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VOLUME CLXVIII, NUMBER 66

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SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2004

6/7★ Sports Final

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50¢

Ethics Director: Judge Misled Him

Then-Lawyer Said Rowland Was A Paying Client

By JON LENDER
COURANT STAFF WRITER

The State Ethics Commission's director told legislators Friday that embattled Judge James K. Robertson Jr. misled him seven years ago into believing Gov. John G. Rowland was paying standard legal fees for Robertson's representation in an ethics case.

In a letter to the co-chairmen of the House impeachment committee, Executive Director Alan S. Plofsky said Robertson, then Rowland's personal lawyer, assured him "that the Governor was being represented as a private, paying cli-

ent." At least twice during the case, Plofsky added, Robertson made other remarks that suggested Rowland was paying an hourly rate.

Earlier this week, however, Robertson acknowledged that Rowland paid a "nominal" fee of \$100.

Plofsky's letter added to questions about Robertson's credibility and whether he will win legislative confirmation to continue serving as a Superior Court judge. Robertson, appointed last year by Rowland, was approved on an interim basis by the legislature's judiciary com-

PLEASE SEE PLOFSKY, PAGE A6

Tomassos Win Challenge

A judge says Attorney General Richard Blumenthal overstepped his bounds when he subpoenaed Tomasso Brothers construction company documents. **B1**

Reports On Impeachment Are At Odds

By MARK PAZNIOKAS
COURANT STAFF WRITER

The House impeachment committee's special counsel concluded Friday that serious misconduct is sufficient to remove a Connecticut governor from office, even if no crime was committed.

"Impeachment is designed to protect the state and its citizens and not to punish an official who has committed wrongs. In that way, impeachment differs from the criminal justice process," special counsel Steven F. Reich wrote.

The 21-page report by Reich is similar to a legal analysis by Gov. John G. Rowland's lawyers, though their report had a different emphasis: Governors are rarely impeached without a criminal act — even if the constitution does not require one.

"We never argued that it has to be criminal. We argued that it has to be criminal or similarly grave," Ross Garber, the governor's counsel, said. "What we end up talking about is that histori-

PLEASE SEE IMPEACH, PAGE A2

THE MARTHA STEWART TRIAL

CONVICTED ON ALL COUNTS



REUTERS

BUSINESSWOMAN MARTHA STEWART and lawyers Robert Morvillo, lower right, and John Tigue, third from right, and son-in-law John Cuti, left, leave federal court Friday in New York. Stewart, who built a media empire on tips for gracious living, was found guilty of lying to investigators over a suspicious stock sale and faces up to 20 years in prison.

EXPERTS: Verdict Shows That The Law Applies To All

By SUSAN CHANDLER
And ANDREW COUNTRYMAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Martha Stewart's criminal conviction sends the message that the government will zealously pursue those it suspects of insider trading, even when the parties involved are deep-pocketed, powerful and well-connected, legal experts say.

It is a message that prosecutors hope will be telegraphed to everyone from the overzealous corporate executive considering cutting corners to the guy who gets a juicy inside tip about his brother-in-law's company.

"It's a wonderful day for the rule of law," said Stephen Presser, a professor of business law at Northwestern University's law school and Kellogg School of Management.

"The message this sends is no one is immune. No one is above the law. This is a better Greek tragedy than Sophocles could have come up with. If she hadn't lied, she wouldn't be going to jail."

Stewart, who made a fortune teaching people how to slip-cover chairs, separate flower bulbs and frost wedding cakes, was convicted Friday on four criminal counts of obstructing justice, lying to the government and conspiracy related to her 2001 sale of stock in ImClone Systems Inc.

Stewart never was charged with insider trading. But the jury did not buy Stewart's explanation for her exquisitely timed sale of stock in ImClone, a biotech company that was awaiting U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of a cancer drug.

Stewart sold her ImClone stock the day before the FDA rejected the drug. She had received a tip from her broker that ImClone

PLEASE SEE GUILTY, PAGE A4

A SYMBOL: Decision May Define Stewart's Legacy

By DAVID STREITFELD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the wake of Martha Stewart's conviction Friday, experts in the ways of history, popular culture and Wall Street say the domestic diva's offense is going to be remembered for decades as defining an era.

"Martha Stewart's legacy will be to become the spokesperson, the icon, for financial scandal in the early part of this century," said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University. "It will be completely disproportionate to what she

actually did."

Before, Stewart was famous. Now, she's infamous.

"Every time there is a new celebrity scandal, she will be compared to it," Thompson said. "The only time people mention Charles Lindbergh now is when there's a new 'trial of the century.' Martha Stewart will become a benchmark for celebrity scandals, and we always need those because we never have to wait long for the next scandal."

Stewart was convicted Friday of obstructing justice and lying to the government, in a case that had its origins in a

stock sale that saved her less than \$50,000. Her offense involved far less money than the millions at play in scandals such as Enron and WorldCom.

Executives such as Andrew Fastow and Jeffrey Skilling of Enron Corp., Dennis Kozlowski of Tyco International Ltd. and John Rigas of Adelphia Communications Corp. became widely known only after they were indicted. Even then, they remained largely one-dimensional figures: bean counters turned bad boys.

But thanks to her magazine, books,

PLEASE SEE VERDICT, PAGE A4

20 Years In Prison?

Martha Stewart, found guilty Friday of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and two counts of making false statements, faces a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison.

... Not Likely

Under federal guidelines, Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum is likely to sentence Stewart to about a year in prison. Sentencing is set for June 17.

Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda

Second-guessing Martha's choices — in clothes, in handbags, in friends. **Life, D1**

Speculators Guess Wrong

Traders gambling on the jury clearing Stewart got burnt Friday. **Business, E1**

Anatomy Of A Federal Case

A timeline of Stewart's stock transactions and the legal troubles that followed. **Page A4**

A Feast For The Tabloids

Celebrity, crime, money and jail time: All the ingredients were there for a media event. **Page A4**

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INSIDE

Bad News On Jobs

The economy added a meager 21,000 jobs in February, far fewer than the 125,000 predicted by economists. **Business, E1**

State Homeland Security Office Under Fire

By TRACY GORDON FOX
COURANT STAFF WRITER

Calling the Division of Homeland Security an "inept and wasteful bureaucracy," Senate President Pro Tem Kevin B. Sullivan on Friday proposed that the agency be removed from the state police and placed under the Office of Emergency Management.

In testimony before the state legislature's government admin-

istration and elections committee, Sullivan said that without legislative oversight, "what was once a model emergency management system has been turned into a rogue agency more interested in expensive toys than terrorism."

Sullivan told legislators that the homeland security operation "is a disaster waiting to happen" and the agency needs to be completely overhauled. He urged legislators to draft a bill that would at least re-

quire the next director to be approved by the legislature, even if the agency remained under the state police.

Under mounting pressure from Sullivan and local police and fire officials frustrated by homeland security's poor communication, Gov. John G. Rowland now believes "the homeland security apparatus needs to be changed and reformed," Rowland's chief of staff, Dean Pagani, said Friday.

Rowland is considering having the Office of Emergency Management take over distribution of \$26 million in federal grant money to cities and towns, Pagani said. Homeland security also probably will be moved from Waterbury to Hartford, where it will be more centrally located, Pagani said. The Waterbury office is near the home of former Director Vincent DeRo-

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