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February 18, 2011

## Pennsylvania: Mixed Verdict for Disgraced Judge

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former juvenile court judge was convicted Friday of racketeering in a case that accused him of sending youth offenders to for-profit detention centers in exchange for millions of dollars from their builder and owner. The former judge, Mark Ciavarella, 61, left the bench in Luzerne County in disgrace two years ago. Federal prosecutors accused him and a second judge, Michael Conahan, of taking more than \$2 million in bribes from the builder of the PA Child Care and Western PA Child Care detention centers and extorting hundreds of thousands of dollars. A jury in Scranton convicted Mr. Ciavarella of 12 counts, including racketeering and conspiracy, and acquitted him of 27 counts.