

NEWS
CONVICTED LAWYER DISBARRED

By Michael Powell, Staff Writer
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The New Jersey Supreme Court has permanently disbarred **Richard L. Faherty**, a Hawthorne attorney convicted of taking thousands of dollars from his clients' trust accounts in 1983 and 1984.

Faherty, 40, pleaded guilty to misusing about \$250,000 of his clients' money. Superior Court Judge Ralph V. Martin sentenced him to four years' probation and ordered him to perform 1,500 hours of community service.

Faherty also spent 322 days in the Passaic County Jail.

The disbarment means that Faherty cannot work "in any way, shape or form" as a lawyer, said Bill Wood, deputy ethics counsel for the state Supreme Court.

Faherty could not be reached for comment.

Wood said that in New Jersey disbarment is "considered a permanent state of affairs." In some other states, attorneys can apply for readmission to the bar after a number of years.

New Jersey forwards the records of its disbarment proceedings to other states in which the disbarred lawyer may have worked, Wood added.

Only a small number of attorneys are disbarred each year. Through March 31 of this year, 10 lawyers had been disbarred.

As part of a bargain for his guilty plea, Faherty testified against his former business partner, William Baldwin.

Baldwin, 34, a former Secaucus resident, was convicted in January of 36 counts of theft by deception, issuing bad checks, and making false financial statements. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Baldwin and Faherty carried out a series of fraudulent business deals that bilked two doctors and several North Jersey banks of \$1.4 million. Faherty took about \$250,000 from 10 clients between August 1983 and January 1984 to cover bad checks written by Baldwin.

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