



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 1, 2011**

**No. 11-006**

*Media Contacts: Lacy Wilcox, Special Assistant, 907.465.2301*

## **Anchorage Gaming Operator Indicted**

**Anchorage-** Abraham Joseph Spicola (“Abe Spicola”), age 36, was indicted on August 26, 2011, by an Anchorage Grand Jury on nine felony counts relating to his conduct while acting as a gaming operator for three non-profit charities: Anchorage Community Theatre (ACT), Alaska Bikers Advocating for Training and Education (A.B.A.T.E.) and Standing Together Against Rape (STAR). Spicola was the owner of Lucky Times Pulltabs and operated the Alaska’s ¼ and ½ Million Dollar Lottos. Spicola’s operator’s license was revoked by the Department of Revenue, effective August 16, 2011.

Spicola was arraigned in Anchorage Superior Court on August 30, 2011. Bail was set at \$10,000.00 cash or corporate performance bond with the following condition that he have no direct or indirect contact with the witnesses involved in the case.

Spicola was indicted on the following counts: (1) one count of Theft in the First Degree, a Class B Felony; (1) one count of Theft in the Second Degree, (2) two counts of Falsifying Business Records, (2) two counts of Misappropriation of Property, and (2) two counts of Scheme to Defraud -Class C felonies. The investigation was conducted by the Criminal Investigations Unit of the State Of Alaska, Department of Revenue – the agency tasked with regulating charitable gaming in the State Of Alaska.

Spicola was also indicted by the same Grand Jury for Theft in the Second Degree, a Class C felony, relating to his receipt of Unemployment Insurance Benefits between March 10, 2007, and August 15, 2007. The investigation was conducted by State of Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Unemployment Insurance Investigations Unit – the agency tasked with enforcing unemployment benefit insurance laws and regulations in the State Of Alaska.

If found guilty of a Class C felony, Spicola could face up to five years in jail, and up to a \$50,000 fine. If found guilty of a Class B felony, Spicola could face up to 10 years in jail, and up to a \$100,000 fine.

Readers are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. A Grand Jury Indictment is merely an accusation. See, Alaska Rule of Professional Conduct 3.6(b).

\*\*\*\*