

tions contained in the language of the Virginia Securities Statute. He ruled that the defendant did not have to know the notes were securities to be convicted of the crime.

Show trial tactics

Rochelle Ascher was initially charged with 12 felony counts, which included two counts of failure to register as a broker-dealer, and to register securities with the State Corporation Commission; 9 counts of fraud related to securities sales to 7 different individuals; and one conspiracy count tacked on later. At the end of the trial, Judge Penn dismissed three of the counts related to individuals, for the prosecution's failure to show that the violations were related to Loudoun County in any way, since she is from Baltimore. Mrs. Ascher was convicted of the nine remaining charges.

A total of 23 "lender" witnesses were called by the government, apparently in order to inflame the jury, even though the defendant was only charged specifically in relationship to 7, and later only 4 individuals.

The four individuals remaining included Robert Ware, Dr. Edward Allen, M. Cathleen Waddell, and State Police Investigator Larry Burchette. Robert Ware forgave all of his loans, and stated to the government before trial, and to the jury during the trial, that he had never been misled or defrauded. Rochelle Ascher was sentenced to 9 years for this "crime."

M. Cathleen Waddell was a major issue in the trial, as she had had a stroke after her association with Mrs. Ascher and the LaRouche-affiliated organizations. She could not remember independently a single conversation or fact concerning any transaction, unless a piece of paper was before her. Mrs. Ascher received 30 years based on testimony of a

person with no memory, who according to all legal observers, should never have been allowed on the stand. Judge Penn ruled her "competent" to testify.

In the case of Burchette, Mrs. Ascher was not the individual, according to the police officer's testimony, who negotiated the note. Furthermore, Burchette himself called the loan a favor, and not an investment.

Loans were not due

However, despite all of these circumstances, one stands out above all. Virtually none of the loans named in the indictment was even due before the bankruptcy took place in 1987. Most of the loans were long-term notes, and not due until after the year 1990.

Sources knowledgeable of the appeal issues in this case, describe the eventual appeal brief as potentially 3,000 pages in length. Untold numbers of errors, plus instances of both judicial and prosecutorial misconduct, are all elements expected to be included.

In a final note, Bruce Lillegard, the jury foreman, is employed by the Defense Mapping Agency of the U.S. Defense Department in Reston, Virginia. It is not known if this represents another case of pre-rigging the jury, as occurred in the Alexandria case against Lyndon LaRouche and six associates, in which the jury foreman, Buster Horton, was also a federal government employee, who turned out to be a member of a secret government team created to handle national emergencies in the United States. Horton, of the U.S. Agriculture Department, worked with others who were deployed on the "Get LaRouche" task force, including and FBI's number-two man, Oliver Revell.

LaRouche: 'Both a crooked judge and a crooked jury'

Lyndon LaRouche issued the following statement from the Alexandria, Virginia Detention Center April 5, on hearing of the results of the trial of Rochelle Ascher.

The results of the Shelley Ascher trial so far prove that the federal government is convinced that it cannot convict any person associated with me without having both a crooked judge and a crooked jury. The blatant facts in this case show there is no doubt that the jury was crooked, and the judge, by being fully aware of the fact that he was proceeding with a crooked jury, was acting in a corrupt manner to continue the trial.

It is a fact that a member of the jury was exposed as both lying, and lying in the attempt to set up the defendant during mid-trial. It was also indicated by testimony in court before the judge that the juror's actions had contaminated the entire jury. There was testimony of a second juror indicating to the falseness of the first juror's statements; there was conclusive evidence that the juror had lied.

So we know in this case therefore that the jury was corrupted thoroughly, and we know in this case that the judge allowed the trial to continue with that jury, without allowing a hearing after hearing evidence which showed that the jury was massively corrupted.

That's the lesson. This is dictatorship. This is fascism. Let's see how the American public responds to this kind of 86-year sentence of an innocent person for doing nothing, because the government found out that by using a corrupt and crooked jury, and a corrupt and crooked judge, it could pull off convictions in such cases.