

January 28, 2011

Medford “Spiritual Advisor” found guilty of sex crimes

A Medford man who portrayed himself as a “spiritual advisor” to a Suffolk family was found guilty this afternoon of sodomizing two teenage boys from December of 2008 to July of 2009.

Miguel Leon Jr., 53, of Sipp Avenue, claimed to be a spiritualist in the Lucumi Yoruba religion. He told the victims that by performing sex acts with him, they would acquire spiritual energy, power, and a higher level of enlightenment. The victims were ages 14 and 16 when the crimes were committed.

After a three-week trial and seven hours of deliberations, the jury found Leon guilty of 20 counts of criminal sex act in the second degree, 15 counts of criminal sex act in the third degree and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said prosecutors will recommend the maximum of 20 years in prison at Leon’s sentencing on March 1 in Riverhead.

Assistant District Attorney John Cortes of the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Bureau prosecuted the case.

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Miguel Leon Jr
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Every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.