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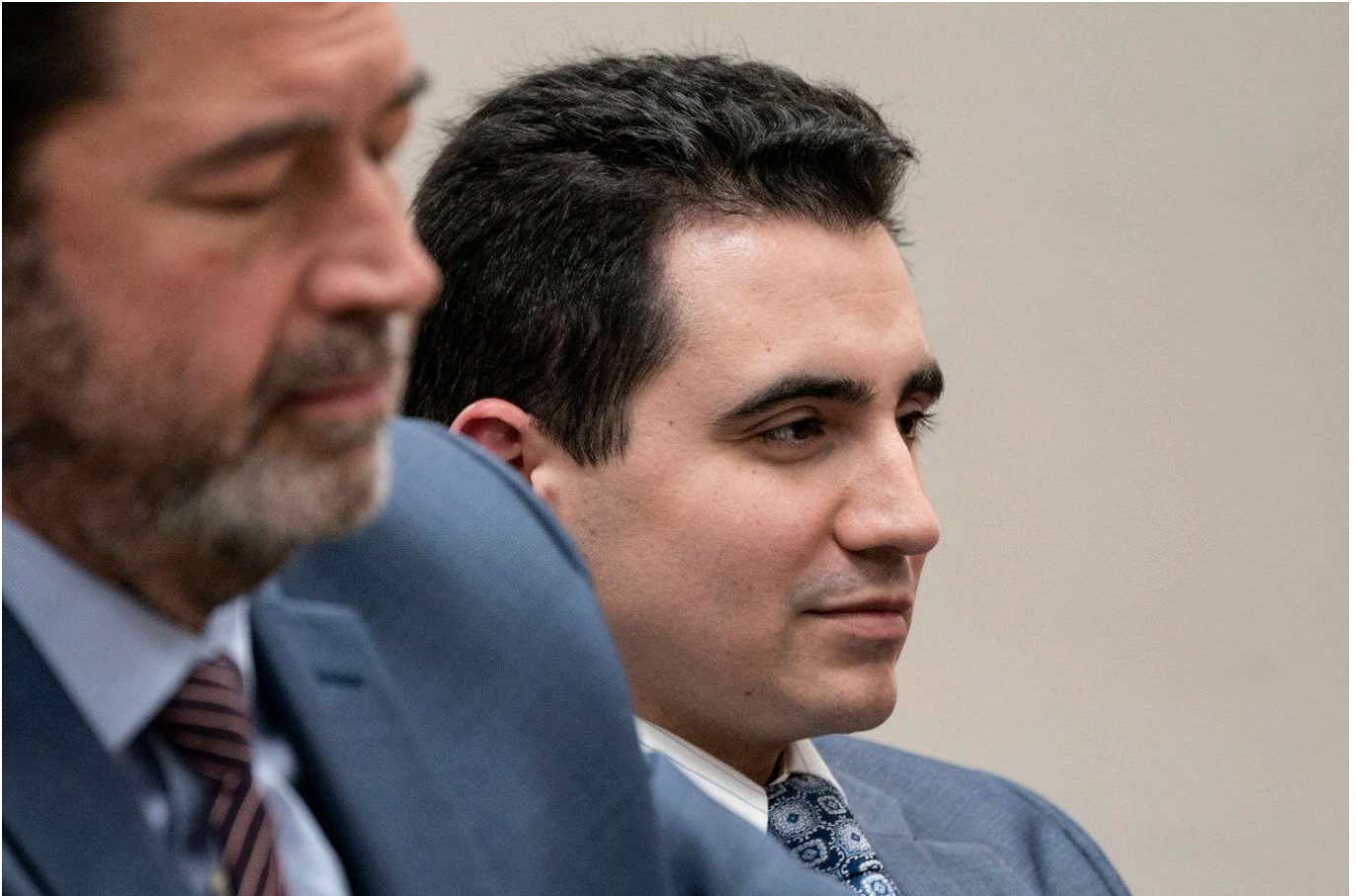
D'Angelo gets 6 months of weekends in jail for phony election donation scheme

Aaron Besecker

Apr 4, 2025



A former Niagara County political operative and attorney on Friday was ordered to spend weekends in jail for the next six months for a phony campaign donation in 2021 tied to his prosecution for sex crimes.



Nicholas D'Angelo during a court appearance in his rape case in April 2023, in which he pleaded guilty to eight felony sex crimes involving three victims, one of whom was 16.

Libby March, News file photo

Nicholas D. D'Angelo received an intermittent sentence, and was spared a full prison sentence, because the latter would have wiped out the rest of his decadelong sex-offender probation, prosecutors said.

State Supreme Court Justice Debra Givens, who had previously agreed to give D'Angelo no more than six months of weekends in jail, told D'Angelo that if he serves his sentence consistently and “with no problems,” she will terminate the sentence

after four months, essentially giving him time off for good behavior.

Before the sentencing began, defense attorney Eric Soehnlein told the judge D'Angelo was expecting a new child in his family at the end of July. During the sentencing hearing, Soehnlein asked the judge to issue a sentence that would expire before the end of July.

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D'Angelo was accused of making donations to a Niagara Falls judicial candidate in the name of the husband of a prosecutor in his sex crime case. His ultimate goal was to get the prosecutor removed from the case, Assistant District Attorney Robert Zucco said in court.

D'Angelo sought to embarrass the prosecutor and accuse her of misconduct by transferring money to the judicial campaign of a judge who could be called as a witness in the sex crimes prosecution, Zucco said.

D'Angelo took advantage of many people in enacting his scheme, Zucco said, including friends on the judge's campaign, as well as the Lockport law firm that continued to employ him after he was accused of the sex crimes.

He showed "he has no qualms about friendship or loyalty when his own self-interest is concerned," the prosecutor said.

D'Angelo, 32, **pleaded guilty Jan. 31** to a felony count of first-degree attempted tampering with public records.

Givens said she believed it was important for the convicted sex offender to continue his probation, because it's a valuable tool for offenders to keep from reoffending.

D'Angelo addressed the court before being sentenced, noting that he stayed silent at his last sentencing "out of anger and, admittedly, my narcissism." He said he has worked over the last 20 months to make the most of his probation and treatment. He also said he takes responsibility for his actions and is "changing to become a better person, a moral person who does not cause the same pain and suffering I have caused my victims."

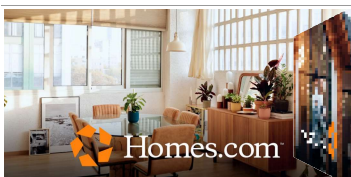
According to court records, the count to which D'Angelo admitted happened April 22, 2021. It involved him attempting to cause a false entry on a document required to be filed with the state Board of Elections.

He was initially **accused by state police** in March 2023 of the making one false donation. The following month, D'Angelo was arraigned on an indictment that added an accusation of a second fake donation.

Under the indictment in the election fraud case, he was charged with 10 felonies and two election law violations.

In his rape case, D'Angelo **pleaded guilty** in April 2023 to eight felony sex crimes involving three victims, one of whom was 16. In July 2023, he was **sentenced** to six months in jail and 10 years of sex-offender probation. He was designated a "sexually violent offender" and will remain on the state's sex offender registry for life.

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