



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**LUCHESE UNDERBOSS AND CAPTAIN PLEAD  
GUILTY TO EXTORTION CHARGES IN FEDERAL COURT**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI New York Field Office, announced that the alleged Underboss and a Captain in the Luchese Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court to one count each of conspiring to extort various local construction companies.

Luchese Underboss STEVEN CREA, a/k/a "Stevie Crea," a/k/a "Stevie Wonder," and Luchese Captain or "Capo" DOMINIC TRUSCELLO, a/k/a "Dom Truscello," a/k/a "Crazy Dom," pled guilty to conspiring to extort local construction companies for several years beginning in the mid-1990's.

These guilty pleas cap a series of racketeering, extortion and loansharking cases brought by the U.S. Attorney's

Office for the Southern District of New York against members and associates of the Luchese Organized Crime Family. Since September 5, 2002, a total of 5 Indictments have been filed against 8 members and associates of the Luchese Organized Crime Family, including CREA, who is alleged to be the Underboss of the Luchese Crime Family, and TRUSCELLO, who is alleged to be a Captain in the Family. All 8 defendants have now been convicted through guilty pleas.

The Indictment against CREA charges that since at least 1994 he used his position as Underboss of the Family to extort the operators of Scalamandre Construction Company. Similarly, the Indictment against TRUSCELLO charges that since at least the mid-1990's he used his position as a Captain in the Family to extort the operators of Commercial Brick Construction Company.

On September 3, 2003, Luchese soldiers CARLO PROFETA and JOHN VANASCO, a/k/a "Johnny V," a/k/a "Joe," similarly pled guilty to racketeering charges and conspiring to extort a local fuel transportation company. VANASCO, and Luchese associate EARL "Boobie" REYNOLDS, also pled guilty to conspiring to extort a local group of restaurants. On December 17, 2002 and April 10, 2003, respectively, Luchese members JOSEPH "Little Joe" DIBENEDETTO and DOMENICO "Danny" CUTAIA pled guilty to conspiring to commit loansharking violations. Finally, on March 7, 2003, Luchese member JOSEPH "Big Joe" DATELLO pled guilty to extorting the Commercial

Brick Construction Company, wire fraud in relation to a construction project at the Park Central Hotel, and loansharking. Seven of the 8 defendants are currently awaiting sentencing. On September 26, 2003, CUTAIA was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment.

United States District Judge KIMBA M. WOOD set January 8, 2004, at 9:30 and 10:00 A.M. as the sentencing dates for CREA and TRUSCELLO, respectively. CREA and TRUSCELLO each face a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from their crimes.

CREA, 56, lives in New York City.

TRUSCELLO, 69, lives in Wayne, New Jersey.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the FBI in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ERIC B. BRUCE and JOON H. KIM are in charge of the prosecution.

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