



## Who is Benjamin Civiletti?

U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, chief architect of the Justice Department's assault on the labor-industry alliance with Abscam, Brilab, Pendorf, has built his career watergating others. Civiletti's initial exposure to the Gestapo tactics essential to these "sting" operations, was gained first hand as one of the "bright young men" brought into the Justice Department by Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

Fresh out of the University of Maryland Law School, Civiletti was named Assistant in 1962 to then U.S. Attorney Joseph Tydings. "He was hard-working. Not from a prominent family, but hard-working," the son of a former Maryland Senator told *EIR* recently. Tydings had himself been awarded his appointment for managing John F. Kennedy's 1960 Maryland campaign.

Tydings and his staff featured prominently in Bobby Kennedy's "war on organized crime," and the Baltimore U.S. Attorney's office became a model for others to follow. Kennedy frequently visited to map out new tactics with Tydings. "We got away with things no one else in the country could do," Tydings told *EIR*: "Of course, that was in 1962. Today, our methods have become standard operating procedure."

Introduced into the old-guard Episcopalian and Zionist families who run Baltimore, Civiletti was invited to join the elite law firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard. He remained with this firm until named Assistant Attorney General at the DoJ's Criminal Division in 1977.

Many of Civiletti's Baltimore associates played prominent roles in Watergate, the first phase of the Trilateral Commission's current "sting" operations against the labor-industry alliance. The infamous "plumbers unit" which carried out the actual Watergate break-in foisted itself on the White House in the same way the "sheik" did Abscam victims. Informants "leaked" the coverup to reporters at the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe* who were complicit in the "scam."

Stephen Sachs, one of Civiletti's close friends on Tydings' staff, handled the "Dump Agnew First" phase of Watergate as then U.S. Attorney for Baltimore. Sachs also "mopped up" Agnew's local political machine by prosecuting Md. Gov. Marvin Mandel.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.), formerly a Congressman who drew the first bill of impeachment against Nixon for the House Judiciary Committee, had been a patron of Civiletti's at Venable, Baetjer and Howard and later recruited him to be treasurer of his 1966 congressional campaign. Robert Shelton, another former Civiletti law partner, joined Sarbanes as associate counsel to the Judiciary Committee, whose members were instrumental in redirecting the DoJ into its "war on white collar crime" after Watergate.

Appointed Assistant to Attorney General Griffin Bell in repayment for running Carter's 1976 Maryland campaign, Civiletti used his Watergate experience to handle a series of follow-up scandals with which the Trilateral Commission sought to further consolidate power. Among these were: Koreagate which heavily targeted the machine of Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards; and, Lancegate which threatened to sink the Carter administration when Jimmy Carter leaned too heavily on his "Georgia Mafia" friends.

Civiletti has earned a reputation as a "killer prosecutor" in his dealings with congressmen, labor leaders, and others in Abscam and Brilab. Yet, he has set an all-time record by freeing 20 terrorists since taking office.

Among these are four Puerto Rican terrorists who are the symbolic heroes of the FALN. Three were jailed for an armed attack on Congress and the fourth for attempting to assassinate Pres. Harry S. Truman! "Civiletti was the brains behind the release," Rep. García (D-N.Y.) told *EIR*. "They never would have been released without his efforts." No sooner freed, than the four unrepentent terrorists called for "the liberation of Puerto Rico from Yankee Imperialism by any means necessary."