

Due to the lapse in appropriations, Department of Justice websites will not be regularly updated. Please refer to the Department of Justice's contingency plan

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# Operation Greylord

(<https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page.do?tid=1050767>/download) for more information.

It was one of the most important cases in the annals of public corruption investigations in the United States.

On March 15, 1984, in a federal courtroom in Chicago, a jury found Harold Conn guilty on all four counts of accepting bribes to be passed on to Cook County, Illinois judges as payment for fixing tickets. The evidence? He had been caught live on FBI tapes.

This “bagman” had been Deputy Traffic Court Clerk in the Cook County judicial system, and he was the first defendant to be found guilty in a mammoth sting investigation of crooked officials in the Cook County courts.

It was called Operation Greylord, named after the curly wigs worn by British judges. And in the end—through undercover operations that used honest and very courageous judges and lawyers posing as crooked ones... and with the strong assistance of the Cook County court and local police—92 officials had been indicted, including 17 judges, 48 lawyers, eight policemen, 10 deputy sheriffs, eight court officials, and one state legislator. Nearly all were convicted, most of them pleading guilty. It was an important first step to cleaning up the administration of justice in Cook County.

That's really the whole point. Abuse of the public trust cannot and must not be tolerated. Corrupt practices in government strike at the heart of social order and justice. And that's why the FBI has the ticket on investigations of public corruption as a top priority.

Historically, of course, these cases were considered local matters. A county court clerk taking bribes? Let the county handle it.

But in the 1970s, state and local officials asked for help. They didn't have the resources to handle such intense cases, and they valued the authority and credibility that outside investigators brought to the table. By 1976, the Department of Justice had created a Public Integrity Section, and the FBI was tasked with the investigations, focusing on major, systemic corruption in the body politic.

**9/11 Investigation** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/911-investigation>)

**ABSCAM** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/abscam>)

**Alcatraz Escape** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/alcatraz-escape>)

**Al Capone** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/al-capone>)

**Aldrich Ames** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/aldrich-ames>)

**Alger Hiss** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/alger-hiss>)

**Amerithrax or Anthrax Investigation** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/amerithrax-or-anthrax-investigation>)

**Ana Montes: Cuban Spy** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/ana-montes-cuba-spy>)

**Atom Spy Case/Rosenbergs** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/atom-spy-caserosenbergs>)

**Baptist Street Church Bombing** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/baptist-street-church-bombing>)

**Barker/Karpis Gang** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/barker-karpis-gang>)

**Beltway Snipers** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/beltway-snipers>)

**Black Tom 1916 Bombing** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/black-tom-1916-bombing>)

**Bonnie and Clyde** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/bonnie-and-clyde>)

**Brian P. Regan Espionage** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/brian-p-regan-espionage>)

**Brink's Robbery** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/brinks-robbery>)

**Charles Ross Kidnapping** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/charles-ross-kidnapping>)

**D.B. Cooper Hijacking** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/db-cooper-hijacking>)

**Duquesne Spy Ring** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/duquesne-spy-ring>)

**Durkin - Murder of an FBI Agent** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/durkin-murder-of-an-fbi-agent>)

**East African Embassy Bombings** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/east-african-embassy-bombings>)

**Emmett Till** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/emmett-till>)

**Enron** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/enron>)

**Eric Rudolph** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/eric-rudolph>)

**Espionage in the Defense Industry** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/espionage-in-the-defense-industry>)

**Fawaz Younis/Operation Goldenrod** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/fawaz-younis>)

**Frank Sinatra, Jr., Kidnapping** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/frank-sinatra-jr-kidnapping>)

**George “Machine Gun” Kelly** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/machine-gun-kelly>)

**Gerhard Arthur Puff** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/gerhard-arthur-puff>)

**Greenlease Kidnapping** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/greenlease-kidnapping>)

**Hijacking of TWA Flight 847** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/hijacking-of-twa-flight-847>)

**Hollow Nickel/Rudolph Abel** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/hollow-nickel-rudolph-abel>)

**Hurricane Katrina Fraud** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/hurricane-katrina-fraud>)

**Iva Toguri d’Aquino and “Tokyo Rose”** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/iva-toguri-daquino-and-tokyo-rose>)

**Jack Gilbert Graham** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/jack-gilbert-graham>)

**James Edward Testerman** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/james-edward-testerman>)

**JFK Assassination** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/jfk-assassination>)

**Joe Pistone, Undercover Agent** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/joe-pistone-undercover-agent>)

**John Dillinger** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/john-dillinger>)

**John Elgin Johnson** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/john-elgin-johnson>)

**John Gotti** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/john-gotti>)

**Jonestown** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/jonestown>)

**Joseph Edward Earlywine** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/joseph-edward-earlywine>)

**Judge Vance Murder** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/judge-vance-murder>)

**Kansas City Massacre/“Pretty Boy” Floyd (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/kansas-city-massacre-pretty-boy-floyd>)**

**KKK Series (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/kkk-series>)**

**Krupp Diamond Theft (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/krupp-diamond-theft>)**

**Lester Gillis (“Baby Face” Nelson) (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/lester-gillis-baby-face-nelson>)**

**Lindbergh Kidnapping (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/lindbergh-kidnapping>)**

**Ludwig Spy Ring (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/ludwig-spy-ring>)**

**Maksim Martynov (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/maksim-martynov>)**

**Medgar Evers (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/medgar-evers>)**

**Millennium Plot/Ahmed Ressam (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/millennium-plot-ahmed-ressam>)**

**Mississippi Burning (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/mississippi-burning>)**

**Murder and Mayhem in the Osage Hills (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/murder-and-mayhem-in-the-osage-hills>)**

**Nazi Saboteurs and George Dasch (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/nazi-saboteurs-and-george-dasch>)**

**ND-98: Case of the Long Island Double Agent (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/nd-98-case-of-the-long-island-double-agent>)**

**Nussbaum and Wilcoxson (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/nussbaum-and-wilcoxson>)**

**Oklahoma City Bombing (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/oklahoma-city-bombing>)**

**Operation Greylord (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/operation-greylord>)**

**Operation Illwind (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/operation-illwind>)**

**Operation Innocent Images (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/operation-innocent-images>)**

**Operation Lemon Aid Spy Case (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/operation-lemon-aid-spy-case>)**

**Operation Senior Sentinel (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/operation-senior-sentinel>)**

**Operation Stolen Dreams** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/operation-stolen-dreams>)

**Palmer Raids** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/palmer-raids>)

**Pan Am 103 Bombing** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/pan-am-103-bombing>)

**Patty Hearst** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/patty-hearst>)

**Pearl Harbor Spy** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/pearl-harbor-spy>)

**RESMURS Case (Reservation Murders)** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/resmurs-case-reservation-murders>)

**Richard Floyd McCoy, Jr.** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/richard-floyd-mccoy-jr>)

**Robert Hanssen** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/robert-hanssen>)

**Roger “The Terrible” Touhy** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/roger-the-terrible-touhy>)

**Rumrich Nazi Spy Case** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/rumrich-nazi-spy-case>)

**Tennessee Waltz** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/tennessee-waltz>)

**The Black Dahlia** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/the-black-dahlia>)

**The Brady Gang** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/the-brady-gang>)

**The Fur Dressers Case** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/the-fur-dressers-case>)

**Thwarted Sabotage in Zambia** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/thwarted-sabotage-in-zambia>)

**Unabomber** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/unabomber>)

**USS Cole Bombing** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/uss-cole-bombing>)

**Vasilli Zubilin** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/vasilli-zubilin>)

**Velvalee Dickinson, the “Doll Woman”** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/velvalee-dickinson-the-doll-woman>)

**Vonsiatsky Espionage** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/vonsiatsky-espionage>)

**Wall Street Bombing 1920** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/wall-street-bombing-1920>)

**Watergate** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/watergate>)

**Weather Underground Bombings** (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/weather-underground-bombings>)

**Weinberger Kidnapping (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/weinberger-kidnapping>)**

**Weyerhaeuser Kidnapping (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/weyerhaeuser-kidnapping>)**

**William Jefferson (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/william-jefferson>)**

**World Trade Center Bombing 1993 (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/world-trade-center-bombing-1993>)**

**Year of the Spy (1985) (<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/year-of-the-spy-1985>)**

**Cyber Criminal Forum Taken Down (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/cyber-criminal-forum-taken-down>)**

**A Byte Out of History: \$10 Million Hack (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/a-byte-out-of-history-10-million-hack>)**

**The Dixie Mafia ([https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/copy3\\_of\\_a-byte-out-of-history](https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/copy3_of_a-byte-out-of-history))**

**International Cyber Ring That Infected Millions of Computers Dismantled (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/international-cyber-ring-that-infected-millions-of-computers-dismantled>)**

**Botnet Operation Disabled (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/botnet-operation-disabled>)**