Busting the Mob

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Introduction

Part 3 includes four organized-crime bibliographies from 1980. As we emphasized in the preface, scholarship on organized crime is difficult to carry out. Data are neither reliable nor readily available. There is no ongoing government data collection and no opportunity for participant observation. The explosion of government activity in the 1980s has generated an enormous amount of raw material that has scarcely been mined. It has also generated a steady stream of popular books, articles, and government hearings and reports.

The strike force cases section of this bibliography lists all of the indictments obtained by the fifteen federal strike forces between 1981 and 1989. The strike forces were disbanded in 1989, and their resources were merged into the various United States attorneys offices. We obtained the list of cases and attached synopses from the Department of Justice, Office of Racketeering. Since the list was prepared for the congressional hearings called to consider the disbanding of the strike forces, it is reasonable to conclude that the list is comprehensive. Unfortunately, the list does not

distinguish between Cosa Nostra and non-Cosa Nostra prosecutions; it also includes
a number of prosecutions which we would not classify as organized crime. We have
deleted some cases that obviously do not provide information about Cosa Nostra, but
where we had any doubt, we included the case.

We have not attempted to compile a list of organized-crime cases prosecuted by
the ninety-two United States attorneys offices up till 1989 or thereafter, when the
strike forces were disbanded. During the years when the strike forces existed, they
handled most of the important organized-crime cases in those cities and jurisdictions
where they were located. But the United States attorneys' offices also handled some
cases, especially the Southern District of New York (where after 1984 there was no
strike force). There is no list of organized-crime cases prosecuted by these offices
and no easy way to generate one. Furthermore, we have not attempted to compile a list
of state and local prosecutions.

We constructed the articles section of the bibliography through searches of data-
bases of law, sociology, and criminology journals. A large number of articles of
varying quality appear in popular magazines and newspapers; we have chosen not to
include them here, though particularly useful pieces are directly footnoted in the text.

Many of the books appearing in the bibliography were written by journalists for
the popular market. We have decided to include all of the titles, as they provide an
important resource and are typically the only readily available account of various
events and personalities.

The list of government reports and hearings was drawn from the Congressional
Information Service. Along with trial transcripts and legal documents, they provide
the most useful and complete source of information on Cosa Nostra. We have
included a few state government hearings and reports that have come to our attention,
but we have not attempted to survey this genre systematically.


**Boston Strike Force**

Angiulo and four others were convicted for six murders, two conspiracies to
murder, loansharking, various illegal gambling businesses, interstate racketeering,
obstruction of state law enforcement, and obstruction of justice.

*United States v. John Gregory Ardito*, No. 84-47, D. Conn., 8/30/84. Ardito was
convicted of obstructing justice for planning to disrupt the trial of Francis “Fat
Franny” Curcio.

*United States v. Salvadore C. Basso*, No. B-85-72, D. Conn., 12/12/85. All defen-

*Many of these prosecutions did not generate judicial opinions; they are identified here by
indictment number. The first two digits indicate the year of the indictment; the remaining digits
are the indictment number. We have not been able to determine the disposition of some of
these indictments.*
dants pled guilty in this RICO prosecution of the Connecticut branch of the Genovese family, for illegal gambling and unlawful collection of debts.

*United States v. Frank Cotroni*, No. N-83-47, D. Conn., 7/14/83. Cotroni and Lucchese family member Michael Corcione were indicted for heroin trafficking. Following a guilty plea, Corcione received a four-year prison sentence.

*United States v. Francis Curcio*, No. N-82-4, D. Conn., 1/13/82. Francis and Gus Curcio were convicted of loansharking.

*United States v. Richard E. Gambale*, No. 84-293, D. Mass., 9/18/84. Six defendants were convicted in a RICO prosecution charging loansharking, illegal gambling, a murder conspiracy, and obstruction of justice.

*United States v. Frank T. Marrapese*, No. 82-049B, D. R.I., 5/19/82. Marrapese pled guilty to a scheme involving fenced recliner chairs stolen in the Alexandria, Virginia, railroad yards.


*United States v. Anthony G. Rosetti*, No. 86-2, D. Conn., 6/27/86. All defendants either pled guilty or were convicted in a RICO prosecution involving the fraudulent administration of the dental plans of most Teamster locals in Connecticut.

**Brooklyn Strike Force**

*United States v. James Angellino*, No. 86-00549, E.D.N.Y., 9/10/86. Angellino and Joseph Tomasello were convicted of dealing in highjacked television equipment.

*United States v. Basil Robert Cervone*, No. 87-579, E.D.N.Y., 8/18/87. Cervone and eight others were convicted in this RICO prosecution for labor bribery, bid rigging, and collusion in the award of masonry construction contracts in the New York City area.

*United States v. Anthony Colombo*, No. 85-00244, E.D.N.Y., 4/22/85. Twenty-three defendants pled guilty in this RICO prosecution of the Colombo family for their involvement in a pattern of activity, including murder, attempted murder, extortion, drug dealing, robberies, postal thefts, mail and wire fraud, and dealing in stolen goods.

*United States v. Michael Franzese*, No. 85-00755, E.D.N.Y., 12/19/85. Franzese and four others pled guilty in this RICO prosecution alleging the infiltration of legitimate business through fraudulent activities.

*United States v. Joseph N. Gallo*, No. 86-452, E.D.N.Y., 6/19/86. All but two defendants were convicted in this RICO prosecution of the Gambino family for
racketeering activities, including murder, extortion of local businesses, armed robbery, labor union payoffs, loansharking, illegal gambling, and an attempt to bribe federal officials.

*United States v. Gennaro Langella*, No. 84-408, E.D.N.Y., 9/7/84. Langella was convicted in this perjury and obstruction-of-justice case.

*United States v. Philip Rastelli*, No. 85-00345, E.D.N.Y., 6/10/85. All major defendants were convicted in this case for the domination of the moving and storage industry in the New York City area.

*United States v. Salvatore Reale*, No. 86-302, E.D.N.Y., 4/28/86. Salvatore Reale pled guilty to conspiracy to extort sums of money from a freight forwarding company at JFK Airport.

*United States v. Salvatore Santoro*, No. 85-00100, E.D.N.Y., 2/20/85. This RICO prosecution charged that Santoro, Paul Vario, and members of the Lucchese family dominated the air freight business at JFK Airport through labor payoffs and extortion.

*United States v. Paul Vario*, No. 83-289, E.D.N.Y., 6/22/83. Paul Vario was convicted of making false statements to federal prison and parole authorities and conspiracy to defraud the government.

**Buffalo Strike Force**

*United States v. Angelo Amico*, No. 87-177, W.D.N.Y., 10/1/87. Amico and four others were indicted on RICO charges for extortion of a “street tax” from illegal gambling operators, and operation of four such businesses themselves.

*United States v. Angelo Amico*, No. 87-178, W.D.N.Y., 10/1/87. Amico and one other were indicted for tax evasion.

*United States v. Anthony Guarnieri*, No. 87-157, W.D.N.Y., 8/27/87. “Guv” Guarnieri was indicted with Charles Sturniolio for dealing in silenced weapons.

*United States v. Salvatore Napoli*, No. 89-00108, W.D.N.Y., 6/23/89. Napoli and eleven others were indicted for their involvement in a cocaine distribution ring active in Buffalo, New York.

*United States v. J. Michael Robilotto*, No. 86-43, N.D.N.Y., 4/24/86. Three defendants were convicted for shaking down a Universal Studios crew filming *Ghost Story*.

*United States v. Samuel J. Russotti*, No. 82-156, W.D.N.Y., 11/8/82. The hierarchy of the Rochester crime family was convicted in this RICO case for murder, arson, extortion, and obstruction of justice.

*United States v. Dominic Taddeo*, No. 89-42, W.D.N.Y., 3/22/89. Taddeo and his brother Michael were indicted for bail jumping.

*United States v. Dominic Taddeo*, No. 89-59, W.D.N.Y., 4/19/89. In this case Taddeo was indicted for possession of a sawed-off shotgun and for being a felon in possession of firearms.

**Chicago Strike Force**

United States v. Frank Peter Balistrieri, No. 81-CR-152, E.D. Wis., 10/1/81. Balistrieri and Steve DiSalvo were convicted in this gambling prosecution.

United States v. Frank Peter Balistrieri, No. 81-CR-153, E.D. Wis., 10/1/81. Balistrieri and his sons were convicted in this extortion prosecution.

United States v. Thomas Campione, No. 89-166, N.D. Ill., 2/23/89. Campione was indicted for running a bawdy house in Franklin Park, Illinois.

United States v. John Cappas, No. 88-91, N.D. Ill., 9/1/88. Cappas and two others were convicted while seventeen others pled guilty in this CCE prosecution of a drug ring.

United States v. Thomas Covello, Sr., No. 84-556, N.D. Ill., 7/18/84. Six defendants were convicted in this RICO/theft prosecution.

United States v. Joseph “Little Caesar” DiVarco, No. 83-955, N.D. Ill., 12/7/83. Peter Duncias was convicted of extortion while DiVarco was acquitted.

United States v. Joseph DiVarco, No. 84-507, N.D. Ill., 6/27/84. DiVarco was convicted of gambling and wagering-tax evasion.

United States v. Allen Dorfman, No. 81-CR-269, N.D. Ill., 5/22/81. All defendants, including Dorfman and then Teamsters president Roy Lee Williams, were convicted of interstate bribery, mail fraud, and conspiracy.

United States v. Anthony Leone, No. 88-80, N.D. Ind., 8/19/88. In this RICO indictment, Leone and five others were indicted for running a numbers game in Gary, Indiana.

United States v. Frank Panno, No. 86-329, N.D. Ill., 4/3/86. Panno and one other defendant were convicted while the remaining defendants pled guilty in this prostitution outcall service case.


**Cleveland Strike Force**

United States v. Salvatore T. Busacca, No. 86-81, N.D. Ohio, 4/30/86. Busacca was convicted of racketeering and of looting of a union.

United States v. Salvatore T. Busacca, No. 88-283, N.D. Ohio, 12/5/88. Busacca and four others were indicted for diverting funds from Teamster Local 436 to pay for Busacca’s legal defense.
United States v. William E. Dileno, No. 88-001, N.D. Ohio, 1/8/88. This was a RICO prosecution of a gambling and loansharking ring allegedly operating in the “Little Italy” section of Cleveland.

United States v. Joseph Charles Gallo, No. 82-119, N.D. Ohio, 7/6/82. All but one of seven defendants were convicted in this RICO prosecution of the “Westside” organization that was seeking to control all drug trading in Cleveland.

United States v. James Licavoli, No. CR-79-103, N.D. Ohio, 5/3/79. All defendants were convicted in this RICO prosecution of a conspiracy to murder Danny Green.

United States v. Jackie Presser, No. 86-114, N.D. Ohio, 5/16/86. Former Teamsters president Presser was charged along with two others of defrauding Teamsters Local 507 and Local 19 of the Bakery Workers Union. Presser died before trial. The remaining defendants were convicted.


United States v. Lenine Strollo, No. 88-118, N.D. Ohio, 4/20/88. This was a gambling and corruption prosecution of a Cleveland gambling ring allegedly operating with police protection.

Detroit Strike Force

United States v. Pietro Alfano, No. 84-2022B, E.D. Mich., 4/30/84. This was a drug prosecution of the midwestern leg of the Badalamenti prosecution. (See No. 84-236.)


United States v. Vito Giacalone, No. 86-80418, E.D. Mich., 6/5/86. All defendants pled guilty in this illegal gambling prosecution against Vito Giacalone and thirteen others.


Kansas City Strike Force

United States v. William D. Cammisano, Jr., No. 89-00085, W.D. Mo., 6/16/89. Cammisano was indicted for obstruction of justice and subornation of perjury for intimidating a witness.

United States v. Anthony Thomas Civella, No. 84-00032-5, W.D. Mo., 2/10/84. All defendants pled guilty to numerous racketeering activities.

United States v. Carl DeLuna, No. 81-00107, W.D. Mo., 11/5/81. DeLuna and Carl Civella were charged and convicted of conspiracy, interstate gambling, and transportation of stolen property.
United States v. Carl DeLuna, No. 83-00124, W.D. Mo., 9/30/83. All major defendants pled guilty or were convicted in this interstate RICO prosecution.


United States v. Clarence M. Smaldone, No. 82-216, D. Colo., 9/24/82; United States v. Eugene Smaldone, No. 82-215, D. Colo., 9/23/82; United States v. Paul C. Villano, No. 82-217, D. Colo., 9/24/82. In this series of prosecutions (dealing with extortion, loansharking, and extortion, respectively), the entire leadership of the Denver family pled guilty.


Las Vegas Strike Force

United States v. Anthony Spilotro, No. C-LV-83-115, D. Nev., 9/13/83. This RICO prosecution charged burglary and a robbery ring involving a total of eighteen defendants. Spilotro and his brother Michael were murdered on June 14, 1986. All remaining defendants pled guilty.

United States v. Dominic Spinale, No. 86-95, D. Nev., 7/15/86. Spinale was indicted for illegal gambling.

United States v. Trans-Sterling, Inc., No. 84-83, D. Nev., 1/10/84. All defendants were convicted in this case for forging documents showing a false delivery of chips to gaming tables.

Los Angeles Strike Force

United States v. Dominic Brooklier, No. 79-126-TH-A, C.D. Cal., 5/15/80. All defendants, including Brooklier, Samuel Sciortino, and Louis Dragna, were convicted in this RICO case for conducting extortion and murder for the Los Angeles family.

United States v. Carlos Marcello, No. 81-720, C.D. Cal., 7/23/81. Marcello and Sciortino were convicted of interstate bribery and obstruction of justice.

United States v. Russell J. Masetta, No. 87-425, C.D. Cal., 5/14/87. Both Masetta and Luigi Gelfuso pled guilty to accepting ten thousand dollars from GAR-Man productions in order to insure labor peace.

United States v. Peter John Milano, No. 87-439, C.D. Cal., 5/21/87. All defendants pled guilty in this RICO case charging twenty-four acts of cocaine dealing, extortion, loansharking, attempted murder, and obstruction of justice.
United States v. Vito Dominic Spillone, No. 84-693, C.D. Cal., 7/12/84. Spillone was convicted of RICO, loansharking, and firearms charges.

United States v. Michael Anthony Rizzitello, No. 87-459, C.D. Cal., 5/28/87. Rizzitello was acquitted for attempting to sell $1 million in stolen bonds issued by Montgomery County, Maryland.

Miami Strike Force

United States v. Frank Abbandando, No. 83-8044-C-ALH, S.D. Fla., 8/8/83. Abbandando pled guilty and Salvatore Reale was convicted in this RICO case involving the competition for control of the Palm Beach, Florida, rackets between the Gambino and Colombo families.

United States v. Anthony Accardo, No. 81-230-CR-ALH, S.D. Fla., 6/3/81. While Accardo was acquitted, all other defendants were convicted in this RICO case involving kickbacks to service providers to the Laborers Union leaders for welfare fund services.

United States v. Anthony Accetturo, No. 80-00331, S.D. Fla., 8/12/80. All defendants except Accetturo were convicted of interstate gambling, mail fraud, and conspiracy charges that involved fixing horse races at Calder Racetrack by using drugged horses.


United States v. Joseph Armone, No. 87-6249, S.D. Fla., 12/22/87. Twelve defendants were convicted in this RICO prosecution involving the Gambino family gambling and loansharking operation in Florida.

United States v. Vincent Ciccarelli, No. 87-56, M.D. Fla., 3/19/87. Ciccarelli pled guilty to RICO and tax charges involving the shipment of stolen automobile parts to Gibsonton, Florida.

United States v. Carmelo F. Cocchiaro, No. 87-6248, S.D. Fla., 12/27/87. Rosario Cocchiaro pled guilty to loansharking charges involving the Decavalcante family in this RICO prosecution.

United States v. Frank Anthony Cocchiaro, No. 81-482, S.D. Fla., 11/4/81. Cocchiaro was convicted of bankruptcy fraud.

United States v. Carl Louis Coppola, No. 86-185, N.D. Ga., 5/8/86. Coppola was convicted in this RICO and drug kingpin prosecution, whose charges included murder and robbery.

United States v. Joseph Covello, No. 87-6117, S.D. Fla., 6/10/87. Covello and Richard Del Gaudio were convicted of charges relating to sports bookmaking.


United States v. Anthony Guarnieri, No. 87-6105, S.D. Fla., 5/27/87. Guarnieri was convicted for infringing trademarks by selling counterfeit watches.

United States v. Joseph Indelicato, No. 87-0383, S.D. Fla., 6/9/87. All six defendants were acquitted in this money-laundering case.

United States v. Charles Musillo, No. 89-6056, S.D. Fla., 3/19/89. Musillo and Anthony Induisi were indicted for the smuggling of drugs and the management of three illegal casinos.

United States v. Michael R. Napoli, No. 89-9, M.D. Fla., 1/26/89. Napoli was indicted for distributing one kilogram of cocaine per week from various bars he owned.

United States v. Harold Joseph Rosenthal, No. 84-14A, N.D. Ga., 1/19/84. Philip Bonadonna was convicted with Rosenthal in this case involving the importation of five tons of cocaine.

United States v. Dominic Santarelli, No. 84-854, S.D. Fla., 12/11/84. Santarelli was convicted of tax evasion and mail fraud.

United States v. Dominic Santarelli, No. 84-855, S.D. Fla., 12/11/84. Santarelli and Dante Grassi were convicted for extortion for the takeover of a tax shelter scheme.

United States v. Santo Trafficante, Jr., No. 83-27-C.T.15, S.D. Fla., 3/31/83. Most major defendants pled guilty in this RICO prosecution involving the partnership of the Trafficante family with the Bonanno and Lucchese families to organize the rackets of northwest Florida.

**Newark Strike Force**

United States v. John DiGilio, No. 86-340, D.N.J., 11/3/86. Most defendants either pled guilty or were convicted in this RICO prosecution of labor racketeers associated with the Genovese family.

United States v. Louis Anthony Manna, No. 88-239, D.N.J., 6/23/88. Manna and five Genovese family members were convicted of a plot to murder the boss of the Gambino family.


United States v. Milton Parness, No. 88-368, D.N.J., 10/27/88. Parness, Salerno, and Matthew Ianniello were indicted for monopolizing a residential development center.

United States v. Salvatore Profaci, No. 84-21, D.N.J., 8/2/84. This prosecution charged Profaci with RICO and fraud in the operation of numerous companies. The jury acquitted on the RICO charge but convicted on mail fraud counts.

United States v. Michael Taccetta, No. 85-292, D.N.J., 8/19/85. All defendants were acquitted on mail fraud, gambling, and drug dealing charges in this RICO prosecution.
United States v. Michael Taccetta, No. 86-218, D.N.J., 6/11/86. Taccetta pled guilty to false tax return and conspiracy charges involving a bankruptcy scheme perpetrated against the Caramata Petroleum Company.

New Orleans Strike Force


United States v. Salvador D’Angelo, No. 88-8, S.D. Tex., 4/6/88. D’Angelo, Salvadore Ardizzone, and their conspirators were convicted of mail fraud.


United States v. Carlos Marcello, No. 80-274, E.D. La., 6/17/80. Marcello was convicted in this RICO prosecution for bribery.


United States v. Joseph Robert Provenzano, No. 84-103, E.D. La., 3/20/84. Provenzano was convicted in this RICO prosecution involving arson fraud and interstate extortion.

New York Strike Force


United States v. Paul Castellano, No. SS-84-CR-63-NTD, S.D.N.Y., 3/30/84. This was a RICO prosecution of the “crew” working directly for Castellano. Predicate acts included twenty-six murders, loansharking, perjury and witness bribery, drug trafficking, organized auto theft, and firearms offenses. Castellano was slain during the trial, which resulted in the conviction of six defendants.

United States v. James Coonan, No. 87-CR-249, S.D.N.Y., 3/26/87. Coonan and seven others were convicted in this RICO prosecution of the Irish organized-crime group called the “Westies.” Charges included murder, kidnapping, loansharking, extortion, illegal gambling, counterfeiting, and fraud.

United States v. Federico Giovanelli, No. S-88-CR-954-CDM, S.D.N.Y., 2/8/87. Giovanelli and two others were convicted on RICO charges based on gambling, loansharking, and an assault upon two officers of the city’s joint organized-crime strike force.


United States v. Carmine Persico, No. S-84-CR-809, S.D.N.Y., 10/24/84. The
Colombo family hierarchy, Persico, Gennaro Langella, and six others, were convicted in this RICO case of extortion, loansharking, bribery, and the infiltration of several unions.


*United States v. Anthony Salerno*, No. 86-CR-245, S.D.N.Y., 3/21/86. Nine defendants were convicted in this RICO prosecution of the hierarchy of the Genovese family, which charged Salerno and others with bid rigging, bribery, extortion, sports wagering, and murder.

**Philadelphia Strike Force**

*United States v. Cosmo Aiello*, No. 84-00321, E.D. Pa., 7/30/84. Aiello pled guilty to conspiracy and mail fraud charges that involved the manufacture of vast numbers of sport shirts made to look like Izod La Coste “Alligator” shirts.

*United States v. Leland Beloff*, No. 86-453, E.D. Pa., 1/5/87. Beloff and Nicodemo Scarfo were convicted of extortion, including an attempted $1 million shakedown of major commercial developer Rouse and Associates.

*United States v. Vito Buzzetta*, No. 81-358, E.D. Pa., 12/9/81. All defendants were convicted in this heroin-distribution case, one of the first to involve persons with known Sicilian connections.


*United States v. Thomas Del Giorno*, No. 87-00001, E.D. Pa., 1/5/87. Del Giorno pled guilty to murder and four conspiracies to murder.

*United States v. Raymond Martorano*, No. 82-0011, E.D. Pa., 1/23/82. Martorano and two others were convicted on drug charges.

*United States v. George Martorano*, No. 83-00314, E.D. Pa., 8/19/83. Twelve of fourteen defendants were convicted, including Martorano, on charges of dealing in heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and quaaludes.


*United States v. Frank Narducci*, No. 80-00213, E.D. Pa., 7/14/80. This RICO/gambling case, initiated through bribery offers, led to Narducci’s conviction.

*United States v. Nicodemo Scarfo*, No. 87-00258, E.D. Pa., 6/17/87. Scarfo was indicted with twenty-eight other defendants on drug charges for attempting to monopolize Philadelphia’s trade in amphetamines. He was acquitted but many other defendants were convicted.

*United States v. Nicodemo Scarfo*, No. 88-3, E.D. Pa., 1/11/88. Scarfo and eighteen others were convicted in this RICO case which detailed the Philadelphia family’s involvement in drug, extortion, and gambling offenses and in fourteen murders and attempted murders.
United States v. Philip Testa, No. 81-00049, E.D. Pa., 2/19/81. This case was intended to encompass all of the hierarchy of the Philadelphia crime family. While Testa, Frank Narducci, and Angelo Bruno were slain before trial, other defendants were convicted.

San Francisco Strike Force

United States v. Joseph Bonanno, No. 79-01701-WAI-SJ, N.D. Cal., 4/26/79. Bonanno was convicted of obstruction of justice for an attempt to cover up ownership of private businesses.

United States v. Angelo Commito, No. 88-435, N.D. Cal., 9/20/88. Commito was indicted for paying kickbacks to union officials and corporate employees to induce them to sign up for his dental care plan for their members/employees.

United States v. Jerome Gatto, No. 82-111, E.D. Cal., 7/7/82. Gatto pled guilty and Bonanno was convicted of fraud.

United States v. Cologero Lomonaco, No. 88-763, N.D. Cal., 11/29/88. This was a drug prosecution of a Sicilian cocaine distribution network.

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D. Government Hearings and Reports, 1980–1993


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