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Three Co-Defendants Sentenced in Gambling Ring Case



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, 42, of Clifton Park, JOSEPH CARUCCI, 68, of Albany, and JAMES CERNIGLIA, 47, of Clifton Park, have all been sentenced for their roles in a gambling ring before the Honorable Joseph C. Teresi in the Supreme Court of Albany County this morning.

Additionally, JOSEPH CARUCCI and JAMES CERNIGLIA forfeited \$15,000 and \$5,000 in illegal earnings respectively.

On June 25, 2013, CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the First Degree, a Class E Felony. JOSEPH CARUCCI and JAMES CERNIGLIA each pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the Second degree, a Class A Misdemeanor.

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.

All three co-defendants must continue cooperation as outlined by the terms of their pleas of guilty.

On July 23, 2013, a fourth co-defendant, CRAIG HAYNER, 42, of Clifton Park, 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 a conditional discharge and the forfeiture of \$250,000 in illegal earnings.

CRAIG HAYNER will be sentenced on September 24, 2013 pending the completion of the conditions of his guilty plea.

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 Justin Devendorf at (518) 275-4785.

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All Individuals are Presumed Innocent until Proven Guilty