



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ACTING BOSS AND ASSOCIATE OF GENOVESE ORGANIZED CRIME**  
**FAMILY SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CONSPIRACY**  
**TO COMMIT EXTORTION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that Acting Boss of the Genovese Organized Crime Family, DANNY LEO, a/k/a "the Lion," 67, of Rockleigh, New Jersey, and his primary lieutenant, driver, and nephew, JOSEPH LEO, a/k/a "Joey," 46, were sentenced in Manhattan federal court today to 60 and 45 months in prison, respectively, on extortion charges. Both defendants were convicted of conspiracy to extort a loanshark victim; DANNY LEO was also convicted of conspiracy to extort money from an illegal gambling business. The sentences were imposed by United States District Judge LEWIS A. KAPLAN, who also ordered DANNY LEO to forfeit \$75,000 and pay a \$10,000 fine. According to documents filed in this case and statements made during the defendants' October, 2007 guilty plea proceedings:

DANNY and JOSEPH LEO conspired from 2002 to 2006 to commit extortion by threatening a loansharking victim with physical violence and other harm if he did not make prompt repayment of various loans and debts. DANNY LEO also conspired with other members and associates of the Genovese Family from approximately 2003 to 2006 to extort money from the owners and operators of an illegal gambling business by threatening economic harm and violence.

DANNY and JOSEPH LEO were indicted as part of a larger prosecution of the Genovese Family which targeted factions of the Genovese Family based in the Bronx, East Harlem, and Westchester. To date, 36 defendants have pleaded guilty and been sentenced as a result of the investigation.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York City Police Department, and the New York State Police in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ERIC SNYDER, MIRIAM  
ROCAH and JONATHAN KOLODNER are in charge of the prosecution.

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