

The big sting and the big lawyers

The 44 defendants arrested in the wide-ranging federal sting operation on July 23 have begun retaining some of New Jersey's most specialized and high-profile attorneys to defend them against allegations of money laundering and corruption. Some initially were represented by federal public defenders but are likely to switch lawyers.

MONEY-LAUNDERING DEFENDANTS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS

Those charged with money laundering include five rabbis and others with ties to religious charities, as well as several individuals who allegedly acted as cash couriers. Some of the attorneys listed below are from New York and may not yet be admitted to practice in New Jersey. Others are being initially represented by attorneys who do not specialize in criminal law, who are not likely to stay on the case.

DEFENDANT	POSITION	CHARGE	ATTORNEY	RÉSUMÉ/BIG CASES
Eliahu Ben Haim, 58, Long Branch	Principal rabbi at Congregation Ohel Yaacob in Deal	Money laundering	Michael O'Donnell	Former N.J. deputy attorney general.
Schmulik Cohen, 35, Brooklyn	Allegedly ran a cash house in Brooklyn	Money laundering and illegal money transmitting	Federal public defender	
Levi Deutsch, 37, Brooklyn	Identified as an Israeli source of cash	Money laundering	Joseph Grob	Brooklyn-based criminal defense lawyer, represented one of three teens charged in 1995 with attempted murder after the highly publicized, racially motivated beatings of one Hispanic man and four Asians in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. More recent clients included an English teacher fired after thousands of child-porn images, some involving infants, were found on his home computer.
Yeshayahu Ehrental, 65, Brooklyn	Allegedly ran a cash house in Brooklyn	Money laundering and illegal money transmitting	Richard Finkel	Former assistant DA, Kings County, N.Y.
Mordchai Fish, 56, Brooklyn	Rabbi of Congregation Sheves Achim in Brooklyn	Money laundering	Michael Bachner	Former assistant DA in the Rackets Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.
Yolie Gertner, 30, Brooklyn	Allegedly a cash courier	Money laundering	Attorney not assigned	
David S. Goldhirsh, 30, Brooklyn	Allegedly a cash courier	Money laundering	Alan Vinegrad	Former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. Participated in four lengthy trials arising from the assault of Abner Louima by members of the New York City Police Department's 70th Precinct in Brooklyn.
Saul Kassir, 87, Brooklyn	Chief rabbi of Shaare Zion in Brooklyn	Money laundering	Gerald L. Shargel and Robert Stahl	Shargel is a Manhattan defense lawyer known for winning the 1991 acquittal of mob boss John Gotti Sr. on charges he ordered the murder of a labor union official. Shargel also represented Gotti nemesis Sammy "The Bull" Gravano, and more recently handled the case of Daniel Pelosi, who was convicted of bludgeoning to death millionaire financier Ted Ammon in his East Hampton mansion in 2001. Robert G. Stahl, former assistant U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, is a Westfield defense lawyer specializing in white-collar crime and corporate criminal defense. Stahl's clients include the former chief energy trader for NUI Energy Brokers accused of using sham transactions to boost profits, he was involved in case of six state Treasury Department employees accused of misconduct and represented an animal rights activist accused of harassing employees and clients of an animal research laboratory.
 Edmund Nahum, 56, Deal	Principal rabbi at Deal Synagogue	Money laundering	 Justin Walder	A senior partner of Walder, Hayden & Brogan in Roseland. Latest clients included Howard Schoor, the 70-year-old founder of a prominent engineering firm and one of the state's biggest government contractors, who was spared a prison term earlier this year for paying what federal authorities called a \$15,000 "gratuity" to two Ocean Township officials.
Abraham Pollack, 40, Brooklyn	Allegedly ran a cash house in Brooklyn	Money laundering	Donald Pols	Partner in New York firm of Beilis & Pols, handles tax and civil cases as well as white collar crime.
Lavel Schwartz, 57, Brooklyn	Rabbi in Brooklyn	Money laundering	Paul Shechtman	Former assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York and director of Criminal Justice for the state of New York under Gov. George E. Pataki.
Binyomin Spira, 28, Brooklyn	Allegedly ran cash house from his bakery	Money laundering	Avi Moskowitz	Former assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York. Represented Anthony Delvescovo, director of tunnel operations for Schiavone Construction, who was cleared of taking kickbacks on projects like the huge city water tunnel being built under the West Side.
Naftoly Weber, 40, Brooklyn	Allegedly ran a cash house in Brooklyn	Money laundering	Donald Pols	See Pollack
Arye Weiss, 34, Brooklyn	Allegedly ran a cash house in Brooklyn	Money laundering	Jacob Laufer	Brooklyn lawyer, specializing in fraud, business and tax law, regularly represents members of the New York Orthodox Jewish community in civil and criminal litigation. He has been representing Rabbi Avrohom Reichman, the former principal of the United Talmudical Academy in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, against a lawsuit filed by a former student who claims he was sexually abused by the rabbi and that the school covered it up.
Human organ trafficking				
Levy-Izhak Rosenbaum, 58, Brooklyn	Allegedly brokered kidneys	Conspiracy to transport human organs	Richard Finkel	See Ehrental