From: Darren Indyke < > > To: Jackie Perczek

Date: 4/7/2011 1:27 PM

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Local News S Greater Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast

Palm Beach sex offender's secret plea deal: Possible co-conspirators not charged, presses victims to settle civil suits

By SUSAN SPENCER-WENDEL

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Friday, September 18, 2009

WEST PALM BEACH — Billionaire financier sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's secret non-prosecution agreement he struck with federal prosecutors was unsealed Friday, offering the first public look at the deal Epstein's high-powered legal counsel brokered on his behalf.

According the agreement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office investigated Epstein for various federal crimes, including prostitution, some punishable by a minimum of 10 years up to life in prison

But federal prosecutors backed down and agreed to recall grand jury subpoeanas, if Epstein pleaded guilty to prostitution-related felonies in state court, which he ultimately did. He received an 18-month jail sentence, of which

A former federal prosecutor of 15 years, Mark Johnson of Stuart, said the disparity in the potential sentences was

The United States Attorney's Office also agreed not to charge any of Epstein's possible co-conspirators - Sarah Kellen, Adriana Ross, Lesley Groff and Nadia Marcinkova

The agreement was negotiated in part by New York heavyweight criminal defense attorney Gerald Lefcourt.

On its first draft in September 2007, it required that Epstein pay an attorney - tapped by the U.S. Attorney's Office and approved by Epstein - to represent some of the victims in civil suits they had filed against Epstein. That attorney is prominent Miami lawyer Bob Josefsberg.

Former prosecutor Johnson said he has never seen a provision like that before.

But an addendum to the agreement signed the following month struck Epstein's duty to pay Josefsberg if he and the victims did not accept a settlement and instead pursued litigation.

The agreement, signed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Maria Villafana, does not expressly state whether any victims were contacted or consulted before the deal was made.

Attorney Brad Edwards of Fort Lauderdale, who represents three of the young women, believes that none of the between 30 and 40 woman identified as victims in the federal investigation were told of the deal. Edwards said his clients were still receiving letters in the mail months afterwards saying the U.S. Attorney's Office assuring them Epstein would be prosecuted.

"Never consulting the victims is probably the most outrageous aspect of it..." Edwards said. "It taught them that someone with money can buy his way out of anything. It's outrageous and embarrassing for United States Attorney's Office and the State Attorneys Office.

Eostein now faces many civil lawsuits filed by the women, who are represented by a variety attorneys. In many, the facts alleged are the same: that Epstein had a predilection for teenage girls, identified poor, vulnerable ones and lured them to his home via other young women. The teens describe ascending a staircase lined with nude photographs of young girls and to the spa room where Epstein would appear in a small towel

Former Circuit Judge Bill Berger, who represents one of the victims, and The Palm Beach Post sought the unsealing of the agreement. Berger refers to it as a "sweetheart deal.

"Why was it so important for the government to make this deal?" Berger asked rhetorically. "We have not yet had honest explanation by any public official as to why it was made .. and why the victim's were sold down the river.

Former federal prosecutor Ryon McCabe described the agreement as "very unorthodox." Such agreements, he said, are usually reserved for corporations, not individuals.

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"It's very, very rare. I've never seen or heard of the procedure that was set up here." said McCabe, who has no involvement in any Epstein litigation and is now a securities litigation attorney.

"He's essentially avoiding federal prosecution because he can afford to pay that many lawyers to help those victims review their cases.... If a person has no money he couldn't be able to strike a deal like this and avoid federal prosecution."

The back-room deal with federal prosecutors all the more interesting in light of the legal heavyweights who have worked for Epstein, including Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz and Kenneth Starr of Clinton impeachment fame. Lefcourt is a past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Epstein's local defense attorney, Jack Goldberger, issued a statement Friday saying he had fought the release of the sealed agreement to protect the third parties named there. "Mr. Epstein has fully abided by all of its terms and conditions. He is looking forward to putting this difficult period in his life behind him. He is continuing his long standing history of science philanthropy..."

Epstein ended up avoiding federal charges, and pleaded guilty in state court to felony solicitation of prostitution and procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution. In July 2008, he was sentenced to 18 months in jail, and later allowed out up to six days a week on work release.

Epstein left the jail in late July 2009 after serving not quite 13 months of the sentence, having earned gain time for good behavior.

Palm Beach Police began investigating the "international moneyman of mystery," as the New York magazine dubbed him, after they received a complaint from a relative of a 14-year-old girl who had given Epstein a naked massage at his home on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Police sought and found in poor neighborhoods a variety of tall, thin, model-like young women, who told stories of begin recruiting, then going to Epstein's home and massaging and stimulating him. They walked away with between \$200 and \$1,000.

The investigation triggered tensions between police and prosecutors, with then-Chief Michael Reiter saying in a May 2006 letter to then-State Attorney Barry Krischer that the chief prosecutor should disqualify himself.

"I continue to find your office's treatment of these cases highly unusual," Reiter wrote. He then asked for and got the federal investigation that ended in the sealed deal.

"The Jeffrey Epstein matter was an experience of what a many-million-dollar defense can accomplish," Reiter told the Palm Beach Daily News upon his retirement.





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Local News Greater Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast

Judge: Palm Beach sex offender Jeffrey Epstein agreement to remain sealed

By MICHELE DARGAN

Palm Beach Daily News Staff Writer

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

A federal judge has ruled that a non-prosecution document under which the government agreed not to pursue federal charges against sex offender Jeffrey Epstein will remain under seal - at least for now.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and Epstein's lawyers reached the agreement before Epstein pleaded guilty to state felony charges, and the document is under seal in Epstein's state criminal file.

Representing two of Epstein's victims, attorney Brad Edwards asked to have the document unsealed as part of his federal lawsuit against the Manhattan money manager. Although Edwards and his victims have seen the agreement, Edwards says in his pleadings that the government has "inaccurately described the agreement ... creating a false impression that the agreement protects the victims."

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Marra ruled that the claims, even if true, haven't damaged Edwards' case.

"If and when such alleged mischaracterizations become relevant to an issue to be decided by the court, the parties will be given the opportunity to advance their positions and the court will resolve the issue," he wrote. "If disclosure of the agreement will be required for the court to resolve this issue, appropriate disclosure will be ordered."

Seeking to keep the agreement sealed, Assistant U.S. Attorney Dexter Lee argued that the agreement is not part of any case before Marra.

"The non-prosecution agreement has never been filed under seal in federal court," he wrote.

He also denied that the agreement has been inaccurately described.

Marra sided with Lee on the argument that the agreement was not filed in federal court "under seal or otherwise."

On Aug. 14, Marra ruled that the non-prosecution agreement would be unsealed for Edwards and any of the victims who want to see it. But the ruling bars Edwards and anyone else who sees the document from disclosing the terms to anyone else.

In his motion to unseal, Edwards said he wants to be able to discuss the terms of the agreement with other victims and their attorneys as well as with other victims' rights groups such as the National Alliance of Victims' Rights

The desire to discuss the agreement with third parties is not justification for unsealing the document, Marra ruled.

"If a specific tangible need arises in a civil case \dots relief should be sought in that case," he wrote.

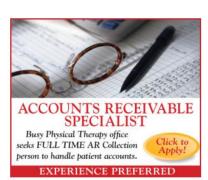
Epstein, 56, is serving 18 months in jail for soliciting prostitution and procuring a minor for prostitution.

Under the agreement, federal prosecutors will defer their decision on whether to prosecute Epstein on federal charges until 90 days after Epstein completes all requirements of his state sentence.

If he abides by all court conditions and restrictions, the federal case would be dropped.

In addition to the state criminal case, there are nine federal and seven state lawsuits pending against Epstein.

All contain similar allegations: The Manhattan money manager, through his employees and assistants, brought minor girls to his Palm Beach home at 358 El Brillo Way for erotic massages and sometimes sex.



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Palm Beach Daily News

June 25, 2009 Thursday Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A.1

LENGTH: 557 words

HEADLINE: JUDGE TO RULE ON SEALED PLEA-DEAL PAPERS TODAY

BYLINE: MICHELE DARGAN, MICHELE DARGAN, Daily News Staff Writer

BODY:

A circuit judge will decide today whether the public will be privy to the federal government's non-prosecution deal with Jeffrey Epstein, which was sealed when the convicted sex offender pleaded guilty in June 2008 to two felony counts.

Epstein, of Palm Beach, will be released from the Palm Beach County Stockade July 22, after serving less than 13 months of his 18- month sentence for procuring a minor for prostitution and solicitation of prostitution.

Teri Barbera, spokeswoman for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, confirmed his release date Tuesday.

Epstein's projected release date had been Sept. 24, but gain time -- which includes his participation in a work-release program -- moves the date up to July 22, Barbera said.

Epstein, 56, has been in the work-release program since Oct. 10, in which he is allowed out of the stockade six days a week, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., to go to his West Palm Beach office, the Florida Science Foundation, monitored by an ankle bracelet and accompanied by a deputy.

As part of Epstein's state plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office agreed not to prosecute Epstein on federal charges as long as he fulfills all requirements of his sentence and probation. The federal non-prosecution agreement has been under seal in state court.

Epstein's attorney Jack Goldberger filed court papers asking that the documents stay sealed for the following reasons: "to prevent a serious imminent threat to the fair, impartial and orderly administration of justice; to protect a compelling government interest; to avoid substantial injury to innocent third parties and to avoid substantial injury to a party by disclosure of matters protected by a common law and privacy right, not generally inherent in these specific type of proceedings, sought to be closed."

Fort Lauderdale-based attorney Brad Edwards represents three Epstein victims and has asked Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath to unseal the federal agreement to the public. An attorney for The Palm Beach Post also has asked that the records be unsealed.

Edwards and his clients have seen the agreement after a federal judge ruled that they are allowed to see it. But that ruling bars Edwards and anyone else who sees the document from disclosing the terms to anyone else.

Edwards said he wants to use that document "in the deposition of various material witnesses" relative to his cases.

Radaronline.com has reported that Epstein has "secretly been helping the feds unravel a Ponzi scheme" related to the June 2008 indictment of two former managers of Bear Stearns Mortgage Investment Fund.

Epstein's rep, Howard Rubenstein, confirmed last year that Epstein is "Major Investor No. 1" in the indictment, which says he lost about \$57 million.

Goldberger could not be reached for comment.

The Manhattan money manager has been incarcerated since June 30, when he pleaded guilty to the two felony counts. As part of the plea agreement, Epstein must serve one year of house arrest after his release and register as a lifelong sex offender.

In addition to the criminal case, there are more than a dozen civil lawsuits -- both state and federal -- pending against Epstein. All contain similar allegations: Epstein, through his employees and assistants, brought minor girls to his Palm Beach home on El Brillo Way for crotic massages and sometimes sex.

-- mdargan@pbdailynews.com

GRAPHIC: Caption: Epstein To be released from jail July 22.

LOAD-DATE: September 1, 2010



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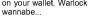
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Last Updated: 3:35 AM, October 12, 2009 Posted: 12:55 AM, October 12, 2009

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Ghislaine Maxwell, the British brunette whose father once owned the Daily News, has been slapped with a subpoena in suits brought by 24 underage girls against her old friend, billionaire Jeffrey Epstein.

Maxwell -- whose press-lord father, Robert Maxwell, died in 1991 after falling into the Atlantic off his yacht, the Lady Ghislaine -- was served with a subpoena on Sept. 22 at 6:45 p.m. as she was leaving the Clinton Global Initiatives Conference at the Sheraton Hotel.

Florida lawyer Brad Edwards, who represents three of the "Jane Does" who are suing Epstein, told Page Six that Maxwell would be questioned over her knowledge of how Epstein procured many of the girls.

Epstein is accused in the civil complaints of luring underage girls to his mansion in Palm Beach to give him massages, during which he allegedly engaged them in sexual activity and paid them hundreds of dollars each. A grand jury indicted Epstein on a charge of felony solicitation of prostitution. Epstein, who pleaded guilty and did 12 months in prison, was deposed last week in the offices of his lawyer, Jack

Goldberger wouldn't comment, but a friend of Epstein said, "These [people bringing the complaint] are the lowest of the lows in terms of ambulance-chasing lawyers." The trials are scheduled to start in February.

Nadia Marcinkova, who has been described as Epstein's lesbian sex slave and who visited him behind bars 67 times, has also been served with a subpoena

Epstein's brother, Mark Epstein, who has a real-estate holding company in New York, has already been deposed about a building he owns, 301 E. 66th St. "Jeffrey rents several apartments there where he keeps his girls, alleged models for the MC2 agency he owns," Edwards said. "But Mark acts like he doesn't even know his brother. He was extremely angry and rude and cursed me out."

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Pedro Gonzalez

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> June 15, 2009 Monday Palm Beach Edition

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 3B

LENGTH: 348 words

HEADLINE: HEARING SET TO CONSIDER SECRECY OF PLEA BARGAIN

BYLINE: Susan Spencer-Wendell The Palm Beach Post

BODY:

A Palm Beach Circuit Court judge will not immediately unseal a deal that wealthy Palm Beach money manager Jeffrey Epstein made with federal prosecutors to avoid charges.

Circuit Judge Jeff Colbath acknowledged, though, at a hearing last week that Epstein's deal was not sealed in accordance with state and local court rules.

"I don't see where any of the procedures were ever followed to begin with," Colbath said.

Colbath also set a full hearing on the matter for June 25.

Attorneys for young women now suing Epstein, together with The Palm Beach Post, are asking Colbath to unseal the deal that Epstein made with federal prosecutors.

"It's a secret agreement, a secret sweetheart agreement," said former Circuit Judge Bill Berger, who represents some of the women. "Everybody was in on this deal except the victims and the public. The public should be outraged it has gone as far as it has."

Brad Edwards, a second attorney representing the women, has seen the sealed deal after a federal judge allowed him and his clients to view it, but would not discuss its contents.

Edwards would say only that the women were "outraged" that it had been negotiated behind their backs.

A reporter asked Edwards whether he thought Epstein received special treatment by federal prosecutors.

"Are you kidding? It's transparent. Certainly, no one else gets treated like that," Edwards said.

Epstein, 56, a reported money manager of billionaires, is serving an 18-month sentence in the Palm Beach County Stockade after pleading guilty almost a year ago in state court to felony solicitation of prostitution and procuring teenagers for prostitution. Epstein is allowed out, though, each day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., a Sheriff's Office spokesman said.

Displeased with the way the State Attorney's Office handled the case, Palm Beach police forwarded information to

INFORMATIONAL BOX:

Young women have sued

HEARING SET TO CONSIDER SECRECY OF PLEA BARGAIN Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) June 15, 2009 Monday

Money manager Jeffrey Epstein made a deal and is serving an 18-month sentence in jail. Attorneys for young women suing Epstein are asking a judge to unseal the deal that Epstein made with federal prosecutors.

NOTES: < Informational box at end of text. {TOPIC} Prostitution solicitation case

LOAD-DATE: June 15, 2009



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Palm Beach Daily News

June 11, 2009 Thursday Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A.1

LENGTH: 561 words

HEADLINE: EPSTEIN PLEA DEAL TO REMAIN SEALED FOR NOW

BYLINE: DAVID ROGERS, DAVID ROGERS, Daily News Staff Writer

BODY:

The plea deal that part-time Palm Beacher Jeffrey Epstein agreed to several months ago to avoid federal charges will remain sealed for the time being.

Lawyers for The Palm Beach Post and a woman who claimed Epstein solicited and procured her for sex at his El Brillo Way home while she was underage asked Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath Wednesday morning to unseal the plea documents immediately.

Instead, Colbath decided to leave the documents sealed and give Jack Goldberger, the attorney representing Epstein, until 1 p.m. Friday to file papers showing why the records should remain out of public view.

Colbath agreed to let the Post and "E.W." have standing in the case and set a hearing on whether the documents should be unsealed for 1:30 p.m. June 25.

Epstein agreed in September 2007 to plead to state charges to avoid federal prosecution, Goldberger told County Judge Deborah Pucillo at Epstein's plea conference last year.

The sealing of the records in question was said to be a "significant inducement" for Epstein, who is serving 18 months in the Palm Beach County Stockade -- with daytime release -- and is facing several civil lawsuits in state and federal courts by more than a dozen alleged victims.

Colbath said, "I don't see where any of the proper procedures to seal the documents were ever followed ..." but that he would give Epstein's legal team the ability to "jump through the hoops to seal the documents if they are entitled in fact to be sealed."

The sealing of court documents in Florida is unusual and lawyers typically have to prove a significant reason for it, such as protecting trade secrets or a compelling government interest.

Goldberger said after the hearing there is no rush to unseal the plea deal.

"I think the records clearly need to be sealed and continue to be sealed but I think the ruling by Judge Colbath was a very well- reasoned practical decision," Goldberger said. "He is not getting special treatment."

Brad Edwards, of the law firm of Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler of Fort Lauderdale, said the plea deal should be a public record. His firm represents the woman, now 20, who was identified only as E.W.

Whether procedure was followed is not the issue, he said.

"Certainly it should be unsealed regardless. I mean this is a very unusual circumstance where a document like this would be sealed," Edwards said. "None of the other criminal defendants in there (Judge Colbath's courtroom) had their plea bargains, plea agreements, their non-prosecution agreements, sealed."

Edwards said his firm represents three women who claim they were procured for sex with Epstein when they were underage. The three are outraged that the document is under wraps, Edwards said.

Deanna Shullman, the attorney representing the Post, said the public and the press have a constitutional right of access to public records in Florida.

"Fortunately, the status quo is openness. So I think the judge has the idea that the initial closure was done without any adherence to those procedures but was inclined to give Mr. Epstein's lawyers additional time to prove that they should be sealed in accordance with these procedures," Shullman said.

"It's a little disappointing in that we would have liked to see the judge unseal the record because that's what should be the status quo in a situation like this," Shullman said.

-- drogers

@pbdailynews.com

LOAD-DATE: September 1, 2010



1 of 11 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2009 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved The Evening Standard (London)

December 24, 2009 Thursday

LENGTH: 824 words

HEADLINE: CITY SPY

BODY:

EXPECT more media firms to announce plans to charge for content online in early 2010. City Spy hears that business-to-business publisher United Business Media is the latest outfit which is thinking of ramping up its subscription model. Property Week and Building are among the titles which recently started asking users to register their details to keep reading stories, which is seen as a possible precursor to charging.

BUSINESSES TIPPED TO COME A CROPPER

AMID all the contradictory forecasts for recovery or double-dip recession in 2010, what do the insolvency practitioners say? City Spy's mole in the bean-counting world says the last quarter of 2009 was surprisingly quiet as the economy stabilised but they are not optimistic about the new year: "We reckon there's going to be a rush of insolvencies in the second quarter, after the end of the financial year." The next quarterly rent review is due tomorrow, Christmas Day, then again at the end of March. But given the number of "seasonal sales" that started on the High Street at least a week before Christmas, it would be no surprise to see some retailers come a cropper sooner...

EPSTEIN PILOT TAKES TO THE ROAD

FURTHER news reaches City Spy of former Bear Stearns trader, Prince Andrew's shooting companion and convicted sex offender, Jeffrey Epstein.

The ex-Wall Street star served 13 months in jail on criminal charges of soliciting prostitution and procuring a minor for prostitution and he now faces civil claims from young women accusing him of having unlawful sex with them. This week, City Spy recounted how Epstein had transferred the title deeds of his prized 2003 Ferrari 575M Maranello to his private pilot Larry Visoki, prior to the car going on sale for \$159,000 (£99,000) (possibly to help Epstein pay his legal bills). It turns out, the same Visoki was deposed last week by Bradley Edwards, an attorney for three of the women suing Epstein. Questioned by Edwards about plane passengers who might have witnessed Epstein in the company of young girls, Visoki admitted Bill Clinton, Prince Andrew, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, former Colombian president Andrés Pastrana Arango, Obama economic adviser Lawrence Summers, billionaire Ron Burkle, and actors Kevin Spacey and Chris Tucker had been on board the plane while young girls were present. Fortuitously for Epstein, however, Ferrari-selling Visoki swore on oath that he never suspected his boss of having sex with them.

Of course not, Larry. Now drive off into the sunset.

More on Prince Andrew, our special representative for international trade and investment. The European Parliament and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe have strongly condemned Azerbaijan for tightening restrictions on the media and jailing two bloggers who were critical of the government. It transpires the oil-rich country has long blocked BBC broadcasts there, which might explain why oft-criticised Andrew and former Prime Minister Tony Blair spend so much time visiting the sometime Soviet State.

What does the snow have in common with the recession? Every other country can get out of both but Britain can't get out of either. HAPPY news: private jet travel is back, reports the Wall Street Journal. Alas, there is a "but" [#x2039]

in-flight food remains in recession. Apparently, those who supply food to executive aircraft are seeing demand soar after a slump, but says one caterer: "No one is eating lobster. A quick turkey box lunch is the order of the day." Of course, that has nothing to do with the industry being desperate to re-brand itself as time-saving and cost-efficient.

WHICH insurance broker saw a compliance officer pass out after the office Christmas lunch and have to be taken to hospital?

WHO MADE OFF WITH THE MONEY? IT's a year since the Bernie Madoff affair blew up and the hedge fund king was found to have been ripping off his clients. If he was in Britain the old fraudster would still be at liberty as lawyers pored over his case and the prosecution had barely cranked into operation. But the US is different [#x2039] his case is done and dusted, and he's languishing in jail. Even so, by US standards, the Madoff conviction was going some. Rumours persist that he pleaded guilty as quickly as he did and said the absolute minimum because he wasn't the main crook of the piece [#x2039] the main business of his hedge fund was washing money for organised crime. As soon as the balloon went up and he was arrested, he was warned by friends with Italian-American origins that his life, and the lives of his family, would be at risk were he not to "take the rap".

OETaking the rap': hedge fund fraud Bernie Madoff

UNFORTUNATE name? City Spy's eye is drawn to a forthcoming lecture at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. It's in partnership with the Market Abuse Association. What? Do they wear a club tie? Do they refer to each other as fellow market abusers?

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HEADLINE: ATTORNEY FOR EPSTEIN VICTIMS: 'I HAVE NEVER SEEN A STRANGER CASE'

BYLINE: MICHELE DARGAN, MICHELE DARGAN, Daily News Staff Writer

BODY:

Sex offender Jeffrey Epstein could have been charged with multiple counts of five federal offenses involving sex acts with minors and faced a life sentence, but, instead, the government agreed not to prosecute him or his procurers if he spent 18 months in the county jail on two state charges.

Those were the details unsealed Friday in a nine-page federal non-prosecution agreement that lets Epstein and co-conspirators Sarah Kellen, Adriana Ross, Lesley Groff and Nadia Marcinkova off the hook for any of those past crimes.

"He could have gone to prison for life and somehow he's getting immunity in exchange for nothing?" said Fort Lauderdale attorney Brad Edwards, who represents three Epstein victims. "I have never seen a stranger case. To me, it's more spectacular what's not in it. It's the U.S. Attorney's Office saying we'll do everything in our power to see he doesn't get punished."

Edwards has been fighting for a year in federal and state court to unseal the agreement.

"The non-prosecution agreement raises more questions than it answers," said Miami attorney Adam Horowitz, who represents seven victims. "Why did all the co-conspirators receive immunity? Why were the victims not consulted regarding the sentence? Why did he receive such a minimal sentence?

The federal deal has remained sealed in Epstein's state court file since he pleaded guilty in June 2008 to state charges of procuring a minor for prostitution and soliciting prostitution.

U.S. Attorney's Office does not comment

The federal charges he could have faced were: conspiracy to persuade minor females to engage in prostitution, conspiracy to travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct with minor females, persuading minor females to engage in prostitution, traveling to engage in illicit sexual conduct with minor females and causing a person under 18 years to engage in sex for money while knowing they are underage.

The charges carry various statutory penalities ranging from 10 years to life, with a minimum mandatory of at least 10 years.

Alicia Valle, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami, declined comment.

Expert: Feds take few sex-assault cases

ATTORNEY FOR EPSTEIN VICTIMS: 'I HAVE NEVER SEEN A STRANGER CASE' Palm Beach Daily News September 20, 2009 Sunday

North Palm Beach criminal defense attorney Barry Maxwell said he is not surprised that federal charges weren't filed.

"My experience has been that the federal government does not intervene in sex-assault cases, except if we're dealing with a serial rapist or it crosses jurisdictional lines," Maxwell said. "It's either not a big enough case or not atrocious enough for them."

Epstein, 56, served 13 months of his 18-month sentence at the Palm Beach County Stockade and received liberal work-release privileges while in jail. He was able to go to his West Palm Beach office six days a week for up to 16 hours a day.

He is now serving one year of probation at his Palm Beach mansion and is registered as a lifelong sex offender.

Epstein 'fully abided' by deal, says defense

Epstein's attorney Jack Goldberger released the following statement: "This document relates to allegations that were made many years ago. It was by its provisions and agreement of the parties to remain confidential in part to protect the identities of collateral third parties.

"Mr. Epstein has fully abided by all of its terms and conditions. He is looking forward to putting this difficult period of his life behind him. He is continuing his longstanding history of science philanthropy both here in South Florida and nationwide."

Goldberger had blocked the unsealing by filing court papers asking that the documents stay sealed "to prevent a serious imminent threat to the fair, impartial and orderly administration of justice; to protect a compelling government interest; to avoid substantial injury to innocent third parties; and to avoid substantial injury to a party by disclosure of matters protected by a common law and privacy right, not generally inherent in these specific type of proceedings, sought to be closed."

Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath ordered the agreement to be unsealed in June, but Epstein's attorneys appealed the ruling to the Fourth District Court of Appeals, which affirmed Colbath's ruling. Colbath had ruled that the federal agreement -- sealed in state court -- was improperly sealed.

'I felt it was my fault'

More than a dozen lawsuits against the billionaire money manager have been filed in federal and state court, all with similar allegations: that a minor girl was taken to Epstein's mansion on El Brillo Way and led upstairs to a spa room by one of Epstein's assistants, where he would ask the girl to perform massages and/or various sex acts, for which he would pay her.

One victim, who is known as Jane Doe #5 in a federal court lawsuit against Epstein, said she didn't find out about the deal until after it was finalized. She was 15 at the time one of her schoolmates told her she could make \$200 by giving a massage to a man in Palm Beach.

She says she was "nervous and scared and wanted to leave" once she got to Epstein's spa room.

"I thought, 'I can't call my dad or my mom because I'm stuck in this situation and didn't know what to do," she said.
"I really didn't know what this man was capable of. For a long time, I felt like it was my fault and that's exactly what he wanted me to feel."

Epstein has curfew

While he is serving the 12 months of house arrest at his Palm Beach home, Epstein must observe a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew, have no unsupervised contact with anyone younger than 18 and not view, own or possess pornographic or sexual materials.

The indictment followed an 11-month investigation by Palm Beach police, who said Epstein paid five underage girls for massages and sometimes sex at his El Brillo Way home. Then-State Attorney Barry Krischer declined to prosecute Epstein on multiple charges involving unlawful sex acts with minors. Instead, he brought the case to a grand jury, which charged Epstein on the lesser charge of soliciting prostitution.

Then-Palm Beach Police Chief Michael Reiter wrote Krischer a letter asking him to recuse himself from the case. When that didn't happen, Reiter requested an FBI investigation to determine if any federal laws were broken.

ATTORNEY FOR EPSTEIN VICTIMS: 'I HAVE NEVER SEEN A STRANGER CASE' Palm Beach Daily News September 20, 2009 Sunday

'Out of the ordinary'

West Palm Beach criminal defense attorney Gregg Lerman said several aspects of the Epstein case are unusual.

"I don't understand why it would be a federal case in this circumstance, and why was there anything in writing at all and why did they seal the agreement?" Lerman said. "Why did it go to the grand jury instead of through the state filing lewd assault charges? That's unusual. And it's very unusual that they structure a plea to get county time rather than prison time. That's definitely out of the ordinary. Nobody goes to county jail as a state criminal punishment."

-- mdargan

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GRAPHIC: Caption: Epstein Deal does not allow prosecution of co-conspirators.

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