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Craig Hayner Sentenced in Gambling Ring Case

Defendant Forfeited \$250,000 in Illegal Earnings



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **CRAIG HAYNER**, 42, of Clifton Park, was sentenced to a Conditional Discharge of 1 year before the Honorable Joseph C. Teresi in the Supreme Court of Albany County this morning.

On July 23, 2013, HAYNER pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

HAYNER admitted to engaging in a bookmaking for profit scheme, including a July 2011 incident in Albany County. By entering a plea of guilty, HAYNER agreed to forfeit \$250,000 in illegal earnings.

HAYNER is the fourth defendant to be sentenced for his role in an organized gambling ring.

On August 27, 2013, Co-defendants CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, JOSEPH CARUCCI and JAMES CERNIGLIA, were each sentenced for their roles in the gambling ring.

On June 25, 2013, CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, 42, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Joseph C. Teresi in the Supreme Court of Albany County.

In addition on that same date, JOSEPH CARUCCI, 68, of Albany, and JAMES CERNIGLIA, 47, of Clifton Park, each pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the Second degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable Joseph C. Teresi in the Supreme Court of Albany County.

SOCOLA admitted to engaging in a bookmaking for profit scheme, including a July 2011 incident in Albany County. CARUCCI and CERNIGLIA pleaded guilty to knowingly advancing or profiting from unlawful gambling activity, including incidents on or around July 7, 2011.

CARUCCI forfeited \$15,000 at the time of the plea. CERNIGLIA, who was a corrections officer at the time of his arrest, will forfeit \$5,000, in addition to assisting in a Public Integrity investigation, and agree to never to return to work at the Albany County Correctional Facility.

The cases against a fifth co-defendant, TIMOTHY ROBILLARD, remain open at this time.

Assistant District Attorney Steven Sharp and Assistant District Attorney Brett Knowles are handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710.

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All Individuals are Presumed Innocent until Proven Guilty