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WHAT LIGHTS THE SPARK THAT IGNITES A — REVOLUTION? —

Stevens Case Prosecutor Kills Himself

By CHARLIE SAVAGE

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WASHINGTON — A Justice Department lawyer involved with the botched corruption trial of former Senator $\underline{\text{Ted Stevens}}$ committed suicide over the weekend, the law firm representing him said on Monday.

The lawyer, Nicholas A. Marsh, 37, was one of several Justice Department

officials who are under investigation for possible prosecutorial misconduct over their handling of the Stevens case. An investigation is under way by the department's Office of Professional Responsibility, and a separate inquiry has been started by the federal judge in the case, <u>Emmet Sullivan</u>.

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An aide to Robert Luskin, a lawyer representing Mr. Marsh in those investigations, confirmed that Mr. Marsh had taken his own life, as reported by <u>National Public Radio</u>. (Mr. Luskin was traveling abroad.)

In a statement, Lanny A. Breuer, the assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's criminal division, expressed sorrow.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to Nick's family and friends on this sad day," Mr. Breuer said. "The Department of Justice is a community, and today our community is mourning the loss of this dedicated young attorney."

Mr. Marsh was part of the trial team with the department's public integrity section that in October 2008 <u>won a conviction</u> against Mr. Stevens, a Republican of Alaska, for failing to report gifts on financial disclosure forms. The following month, Mr. Stevens lost a bid for re-election.

But in 2009, a <u>Federal Bureau of Investigation</u> agent filed an affidavit claiming that <u>prosecutors had failed to turn over potentially exculpatory evidence</u> to the defense, as they are legally required to do.

In April 2009, at the request of Attorney General <u>Eric H. Holder Jr.</u>, Judge Sullivan <u>set</u> <u>aside the verdict</u> against Mr. Stevens. Both investigations into whether the prosecutorial team had committed misconduct remain open.

Mr. Stevens died last month in a plane crash in Alaska.

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