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FCPA NEWS ARTICLE

Rod Blagojevich



Rod Blagojevich is charged with trying to sell President Barack Obama's old Senate seat to the highest bidder and prosecutors say he tried to extort Jackson to raise a \$1 million for his campaign war chest in exchange for the appointment.

But during opening statements in the federal corruption trial of Blagojevich and his brother, Robert Blagojevich, defense attorney Sam Adam, Jr., insisted that the former governor was simply trying to get the attention of power brokers in Washington by floating Jackson's name. And the brothers never asked for money, Adam insisted.

In all, Blagojevich is charged with more than two dozen crimes, including extortion, conspiracy, wire fraud and making false statements when he was questioned by the FBI. All but the false statement charge carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. If convicted on all counts, Blagojevich could receive up to 415 years in prison and fines totaling \$6 million.