



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY ADDS ALLEGATIONS OF EXTORTIONATE  
ACTS TO CHARGES AGAINST NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN**

LEV L. DASSIN, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that a federal grand jury in Manhattan returned a Superseding Indictment late yesterday which added allegations of extortionate acts to the charges pending against ANTHONY SEMINERIO. SEMINERIO, who has served as a member of the Assembly representing New York's 38th Assembly district in Queens since approximately 1978, was previously charged in a criminal Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court on September 9, 2008, and an Indictment on December 10, 2008, with defrauding the public of his honest services.

According to the Superseding Indictment filed yesterday in Manhattan federal court and court documents previously filed in this case:

From approximately 1999 through September 2008, SEMINERIO defrauded the public of his honest services as a member of the Assembly by using an alleged consulting firm, Marc Consultants, to solicit and receive "consulting" payments from persons and entities having business before the State of New York. SEMINERIO, however, did little or no consulting work, instead receiving approximately \$1 million from various entities with business before the State of New York, in connection with his position as a member of the Assembly and with the performance of his official duties, resulting in favorable treatment for those entities in New York State Government. The entities that made these payments included hospitals and related entities; a consulting firm associated with an educational institution; and a firm engaged in marketing supplemental insurance packages to public institutions.

In 1999, SEMINERIO approached the founder of a Queens-based consulting company ("the Consultant") for whom he had previously worked, and demanded fifty percent of the gross

receipts of the Consultant's company. When the Consultant resisted his demands, SEMINERIO retaliated by writing and calling many of the Consultant's clients, pressuring them to stop paying the Consultant and instead hire SEMINERIO. As a result of SEMINERIO's actions, the Consultant's company lost its client base, and the Consultant terminated the political consulting business.

In the summer of 1999, SEMINERIO repeatedly contacted the president of a Queens, New York-based non-profit organization ("the Executive"), whose organization substantially relied on New York State funding. SEMINERIO asked the Executive to become a client of Marc Consultants, asking repeatedly after the Executive refused to respond. In January 2000, SEMINERIO met with the Executive at SEMINERIO's legislative office in Albany, New York, and warned that if the Executive failed to hire him, SEMINERIO would "kill" any bill the Executive tried to pass in Albany and would ruin the relationship between the Executive and any legislator working with him. After this meeting, the Executive agreed to hire SEMINERIO. Explaining that he would not be a "gavone" about the fee, SEMINERIO proposed a monthly fee of \$700.

In the fall of 2004, on multiple occasions, SEMINERIO asked a senior executive of a Queen-based hospital ("the Non-Client Hospital) to retain Marc Consultants' services. When the hospital executive refused, SEMINERIO asked if the hospital executive knew how miserable SEMINERIO could make the hospital executive's life.

On July 10, 2008, SEMINERIO called a senior New York State health department official ("the Official"), assuring the Official that he had "a friend of me (sic) in the Assembly." The Official mentioned that he had been speaking with a member of the New York State Senate who supported the acquisition of certain hospitals by the Non-Client Hospital, and SEMINERIO replied that he would rather see another hospital (the "Client Hospital") "get it." In response to the Official's statement that the Non-Client Hospital executive claimed to have capital backing for the acquisition, SEMINERIO explained that the executive "never went for three cents in 20 years I know him." SEMINERIO did not disclose to the Official that the Client Hospital had hired him, but that the Non-Client Hospital had refused.

SEMINERIO, 74, of Queens, New York, faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. He is expected to be arraigned on the superseding Indictment on March 26, 2009, at 2:15 p.m. before United States District Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD.

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys DANIEL L. STEIN and WILLIAM J. HARRINGTON are in charge of the prosecution.

The charge contained in the Indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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