

Political aide gets probation for township election fraud

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A DuPage County political consultant, convicted in March of election fraud, avoided a jail term Friday when he was sentenced to 2 years' probation.

Rodney McCulloch, 43, of Westmont was also sentenced by Judge Michael Burke to 150 hours of public service and ordered to pay \$200 to a county anti-crime fund.

McCulloch had faced up to 5 years in prison after Burke convicted him of perjury and disregard for the election code.

McCulloch was convicted of signing the election petitions, claiming that he saw the actual citizens' signatures being made, and acquitted of forging those signatures.

"This was a violation of the public trust, but it is a non-violent crime and except for a DUI in the 1980s, you have no criminal record," Burke said.

McCulloch had been hired by James Gumm, the incumbent Milton Township assessor, to collect his nominating petitions for the 2005 Republican primary.

When Gumm discovered his petitions contained hundreds of possible forgeries, he withdrew from the race.

McCulloch contended that he hired a man he had met at a DeKalb bar and a homeless person who lived under a bridge in Oswego to collect the signatures, but he didn't know their last names.

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