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**POLITICAL CORRUPTION RING UNCOVERED
RESULTING IN MULTIPLE INDICTMENTS**

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA: Four individuals have been indicted on a combined 11 felony and 26 misdemeanor counts for their roles in a money laundering conspiracy involving six different political campaigns for state office. The defendants, Mark Leggio, Nicola Cacucciolo, Nick Vito Cacucciolo and James Lloyd Deremiah appeared this morning in the San Bernardino Superior Court for an arraignment. The arraignment was continued to July 11th. The indictment, which had been under seal since June 11th, was unsealed this morning.

In 2006, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office began investigating suspicious financial activity in a Riverside County State Assembly race for the 65th District. During that process, investigators uncovered unusual financial activities involving Mark Christopher Chevrolet in Ontario and Mountain View Chevrolet in Upland. An investigation was launched and it was discovered that the financial crimes extended beyond Riverside County. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office then partnered with the California Attorney General to investigate and prosecute the series of crimes extending beyond Riverside County.

The charges stem from illegal monetary contributions made by the defendants to at least six different political campaigns for state office. The timing and pattern of these contributions demonstrated that defendant Leggio had reimbursed employees and friends for making those political contributions.

"Democracy is the foundation of our society. The process by which we citizens elect our leaders and representatives must be honest and free from all corruption. Money laundering in elections hides a

candidate's true support. When it is of this significant magnitude a fraud is perpetrated on the public," District Attorney Rod Pacheco said.

"Leggio contributed over \$50,000 in excess of the campaign contribution limit to six candidates for Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization by filtering the money through friends and associates, three of whom are co-defendants," Attorney General Jerry Brown said. "Today's charges send a strong message that the state will crack down on those who try to exceed campaign finance limits in California."

In 20 days, a full California State Grand Jury transcript including all of the findings in this case can be made public. Prosecutors will be strongly advocating for the public release of that document in an effort to maintain transparency. Until the transcript is made available publicly, no further details of the findings can be released.

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