

Cases of Historical Interest In the Southern District of New York

The La Cosa Nostra Commission Trial

Judge Richard Owen

The indictment alleged the existence of a RICO enterprise known as the “Commission” of La Cosa Nostra that operated in the New York City area through five organized crime “families.” Judge Owen presided over an eleven-week trial that resulted in the convictions of eight defendants, four of whom received sentences of 100 years. According to the New York Times, the case “attained national significance as the first case to focus on the commission of top crime leaders, portrayed by the prosecution as ‘the board of directors’ of the Mafia, or La Cosa Nostra.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/1986/11/20/nyregion/us-jury-convicts-eight-as-members-of-mob-commission.html>



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