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**DISBARRED ATTORNEY CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH FORGERY
OF JUDGE'S SIGNATURE**

Allegedly Possessed Forged Court Order Relating To \$35,000 Escrow Fund

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an attorney who was disbarred last June following a conviction for possession of a forged instrument in Suffolk County has now been charged with possessing the forged signature of a Queens Supreme Court Justice on a fake court order in an effort to hold on to \$35,000 of a client's money being held in an escrow fund.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of using his position of trust as an attorney to break the law. His alleged actions not only dishonor the other men and women of the New York State bar who take great pride in their work but erode public confidence in the integrity of the judicial system."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Bryan J. Holzberg, 53, of 121 Reid Avenue, in Port Washington, New York. Holzberg is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on one count of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument. He is currently serving a sentence of probation after pleading guilty to the same charge in a separate case in Suffolk County last December. He was disbarred on June 16, 2009. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant was given \$35,000 to hold in an escrow account in connection with a real estate transaction. When the real estate transaction did not go forward the defendant was asked to return the funds to Abraham Gabbay and Nachmy Bronstein in their corporate status as House of Tsui Corporation. After repeated demands for the funds were ignored, according to the complaint, Gabbay met with the defendant at a Brooklyn restaurant on October 1, 2009, and he showed Gabbay a copy of a purported Order To Show Cause signed and stamped by the Honorable Charles J. Markey of the Queens Supreme Court which refused the requested order that would release the money held in escrow. When detectives showed a copy of the purported order to Judge Markey he told them that he did not create or sign the order or authorize anyone else to issue it.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Joseph Brancaccio of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Chief Investigator Lawrence J. Festa and Deputy Chief Investigator Albert D. Velardi.

District Attorney Brown would like to thank Justice Markey and his staff at 25-10 Court Square in Long Island City for their cooperation in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Phyllis C. Weiss, of the District Attorney's Integrity Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys James M. Liander, Bureau Chief, and Carmencita N. Gutierrez, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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