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LETTERS

The record needs setting straight in the Vitale case

| NOVEMBER 05, 2014

THE PROSECUTION of my former client Richard Vitale became a campaign issue in the recently concluded gubernatorial election. I want to set forth an accurate recitation of the facts of the case.

Vitale was charged with three state misdemeanors. His failure to register as a lobbyist was the principal allegation. Neither the failure-to-register charge nor the two related misdemeanors required proof that he acted with criminal intent. At the time, the lobbying registration statute was so ambiguous that it gave Vitale little guidance as to the requirements for registration. In fact, the statute was amended and clarified following subsequent recommendations by the Governor's task force.

Vitale was sentenced to a term of non-supervised probation and a fine. His plea of guilty was an Alford type plea, meaning the defendant can maintain his innocence yet plead guilty to resolve the outstanding case and get on with his professional and business life, which Vitale has done with great success. Furthermore, Vitale had previously been acquitted by a jury of separate charges brought by the United States attorney.

Martin G. Weinberg

Boston

Martin Weinberg was Richard Vitale's defense attorney

0 COMMENTS