

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. 50 2009CA040800XXXXMB AG

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Plaintiff,

v.

SCOTT ROTHSTEIN, individually,  
BRADLEY J. EDWARDS,  
individually, and L.M., individually,

Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**EPSTEIN'S MOTION TO POSTPONE THE JUNE 4, 2010  
HEARING ON ROTHSTEIN'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE DEFAULT**

Plaintiff, JEFFREY EPSTEIN ("Epstein"), moves to postpone the June 4, 2010 hearing on Defendant's, SCOTT ROTHSTEIN ("Rothstein"), Motion to Set Aside Default, and states:

1. Epstein filed the instant action against Rothstein and others on December 9, 2009.
2. On December 31, 2009, Epstein filed a Motion for Default due to Rothstein's failure to respond to the Complaint.
3. A default was entered by the Clerk on January 21, 2010.
4. Rothstein filed a Motion to Set Aside Default on February 17, 2010.
5. Several weeks later and on the eve of the hearing on Rothstein's Motion to Set Aside Default, Rothstein filed an affidavit on March 8, 2010 in support of his Motion to Set Aside Default.
6. The next day, March 9, 2010, a hearing was held on Rothstein's Motion to

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Set Aside Default and the Court deferred ruling so the parties could conduct discovery related to the motion (3/9/10 Order attached as **Exhibit A**).

7. On April 5, 2010, counsel for Epstein wrote to counsel for Rothstein to coordinate Rothstein's deposition and indicated that since Rothstein is in jail, the location of his deposition would likely have to be moved. See 4/5/10 Letter attached as **Exhibit B**. Counsel for Rothstein never responded to said letter.

8. On April 15, 2010, Epstein filed a Motion to Strike Affidavit of Scott Rothstein because he was unable to depose Rothstein.

9. On April 22, 2010, the Court denied Epstein's Motion to Strike Affidavit of Scott Rothstein and granted an additional thirty (30) days to depose Rothstein (4/22/10 Order attached as **Exhibit C**).

10. However, Rothstein's own counsel has had considerable difficulty locating and communicating with his client. In an April 22, 2010 article in the South Florida Business Journal (attached as **Exhibit D**), it was reported that Rothstein's counsel, Mark Nurik, Esq., was unaware of his client's location for substantial periods of time and has only had limited contact with Rothstein. Mr. Nurik was quoted as follows:

- a. "[Rothstein] is presently in protective housing outside of this district.... Undersigned counsel's contacts with his client must be arranged and approved in advance through the government, which creates delay."
- b. "There have been numerous occasions in the past few months when undersigned counsel has been unaware of his client's location and has been repeatedly out of contact with his client for substantial periods of time, including one period for over two weeks."
- c. "Given these limitations, in the past five weeks, counsel has only been able to meet with his client on two occasions. Currently, there is no ability to e-mail [Rothstein], and phone contact is very limited. Even the sending and receipt of legal mail takes longer than the norm."

See Exhibit C (emphasis added).

11. Interestingly, counsel for Rothstein had no problem obtaining Rothstein's notarized signature on his affidavit.

12. Due to the additional time given to depose Rothstein, the hearing on Rothstein's Motion to Set Aside Default was rescheduled to June 4, 2010.

13. However, Epstein has been unable to locate, let alone depose, Rothstein and therefore requests the Court postpone the June 4, 2010 hearing on the Motion to Set Aside Default.

14. Epstein's counsel has made the numerous efforts to locate and depose Rothstein, to no avail:

- a. Telephone conference with Lisa Kaye, Case Management Coordinator/Legal Liaison at the Federal Detention Center in Miami – was advised they do not have custody of Rothstein, have no information on his whereabouts and could not assist in coordinating his deposition;
- b. Telephone conference with U.S. Marshal's office – was advised they are not responsible for coordinating depositions and would not give provide any information regarding Rothstein.
- c. Telephone conference Bureau of Prisons Inmate Locator in Washington D.C. – was advised they have no record of Scott Rothstein;
- d. Telephone conference with Port St. Lucie Jail – was advised they had custody of Rothstein for brief period, but had no information on his whereabouts;
- e. Two voicemails for Bureau of Prisons – never returned a call;
- f. Two letters and two voicemails for United States Attorney Paul Schwartz – never returned a call or responded to letters; and
- g. Voicemail for United States Attorney Jeff Kaplan – never returned call.

15. In addition, news articles have suggested that Rothstein is entering the federal witness protection program due to his involvement in assisting the government

arrest reputed Gambino mob figure Robert Settineri:

- h. "But [Rothstein] may end up spending less time behind bars; the feds plan to put him in prison under the witness protection program for helping sting Settineri in the FBI undercover operation." See 3/19/10 Miami Herald Article attached as **Exhibit E**.
- i. "Sources tell CBS4 News that because of his cooperation in this case [against Settineri], Rothstein will be entering the federal witness protection program – meaning he will serve his prison time for the Ponzi scheme under a different name and in a prison outside of Florida. See 3/15/10 CBS4 Article attached as **Exhibit F**.

16. Given the above-described difficulties in locating and deposing Rothstein, Epstein requests the Court postpone the June 4, 2010 hearing on Rothstein's Motion to Set Aside Default and provide an additional thirty (30) days to take Rothstein's deposition.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, JEFFREY EPSTEIN, requests the Court postpone the June 4, 2010 hearing on Rothstein's Motion to Set Aside Default and provide an additional thirty (30) days to depose Rothstein and grant any additional relief the Court deems just and proper.

**Certificate of Service**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing was sent by fax and U.S.

Mail to the following addressees on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010:

Gary M. Farmer, Jr., Esq.  
Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos  
& Lehrman, PL  
425 N. Andrews Avenue, Suite 2  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
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Atterbury Goldberger & Weiss, P.A.  
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Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.

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Counsel to Scott Rothstein

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By:  12492

Robert D. Critton, Jr.

Florida Bar #224162

Michael J. Pike

Florida Bar #617296

*(Counsel for Defendant Jeffrey Epstein)*

2

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN  
AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY,  
FLORIDA

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Complex Litigation, Fla. R. Civ. Pro.1201

Plaintiff,

Case No. 50 2009CA040800XXXXMB AG

v.

SCOTT ROTHSTEIN, individually,  
BRADLEY J. EDWARDS,  
individually, and L.M., individually,

Defendants.

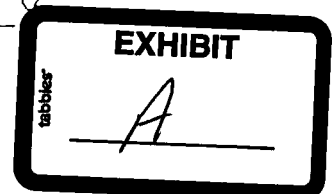
ORDER ON DEFENDANT SCOTT ROTHSTEIN'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE DEFAULT

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on Defendant Scott Rothstein's Motion to Set Aside Default, and the Court having heard argument of counsel and being fully advised in these premises, it is hereby

ORDERED and ADJUDGED that said Defendant's Motion is hereby ~~granted~~  
~~denied~~ *denied pending a special set*  
*hearing to be. Parties are given leave to*  
*conduct discovery in regard the Motion*

DONE AND ORDERED at Palm Beach County Courthouse, West Palm Beach,  
Florida, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of Mar., 2010

*David F. Crow*  
David F. Crow  
Circuit Judge



Copied furnished to:

ROBERT D. CRITTON, JR., ESQ., Burman, Critton, Luttier & Coleman, 303 Banyan Boulevard, Suite 400, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, MARC S. NURIK, ESQ., Law Offices of Mark S. Nurik, One East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, GARY M. FARMER, JR., ESQ., Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, PL. 425 N. Andrews Avenue, Suite 2, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, JACK SCAROLA, ESQ., Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. 2139 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33409, and JACK ALAN GOLDBERGER, ESQ., Atterbury Goldberger & Weiss, P.A., 250 Australian Avenue South, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-5012

cc: JE: D<sup>g</sup>

**BC  
LC** | **BURMAN, CRITTON  
LUTTIER & COLEMAN, LLP**  
YOUR TRUSTED ADVOCATES  
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

J. MICHAEL BURMAN, P.A.<sup>1,2</sup>  
GREGORY W. COLEMAN, P.A.  
ROBERT D. CRITTON, JR., P.A.<sup>1</sup>  
BERNARD A. LEBEDEKER  
MARK T. LUTTIER, P.A.  
MICHAEL J. PIKE  
DAVID A. YAREMA

<sup>1</sup>FLORIDA BOARD CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER

<sup>2</sup>ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN FLORIDA AND COLORADO

April 5, 2010

ADELQUI J. BENAVENTE  
PARALEGAL/INVESTIGATOR  
JESSICA CADWELL  
BOBBIE M. MCKENNA  
ASHLIE STOKEN-BARING  
BETTY STOKES  
PARALEGALS  
RITA H. BUDNYK  
OF COUNSEL  
EDWARD M. RICCI  
OF COUNSEL

**Sent by Fax, E-Mail and U.S. Mail**

Mark Nurik, Esq.  
Rothstein, Rosenfedlt, Adler, P.A.  
401 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1650  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Epstein v. Rothstein, et al.  
Case No. 50 2009CA040800XXXXMB AG

Dear Mr. Nurik:

As you are aware, we have set your client's Motion to Set Aside Default on a special set for 40 minutes on April 30, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. The court indicated we both could take discovery.

I am enclosing a Notice for the Deposition of Scott Rothstein at a court reporter's office at West Palm Beach. I have set it for April 15, 2010. I am aware that Mr. Rothstein is in jail, and therefore probably cannot attend that deposition at that location. Therefore, I am willing to move the location. The deposition will deal solely with issues associated with his Motion to Set Aside the Default.

If that deposition time does not work, please let me know. If it is your intent to file a motion for protective order regarding Mr. Rothstein, please so file.

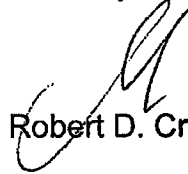
Additionally, I would like an additional date such that I can take Mr. Rothstein's deposition in the case. Specifically, I would like to cover those issues that are directed to Mr. Edwards. I have received a Notice from Mr. Edwards' attorney which requires me to do the necessary work and investigation such that I can make certain recommendations to my client. I am aware that Mr. Rothstein prior to his plea, was completely off limits to a deposition. With his guilty plea, I would anticipate that he now



Epstein v. Rothstein  
Page 2

is available to give a deposition. Would you please contact me such that the above discovery can be arranged.

Cordially Yours,



Robert D. Critton, Jr.

RDC/clz

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN  
AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY,  
FLORIDA

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Complex Litigation, Fla. R. Civ. Pro.1201

Plaintiff,

Case No. 50 2009CA040800XXXXMB AG

v.

SCOTT ROTHSTEIN, individually,  
BRADLEY J. EDWARDS,  
individually, and L.M., individually,

Defendants.

ORDER ON MOTION TO STRIKE AFFIDAVIT OF SCOTT ROTHSTEIN

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on Motion to Strike Affidavit of Scott Rothstein, and the Court having heard argument of counsel and being fully advised in these premises, it is hereby

ORDERED and ADJUDGED that said Motion is hereby ~~granted~~/denied

*However, the Motion for Removal of Defendant will  
be postponed for 30 days to allow the  
Plaintiff to obtain discovery as to the Affidavit.*

DONE AND ORDERED at Palm Beach County Courthouse, West Palm Beach,  
Florida, this 20~~th~~ day of April, 2010

*David F. Crow*  
David F. Crow  
Circuit Judge

Copied furnished to:

ROBERT D. CRITTON, JR., ESQ., Burman, Critton, Luttier & Coleman, 303 Banyan Boulevard, Suite 400, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, MARC S. NURIK, ESQ., Law Offices of Marc S. Nurik, One East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, GARY M. FARMER, JR., ESQ., Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, PL. 425 N. Andrews Avenue, Suite 2, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, JACK SCAROLA, ESQ., Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. 2139 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33409, and JACK ALAN GOLDBERGER, ESQ., Atterbury Goldberger & Weiss, P.A., 250 Australian Avenue South, Suite 1400, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-5012

EXHIBIT

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South Florida Business Journal - April 22, 2010

[http://southflorida.bizjournals.com/southflorida/blog/picking\\_up\\_the\\_pieces/2010/04/rothstein\\_sentencing\\_moved\\_to\\_june\\_9.html](http://southflorida.bizjournals.com/southflorida/blog/picking_up_the_pieces/2010/04/rothstein_sentencing_moved_to_june_9.html)**South Florida  
BUSINESS JOURNAL****Blog: Scott Rothstein: Picking  
up the Pieces****Rothstein Sentencing Moved  
To June 9**Paul Brinkmann  
Reporter

Thursday, April 22, 2010, 1:25pm EDT | Modified: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 1:40pm

A judge has moved Ponzi schemer Scott Rothstein's sentencing back more than a month.

That is not necessarily so unusual, but the reasons seem pretty weird.

There's a motion from Rothstein's attorney, Marc Nurik, that's unlike anything I've seen in a court case recently.



Marc Nurik

Nurik claims that Rothstein's cooperation with federal authorities by providing evidence for alleged mafia stings has interfered with Nurik's ability to communicate with him.

According to federal authorities and numerous media reports, Rothstein helped set up two employees of Five Star Executive Protection &amp; Investigation, a local security firm that had ties to the mafia, and Roberto Settineri, an alleged Sicilian mafia connection in South Florida. All three were hit with federal indictments after Rothstein allegedly asked them to launder money and destroy evidence of his Ponzi scheme.

This comes after the first sealed document was filed in Rothstein's criminal case, which is a signal that might mean the feds are recommending a lighter sentence because of cooperation.

Nurik has already admitted to creating a smokescreen of misdirection so that the public and certain alleged criminals would think that Rothstein was flaunting federal jurisdiction before he was arrested.

Here's the relevant text of Nurik's request for a later sentencing date:

"Specifically, the defendant is presently in protective housing outside of this district and treated differently than other inmates. Undersigned counsel's contacts with his client must be arranged and approved in advance through the government, which creates delay.

"There have been numerous occasions in the past few months when undersigned counsel has been unaware of his client's location and has been repeatedly out of contact with his client for substantial periods of time, including one period for over two weeks.

"Given these limitations, in the past five weeks, counsel has only been able to meet with his client on two occasions. Currently, there is no ability to e-mail the defendant, and phone contact is very limited. Even the sending and receipt of legal mail takes longer than the norm."

Rothstein was to be sentenced May 6. The new date is June 9, at 9:30 a.m.

Categories: [Legal Services](#), [Energy & the Environment](#)People: [Scott Rothstein](#), [Marc Nurik](#), [Roberto Settineri](#)*All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.*

# The Miami Herald

Posted on Fri, Mar. 19, 2010

## Scott Rothstein figure accused of making threat

By JAY WEAVER  
[jweaver@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:jweaver@MiamiHerald.com)

Roberto Settineri, the reputed Sicilian mafioso snagged by Ponzi schemer Scott Rothstein in an FBI sting, had a little brush with the law in January.

As he was eating *al fresco* at Soprano Cafe on Lincoln Road, Settineri opened his leather jacket to flash a handgun at a private security officer, a police report states.

"I will put this gun in your f-----g mouth," Settineri told the security officer, the report says. "I know where you live. I'll go to your house and kill you and your family."

Miami Beach police eventually caught up with Settineri, who denied threatening the guard with his firearm. The cops arrested Settineri, 41, of Miami, on an aggravated assault charge, a third-degree felony.

But that's the least of his problems.

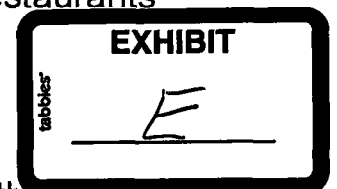
Last week, FBI agents arrested Italian-born Settineri, a naturalized U.S. citizen who works as a wine wholesaler, on obstruction of justice and money laundering charges in connection with Rothstein's \$1.2 billion investment scam. Federal authorities also accuse him of being connected to the mafia's Colombo and Gambino crime families.

At the same time, Italian National Police officers flew to Miami and revealed charges accusing Settineri of belonging to the Sicilian mafia and participating in a slew of violent crimes.

Settineri was a regular on Lincoln Road, where he sold wine to restaurants lining the popular pedestrian way.

### JANUARY INCIDENT

Michael Catalano, Settineri's lawyer, said his client was eating with a couple of other men at Soprano Cafe on Jan. 8 when he had the run-in with the



security officer, Cesar Mainardi, who was on his patrol bike. He worked for Security Alliance, a company contracted with the city of Miami Beach.

Catalano said Mainardi confronted Settineri over a woman they both knew.

Mainardi ``weaved his way through a tight crowd and intentionally harassed him," Catalano said. Settineri ``told the security guard to leave him alone, and he made up these allegations."

But Mainardi, in an interview with The Miami Herald, denied the fight was over a woman.

In his police statement, Mainardi accused Settineri of threatening him for no reason: ``Apparently he did not like the way I looked at him, and I noticed his reaction and wanted to talk to him, but he acted aggressive."

### **HEATED ARGUMENT**

Mainardi told police that Settineri flashed the semi-automatic weapon, which was in a holster on his belt. But ``he never took it out," Mainardi said.

Settineri left the restaurant after the confrontation, but Miami Beach police reached him on his cellphone.

According to the police report, Settineri admitted having a ``heated argument" with the security officer but denied ``threatening him with any type of gun."

Settineri said he owned four guns, but they were all at his Brickell Key condo in Miami at the time of the incident. Police found no weapon on him.

State records show that Settineri has a concealed-weapons permit.

### **ROTHSTEIN LINK**

Rothstein, who came to know Settineri through a Broward security company he had hired for protection, allegedly talked Settineri into shredding documents and laundering \$79,000 in November from the Fort Lauderdale lawyer's Ponzi scheme, according to an indictment unsealed last week.

Rothstein, 47, who pleaded guilty to racketeering and other charges in January, faces up to 100 years in prison at his sentencing in May. But he may end up spending less time behind bars; the feds plan to put him in prison under the witness protection program for helping sting Settineri in the FBI undercover operation.

Italian authorities charged Settineri along with 19 other people allegedly linked to the Sicilian mafia. The charges: extortion, drug trafficking and attempted murder.

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Mar 15, 2010 6:44 pm US/Eastern

## I-Team: Rothstein Scams Alleged Mafia Player

### Rothstein Hired Security Firm For \$18K/Day

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Reporting  
Jim DeFede  
E-mail

MIAMI (CBS4 I-TEAM) — In South Florida, where hucksters and cheats are an everyday fact of life, Scott Rothstein may be remembered as the greatest con man of them all. A lawyer who rose from obscurity to build one of the most politically powerful law firms in the state, Rothstein now stands convicted of bilking friends and strangers alike. The \$1.2 billion Ponzi scheme he orchestrated is the largest in South Florida history. He lied, tricked and deceived nearly everyone he met. And the damage he caused may never be repaired.

But Rothstein's biggest con may actually be the one he has done on behalf of the federal government. The CBS4 I-Team has learned from multiple sources that Rothstein was the key figure in bringing down a suspected Mafia figure who the FBI had been trying to catch for years.

Last week, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Sloman announced the arrests of three individuals, including Roberto Settineri, who the prosecutor described as the go between for the Gambino crime organization in Brooklyn and La Cosa Nostra in Palermo, Sicily.

"These arrests were part of a joint US and Italian law enforcement action," Sloman said during Wednesday's press conference.

At the same time Settineri was arrested by an FBI SWAT Team at his home on Miami Beach, three alleged members of the Gambino crime family were arrested in Brooklyn and twenty members of the Sicilian mafia organization, Santa Maria de Gesu, were taken into custody in Palermo.

Taken into custody in South Florida along with Settineri was Daniel Dromerhauser. A third individual, Enrique Ros of Pembroke Pines was charged but was out of the country when the raids took place.

Settineri, Dromerhauser and Ros were charged with one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice and two counts of obstruction and attempting to obstruct federal proceedings, one count of conspiracy to launder money and five counts of substantive money laundering. If convicted of all nine counts the men could each be sentenced to 180 years in prison.

Although Rothstein's name never appears in the indictment, nor was it mentioned during Wednesday's press conference at the U.S. Attorney's Office, CBS4 News has learned that the man at the center of the case is none other than Scott Rothstein.

When Rothstein returned from Morocco on November 3, he immediately began cooperating with prosecutors.

Hunkered down in a hotel room, teams of federal agents questioned Rothstein for days about everyone he has ever done business with. One name, however, quickly stood out — Roberto Settineri.

Prosecutors describe Dromerhauser and Ros as "associates" of Settineri. They operated a private security firm called Five Star Executive Protection & Investigation. According to the attorney for Dromerhauser, Five Star did extensive work for Rothstein, providing security for Rothstein's home and his businesses. They were first hired by Rothstein several years ago to provide security for Casa Casaurina — the former Versace Mansion — after Rothstein bought the property.

John Gillies, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Miami Field Office, said Settineri is someone the feds have been interested in for years.

"This operation code named Paisan Blues began in 2006 when Italian National Police provided the FBI with information about Settineri," Gillies said.

But in all those years, the FBI had been unable to build any sort of criminal case against Settineri. That is, until Rothstein came along.

Based on sources familiar with the investigation, as well as details contained in the indictments, on November 8, five days after returning from Morocco, Rothstein was directed by federal agents to contact Settineri and the others. He pretended he need the men to help him destroy incriminating financial records before federal agents could find them.

He also allegedly asked them to help move some of his Ponzi scheme money to off shore bank accounts.

Rothstein, however, was front page news and reports were already surfacing he was cooperating with the FBI.

So in order to make the undercover operation work, Rothstein had to publicly convey the impression he was not cooperating with the FBI.



1 of 1 Click to enlarge

Scott Rothstein  
CBS

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I-Team: Rothstein Hired  
Security Firm For \$18K/Day  
(3/17/2010)



On November 9th, in a move carefully orchestrated by federal agents, Rothstein showed up at the Capital Grille for a martini. This video was even posted by Broward New Times.

Continuing the charade, Rothstein that same day granted an interview with Channel 7. Once again, he stressed he was not cooperating with federal authorities.

After years conning others to make himself rich, Rothstein was now using those skills on behalf of the federal government. And the feds say he was successful.

"As alleged in the indictment Settineri, Dromerhauser and Ros were part of a conspiracy to launder 10 million in illicit funds," Gillies said during Wednesday's press conference.

In January, as federal agents in Miami continued to build a case against Settineri, a high level meeting took place in Italy.

Agents and prosecutors from Miami and Brooklyn, as well as Justice Department officials from Washington, flew across the Atlantic to meet with their Italian counterparts.

Italian prosecutors were working on a massive indictment against twenty suspected members of the Palermo-based crime organization, Santa Maria de Gesu. And in New York, prosecutors were building a separate case against three alleged members of the Gambino crime family.

The Miami case involving Settineri had finally given them the link they had been waiting for.

The group agreed they would coordinate their cases and make the arrests simultaneously.

Raffaele Grassi, a vice director in the Italian National Police, arrived in South Florida last week with a handful of agents to monitor the Settineri operation.

"The important intermediary in the US was Roberto Settineri, a man from Palermo who has been living in Miami for a long time," Grassi said. "He has important ties to the American Mafia families of Gambino and Colombo. Through Roberto Settineri, La Cosa Nostra was trying to open new connections in the US and his connections would enable the Italian organization to infiltrate new markets."

"Today is a very important day in the fight against the criminal organization of La Cosa Nostra," Grassi said. "Today's results are the fruit of a very complicated investigation carried out by the Italian State Police together with the FBI both in Italy and the United States."

Just how complicated was the investigation? Not wanting to reveal Rothstein's role in the case, US Attorney Sloman only offered this cryptic response when asked what brought the Italians and the Americans together.

"We had mutual interests that overlapped with one another," he said. "That is all I will say about that."

In advance of these arrests, Rothstein was moved out of the federal detention center for his own protection.

Sources tell **CBS4 News** that because of his cooperation in this case, Rothstein will be entering the federal witness protection program -- meaning he will serve his prison time for the Ponzi scheme under a different name and in a prison outside of Florida.

Ultimately, Rothstein is hoping his cooperation in the Settineri case will shave years from his prison sentence. He is facing up to 100 years in prison after pleading guilty to five counts of money laundering and wire fraud. Similar Ponzi cases around the United States, however, have yielded sentences of around 40 years in prison. Rothstein is scheduled to be sentenced in May.

In addition to the Settineri case, Rothstein is also helping federal authorities identify the other players in the Ponzi scheme. And he is providing information on how campaign finance laws were routinely violated.

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