

**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF DUTCHESS COUNTY**

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June 28, 2012

Corbin Carson  
News 21 Journalist  
Cronkite School of Journalism  
555 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Dear Mr. Carson:

Our office is in receipt of a Freedom of Information Law request from Professor Stephen K. Doig for information concerning Voting Fraud cases here in Dutchess County, prosecuted since the year 2000.

Our records indicate only a single Voting Fraud case which was prosecuted during that time period. The case involved a candidate for the office of Town Supervisor in the Town of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County, New York. The defendant's full name was Richard Saint Angel. He was accused of multiple counts of Penal Law Perjury, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing as a result of the discovery of literally hundreds of falsified petition signatures provided to our County Board of Elections in his attempt to get on the ballot as a Town Supervisor candidate.

The election involved was the 2005 local election here in Dutchess County, specifically the election for Town Supervisor in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The defendant was indicted by a Dutchess County Grand Jury on January 19, 2006 and charged with multiple counts of Perjury in the First Degree in violation of Section 2.10 (15) of the New York State Penal Law, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree in violation of Section 170.25 of the New York State Penal Law and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, in violation of Section 175.35 of the New York State Penal Law.

The defendant was convicted by plea to certain of these charges to cover the balance in March of 2006 and was sentenced to one year in the Dutchess County Jail, concurrent on each charge.

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Your requests indicate a desire to know what section of the Election Code was violated. While the defendant's acts concerned Election Fraud, the laws under which he was charged were all violations of the New York State Penal Law.

If I can be of any further help with you, with regard to this matter, please feel free to let me know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward F. Whitesell".

Edward F. Whitesell  
Bureau Chief  
Special Prosecutions

EFW/lf