



NEWS RELEASE

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CAPITOL OFFENSES:
















A REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL CONDUCT, SELF-DEALING AND ETHICAL LAPSES OF NEW YORK'S PUBLIC OFFICIALS














The conviction of former Senate Majority Leader Skelos adds to the Albany's already swollen "Rogues Gallery" of corrupt and unethical elected officials. New Yorkers want action, not finger pointing exercises designed to wait out public anger. The state Capitol cannot be a political high-crime area and maintain public trust.









Inaction speaks louder than words. Failure by Governor Cuomo to convene a special session on ethics and inaction by the legislature can only be understood as a defense of Albany's status quo. The key measures for consideration must include: (1) a Congressional-style cap on outside income; (2) overhaul of the state's ethics watchdogs to ensure independence; (3) closure of the LLC loophole; and (4) transparent checks and balances on public spending. NYPIRG has categorized over a decade's worth of Capitol Offenses by state public officials into four categories to help New Yorkers understand the breadth and depth of misconduct on the Hudson in the 21st Century.

A REVIEW OF ALBANY'S ETHICAL FAILURES, 2000-2015*

Elected Official	Monetizing public office	Stealing public funds	Gaming Political System	Personal Indiscretion
Skelos				
Silver				
Libous				
Rosa				
Scarborough				

Boyland				
Gabryszak				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Rodriguez				 DWI
Kellner				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Sampson				
Stevenson				
Castro				
Smith, M.				
Katz				 Marijuana possession
Lopez, V.				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Spano, N.				 Tax evasion
Huntley				
Kruger				
Parker				 Anger management
Espada				

Monserrate				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Leibell				
Powell				 DWI
Seminerio				
Sabini				 DWI
Gordon				
Bruno	Used public office for private financial gain (acquitted on appeal)			
Gonzalez				
Hoyt				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Cole				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Camara				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Smith, A				 Inappropriate personal behavior
McLaughlin				
Karben				 Inappropriate personal behavior

Norman				
Veleva				
Green				
Johnson, J.				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Davis				
Spitzer				 Inappropriate personal behavior
Paterson				
Hevesi				
TOTAL: 41 (+1 acquittal)				
*Source: List developed by Gannett News Service, available at http://pressconnects.nydatabases.com/database/troubled-ny-lawmakers . Spitzer, Paterson and Hevesi added by NYPIRG.				