Gary Kaplan Arrested: Is Norm Steinberg of BetonSports Next?

Contributed by Thomas Jensen
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The online gambling industry had the wind knocked out of its sails today when U.S. Attorney Catherine Hanaway announced that the United States FBI had arrested BETonSPORTS.com Founder Gary Kaplan in the Dominican Republic. Kaplan has been in custody since Wednesday however Hanaway intentionally did not release the news until after the World Trade Organization's compliance panel announced that the United States failed to comply with the WTO ruling in favor of Antigua & Barbuda in the long standing dispute between the two countries.

BETonSPORTS plc officials were indicted in July 2006 by a federal grand jury on various charges of racketeering, conspiracy and fraud. The indictment was unsealed back in July 2006 when the FBI picked up BETonSPORTS CEO David Carruthers while he was on a layover between the UK and Costa Rica in the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. Carruthers is hold up in a St. Louis hotel under house arrest awaiting trial. Now that Kaplan is in custody, only two other BETonSPORTS managers, Norm Steinberg and Peter Wilson remain at large.

"Last I heard, Norm is sitting in his house in Costa Rica and hasn't left in months. I heard his prostate is in bad shape. He's dead broke from legal and medical bills," commented an industry source that wished to remain anonymous. "Norm laid off his long time personal assistants and many long time employees. The legal bills from his last fight killed him and funding his son-in-law's legal team is costly."

If Norm is still in Costa Rica, he better reconsider whether that is a smart place to be right now. Roland Corvington, Special Agent in Charge, FBI St. Louis Office, said in a statement Friday, "The U.S. State Department, specifically in Costa Rica, has provided and will continue to provide, vital assistance in relation to all aspects of this investigation including the apprehension and deportation of fugitives such as Gary Kaplan."

Another source that worked at Betmania.com went on to confirm what many online gambling industry insiders already knew, "Betmania.com is 100% Norm's sportsbook. He bankrolled it and left 'Mike Mitchell' to run it. They are 30 days late on payments and players can't get paid. Betmania.com is dead in the water!"

Point-Spreads.com recommends that all players stay away from Betmania.com at this time and if Norm is reading this article, don’t go to the Dominican Republic.