Welcome! Login | Signup

yourHoustonNews.com

CLASSIFIEDS JOBS AUTOS HOMES FIND A BUSINESS | PLACE AN AD

76°clear

Home News Sports Living Opinion Photos Celebrations HerEntertainment Obituaries Contact Us Careers at HCN

Monday November 10, 2014

National News

World News

Storm Center

Font Size:

GO

Search the Archives

Follow @ConroeCourier



Business Spotlight

Shell FCU is a member owned and operated cooperative serving Harris County. We offer a wide range of services at no-cost or at lower costs than traditional financial institutions, including more favorable rates on dividends and loans. 713-844-1100. www.ShellFCU.org

Lawmaker cleared on felony charges, found guilty of misdemeanor solicitation

Comments Story Image (2) **g**+1 0 Recommend < 10 Tweet < 5

Previous Next



@WireImgId=2696498

REYNOLDS





Advertisement

charged last year.

Posted: Friday, November 7, 2014 9:57 pm | Updated: 10:01 pm, Fri Nov 7, 2014

Print

By Brandon K. Scott

A Montgomery County jury found Rep. Ron Reynolds, D-Missouri City, guilty of misdemeanor solicitation of professional employment for illegally obtaining clients as a personal injury claims attorney.

Reynolds was convicted Friday of a lesser unlawful solicitation charge and dismissed of the six counts of felony barratry, for which he faced trial this past week in the 221st state District Court.

Defense attorneys for Reynolds, who was re-elected to the House District 27 seat Tuesday on the second day of this trial, contend that he never knowingly accepted clients illegally.

They argued that Reynolds was only part of an illegal operation run solely by Robert Valdez Sr., who had a network of attorneys, medical clinics and body shops he referred clients to in exchange for money.

Valdez, who is serving a five-year sentence on related barratry charges, testified for the jury earlier in the week and testimony from clients spelled out there was a business relationship between Reynolds and Valdez.

Yet defense attorneys in cross examinations always presented the possibility that Valdez illegally solicited clients without Reynolds' knowledge, and that sometimes Valdez provided legal referrals.

Reynolds has claimed his innocence since he was

vourHouston 0 Get Started Now

He was one of eight Houston area attorneys accused of conspiring with Valdez, a habitual felon who ran two medical centers in Houston, but lived in Conroe, where prosecutors allege Valdez had a home office that stored multiple records implicating Reynolds.

A felony conviction would have forced Reynolds to resign from the legislature and lose his license to practice law, his defense attorney Stephen Jackson said.

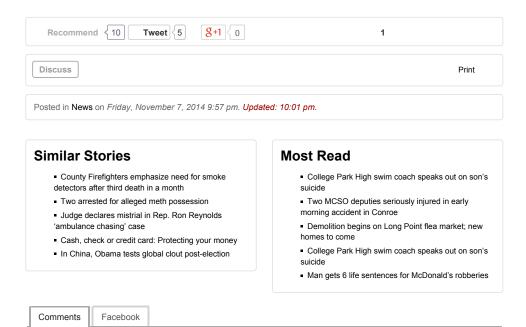
Reynolds' civil attorneys will deal with his state bar issues.

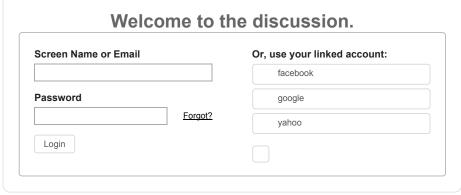
Barratry is defined by Texas law as a person such as "an attorney, chiropractor, physician, surgeon or private investigator licensed to practice in this state or any person licensed, certified or registered by a healthcare regulatory agency of this state who, with the intent to obtain professional employment for the person or for another, provides or knowingly permits to be provided to an individual who has not sought the person's employment, legal representation, advice or care a written communication or a solicitation."

The law specifically speaks to soliciting employment for personal injury, wrongful death, accidents or disasters.

"I have tried over 200 jury trials in my career and represented probably over 12,000 clients and I've never seen a barratry case in my career," Jackson said. "So that's how rare it is. And I think the statute is very confusing and difficult for people to understand. I think the jury saw through it, that he did not commit the offense of barratry. He didn't know these cases were illegally solicited."

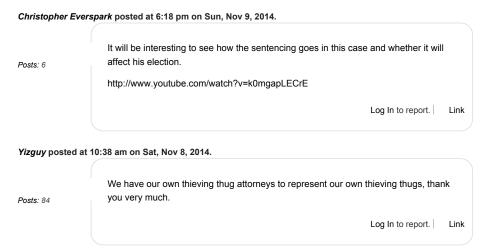
The sentencing phase of the trial will resume Monday at 9 a.m. Reynolds could face up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine. He is also eligible for probation.





Need an account? Create one now.

3 comments:



Yizguy posted at 10:09 am on Sat, Nov 8, 2014.

Keep your thieving thug rear end down in the Houston hood representing your thieving thug constituents and keep outta Montgomery County!

Log In to report. Link

HOUSTON NEWS		LOCAL COMMUNITIES		MARKETPLACE	SERVICES	MEMBERSHIP
Home Blogs Photos Calendar Celebrations Obituaries	Storm Center Entertainment HS Gridiron Business Pets Health Weather 101 Houston	Atascocita Observer Bay Area Citizen Bellaire Examiner Cleveland Advocate Conroe Courier Cypress Creek Mirror Dayton News Deer Park Broadcaster East Montgomery Observer Eastex Advocate Fort Bend Sun Friendswood Journal Humble Observer	Kingwood Observer Lake Houston Observer Magnolia Potpourri Memorial Examiner Pasadena Citizen Pearland Journal River Oaks Examiner Spring Observer Sugar Land Sun The Rancher Tomball Potpourri West University Examiner Woodlands Villager	Classifieds Jobs Homes Autos Business Directory Celebrations Obituaries Legals	Help Advertising Services Place a Classified ad Subscription Services RSS Feeds Contact Us Site index Careers at HCN Search Search	Sign up Log in
<u>Terms of service</u> <u>Privacy statement</u> <u>FAQs</u> © Copyright 2014, Your Houston News, The Woodlands, TX.						

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/courier/news/lawmaker-cleared-on-felony-charges-guilty-of-misdemeanor-solicitation/article_7ec94a9e-a7e2-5f2f-95... 3/3