

# Mobster: \$4M mistake too costly

**M**OB ASSOCIATE Salvatore Reale, who blew a sweetheart probation sentence for **extortion** by getting caught with \$4 million in his car, has been in prison for six months, and guess what — he's not happy and wants out.

Reale said the probation violations he admitted to were "highly technical," the 10 years he got "overly harsh," and he called on Brooklyn Federal Judge Jack Weinstein to reduce it significantly.

In 1988, after he pleaded guilty to shaking down a Kennedy Airport trucker, Weinstein gave him five years probation provided he got out of New York, stayed away from his mob cronies and got out of the transportation business.

Reale did all that, but Feb. 6 he was stopped by Texas border patrol agents who said they found \$4 million in his car trunk. Probation officials charged him with five violations, including possession of a gun. Reale pleaded guilty to two: lying about the reason for the trip and currency violations.

In court papers, his lawyer, Peter Schlam, implied that because Weinstein socked Reale with the maximum on the old **extortion** charge he didn't "keep an open mind about this case" — as he had assured Reale he would prior to the two guilty pleas.

"We were confident that our explanation of what happened here would greatly temper the ultimate result," said Schlam, who noted that he proved the major charge against Reale — possession of a gun — "was frivolous."

"That finding alone," argued Schlam, "should have led to a more lenient sentence for Mr. Reale."

Schlam also asked Weinstein to consider that Reale "suffered greatly" for three months when he spent 23 hours a day confined in an 8-by-6-foot cell for his own protection after Weinstein revealed Reale had cooperated with the feds.

"In the prison system there is a saying that one day 'in the hole' is like 30 'in population.' Based on our own observations," said Schlam, "this maxim appears to be apt."

Yesterday, Assistant U.S. Attorney George Stamboulidis vigorously opposed any sentence reduction for Reale, the man once described by federal prosecutors as "John Gotti's man at Kennedy Airport."

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Anthony (Tony Lee) Guerrieri, the man the feds say now does Gotti's strong-arm work at Kennedy, has a status conference today in his airport **extortion** case, but not co-defendant Frank Calise, former president of Teamsters Local 295.

In a plea bargain, Calise admitted the other day that he conspired to extort \$750,000 from Stair Cargo Co. in return for labor peace. He was not required to name names, and his sentence will run concurrently with a nine-year stretch he got in 1986 for another airport **extortion** scheme.

Federal Judge Joseph McLaughlin wished Calise good luck and waived the usual \$50 court assessment after Calise said: "I've been a good boy for the last four years, judge ... I'm broke."

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High-powered lawyer Gerald Shargel made a lot of noise, but he ignored the law in opposing a government move to disqualify him from the trial of developer Gerald Guterman, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Considine said last week.

In court papers, Considine said Shargel made "several baseless allegations designed to distract the court" from the key legal issue: A potential conflict of interest exists because Shargel had a "prior legal relationship" with key prosecution witness Michael **Franzese**.

Before arraignment, Guterman and Shargel were told the conflict existed, primarily because of confidential discussions they had when Shargel represented a co-defendant of **Franzese** in a federal loansharking trial, said Considine.

Even if **Franzese** and his co-defendant did not have a joint defense, said Considine, **Franzese** shared confidential information with many of the



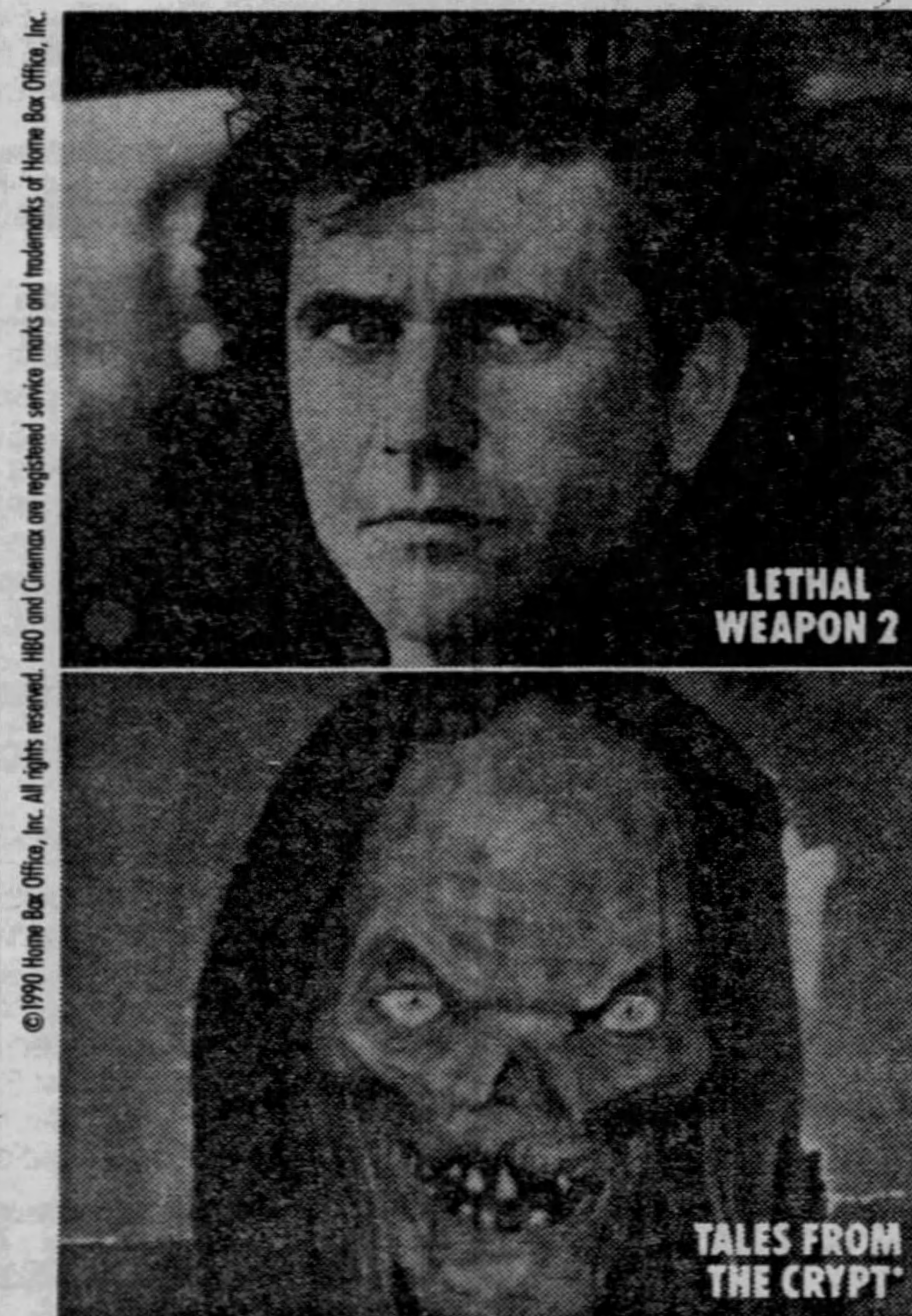
**GANG LAND**  
JERRY CAPECI

14 co-defendants and their lawyers in the case. Shargel yesterday denied receiving any confidential information and told Gang Land he would ask Judge John Bartels to schedule a hearing on the issue.

A year ago, a few months after reputed Gambino mobster Joseph (Joe Butch) Corrao was convicted of obstruction of justice, the State Liquor Authority filed formal charges seeking to force him to sell the Cafe Biondo, a Mulberry St. watering hole favored by Gotti.

**T**HE LIQUOR AUTHORITY Board is expected to rule Corrao fit to keep his liquor license, as federal prosecutors recently dropped the charge because of the likelihood it would be reversed by an appeals court.

Did anyone say rubber stamp? Not spokesman Richard Chernella. "It appears," said Chernella, "the SLA will drop the charge, but only after a majority vote of the five-member board."



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— Frank Calise