

Carl Marlinga served as a character witness for a political ally who was found guilty and sent to prison for raping a 26 year old woman. Two of Marlinga's political allies, Eric Smith and Anthony Marrocco, are now facing potential federal prison sentences in connection with corruption scandals.

BACKUP:

Carl Marlinga testified as a character witness in a rape trial for his political ally, William Hackel, who was found guilty and sent to prison for raping a woman who was 26 years old – less than half Hackel's age:

- In 1999, Macomb County Sheriff William Hackel was charged with raping a woman in a hotel while he was attending the Michigan Sheriffs' Association fall conference. "The Macomb County sheriff has been charged with raping a woman in a hotel while he was attending the Michigan Sheriffs' Association fall conference last month. William Hackel, 57, was arraigned Wednesday on two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. Each offense carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison." ("Macomb County sheriff accused of sexually assaulting a woman," [The Associated Press](#), 11/18/99)
- Carl Marlinga was reportedly a "close friend and political ally" of William Hackel. "Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga, a close friend and political ally of Hackel, called Wednesday 'the saddest day of my political career.' But he said he believe the judicial system will work to find the truth." ("Macomb County sheriff accused of sexually assaulting a woman," [The Associated Press](#), 11/18/99)
- Marlinga said it was the "the saddest day of [his] political career," adding that he believed the judicial system would work to find the truth. "Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga, a close friend and political ally of Hackel, called Wednesday 'the saddest day of my political career.' But he said he believe the judicial system will work to find the truth. 'I'm perfectly torn in half on this,' he told The Macomb Daily of Mount Clemens. 'Bill Hackel is my friend, but I also don't believe police or prosecutors would bring forward a charge unless it's being brought in good faith.'" ("Macomb County sheriff accused of sexually assaulting a woman," [The Associated Press](#), 11/18/99)
- Carl Marlinga testified as a character witness for William Hackel, calling the sheriff one of the most trustworthy public officials he knew and saying that Hackel "was the last person you would expect this to happen to." "For 24 years, William Hackel was the law in Macomb County. He snared robbers, murderers and rapists, and was hailed as a champion of victimized women and children. On Thursday, a jury gave him a new label ~ rapist ~ and sent him to share a cell with an armed robber. An Isabella County jury found him guilty of two counts of rape for two acts during the assault. 'This is a sad day,' said Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga. 'He was the last person you would expect this to happen to.' Marlinga, who testified as a character witness for Hackel, called him one of the most trustworthy public officials he knows." (M.L. Elrick, "Sheriff Guilty And Goes To Jail," [Detroit Free Press](#), 4/28/00)
- A jury found Hackel guilty of two counts of rape and sent him to share a cell with an armed robber." "For 24 years, William Hackel was the law in Macomb County. He snared robbers, murderers and rapists, and was hailed as a champion of victimized women and

children. On Thursday, a jury gave him a new label ~ rapist ~ and sent him to share a cell with an armed robber. An Isabella County jury found him guilty of two counts of rape for two acts during the assault. 'This is a sad day,' said Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga. 'He was the last person you would expect this to happen to.' Marlinga, who testified as a character witness for Hackel, called him one of the most trustworthy public officials he knows." (M.L. Elrick, "Sheriff Guilty And Goes To Jail," [Detroit Free Press](#), 4/28/00)

- **Hackel, age 58, raped a woman who was 26 years old.** "But the jury's six men and six women sided with the 26-year-old woman who said Hackel, 58, raped her Oct. 11 at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant." (M.L. Elrick, "Sheriff Guilty And Goes To Jail," [Detroit Free Press](#), 4/28/00)
- **In July 2000, Carl Marlinga said he had no regrets for supporting William Hackel in his rape trial.** "As for supporting former Sheriff Hackel by testifying in his rape trial, Marlinga said he has no regrets." (Kim North Shine, "Rivals Make Case Against Marlinga," [Detroit Free Press](#), 7/20/00)

In 2016, Carl Marlinga received endorsements from Eric Smith and Anthony Marrocco, both of whom could face federal prison sentences in connection with corruption investigations:

- **Carl Marlinga received endorsements from Eric Smith and Anthony Marrocco in his 2016 bid for Circuit Court Judge.** "Several weeks ago, I told my friend Tom Guastello about my getting the endorsements of County Exec Mark Hackel, Congresswoman Candice Miller, Prosecutor Eric Smith, Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco, County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh, and Sheriff Tony Wickersham. Tom said to me, 'Gee, that's great Carl, you have six votes.' We both smiled, and I thanked him for that reminder. Endorsements are great, but they are only the first part of a successful campaign. I need people to become part of the Carl Marlinga for Circuit Court Judge Committee. If you want to become a member of the committee, please 'like' this posting. By becoming a committee member you will allow me to use your name individually or as part of a listing of supporters. You are not committing to anything else, but, of course, you will get notices of events, public appearances, and things to do. If you want to volunteer for something special, please send a comment to tell me what it might be. Next week, I will get back to listing endorsements, but for now, the emphasis is on YOUR HELP. (You can also call Ken Lampar at 586-405-2260 or message him on Facebook.) Thanks." (Carl Marlinga, [LinkedIn](#), 1/7/16)

REQUEST TO JOIN THE JUDGE CARL MARLINGA FOR CIRCUIT COURT COMMITTEE.

Published on January 7, 2016

 **Carl Marlinga**
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Several weeks ago, I told my friend Tom Guastello about my getting the endorsements of County Exec Mark Hackel, Congresswoman Candice Miller, Prosecutor Eric Smith, Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco, County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh, and Sheriff Tony Wickersham. Tom said to me, "Gee, that's great Carl, you have six votes." We both smiled, and I thanked him for that reminder. Endorsements are great, but they are only the first part of a successful campaign. I need people to become part of the Carl Marlinga for Circuit Court Judge Committee. If you want to become a member of the committee, please "like" this posting. By becoming a committee member you will allow me to use your name individually or as part of a listing of supporters. You are not committing to anything else, but, of course, you will get notices of events, public appearances, and things to do. If you want to volunteer for something special, please send a comment to tell me what it might be. Next week, I will get back to listing endorsements, but for now, the emphasis is on YOUR HELP. (You can also call Ken Lampar at 586-405-2260 or message him on Facebook.) Thanks.

(Carl Marlinga, [LinkedIn](#), 1/7/16)

- **Anthony Marrocco was indicted in May 2020 on charges of conspiracy to commit extortion, two counts of extortion and attempted extortion, accused of shaking down builders and contractors for donations to his fundraisers while he was in office from 1994 through 2016.** "Marrocco was indicted in May 2020 on charges of conspiracy to commit extortion, two counts of extortion and attempted extortion, accused of shaking down builders and contractors for donations to his fundraisers while he was in office from 1994 through 2016." (Jameson Cook, "Anthony Marrocco's corruption trial moved to October," [Macomb Daily](#), 4/25/22)
 - **Marrocco's federal corruption trial is scheduled for October 2022.** "Anthony Marrocco's federal corruption trial that was slated to take place in July has been pushed back three months due to the complexity of the case and scheduling issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Morocco, the former Macomb County public works commissioner, was scheduled to go on trial July 11 but is now set to go on trial Oct. 11 in front of U.S. District Judge Robert Cleland in Port Huron." (Jameson Cook, "Anthony Marrocco's corruption trial moved to October," [Macomb Daily](#), 4/25/22)
 - **If convicted, Marrocco faces up to 20 years in prison.** "If convicted, Marrocco faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine." (Tresa Baldas and Christina Hall, "Feds indict Anthony Marrocco in Macomb County corruption scam," [Detroit Free Press](#), 5/27/20)
- **Eric Smith was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice in connection with a corruption scandal and investigation.** "Former Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice in connection with a corruption scandal and investigation. He officially reported to the prison, as required, on Thursday. He's being held at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana." (Cassidy Johncox, Derick Hutchinson, and Ken Haddad, "Former Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith turns himself in to federal prison," [Click On Detroit](#), 7/1/22)
 - **Smith is still facing 10 other criminal corruption charges in Michigan, which could carry prison sentences.** "Smith is facing 10 other criminal corruption charges

in Michigan following state Attorney General Dana Nessel's investigation into his handling of forfeiture funds, which were supposed to be used for specific police and law enforcement activities. The former prosecutor is still facing the following charges: 1 count official misconduct in office, a five-year felony; 1 count tampering with evidence in a civil proceeding, a four-year felony; 1 count accessory after the fact to Liston's embezzlement by a public official, a five-year felony; 1 count conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony; 5 counts embezzlement by a public official, a 10-year felony ~ one count each for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018; and 1 count of conspiracy to commit forgery, a 14-year felony and a \$10,000 additional fine." (Cassidy Johncox, Derick Hutchinson, and Ken Haddad, "Former Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith turns himself in to federal prison," [Click On Detroit](#), 7/1/22)