts I was constantly  
5 being terrorized under the threat of losing  
6 our home, my children, being denied child  
7 support and our basic every day needs were  
8 denied.

9 I was constantly being denied by the  
10 Department of Social Services and other  
11 agencies.

12 The grievance committee letters  
13 attached to this complaint is some of the  
14 grievance committee letters, I got no help.

15 Unbeknownst to me that everything was  
16 being divested through legal maneuvering of  
17 lawyers and assisted benignly or  
18 intentionally by the judges.

19 At one point after going into Family  
20 Court to collect child support arrears, my  
21 petition was denied.

22 I was told I was in the wrong court,  
23 see the court orders and the transcripts  
24 attached to this testimony, and that I was

1           wasting the court's time.

2           My husband's attorney as well as the  
3           court's decision tried to sanction me  
4           \$10,000 for trying to collect child support  
5           in the Family Court. To date over \$300,000  
6           is owed.

7           My children have suffered and  
8           sacrificed because of a divorce that their  
9           father had planned for years.

10          With the help of lawyers and all the  
11          judges involved, to divest our funds and  
12          assets of everything totaling over \$5  
13          million.

14          They plotted the perfect crime, the  
15          divorce right out of the movie Gaslight, at  
16          one point my divorce was in the newspapers  
17          as the War of the Roses by my husband's  
18          attorney Terrence Dwyer.

19          Our assets were worth more than our  
20          debt, all bills totalling \$465,000,  
21          including our home.

22          Throughout his plot he attempted to  
23          frame me as though I was the one stealing  
24          from him, attempted to drive me crazy and

1 put me in an institution.

2 His plot then went to burn one of the  
3 restaurants down in Eastchester so that it  
4 would look like I was so crazed over money  
5 that I would burn it down and collect the  
6 insurance.

7 That's when I knew I better start  
8 protecting myself, I walked around with a  
9 tape recorder for two years.

10 On August 17th of 1990 I recorded, I  
11 tape recorded an argument where I was  
12 fighting with him that he was so crazed that  
13 there was no reason to do so.

14 This tape was turned over to the D.A.'s  
15 office years ago as evidence and to Judge  
16 Andrew O'Rourke in June of 2008.

17 On another night his chef attempted to  
18 set the restaurant kitchen on fire, the  
19 flames were shooting up from the stove, he  
20 turned the burners on and walked out.

21 He was setting up my daughter,  
22 Rosemary, and my son, had they not walked  
23 out the back door instead of the front door  
24 as they always did the place would have

1           burned down, and the baker was in the  
2           basement would have been killed because  
3           there was no way out.

4           I went to seek help from my attorney,  
5           he did nothing and when I returned to the  
6           restaurant I found the fire department and  
7           the police department.

8           They were looking at me as if I was  
9           crazy.

10           So who and what did my lawyer say? By  
11           this time everyone thought I was going to  
12           burn the store down.

13           The more I sought help from the police  
14           department and the courts no one helped.

15           My husband had numerous affairs that  
16           were just out of a future story that  
17           happened with Chief Judge Sol Wachtler,  
18           sordid affair, they were just as wild.

19           What I did not know for a couple of  
20           months was the crime that my husband had  
21           been committing, he was molesting my  
22           daughter for years and when he came out no  
23           one would believe because of all the insane  
24           things for months prior to that would make



1 something -- would make something like that  
2 such.

3 I am proud of my daughter, Senators,  
4 she tape recorded a conversation with him  
5 and he talked his way right into the State  
6 pen.

7 Everything did not stop there, though.

8 What we had to endure every single day  
9 there was always something from breaking and  
10 entering the house or my mom's home when she  
11 was not there, to my children being  
12 followed, the day before a pretrial on  
13 September 4, 1991 my daughter's car blew up  
14 on the Taconic State Parkway with her in it.  
15 Again, no help.

16 Throughout this whole nightmare my  
17 husband and his thugs made sure they always  
18 gave him the perfect alibi.

19 I received numerous phone calls that I  
20 better drop the charges. Terror tactics and  
21 no one would help.

22 On November 8th at 6:00 I got a phone  
23 call at the restaurant telling me that the  
24 boiler in my home backfired, that my home is

1 filled with carbon monoxide, I knew he had  
2 his friends who was in the boiler business  
3 tamper with it, but that's the only thing I  
4 could never prove.

5 On the 14th the first restaurant was  
6 lost through the Eastchester Town Court  
7 before Judge Rob Hill Gray, he allowed my  
8 personal property to be turned over to  
9 landlords, valued at over \$1 million,  
10 without any due process in law and when I  
11 came to understand the law, he exceeded his  
12 jurisdiction to do so, town court was  
13 \$25,000.

14 On January 8th of '91 my daughter  
15 reported to the CPS the child sexual abuse,  
16 when no one would believe her or me, as I  
17 said before, she recorded, she had that  
18 recorder in her pocket and had a 45 minute  
19 conversation with him as to why he did it.

20 By the way, that tape was authenticated  
21 by the feds at a later trial in Westchester  
22 County.

23 We were told to bring in the original  
24 tape to the Sheriff's Department and we

1           agreed.

2                   On the 31st right after they had the  
3           original I thought CPS and the Sheriff's  
4           Department called and stated don't worry if  
5           we do not pick him up and arrest him, this  
6           was questionable, what we were not being  
7           informed of if the original tape disappeared  
8           they could not prosecute.

9                   On 2/4/91 my daughter and I went to the  
10          Putnam County D.A.'s office that morning,  
11          that night my husband was picked up at the  
12          restaurant in Mount Vernon and finally  
13          arrested.

14                   March 31st, the day before the second  
15          restaurant was lost in Mount Vernon, my  
16          husband's thugs had his loan shark and the  
17          boys come in and threaten me that unless I  
18          turned the business over to my husband, the  
19          boys would be up to take care of me.

20                   This tape also was turned over to the  
21          D.A.'s office years ago as evidence and  
22          Judge O'Rourke in June of '08.

23                   My daughter and I went to the D.A., we  
24          were told that it might not be worth

1           pursuing further.

2           And that Putnam might want to make a  
3 deal for lesser charges, combined with  
4 Westchester, so no further charges are  
5 brought. Our decision was no deal.

6           I sent a letter to Judge Ingrassia  
7 questioning how does Westchester County not  
8 pursue what happened to my daughter?

9           The very next day we received a call  
10 from Putnam that Westchester was going to  
11 proceed.

12           On the 17th of May, Rosemary, my  
13 daughter's car alarm goes off, dead rat  
14 under the windshield, this was about three  
15 hours after she received a call that  
16 Westchester was going to the Grand Jury on  
17 May 23rd.

18           We were then informed that the Putnam  
19 D.A. that the motion before Bretts was to  
20 drop the charges, it's up to the judge to  
21 throw out a Grand Jury indictment, D.A. said  
22 it's up to them to pursue further, how do  
23 you throw out a Grand Jury indictment?

24           Throughout all of this I kept sending a

1 letter to Judge Dickenson asking him not to  
2 postpone conferences for child support, on  
3 4/15 informing him of the child abuse, the  
4 delays, cancellation would be detrimental to  
5 my family.

6 Judge Dickenson's law secretary,  
7 Stephen Roberts, claimed I would be held in  
8 contempt if I were to write any more letters  
9 to the judge.

10 SENATOR SAMPSON: Ms. Gkanios, you've  
11 got two minutes left, so if you can cut it  
12 down.

13 MS. GKANIOS: I'm trying, this is 21  
14 years.

15 SENATOR SAMPSON: What I want you to  
16 do is you are here, I don't need you to read  
17 from it, I want you to just be succinct.

18 What issues arose out of this with  
19 respect to the judiciary system, or was it  
20 the attorneys?

21 MS. GKANIOS: No, this was the judges  
22 and that's why --

23 SENATOR SAMPSON: When you say it was  
24 the judges, what do you mean by that?

1 MS. GKANIOS: The asset, one of the  
2 assets that were lost, in February of '91  
3 Mount Vernon City Judge John DiBlasi held an  
4 illegal eviction by ousting me from my  
5 second restaurant.

6 On March 12th, by the Mount Vernon City  
7 Marshal Henry Flagg, when Niki's was taken  
8 on March 12th I sued the -- I sued and the  
9 judge was Westchester Supreme Court Judge  
10 Nastasi, Judge Nastasi dismissed the case in  
11 August of '91 and told me I was in the wrong  
12 court.

13 Two years later at the Mount Vernon --  
14 the Mount Vernon City Marshal Henry Flagg  
15 signed an Affidavit that he never served me  
16 with the eviction papers.

17 After appealing the Town Court's  
18 decision and won and overturned on appeal,  
19 June 24th of '94, I resued, went through  
20 discovery and thousands of dollars worth  
21 only for Judge Nastassi to say I should have  
22 sued in 1991.

23 This is the same judge, did Your Honor  
24 not know what he was doing when he was

1 sitting on the bench?

2 SENATOR SAMPSON: So --

3 MS. GKANIOS: I sued --

4 SENATOR SAMPSON: So basically your  
5 issue is -- did you file complaints with  
6 respect to the Commission of Judicial  
7 Conduct?

8 MS. GKANIOS: Absolutely, that's what  
9 I submitted on June 8th in Albany, the  
10 complaints to the Judiciary Committee.

11 SENATOR SAMPSON: And what --

12 MS. GKANIOS: That they committed no  
13 wrongdoing. I never heard of such a thing.

14 SENATOR SAMPSON: You submitted them  
15 and they indicated there was no wrongdoing?

16 MS. GKANIOS: Right.

17 SENATOR SAMPSON: How long ago was  
18 this?

19 MS. GKANIOS: It had to be in '94,  
20 '95, I submitted multiple complaints because  
21 it just didn't stop there.

22 And that's why what -- right now,  
23 presently it's before Judge O'Rourke and,  
24 Senator Sampson, I have to tell you this has

1 to be the craziest thing, and one of the  
2 things is with O'Rourke, my husband has a  
3 second Social Security Number, why didn't  
4 O'Rourke question it?

5 My husband took -- I need to read this  
6 last part, we probably could go into a  
7 little time over into the Dominic Lieto case  
8 because Catherine Wilson and I are going to  
9 explain it and this is just as important.

10 SENATOR SAMPSON: What I'm trying to  
11 get to --

12 MS. GKANIOS: This is 21 years and  
13 over 30 judges.

14 SENATOR SAMPSON: I understand that,  
15 but we are getting -- we need specifics to  
16 get to the point where you allege that there  
17 may have been judicial misconduct, that's  
18 what we are trying to do and that's why we  
19 are asking you questions and trying to  
20 extract it from you, instead of you reading  
21 the statement.

22 MS. GKANIOS: You know, because I was  
23 hit -- the statement is longer than what it  
24 is and I just scratched out and I was making



1           it shorter.

2                    You actually have the rules and  
3           everything that are there.

4                    There were so many complaints that went  
5           into the Grievance Committee, again my  
6           matrimonial, 30 judges, Judge Hickman stood  
7           there --

8                    SENATOR SAMPSON:        Are you divorced  
9           yet?

10                   MS. GKANIOS:        No, I am not. I am  
11           really not, and I've got to tell you the  
12           newest thing, I just got it four days ago,  
13           and again I want no more courts, I want no  
14           more appeals, I want to say my last  
15           statement in the end and save it, but I have  
16           to tell you, this man operated under a  
17           second Social Security Number, why didn't  
18           the judges do anything? This is when it was  
19           brought to their attention recently.

20                    All the complaints to the D.A.'s  
21           office, judges, everything, nobody did  
22           nothing.

23                    A wonderful officer from Manhattan  
24           called me last April 11th asking me if I

1           knew where my husband was, I said no.

2                   I said but I heard he was in Florida,  
3           but I have his second Social Security  
4           Number, would that help?

5                   Well, I'll tell you, within two hours  
6           they had him in custody. He fled New York  
7           State illegally, failed to report under  
8           Meagan's Law, was hiding in the State of  
9           Florida living in Pompano Beach in a  
10          multimillion dollar home, they got him on  
11          the Adam Walsh law.

12                   I flew down there, got him back up here  
13          to hold him in willful contempt, which is  
14          the motion pending and has been pending for  
15          over a year.

16                   Now the thing with this case is I have  
17          had assets taken, I have had a co-op, I have  
18          had my home was foreclosed on, I still live  
19          in the marital home but that my children own  
20          the marital home, they bought it at  
21          foreclosure by money that a cousin loaned me  
22          in California which can all be documented.

23                   Well, this crazy judge, mind you my  
24          husband, I can't say anything other than him

1           being crazy, because he said on the bench a  
2           year ago and was trying to figure out who  
3           was at fault, I looked at him and I said  
4           excuse me? He's a convicted pedophile. You  
5           have to decide who's at fault?

6           I mean completely shocked. I gave him  
7           these two tapes, the thugs and the arson, I  
8           have over 200 tapes that were turned over to  
9           the District Attorney's office.

10          Senator Sampson, this is not just a  
11          regular case.

12          Again, in answer I had -- his former  
13          attorney, it was like let's play catch.

14          You have to understand, again, I know  
15          again --

16          SENATOR SAMPSON:        What we are saying  
17          is right now the case is before Judge  
18          O'Rourke.

19          MS. GKANIOS:        Listen, all I know, I'm  
20          going to do whatever it takes that's going  
21          to expose it, I know one thing, this man  
22          should not be sitting on a bench.

23          He has --

24          SENATOR SAMPSON:        Judge O'Rourke.

1 MS. GKANIOS: Judge Andrew O'Rourke.

2 SENATOR SAMPSON: Where is he sitting  
3 at?

4 MS. GKANIOS: Putnam County Supreme  
5 Court, he is the worst, and if you give me a  
6 minute, I will tell you his new things and  
7 please because this is --

8 SENATOR SAMPSON: I will give you one  
9 minute to tell me your news things, then I  
10 need you to go to the Dominic Lieto case.

11 MS. GKANIOS: You know why on the  
12 procedure thing on the Dominic thing because  
13 of the foreclosure.

14 SENATOR SAMPSON: I understand that,  
15 but I've got so many witnesses I have to end  
16 this thing at 2:00, I want to get everybody.

17 So I'll give you one minute to explain  
18 everything.

19 Ms. Wilson, you can't take too much  
20 time, three minutes, let's go.

21 MS. GKANIOS: That's all it's going  
22 to take us on it.

23 SENATOR SAMPSON: One minute.

24 MS. GKANIOS: Why was charges not

1 filed against him, Judge O'Rourke at one  
2 point knowing he's a convicted pedophile  
3 having to decide fault, he wants to give --  
4 this is the craziest thing -- he wants me to  
5 be responsible for the foreclosure of my  
6 house, deduct the profits and give him half  
7 of my house.

8 A house that I don't even own, that's  
9 the first, same thing with the co-op.

10 Wait a minute, the man owes me \$300,000  
11 over \$300,000, I got \$20,000 in child  
12 support from bail money that the D.A., the  
13 judges hid from me.

14 And now Friday --

15 SENATOR SAMPSON: Have you filed  
16 complaints?

17 MS. GKANIOS: Yeah I did, Judge  
18 Nicolai.

19 SENATOR SAMPSON: I'm talking about  
20 file complaints against Judge O'Rourke.

21 MS. GKANIOS: Not yet, that was in  
22 the newspaper, Catherine Wilson and them in  
23 Westchester Guardian put the whole article  
24 in the newspaper.

1           I mean so that is the only one that I  
2           didn't file complaints on.

3           I can tell you that before, I'm going  
4           to allow him and I say allow him to give,  
5           that I'm going to be responsible for a co-op  
6           that was sold, or give him, say, half of the  
7           profit when before I give him half the  
8           profit he's going to pay my mom back \$46,000  
9           her estate that paid for my home.

10           And the \$50,000 that we paid over the  
11           course of 20 years just to maintain it.

12           SENATOR SAMPSON:       What we will do --

13           MS. GKANIOS:       This man needs to be --  
14           it's the most frightening thing, it really  
15           is.

16           SENATOR SAMPSON:       What we are going  
17           to do is follow-up with your case, my  
18           counsel, Lisa Lashley, she says we will  
19           definitely follow-up with that, especially  
20           now that it's before Judge O'Rourke and see  
21           what's going on, see what's happening.

22           MS. GKANIOS:       Senator Sampson, I can  
23           just tell you that --

24           SENATOR SAMPSON:       Ms. Wilson, why

1 don't you come on up.

2 MS.. GKANIOS: It's not just a  
3 matrimonial, it's about rules that were  
4 broken.

5 If I have to follow the rules, if I  
6 have to comply with the rules, and again  
7 when you read this, you will see, I hit them  
8 with the rules, I want you to follow the  
9 rules.

10 You can -- and I just want to -- and 30  
11 seconds will take me to read my conclusion,  
12 to you Senator Sampson and this whole  
13 committee.

14 And to our Governor, David Paterson,  
15 help and help now, 21 years is long enough  
16 my family had to endure, the letters you  
17 wrote for me years ago and helped protect my  
18 children and me, I can tell you the D.A.  
19 both offices, both Putnam and Westchester  
20 County along with the Administrative Judge  
21 Angela Ingrassia, Hickman and all the  
22 cronies were afraid of you have.

23 Well, help is needed now again, to the  
24 Governor, the Governor you know my children

1           and I, you have no idea as to what's been  
2           going on since I last saw you on the Capitol  
3           steps. I know you were very busy I would  
4           like a meeting with you, not your aids,  
5           these were and are criminal acts, criminal,  
6           criminal acts, not civil, no more courts, no  
7           more appeals, only handcuffs on these  
8           criminals.

9           There will be only one way to deal with  
10          them, as well as it is in your power,  
11          Senators, to have these criminal judges  
12          impeached immediately and immediate  
13          investigation causing no more damage.

14          SENATOR SAMPSON:        We will definitely  
15          do that.

16          Thank you very much. Ms. Wilson, three  
17          minutes.

18          MS. WILSON:        Absolutely, Senators.  
19          Thank you for your time, Senator Maziarz,  
20          I'm Irish, I can only pronounce it if it has  
21          an O' or a Mac in front of it.

22          Thank you for joining us, this issue  
23          has to deal with foreclosures which  
24          unfortunately in the current economy are