

Published on *Citizens' Committee for an Effective Constitution* (<http://nyconstitution.org>)

News Coverage on Ethics

The Many Faces of State Political Scandals

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04/02/2013

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The arrest of State Senator Malcolm A. Smith on Tuesday is the latest in a string of misconduct cases involving New York State elected officials that have solidified Albany's reputation as an ethical cesspool. Over the past seven years, 31 state officeholders have been convicted of a crime, censured or otherwise accused of wrongdoing, according to the New York Public Interest Research Group. The following are some of them:



William F. Boyland Jr.

Charged with numerous federal bribery counts [3], including soliciting bribes to pay for lawyers representing him in a bribery case.



Joseph L. Bruno

Charged with taking bribes and kickbacks ^[4] disguised as consulting payments from an Albany businessman.



Mike Cole

Censured after sleeping at the home of a 21-year-old female intern ^[5] after a night of heavy drinking.



Pedro Espada Jr.

Convicted of siphoning hundreds of thousands of dollars ^[6] from his nonprofit health care network.



Efraín González Jr.

Sentenced on charges of using hundreds of thousands of dollars from nonprofit groups to pay for personal expenses [7].



Diane M. Gordon

Sentenced on charges of helping a developer [8] acquire city-owned land in exchange for building her a house in a gated community in Queens.



Alan G. Hevesi

Served a prison sentence for his role in a sprawling scandal [9] involving the state's pension fund.



Sam Hoyt

Had an affair ^[10] with an intern, was later not permitted to have interns.



Shirley L. Huntley

Pleaded guilty to stealing state grants ^[11] and falsifying evidence.



Stephen M. Katz

Charged with unlawful possession of marijuana ^[12] after he was stopped for speeding.



Carl Kruger

Accepted more than half a million dollars in bribes ^[13] from private businessmen.



Vincent L. Leibell III

Sentenced ^[14] on charges of obstruction of justice ^[15] and tax charges.



Vito J. Lopez

Accused of sexually harassing two women ^[16] who worked in his district office.



Brian M. McLaughlin

Sentenced on [racketeering charges](#) ^[17] that included using embezzlement, fraud and bribes to take money from taxpayers, labor unions and contractors.



Hiram Monserrate

Sentenced to two years in prison ^[18] for misusing city money to pay for a Senate campaign.



Kevin S. Parker

Convicted of two counts of criminal mischief for [damaging a camera](#) ^[19] belonging to a photographer for the New York Post.



Anthony S. Seminerio

Died in prison ^[20] while serving a sentence for influence peddling.



Ada L. Smith

Convicted of speeding through a security checkpoint ^[21] and of harassing an aide who said the senator had thrown coffee at her.



Nicholas A. Spano

Sentenced on charges of tax evasion ^[22].



Eliot Spitzer

Resigned over an alleged liaison with a prostitute ^[23].

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