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NATIONAL BRIEFING | MID-ATLANTIC

Pennsylvania: Report on Judge Who Took Kickbacks

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every finding of juvenile delinquency by a former judge accused of taking kickbacks from a private juvenile detention company should be thrown out and nearly all the cases should not be retried, a judge appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to review the cases said. The court has the final say on what happens to the juveniles found delinquent by the former judge, Mark A. Ciavarella Jr., of Luzerne County. Arthur A. Grim, who was appointed to review the cases, said in a report that retrying the 1,866 cases of those juveniles who appeared before Mr. Ciavarella without lawyers from 2003 to May 2008 would amount to double jeopardy. He wrote that there would be no public benefit in retrying juveniles who had lawyers but completed their sentences. He also wrote that he should individually review the cases of juveniles who had been represented by lawyers and had not completed their sentences.

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