

KOSHER NOSTRA

The key players

SOLOMON DWEK, 36, cooperating witness. Charged in 2006 with \$50 million bogus-check scheme; case still pending. Working with feds, infiltrated alleged \$3 million money-laundering network of Brooklyn and Jersey rabbis. Simultaneously posed as real-estate developer and business owner to catch cops in public corruption scheme



MOSHE "MICHAEL" ALTMAN, 39, Monsey, NY, real-estate developer — charged with laundering more than \$600,000 in dirty checks through nonprofits controlled by rabbis. He is allegedly the intermediary who introduced cooperating witness Solomon Dwek to a Jersey City building inspector who took a bribe that sparked the New Jersey public-corruption portion of the federal probe

LEONA BELDINI, 74, Deputy mayor of Jersey City — accused of taking \$20,000 in illegal campaign contributions



DANIEL VAN PELT, 44, Republican state assemblyman and former Ocean Township, NJ, mayor — accused of taking \$10,000 cash bribe



L. HARVEY SMITH, 60, Democratic state assemblyman and recent Jersey City mayoral candidate — accused of taking \$15,000 in bribes in return for approval of building projects



ANTHONY SUAREZ, 42, Mayor of Ridgefield, NJ — accused of agreeing to accept \$10,000 in dirty money for his legal defense fund



DENNIS ELWELL, 64, Mayor of Secaucus, NJ, accused of taking \$10,000 cash bribe

PETER CAMMARANO, 32, Mayor of Hoboken (Took office July 1) — accused of taking \$25,000 in bribes, including \$10,000 last Thursday



RABBI MORDCHAI FISH, 56, (right) leader of Sheves Achim synagogue, Midwood, Brooklyn — charged with money laundering



RABBI LAVEL SCHWARTZ, 57, Fish's brother — charged with money laundering

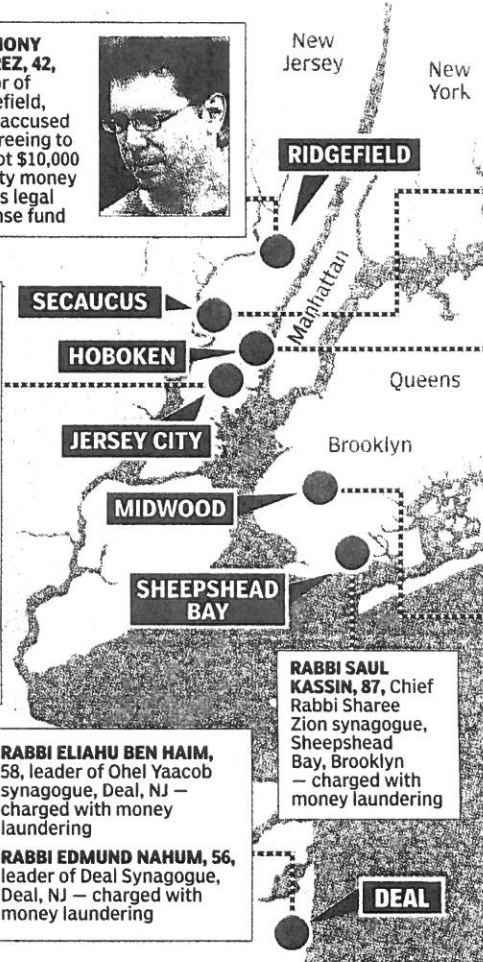
RABBI SAUL KASSIN, 87, Chief Rabbi Sharee Zion synagogue, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn — charged with money laundering

RABBI ELIAHU BEN HAIM, 58, leader of Ohel Yaacob synagogue, Deal, NJ — charged with money laundering

RABBI EDMUND NAHUM, 56, leader of Deal Synagogue, Deal, NJ — charged with money laundering

LEVI DEUTSCH, 37, Brooklyn, Israeli citizen — charged with money laundering

LEVY IZHAK ROSENBAUM, 58, Brooklyn — accused of conspiring to broker the sale of a human kidney bought from Israel for a transplant in US in exchange for \$160,000



Another wound for weakened Corzine

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

The sweeping corruption case that ensnared politicians across a swath of New Jersey may claim one more Democratic pol by default — Gov. Jon Corzine, who is already on the ropes in his reelection bid.

Corzine is more than 10 percentage points behind Republican Chris Christie in the most recent polls — and he won't be helped by the fact that his rival is the former federal prosecutor who

launched the original corruption probe, experts and others said.

"I think it demonstrates that Jon Corzine had his opportunity to reform New Jersey and didn't succeed. I think that's the way it'll play out in the minds of voters," former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a major Christie supporter, told The Post.

"A governor who was a reformer would have dealt with [this level of corruption] a long time ago."

At a minimum, it gives Christie

— who is getting battered by multimillionaire Corzine's negative ads — something to combat the attacks with.

Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf, who has worked with New Jersey politicians, said dryly, "It's not the best day Jon Corzine ever had."

One New Jersey Democrat, who asked not to be identified, described the scandal as "surmountable, but it won't be easy."

The Democrat added that there were many problems for Corzine

in the arrests, including some logistical ones — such as some of the arrests taking place in Hudson County, one of the state's most Democratic, meaning that pieces of the party's get-out-the-vote machinery are hobbled.

Corzine immediately announced he was firing his Community Affairs commissioner, Joe Doria, a Bayonne Democrat who hasn't been charged but has seen his records confiscated from his house and his office.

Sheinkopf and others said the

governor will need to do more.

"In order for Corzine to get ahead of this, he's going to have to announce sweeping changes and figure out a way to put them in place almost instantly," he said.

Still, Patrick Murray of the Monmouth University Polling Institute said "corruption" ranks as a major issue with just 4 percent of cynical state voters.

"In the long term, I don't think this is going to be an issue," he said.

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