



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian  
Northern District of New York**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, November 16, 2011  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyn>

CONTACT: William C. Pericak  
Elizabeth C. Coombe  
(518) 431-0247

**Retrial of Former New York State Senate Majority Leader  
Joseph L. Bruno Authorized by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals;  
Sufficient Evidence of Quid Pro Quo Presented at Trial**

ALBANY, N.Y.— In an opinion issued today in *United States v. Joseph L. Bruno*, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated the counts of conviction and authorized a retrial, as requested by the United States. In December of 2009, a jury convicted the former majority leader of the New York State Senate of two counts of honest services fraud. Then, in 2010, the United States Supreme Court decided *United States v. Skilling*, holding that the honest services statute criminalizes only fraudulent schemes involving bribes or kickbacks. Today, the Court of Appeals held that the evidence presented at trial was sufficient for a reasonable jury to find that Bruno accepted “payments that were intended to and did influence his conduct as a public official,” and that “Bruno’s actions deprived New York citizens of his honest services as a New York senator under the standard announced in *Skilling*.”

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and Special-Agent-in-Charge Clifford C. Holly of the Albany Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that, consistent with the Court’s decision, their offices will work expeditiously to present a superseding indictment.