

Among the signatures Daskal forged in the Passmore case was that of U.S. District Court Judge Frederico A. Moreno in Miami. The FBI was brought in to investigate and Daskal was arrested on a felony count of forgery.

Daskal has blamed “a kid who worked with me” for the forgery.

While he was being held in jail on the forgery charge in Miami, a Maryland court was awaiting Daskal’s arrival to face a charge of theft for his alleged embezzlement of \$38,000 from New Jersey dealer Charles D’Amico. Daskal has since been disbarred in Maryland for misappropriation and “dishonesty, deceit and misrepresentation” in forging a Sunoco lawyer’s name in another case.

Daskal says a relative took the money, not he.

Arrest warrants were issued for Daskal in both the Maryland and Florida cases after he failed to appear at hearings, telling both courts that he was being treated in psychiatric facilities at the time.

In the still-open D’Amico case in Maryland, he sent a note signed by a social worker and a doctor saying he had been admitted to Calvert Memorial Hospital on the morning of Oct. 20, 2003 and so could not appear in court that afternoon.

In March, 2004, Daskal wrote again to the Maryland court, this time using Stanford Hospital letterhead. He said he was being treated “for effects from a tumor and multiple head traumas (auto accidents). I am presently taking 4 medications and am presently restricted from traveling.” The court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Barry Wax, Daskal’s lawyer in the Florida forgery case, said in filings that his client was admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Maryland after being released on \$50,000 bond in Miami. Then, in November 2003, he had a nervous breakdown in New Jersey and was admitted for psychiatric evaluation there. After that, he was being treated as an outpatient at a Towson, Md., facility.

Wax told the Miami court that Daskal was in no condition to face a trial and asked for a competency hearing to be scheduled. Daskal never showed up for the Aug. 17, 2004 hearing. Instead, he sent a letter saying he was in the Stanford clinic in Palo Alto. The court revoked his bond and issued another warrant. Daskal was arrested a second time, this time at the clinic, on Sept. 9. He was turned over to U.S. marshals and

held in various jails in California and Oklahoma on his way back to Miami. He arrived in Florida on Nov. 3, nearly two months after his arrest.

Daskal passed a competency examination and in March this year plead guilty to forgery. He could have received five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Instead, he was sentenced to time served and placed on three years supervised release. He was ordered to undergo mental health treatment and not to enter into self-employment without the approval of his probation officer.

(According to court records, Daskal first tried to pay Wax with a \$25,000 retainer drawn on an account closed 18 months before.)

### **Divorce papers cite dalliances, credit card woes**

Bob Graves, the dealer who ended up in jail, said Daskal ran up about \$1,500 in hotel charges on his AmEx card. Graves says he had authorized Daskal to use the card only once, for a \$200 hotel bill, when Daskal claimed his wife had lost her wallet and he’d been forced to cancel their cards).

There were also questions about card charges when Daskal was with SSDA. “We caught it quickly, on the first bill,” says one source.

Credit cards figured in Daskal’s divorce, too. MaryPatricia Daskal told a court in March 2004 that she was in “desperate financial straits” after Daskal had run up her credit cards, even though they had been separated for months. She was getting “daily dunning calls” for bills she couldn’t pay. Since January, 2003, Daskal had contributed only \$3,000 to the family and had paid no child support or alimony since October 2003, she said.

Until the last year or so of their marriage, he had contributed his \$50,000 salary to the home. But he began spending more and more time on the West Coast and contributing little, if anything to the home. He also had adulterous relationships with women he met via an Internet dating service.

She says rental car firms sent agents, and the police, to their home seeking their missing cars. The FBI also came looking for him. (Daskal told her he was “helping” a U.S. Attorney on a case.)

Daskal contested part of the divorce proceedings – but failed to file papers in time.