



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY - NEW YORK COUNTY

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THREE BOARD OF ELECTIONS EX-EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY TO PETITION FRAUD

Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau announced today that three former New York City Board of Election employees who were charged with falsifying nominating petitions for the 2000 Republican primary have pleaded guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing charges.

The defendants are: MARIA DAMONE, KENNETH MARINO and SHERRY SCHOENFELD. DAMONE was the secretary to the Board's Chief Clerk; MARINO and SCHOENFELD were administrative assistants at the Board. The defendants entered their felony pleas before Acting New York State Supreme Court Judge Brenda Soloff. As a result of their guilty pleas, the District Attorney's Office will recommend the defendants be sentenced to 5 years of probation.

DAMONE, MARION and SHOENFELD admitted in court today that they represented themselves as subscribing witnesses for petition sheets for the September 12, 2000 Republican Party primary election. The petitions were for candidates for Civil Court judge, the Representative for the 8th Congressional District, Assembly Member from the 62nd Assembly District and delegates to the Republican Judicial District Convention, First Judicial District, 62nd District Assembly District. As subscribing witnesses in July 2000, the defendants, by their signatures, indicated that each person who purportedly signed sheets of the nominating petitions had done so in the defendants' presence and had identified themselves to the defendants. The defendants had not, in fact, witnessed the signatures, and the defendants knew that the petition sheets contained forged signatures.

Assistant District Attorney Whitman Knapp was in charge of the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Patrick Dugan, Chief of the Rackets Bureau.

Mr. Morgenthau thanked the New York Department of Investigation, specifically Julia Davis, Inspector General for Executive Offices and Non-Mayoral Agencies, for assistance in the six month investigation.