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## *George Martorano: A Drug Kingpin with In-House Counsel*

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In 1978, the Pennsylvania Crime Commission issued a public report titled, "A Chester City Racketeer: Hidden Interests Revealed." In it, the Commission detailed the financial and business holdings of Frank Miller, then a major gambling figure in Chester, Delaware County.

Miller operated an illegal numbers business estimated to have a gross income of between \$8 million and \$11 million. The 1978 report documented vast business holdings in Delaware County that were "fronted" by various Miller relatives and associates. The holdings included bars, apartment houses, single family rental units and a fuel oil company.

The Crime Commission report pointed out that Frank Miller could not have successfully insulated himself from exposure in his business transactions for as long as he did without the counsel and expertise of various professionals. Attorneys, realtors, accountants, and other businessmen, many of whom were aware of Miller's illegal activities, aided him in his acquisition of real estate and businesses.

What was true in 1978 in Chester with respect to the Frank Miller gambling operation was again revealed in 1984 in Philadelphia in the relationship between Philadelphia attorney Kevin J. Rankin and convicted narcotics trafficker George Martorano, the son of long time organized crime figure Raymond Martorano.

The George Martorano/Kevin J. Rankin relationship, however, was successfully interdicted by the actions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U. S. Strike Force in Philadelphia with respect to at least several businesses used as "fronts" for the Martorano narcotics network.

Raymond Martorano was a long time confidant of the late Angelo Bruno, leader of the Philadelphia organized crime family until his murder in 1980. Raymond was convicted in 1982 of conspiracy to distribute drugs and was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison. He also was charged that year with the murder of John McCullough, president of Roofers Union Local #30 in Philadelphia. He was convicted in 1984 and is incarcerated in a federal prison.

George Martorano's mother, Evelyn, has been (and is) a corporate officer for a variety of businesses which are suspected "fronts" for Raymond and George Martorano. The businesses include bars, restaurants, vending operations and investment properties.

Although George Martorano had no criminal record until his 1984 narcotics conviction, he has since 1972 had a role in a number of businesses related to his father; his uncle, John Martorano; and Bruno.

