

## NASW-NYS Political Post

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**Sticks and Stones** - Attorneys for former Senate Majority Leader, Joseph Bruno (R- Rensselaer) have filed a motion requesting the federal government “tone down” language used in the 8 count felony indictment of Bruno. "Prosecutors here have sought to make a federal crime out of alleged ethical lapses that do not even amount to a state law misdemeanor," the motion states. "In some effort to justify and 'dress up' its charges against Mr. Bruno, the government has included allegations in the indictment that are not relevant to the crimes charged and are prejudicial and inflammatory." One particular appeal noted in several media reports was a request that U.S. District Judge Gary L. Sharpe strike a section of a sentence that “indicates the state of New York and its citizens paid Bruno for his honest services but as a result of his fraud they were deprived 'and instead received dishonest services.’” Defense attorneys argue such language is “superfluous and inflammatory” and has no legal standing as ... "There is no offense in the statute or case law called 'provision of dishonest services'."

**Note to Miss California** - A poll released earlier in the week by the Siena College Research Institute found that 53 percent of voters favor the gay marriage bill (re)introduced by Governor Paterson. However, introduction of the progressive measure has seemingly done little to stem the Governors falling poll numbers, as the Institute also noted that Paterson is now “viewed unfavorably by 63 percent of New Yorkers, down from 58 percent last month.”

**New Game in Town?** The newly minted Bipartisan Temporary Committee on Rules and Administration Reform has begun rolling out its initial recommendations which include consolidating the current committee system and calling for “greater transparency” in what one Senator (Kevin Parker) referred to as “the death of the tyranny of the majority in the chamber.” Recommendations must be voted on by the entire Senate, a process Majority Leader Malcolm Smith said would begin in the next few weeks. To view the entire recommendation, simply log onto the NY Senate webpage at <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/senatehomepage.nsf/home?openform>

**Define “Everything”** Ex Cuban President, Fidel Castro told reporters earlier this week that President Obama “misinterpreted his brother Raul's comments regarding the United States.” The remarks in question revolve around the current Cuban Presidents comments that Cuban leaders would be “willing to sit down with their American counterparts and discuss everything, everything, everything, including human rights, freedom of the press and expression, and political prisoners. Hmmm...Webster’s anyone?