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## **DOJ Keeps Pressure on Former Abramoff Associate in Corruption Prosecution**

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Just two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the scope of the honest services fraud laws, Justice Department attorneys Tuesday said they are pushing forward on the corruption prosecution of ex-lobbyist Kevin Ring, a former Jack Abramoff associate who is charged in a bribery scheme.

At a hearing Tuesday in Washington federal district court, Public Integrity Section trial attorney Peter Koski said the high court's June 24 ruling in *Skilling v. United States* has "no impact whatsoever" on the prosecution of Ring. The Supreme Court in *Skilling* said the honest services law can reach only bribery and kickback schemes.

Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle said she has a different take. The once wide-open honest service fraud statute "is not an unlimited category now," the judge said Tuesday. She said the "arena" today is different than when charges were first brought against Ring. There's a new definition of bribery and materiality, the judge said.

Huvelle on Tuesday gave Ring's attorneys -- he is represented by a [Miller & Chevalier](#) team -- more time to file an amended motion for judgment of acquittal. Ring's trial last fall ended in a hung jury. Ring, a former lobbyist at Greenberg Traurig and then, later, at Barnes & Thornburg, could be retried this fall in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The retrial has [been on hold pending the Supreme Court's ruling](#) in *Skilling* and two other honest services fraud cases. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for earlier coverage about the Abramoff and Ring cases.

Koski said the government is planning a faster, smoother trial. The government still intends to call Janis, Schuelke & Wechsler name partner Henry Schuelke III, Koski said Tuesday in court. At the first Ring trial, Schuelke testified about ethics laws and admissions Ring made. Greenberg had hired Schuelke to conduct an internal investigation involving Abramoff and associates.

*This article first appeared on [The BLT: The Blog of Legal Times](#).*