



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

COLOMBO BROTHERS CREW MEMBER SENTENCED TO OVER
THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR EXTORTION IN
CONNECTION WITH NO-SHOW JOBS

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN P. CONTINO, a member of the Colombo Brothers Crew racketeering enterprise, was sentenced today to 37 months in prison for extortion and mail fraud in connection with a "no-show" job scheme at a Manhattan construction company.

CONTINO pleaded guilty last December to participating in a racketeering enterprise, known as the "Colombo Brothers Crew," through a pattern of racketeering activity. The Indictment alleged that the Colombo Brothers Crew was a spin-off of the Colombo Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra. As part of his plea, CONTINO admitted to engaging in several racketeering acts, including conspiring to extort a Manhattan construction company called EDP from about 1999 through 2002. Contino admitted that he conspired with others to use the Colombo Brothers Crew's corrupt influence over and extortionate control of EDP to take control of most of EDP's business operations, to obtain hundreds of thousands of dollars in compensation for himself, and to obtain no-show jobs, wages, and other benefits for members of the Colombo Brothers crew and some of their family members. CONTINO also pleaded guilty to engaging in extortion and mail fraud in connection with the no-show job of CAROL COLOMBO, the wife of ANTHONY COLOMBO, who, according to the Indictment, was a leader of the Colombo Brothers Crew.

At his plea allocution, CONTINO admitted, "It was planned for EDP entities to become controlled for the benefit of the enterprise, [for] employees to be employed in no-show jobs and to have other moneys obtained for the benefit of the enterprise."

CONTINO was sentenced today by the United States District Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD. In addition to the 37 months in prison, CONTINO was also ordered to make restitution to the owner of the EDP Entities of \$220,832.40.

Mr. GARCIA praised the combined investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Labor, the New York State Attorney General's Office Organized Crime Task Force, and the New York State Police for their work on this case.

CONTINO, 43, lives in Hazlet, New Jersey.

Assistant United States Attorneys LISA A. BARONI and JASON P.W. HALPERIN are in charge of the case.

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