

Attorney bilked clients of \$1.2 million

From page 1

solicitor. Mr. Kolman's addiction caused him to take trust funds and use them for his own use one must go a long way to reach \$1.2 million."

Gorewich, who ordered Kolman to reimburse the Law Society of Upper Canada the \$1.2 million it has paid out to victims, gave him until next Wednesday to arrange his affairs before entering the Kingston Penitentiary.

According to court testimony, Kolman grew up in a dysfunctional family, trapped between an abusive father and alcoholic mother. Experts believe this triggered a genetic impulse to gamble. He gambled the money away at casino tables in Rama, Niagara Falls, Windsor and Atlantic City.

Kolman's victims included prominent law professor Alan Young, AIDS crusader Jim Wakeford, and even his own mother, who helped post a \$50,000 bail payment following his arrest in December 1998.

Another victim was Markham's Donna Pistillo, whose family sought legal advice from Kolman after her in-laws were killed in a tragic accident in December 1996. A friend of the family, Kolman ended up draining the estate of Emilia and Antonio Pistillo of more than \$300,000.

Pistillo said she was relieved by the three-year

term. She was concerned Kolman would escape jail time after former Newmarket recreation director Bill Andrews received a conditional two-year sentence and 248 hours of community service after pleading guilty to stealing \$500,000 from the town.

Andrews also blamed gambling for his crimes. "We wanted a jail sentence. Hopefully, he serves the full three years," Pistillo said.

"Lawyers are put in a position of trust and it's not about the money, but the trust that he broke. If he has a gambling problem, let him do it with his own money. But he didn't have his own money. People have to beware it can happen to them, the money is there and lawyers can take it at any time."

Although Crown attorney Paul Tait asked for a three- to five-year jail term, Gorewich said he took into consideration the fact Kolman turned himself in, stopped practising law following his arrest and sought medical help for his gambling addiction.

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