

Cases of Historical Interest In the Southern District of New York

United States v. John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans (Former Attorney General and Secretary of Commerce)

Judge Lee P. Gagliardi

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans were charged in a multi-count indictment alleging conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. The prosecution contended that the defendants interfered with an SEC investigation of financier Robert Vesco in exchange for a \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's reelection campaign. The case proceeded to trial in the Southern District of New York before Judge Lee P. Gagliardi on February 19, 1974, at the height of the Watergate-era and a mere five months before the President's resignation. Future S.D.N.Y. Judge John E. Sprizzo was one of the trial lawyers defending Mitchell. After a ten-week trial and 27 hours of deliberation, the two defendants were acquitted of all charges.



225th Anniversary
1789-2014