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Closing Arguments Set for Tony Rezko Corruption Trial

By **Andrew Duncan**
 15:51, May 12th 2008

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The corruption trial of the political fundraiser Antoin Rezko is being called one of the biggest corruption trials since that of Gov. George Ryan. He is accused of scheming to get bribes and kickbacks for favorable votes from the regulatory Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board and the \$40 billion state Teachers Retirement System.

Government prosecutors and defense attorneys are expected to deliver closer arguments in this case. Prosecutors claim that Antoin "Tony" Rezko, 52, collaborated with attorney Stuart P. Levine to split a \$1.5 million payoff from a contractor who needed state permission to build a hospital in the McHenry County suburb of Crystal Lake, according to the Web edition of the [Chicago Tribune](#).

He is also charged with scheming with the attorney to pressure kickbacks out of money management firms seeking to invest assets of the \$40 billion fund that pays the pensions of retired downstate and suburban teachers, the same source noted.

Rezko denies the accusations. Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich, who has not been charged with wrongdoing, which he denies, allegedly participated in the kickback schemes.

"The governor's behavior up to this point suggests he won't go quietly, but it becomes increasingly more difficult for him to be effective and for people to take him seriously," said [Kent Redfield](#), a professor at the Institute for Legislative Studies at the University of Illinois, Springfield, according to the New York Times. "It just seems like daily we get something new that links the governor's office to something. It's pretty disappointing."

Patrick J. Fitzgerald, the United States attorney in [Chicago](#), may bring charges against Mr. Blagojevich. His reputation has been so badly affected by the association with Rezko's case that it may take a longer period of time to recover.

[Barack Obama](#) was also involved in the scandal and his campaign for the presidency has been affected by all those questions raised about Mr. Rezko. Mr. [Obama](#) donated money that was raised for him by Mr. Rezko to charity. He said he regretted his decision, calling it a bad judgment on a property sale between their families. The fast-food entrepreneur was also a fundraiser for Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama.

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New Expose of Obama/Rezko Connection

By [John Ryskamp](#), (2008-05-12 19:28)

Hi,

The bombshell article on Obama's involvement with the Rezko/Auchi/General Mediterranean criminal enterprise has just been published:
Curtain Time For Barack Obama - Part I

by Evelyn Pringle Page 1 of 19 page(s)

<http://www.opednews.com>

Cheers,

John Ryskamp

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