



Introduction..... 3  
Executive Summary..... 4  
    Top Vulnerabilities ..... 5  
Connections to Other Democrats..... 9  
Court Records in Cook County..... 13  
Building Code Violations ..... 24  
Divorce ..... 28  
Property/Recorder Timeline ..... 33  
Voter Registration and History..... 36

  
Scott Lee Cohen

Research Report

February 2010

## Introduction

This report summarizes the record of Scott Lee Cohen, former Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor of Illinois. This report has been prepared for vulnerability purposes; as such it identifies vulnerabilities in Cohen's record as well as connections to other Democratic candidates and officials.

Please note that while every effort has been made to create a comprehensive report, Cohen has an unprecedented number of court records for a major party nominee. Additionally, this project has raised multiple questions without immediate resolution in the public record. Cohen has appeared to actively conceal his financial transactions and business holdings on many occasions. Therefore, it is possible that court and property records have not been uncovered by this project. For example, he may own or have owned other businesses that were not registered with the Illinois Secretary of State or other government entity. This report has covered all material that has received press coverage as well as multiple unreported issues.

While Cohen has received significant press coverage, the stories have been conflicting and occasionally inaccurate. Therefore, when in doubt we have used the original records only. For example, we note the details from his arrest and the details of his girlfriend's arrest, rather than Cohen's subsequent explanation about it in television interviews.

The following sources were reviewed for this report: court records from the Cook County Clerk of Court, property records and liens from the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, voter registration and history with the Chicago Board of Elections and Cook County Clerk, campaign disclosures with the Illinois State Board of Elections, and press coverage from Lexis-Nexis.

### *Note:*

*This is an internal document and is not intended for public review or circulation. The material within this document is considered "not for attribution" in the event of public review.*

*While key issues have been highlighted, the reader must draw his or her own conclusions.*

*Significant effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Before using this material, please be certain to understand the facts and nuances within the information presented.*

*Always double-check the facts to verify your claims. If any portion of the research is unclear, please call the author of the document for clarification before using the information.*

  
**Executive Summary**

Scott Lee Cohen's career in Illinois Democratic politics has been brief and turbulent. He apparently dropped out of high school when his father died, taking over two of his father's many pawn shops. One shop was at 47<sup>th</sup> and Ashland, which is still in operation at the time of this report, and the other at 9 North Wabash, which was recently sold. Following the indictment of then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Cohen started a small public relations effort called "Rod Must Resign." The campaign was organized by Chicago PR firm Grainger Terry, and amounted to a website and a demonstration at the Thompson Center. Cohen announced in early 2009 that he would seek the Democratic nomination for the vacant position of lieutenant governor. Cohen spent \$2.1 million of his own money on the campaign, more than all the other candidates combined. He won the nomination with 26 percent of the vote.

The ensuing week drew comparisons to Mark Fairchild, the Lyndon LaRouche-backed candidate for lieutenant governor in 1986 who unexpectedly won the Democratic nomination, contributing to the defeat of the ticket. The night after the Illinois primary, several stories drew attention to Cohen's domestic violence arrest in 2005 for allegedly holding a knife to the throat of his then-girlfriend. His ongoing divorce surfaced soon after, in which it was reported he was past due on child support, abused steroids, and attempted to rape and choke his ex-wife. Brief attention was also paid to his extensive financial troubles, including federal tax liens of over \$270,000. After an attempt to repair his image with several television interviews, Cohen announced he would withdraw his nomination. He officially withdrew a week later.

Any of the revelations from Cohen's extensive court record make the question of how he managed to win the nomination a potentially damaging one for Illinois Democrats in the 2010 general election. Additionally, Gov. Pat Quinn's initial responses were ambiguous: he said "I want to see what Mr. Cohen has to say. I don't give opinions until I hear all the facts from the person involved," then that "more questions should be asked." Beyond general liability, Cohen was supported by several officials and candidates, most of whom received contributions from him. His record can be used to attack these individuals. Finally, inconsistency in Cohen's personal financial data and his longstanding preference for cash transactions indicates a risk that additional transactions with these officials went unreported. It should be noted that the public record does not currently indicate any such transactions exist.

Cohen's largest contributions went to: Ald. Roberto Maldonado (Chicago-26), Lansing mayoral candidate Donald Sciackitano (who later was placed on Cohen's payroll), Dolton mayoral candidate Ernesto Mickens Jr. and Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccharelli. The major recipients frequently are clients of Grainger Terry, the firm that managed Cohen's campaign. There appears to be a correlation between the amount received from Cohen and client relationships with Grainger Terry: G/T clients Maldonado and Sciackitano both received \$10,000, while non-G/T client Zuccharelli received only \$6,850.

Cohen's legal record is extensive and can be used at any time for a new story, either regarding Democrats generally or individual candidates who supported him. Press reporting to date has focused on his criminal and domestic record. However, it is notable that the press overlooked or ignored his ex-wife's allegation that Cohen used cash for almost all financial transactions, an allegation confirmed by tax returns in the divorce and Cohen's own filings. His ex-wife also alleged that Cohen regularly

swapped cash assets with his brother Randy for the purposes of hiding them. It is highly probable Cohen has not accurately reported his assets, either in the divorce or his available tax returns.

Finally, additional material regarding Cohen's personal life may exist. He was sued twice for eviction from 1030 N State Street Unit 15E. He apparently rented the unit from his brother's girlfriend, Diane Gottlieb, following his divorce. First the condominium association sued to evict him, alleging that he kept two dogs in violation of condo bylaws. A year later, Gottlieb herself sued Cohen, demanding eviction, \$15,000 and unspecified "damages." Both lawsuits are peculiar: associations rarely file lawsuits over pets *per se*, and the Gottlieb lawsuit contained several motions over who had access to security camera footage. It is highly probable that one or more unreported incidents took place at that unit; it is notable that he was arrested there for allegedly attacking Amanda Eneman, his former girlfriend and prostitute, and it was the location of Eneman's arrest for smashing Cohen's laptop.

#### Top Authorities

**Cohen was arrested for attacking his girlfriend with a knife.** Cohen was arrested on complainant Amanda J. Eneman's allegations. The police report stated that the defendant placed "a knife up to complainant's neck causing minor scars and causing minor scars on her hand from trying to defend herself against the arrestee swinging the knife at her. Arrestee also pushed complainant's head against wall causing a bump on the back of her head." The arrest was made on October 14, 2005. The defendant's attorney entered a demand for a speedy trial on October 28, 2005. The complaint was later dismissed. [Illinois v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Violence Division, 05-445594]

- **Cohen previously had his girlfriend arrested for smashing his \$150 laptop.** Amanda J. Eneman was arrested for misdemeanor damage to the property of the complainant, Scott Lee Cohen. The defendant allegedly "knowingly and without lawful authority damaged complainant's laptop computer (\$150.00 USD) by throwing it to the ground, rendering it inoperable." [Illinois v. Eneman, Cook County Circuit Court Criminal Division, 05-442383]
- **Cohen's girlfriend was a prostitute.** The day before his ex-girlfriend failed to come to court for Cohen's case, she was sentenced to court supervision in her misdemeanor prostitution case, which Cohen campaign strategist Phil Molfese said did not involve Cohen. [Chicago Sun-Times, 2/3/10]

**Cohen's ex-wife successfully sought an order of protection against him.** Cohen's ex-wife, Debra York-Cohen, sought and received an emergency order of protection when she filed for divorce in 2005. The petition alleged that Cohen "tried to have sex with me, and despite my refusals, he tried to force himself on me... he kicked in the garage door disturbing everyone in the house... [Cohen] was physically abusive to me many years ago. In fact, on one occasion, he became so enraged that he began choking me... my husband is on all these steroids which make his mood swings very erratic... [Cohen] is constantly taunting me about getting a sexual disease, and insisting that it is not because of him." [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 5/11/05]

- **Cohen claimed his wife had consensual sex with him four times after the order of protection was granted.** Cohen's motion to vacate the order of protection claimed that he had consensual sex with his ex-wife four times following the establishment of the order of

protection. [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 6/6/05]

**Cohen was required to undergo random testing for steroids.** Cohen was required to “refrain from using steroids during these proceedings” during his divorce and was required to submit to random drug testing. AMS Data later reported that he did not report to the testing facility as required. [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 8/30/05]

**Cohen was accused of repeatedly failing to pay child support.** Debra York-Cohen filed a complaint to appoint a receiver for the management of marital assets. Allegations included that Cohen failed to abide by a May 18, 2005 order to maintain household bills and expenses. She further alleged that two additional orders were not obeyed on June 7, 2005 and June 20, 2005. York-Cohen alleged that Cohen had not complied with a September 30, 2005 order to pay \$5,500 in child support. [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 10/7/05]

**Ex-wife: Cohen “allegedly works primarily with cash.”** Debra York-Cohen filed a response to a petition to declare the marital prenuptial agreement enforceable. She alleged that “Scott would conduct almost all of their financial affairs in cash so that there would be no way to trace the acquisition of marital assets. Scott allegedly works primarily with cash and does not have any bank accounts.” [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 11/17/06]

- **Ex-wife: Cohen threatened to do “what Randy did to Kathy.”** Debra York-Cohen alleged that “Scott harassed her and stated that she could never leave him, because she would not get any money, because it was all cash, untraceable, and he would do to her what ‘Randy did to Kathy.’ Randy is Scott’s brother who also owns a pawn shop, which is thriving and doing substantial business; so much so, that he has allegedly been paying Scott’s debts and expenses, including the mortgage on the marital residence. Randy, never married to Kathy, hid assets in Scott’s name, and made determining his income very difficult, if not impossible, while he was involved in litigation over setting support of their child.” [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 11/17/06]
- **Ex-wife: Cohen’s “own accountant” testified he deals primarily in cash.** Debra York-Cohen filed a complaint to appoint a receiver for the management of marital assets. She alleged that Cohen’s “own accountant” testified that “the only documents used to prepare his tax returns are those generated by Scott. He further testified that in his opinion people in the pawn and jewelry business deal in substantial amounts of cash.” [Cohen v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, 2005-D-230243, 10/7/05]

**Cohen has been cited for at least 69 building code violations at his businesses.** Cohen’s pawn shops have been the subject of numerous building code violation citations. A total of 69 separate violations have been identified for the two addresses, in addition to two administrative judgments from the city where the violations were not listed. The citations range from minor, such as failure to post the owner’s address and information, to major, such as the brick wall of one building’s second floor being in “imminent danger of collapse.” [Cook County Circuit Court Municipal Division; See Court Section]

- [REDACTED]**
- **Cohen was sued by a man whose hand was crushed by an unrepaired mechanical door at his building.** Javier Ortiz sued Scott Lee Cohen, alleging that Cohen managed 9 N Wabash when Ortiz worked for a tenant at the building. Ortiz alleged that the rear exit of the building contained a motorized overhead door, which crushed the plaintiff's hand during manual operation. The plaintiff requested \$30,000, plus court costs. The complaint was filed on January 17, 2006; it was later sent to arbitration. [Ortiz v. Cohen et al, Circuit Court of Cook County Municipal Division, 06-M1-300204]


**Cohen has received eight foreclosure lawsuits.** Cohen has received at least eight foreclosure lawsuits, including four on his personal residence at 3141 Huntington Lane in Northbrook. The foreclosures have also been filed for 9 N Wabash, which he no longer owns, and his pawn shop at 47<sup>th</sup> and Ashland. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds]

**Cohen has received federal tax liens totaling over \$275,000.** Cohen received federal tax liens from 1998 to 2002 totaling \$276,502. [Cook County Recorder of Deeds]

- **Cohen: Make "corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share."** Cohen's campaign site on "Budget and Taxes" states, "Implement a progressive tax system that asks corporations and wealthy individuals to pay their fair share. We currently have a flat tax rate that is regressive and inadequate. A progressive taxing scheme would allow the government to tap escalating income among the wealthy and ease the tax burden on the poor, whose incomes are steadily declining." [[http://scottleecohen.com/Budget\\_Taxes.html](http://scottleecohen.com/Budget_Taxes.html)]

**Cohen said a man pawning his teeth was "the most touching thing I've ever seen."** Cohen said that a man walked into his pawnshop at 47th and Ashland and stepped into the glass privacy booth to ask for a loan. He asked, "Do you take gold and diamonds?" Cohen said, "Of course." "What about teeth?" said the man. "Sure," said Cohen. The man pulled out a set of upper dentures and slid them into the slot beneath the bullet-proof glass. Cohen said, "It was the most touching thing I'd ever seen." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 11/18/08]

- **Cohen: "I don't think desperate is the right word" for the man who pawned his teeth.** Cohen said of the man who pawned his gold and diamond dentures, "I don't think desperate is the right word. He was disappointed, frustrated. He was very worried." [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 11/18/08]
- **Cohen did not charge interest to the man who pawned his teeth.** Cohen said he was so touched by the story of the man who pawned his gold and diamond dentures that he decided not to charge him any interest on the 90-day loan. The man explained he needed the money for his daughter's college costs. Cohen was not clear on whether it was for tuition or books, but it was due that day. The man said he had to have the money to the college by 4 p.m. He said he had been to a bank and asked for a loan, but had been turned down. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#), 11/18/08]
- **The man who pawned his teeth never returned to recover them.** Four months after a man pawned his gold and diamond dentures with Cohen, he had not returned to collect them. [[Chicago Sun Times](#), 3/17/09]

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- **Cohen proposed a “character test” for candidates for public office.** Cohen’s campaign website “Ethics” section states, “Have each candidate take a ‘Character Test,’ drafted by a panel of judges and ethicists, for the purpose of evaluating the character of each candidate. The test must be submitted as a candidacy filing document in Springfield, Illinois and immediately made available to the public on the Internet.” [<http://scottlecohen.com/Ethics.htm>]

**Cohen was sued twice for eviction.** Cohen was sued twice for eviction from 1030 N State Street Unit 15E. He apparently rented the unit from his brother’s girlfriend, Diane Gottlieb, following his divorce. First the condominium association sued to evict him, alleging that he kept two dogs in violation of condo bylaws. A year later Gottlieb herself sued Cohen, demanding eviction, \$15,000 and unspecified “damages.” [Newberry Plaza Condominium Association v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Municipal Division, 07-M1-728598; Gottlieb v. Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court Municipal Division, 08-M1-710721]

### Connections to Other Democrats

There are two categories of Democratic officials who are tied to Cohen: Those who received one \$10,000 contribution, and those who did not. There is significant risk that unreported financial transactions took place on top of those reported in Cohen's campaign disclosures. The public record currently does not indicate such transactions took place. However, all other public records tied to Cohen indicate he favors cash for all transactions, specifically because it cannot be traced. Additionally, his non-campaign financial disclosures indicate major inconsistencies and underreporting. This trend has also shown up in campaign disclosures: Dolton mayoral candidate Ernesto Mickens Jr. received a \$10,000 contribution from Cohen on March 20, 2009, but the committee did not subsequently file any D-2 reports.

Cohen's largest donations went to: Ald. Roberto Maldonado (Chicago-26), Lansing mayoral candidate Donald Sciackitano (who later was placed on Cohen's payroll), Dolton mayoral candidate Ernesto Mickens Jr. and Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccharelli. The major recipients frequently are clients of Grainger Terry, the firm that managed Cohen's campaign. There appears to be a correlation between the amount received from Cohen and client relationship with Grainger Terry: G/T clients Maldonado and Sciackitano both received \$10,000, while non-G/T client Zuccharelli received only \$6,850.

### Endorsements Cross-Referenced with Contributions

The following table lists officials and candidates who endorsed Cohen. Particular attention should be paid to those with no apparent connection to him (no contribution from Cohen or business relationship with Grainger Terry):

Endorser	\$ Received	G/T Client?
Carrie Austin, Councilman - 34th Ward (Chicago)	\$1,250	Y
Howard B. Brookins, Jr., Councilman - 21st Ward (Chicago)	\$1,000	
<b>JoAnn Thompson, Councilman - 16th Ward (Chicago)</b>		
Roberto Maldonado, Councilman - 26th Ward (Chicago)	\$10,400	Y
Bernard L. Stone, Councilman - 50th Ward (Chicago)		Y
Scott Waguespack, Councilman - 32nd Ward (Chicago)	\$150	
Deborah Sims, Commissioner - 5th District (Cook)	\$3,000	Y
Joan Patricia Murphy, Commissioner - 6th District (Cook)	\$1,000	
Frank Zuccharelli, Supervisor - Thornton Township	\$6,850	
<b>Chris Gonzales, Assessor - Thornton Township</b>		
<b>Deyon Dean, Mayor - Village of Riverdale</b>		
<b>Terry Wells, Mayor - Village of Phoenix</b>		
Stephanie Kifowit, Councilman - Aurora		Y
<b>Brain Wilson, Councilman - Calumet City</b>		



Endorser	\$ Received	G/T Client?
<b>Eddy Gonzales, Councilman - Calumet City</b>		
Thaddeus Jones, Councilman - Calumet City	\$1,000	Y
<b>Roger Munda, Councilman - Calumet City</b>		
Nick Manousopoulos, Councilman - Calumet City		Y
<b>Charles Levy, Clerk - Niles Township</b>		
<b>Charles Hernandez, Cicero Township Democratic Committeeman</b>		
<b>Don St. Germaine, Kankakee County Democratic Party Chairman</b>		
Reverend Johnny L. Miller	\$2,500 (Westside Ministers Coalition)	
Reverend Marvin Hunter	\$2,500 (Westside Ministers Coalition)	
Personal PAC Illinois	\$300	
Illinois Committee for Honest Government	\$1,500	
<b>Ilaz Kadriu, President of the American Albanian Organization</b>		
Planned Parenthood Illinois	\$200	

[Illinois State Board of Elections]

#### Contributions/Political Payments from Cohen's Campaign

The following chart lists known and probable political contributions as reported by Cohen's campaign disclosures, including in-kind contributions. Grainger Terry clients are indicated:

Date	Name	Amount	Description	GT Client?
6/22/09	33rd Ward Regular Democratic Organization	\$200	Campaign Donation	
7/29/09	Citizens for Maldonado	\$10,000	Donation	Y
11/30/09	Citizens for Patrick J. O'Conner	\$150	Donation	
8/13/09	Citizens for Waguespack	\$150	Donation	
4/22/09	Committee to Elect John P. Daley	\$250	Campaign Donation	
7/28/09	Democratic National Committee	\$750	Candidate Seminar	
11/17/09	Democratic Party of Illinois	\$300	Donation	
3/18/09	Dolton South Suburban Party	\$10,000	Campaign Donation	
7/13/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$100	Online Fundraising	
7/13/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$198	Online Fundraising	

Date	Name	Amount	Description	GT Client?
7/13/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$612	Online Fundraising	
8/7/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$99	Online Fundraising	
8/20/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$10	Online Fundraising	
9/4/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$40	Online Fundraising	
10/29/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$3	Service Charge	
11/2/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$15	Online Fundraising	
12/2/09	Dundee Township Democrats	\$4	Service Charge	
3/18/09	Friends of Donald F. Sciackitano	\$10,000	Campaign Donation	Y
11/20/09	Friends of Frank Zuccharelli	\$500	Donation	
11/20/09	Friends of Frank Zuccharelli	\$175	Donation	
8/5/09	Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association	\$15,000	Software	
8/5/09	Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association	\$500	Donation	
6/17/09	Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization	\$200	Event Tickets	
6/23/09	Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization	\$300	Donation	
10/1/09	Little Village Chamber of Commerce	\$650	Donation	
10/5/09	Palatine Township Democrats	\$150	Donation	
10/1/09	Personal PAC	\$300	Donation	
8/14/09	Planned Parenthood	\$200	Non-Profit Donation	
8/5/09	Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce: Illinois	\$150	Donation	
7/12/09	Puerto Rican Parade Committee	\$300	Parade Fee	
6/22/09	Rainbow PUSH Coalition	\$200	Event Tickets	
7/9/09	Rainbow PUSH Coalition	\$200	Donation	
6/19/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$300	Independent Contractor	Y
6/25/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$151	Independent Contractor	Y
7/3/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$151	Consulting	Y
7/17/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$400	Consulting	Y

Date	Name	Amount	Description	GT Client?
8/31/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$300	Consulting	Y
9/15/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$2,450	Consulting	Y
10/1/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$1,000	Consulting	Y
10/1/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$50	Consulting	Y
11/2/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$400	Consulting	Y
11/5/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$600	Consulting	Y
11/24/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$300	Consulting	Y
12/8/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$200	Consulting	Y
12/16/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$600	Consulting	Y
12/24/09	Sciackitano, Donald	\$400	Consulting	Y
10/27/09	Thornton Township Democrats	\$175	Donation	

[Illinois State Board of Elections]

### Cohen's Personal Contributions

The following chart lists committees that received contributions from Cohen himself. Grainger Terry clients are indicated:

Date	Committee	Amount	G/T Client?
6/30/2009	33rd Ward Regular Democratic Org	\$1,000	
3/20/2009	34th Ward Regular Democratic Org	\$250	Y
1/28/2010	34th Ward Regular Democratic Org	\$1,000	Y
1/24/2010	Citizens for Deborah Sims	\$1,000	Y
1/24/2010	Citizens for Deborah Sims	\$1,000	Y
1/24/2010	Citizens for Deborah Sims	\$1,000	Y
1/29/2009	Citizens for Maldonado	\$400	Y
1/26/2010	Committee to Elect Howard B Brookins, Jr	\$1,000	
1/26/2010	Committee to Elect Joan P Murphy	\$1,000	
1/27/2010	Illinois Committee for Honest Government	\$1,500	
1/15/2010	Thornton Twp Regular Democratic Org	\$6,000	

[Illinois State Board of Elections]



## Court Records in Cook County

Cohen is the defendant in over two dozen court actions in Cook County alone. Additionally, there is a small claims charge in Lake County, Indiana that has not been investigated, and it is possible that court action exists in Lake County, Illinois. No court action exists in Wisconsin.

Cohen's legal record covers virtually every area of law. Press reporting to date has focused on his criminal and domestic record: Cohen was arrested for allegedly attacking his girlfriend with a knife and received an order of protection from his ex-wife alleging attempted rape, destruction of property, and attempting to choke her.

His ongoing divorce also received partial coverage, although it should be noted that several major allegations and facts have received no press attention whatsoever. It was reported that Cohen abused steroids, that he was past due several times over on child support payments, and that he taunted his ex-wife about her possibly having a venereal disease. However, it is notable that the press overlooked or ignored his ex-wife's allegation that Cohen used cash for almost all financial transactions, an allegation confirmed by tax returns in the divorce and Cohen's own filings. His ex-wife also alleged that Cohen regularly swapped cash assets with his brother Randy for the purposes of hiding them. It is highly probable Cohen has not accurately reported his assets, either in the divorce or his available tax returns.

From a records standpoint Cohen's legal record is mostly financial. He has been sued for delinquent bills, for cheating his brother in his father's inheritance, and for fraudulent loan practices on an indigent borrower. Cohen has also received at least ten foreclosure lawsuits for the properties on which he has taken out mortgages, with almost every one of his mortgages resulting in a foreclosure lawsuit. His pawn shops received four separate judgments from the city for building code violations.

Finally, Cohen was sued twice for eviction from 1030 N State Street Unit 15E. He apparently rented the unit from his brother's girlfriend, Diane Gottlieb, following his divorce. First the condominium association sued to evict him, alleging that he kept two dogs in violation of condo bylaws. A year later Gottlieb herself sued Cohen, demanding eviction, \$15,000 and unspecified "damages." Both lawsuits are peculiar: associations rarely file lawsuits over pets *per se*, and the Gottlieb lawsuit contained several motions over who had access to security camera footage. It is highly probable that one or more unreported incidents took place at that unit; it is notable that he was arrested there for allegedly attacking Amanda Eneman, his former girlfriend and prostitute, and it was the location of Eneman's arrest for smashing Cohen's laptop.

There is little rhyme or reason to Cohen's court footprint. In media interviews he claimed that his extensive financial problems were the result of "a bad business deal" that had since been addressed. However, the litigation timeline does not support this claim. With the exception of 2004, he was sued every year from 1996 to 2009. A cluster of lawsuits were filed in late 1999 over unpaid bills for merchandise not typically associated with pawn shops. It is possible that Cohen started a retail-oriented business venture with his identified partner, Mike Adler, which failed for unspecified reasons.



**People of State of Illinois v Amanda J Eneman**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division**  
**05-442383**

Defendant Amanda J. Eneman was arrested for misdemeanor damage to the property of the complainant, Scott Lee Cohen. The defendant allegedly "knowingly and without lawful authority damaged complainant's laptop computer (\$150.00 USD) by throwing it to the ground, rendering it inoperable."

The complaint was sworn in on August 20, 2005.

**People of State of Illinois v Scott Lee Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division**  
**05-445594**

Defendant Scott Lee Cohen was arrested on complainant Amanda J. Eneman's allegations. The defendant placed "a knife up to complainant's neck causing minor scars and causing minor scars on her hand from trying to defend herself against the arrestee swinging the knife at her. Arrestee also pushed complainant's head against wall causing a bump on the back of her head."

The arrest was made on October 14, 2005.

The defendant's attorney entered a demand for a speedy trial on October 28, 2005. The complaint was later dismissed.

**Cosmopolitan Business Financial Services v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**96-M1-158693**

The plaintiff, Cosmopolitan Financial Services Inc, alleged that the plaintiff, Scott Lee Cohen, was in default for \$8,715.72 in payments for insurance contracts. The plaintiff requested that amount plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on November 11, 1996.

The complaint was dismissed with prejudice on August 19, 1997.

**Werbeck v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**97-M1-042081**

The plaintiff, Mary Werbeck, alleged that she pawned two 14-karat gold rings with the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen. The plaintiff alleged that "after 25 years, defendant changed contract policy from 1 year to 3 months, but still advertises [sic] in yellow pages 1 year pawn. When plaintiff returned during May 1997 defendant already sold the rings. Plaintiff sues to return value of rings." The plaintiff filed the complaint *pro se*, as an indigent individual.

The complaint was filed on January 28, 1998.

The court found for the defendant without trial on March 24, 1998.

**Prairie City Media Inc dba Chicago Social Magazine  
Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division  
98-M1-141902**

The plaintiff, Prairie City Media, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, bounced four checks for payments for advertisements in Chicago Social Magazine. The plaintiff requested the past due amount on the account plus \$100 per bounced check per contractual agreement, for a total of \$14,953.75.

The complaint was filed on August 6, 1998.

The complaint was dismissed by agreement for payment in installments on March 18, 1999.

**Wittnauer International v. Cohen et al  
Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division  
99-M1-141072**

The plaintiff, Wittnauer International, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, owed \$15,213.05 for delivered goods, wares, and merchandise. The plaintiff also alleged that a \$5,000 check was written by the plaintiff that bounced, and that another check was written that was returned as a closed account. Copies of the checks were provided. The plaintiff requested the full amount plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on August 13, 1999.

On January 11, 2000, the complaint was dismissed with prejudice on motion of the plaintiff.

**Dontech v. Cohen  
Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division  
99-L-012130**

The plaintiff, Dontech, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, had a delinquent balance of \$153,279.10 for advertising in the yellow pages. The plaintiff requested the full amount plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on October 28, 1999.

The complaint was dismissed on agreed settlement on January 24, 2002.



**Pilot Pen Company v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**99-M1-149605**

The plaintiff, Pilot Pen Company, alleged that the defendants, Mike Adler and Scott Lee Cohen, owed \$1,140 for a delivery of Pilot Pens. The plaintiff requested \$1,245 plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on October 6, 1999.

The complaint was dismissed with prejudice on December 2, 1999.

**Colbri v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**99-M1-162266**

The plaintiff, Colbri, alleged that Mike Adler and Scott Cohen owed a delinquent sum of \$1,646.82 for delivery of goods.

The complaint was filed on December 16, 1999.

The complaint was dismissed without prejudice on February 10, 2000.

**Hodges v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**99-M1-161044**

The plaintiff, Jerry Hodges, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, rented a motor home from his business, New Day Rentals. The plaintiff alleged that the motor home was returned two days late in a damaged condition, described as "there was a whole [sic] in a seat of the vehicle, refrigerator cover needed to be replaced, waste tanks needed to be cleaned, and the vehicle itself needed to be thoroughly cleaned."

The complaint was filed on December 10, 1999.

The complaint was dismissed upon a settlement agreement on February 4, 2000.

**Edge WC Jewelry v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**01-M1-112984**

The plaintiff, Edge WC Jewelry Co, Inc, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, owed \$9,629.82 for purchased goods, wares and merchandise. The plaintiff requested judgment of the amount plus five percent prejudgment and continuing interest, plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on March 14, 2001.

A default judgment was entered on May 10, 2001.

A citation to discover assets was issued on June 18, 2001.

A release of the judgment was filed on May 24, 2004.

**Movado v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division**  
**01-L-050379**

The plaintiff, Movado Group fka North American Watch, registered a foreign judgment from the Supreme Court of New York for \$102,286.69 with interest of \$7,339.02.

The complaint was filed on March 21, 2001.

On January 23, 2002, Cohen was found in contempt of court for failure to appear to show cause. Bond was set at \$3,000.

On June 17, 2002, the judgment was released due to payment.

**Providian National Bank v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**02-M1-117471**

The plaintiff, Providian National Bank, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, was past due on \$19,020 in credit card debt. The amount was requested in judgment plus \$350 in attorney's fees.

The complaint was filed on February 19, 2002.

An asset discovery order was entered on September 20, 2002.

The complaint was dismissed without prejudice on May 15, 2003.

**Plainville Stock Co Inc v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**02-M1-151805**

The plaintiff, Plainville Stock Co Inc, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, owed a delinquent sum of \$8,602.93 for goods, wares, and merchandise delivered.

The complaint was filed on August 28, 2002.

A judgment for \$8,602.93 was entered on February 27, 2003.

An asset discovery order was entered on April 11, 2003.

A release of the judgment was entered on \$8,602.93.



**Downes Swimming Pool v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**03-M1-127253**

The plaintiff, Downes Swimming Pool Co, Inc, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, bounced a \$2,500 check for installation of a swimming pool. The plaintiff requested a total of \$4,350 plus pre-judgment interest and court costs.

The complaint was filed on April 29, 2003.

The complaint was dismissed with leave to reinstate on February 10, 2004.

**Cohen v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division**  
**05-L-007746**

The plaintiff, Lawrence/Larry Cohen, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, had withheld \$180,600 from an agreement in the estate of the plaintiff's/defendant's father, Jack Cohen. The plaintiff requested the amount and attorney's fees.

The complaint was filed on July 14, 2005.

Judgment was entered for the plaintiff on December 15, 2005.

**Jakubs, Kritzmire & Wigoda v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**06-M1-1101209**

The plaintiff, Jakubs, Kritzmire & Wigoda, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, retained the services of JKW to represent him in his divorce. The plaintiff alleged that the defendant was delinquent in the amount of \$4,287.50, which was requested as judgment with attorney's fees and court costs.

The complaint was filed on January 12, 2006.

The complaint was dismissed with prejudice on November 14, 2008.

**Ortiz v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**06-M1-300204**

The plaintiff, Javier Ortiz, alleged that the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, managed 9 N Wabash when Ortiz worked for a tenant at the building. The plaintiff alleged that the rear exit of the building contained a motorized overhead door, which crushed the plaintiff's hand during manual operation. The plaintiff requested \$30,000, plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on January 17, 2006.

The case was sent to arbitration on June 9, 2006.

**Yellow Book Sales and Distribution v. Rothchild et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division**  
**07-L-8547**

The plaintiff, Yellow Book Sales and Distribution, alleged that the defendant, Rothchild Inc dba Scott Lee Cohen, for delinquent debt of \$23,504.51 for advertising in Yellow Book telephone directories. The plaintiff requested the debt plus attorney's fees and interest, for a total of \$33,344.81.

The complaint was filed on August 8, 2007.

The complaint was dismissed on agreement for a payment plan on October 2, 2007.

**Newberry Plaza Condominium Association v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County, Municipal Division**  
**07-M1-728598**

The plaintiff, the board of directors of the Newberry Plaza Condominium Association, filed suit to evict the defendant, Scott Lee Cohen, from 1030 N State Street Unit 15E. The plaintiff alleged that the defendant kept two dogs in the unit in violation of condominium bylaws, and continued to occupy the unit contrary to a ten-day termination notice.

The complaint was filed on November 1, 2007.

The complaint was returned after unsuccessful service on November 20, 2007.

No further details are available.

**Unifund CCR Partners v. Scott Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County**  
**08-M1-123901**

The plaintiff, Unifund CCR Partners, alleged that the defendant, Scott Cohen, had defaulted on a credit card debt of \$8,230.47. The plaintiff requested payment in full plus \$350 in attorney's fees.

The complaint was filed on March 24, 2008.

On June 6, 2008 the defendant moved to strike and dismiss the complaint. The defendant alleged that the full credit agreement had not been originally entered in the complaint.

The first amended complaint was filed on September 3, 2008.

On November 6, 2008 the case was dismissed on motion of the plaintiff after being settled out of court.



**Gottlieb v. Cohen**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County**  
**08-M1-710721**

The plaintiff, Diane Gottlieb, moved to evict the defendant, Scott Cohen, from 1030 N. State Street #15E. The plaintiff requested \$15,000 plus unspecified damages and court costs.

The complaint was filed on May 15, 2008.

On June 9, 2008, the defendant responded with a denial of all allegations.

On December 15, 2008, the defendant moved to dismiss the entire case. Details of the resolution are unavailable.



**Katsoudas v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**97-CH-013980**

Plaintiff George Katsoudas made several allegations regarding defendants Scott Lee Cohen and Leonard Chavin and a property at 4658 South Ashland Avenue. The plaintiff alleged that Cohen purchased the property from Leonard Chavin under a leaseback agreement to operate New Gourmet Restaurant Inc., dba Sunny Kitchen. Katsoudas allegedly was the beneficiary of the lease assignment following the leaseback, and also executed a loan at Hyde Park Bank using the restaurant's assets as collateral. The plaintiff alleged that Cohen later took over the building and turned it into a pawn shop, leaving the plaintiff responsible for \$11,583 in outstanding debt with Hyde Park Bank. The plaintiff requested \$30,000 plus court costs.

The complaint was filed on November 3, 1997.

The defendant filed a motion on June 21, 1999 denying knowledge or notification of any conditions which would have given the plaintiff a claim on the property.

The plaintiff's legal counsel filed to withdraw on December 6, 1999, citing lack of payment.

The case was dismissed for want of prosecution on March 20, 2000.

**First National Bank of Morton Grove v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**00-CH-16625**

Plaintiff First National Bank of Morton Grove filed a foreclosure complaint against the defendants, Scott L. Cohen and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 9 North Wabash Avenue, was in default on a principal balance of \$801,207.06. The plaintiff requested a total of \$894,268.03 plus foreclosure.



The complaint was filed on November 17, 2000.

The complaint was dismissed after being settled on May 14, 2003.

**LP IX LLC v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**01-CH-05998**

The plaintiff, LP IX LLC, filed a foreclosure complaint against defendants Scott Lee Cohen, Rothchild Inc, Debra Cohen, Old Reliable Pawnbrokers and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 4822 S. Ashland, was in default on a principal balance of \$801,207.06. The plaintiff requested a total of \$894,268.03 through foreclosure.

The complaint was filed on April 9, 2001.

The complaint was dismissed on motion of the plaintiff that the mortgage had been fully satisfied on September 20, 2001.

**Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**01-CH-09716**

The plaintiff, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, filed a foreclosure complaint against defendants Scott Lee Cohen, Debra Cohen, lienholders and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 3141 Huntington Lane, Northbrook IL, was in default on a principal balance for \$594,392.77 for one loan and \$207,129.15 for a second loan. The original debt amounts were \$600,000 from December 4, 1998 and \$220,000 from December 4, 1997, respectively. The plaintiff requested foreclosure.

The complaint was filed on June 12, 2001.

The complaint was dismissed due to reinstatement on September 17, 2001.

**World Savings Bank FSB v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**02-CH-23193**

The plaintiff, World Savings Bank FSB, filed a foreclosure complaint against defendants Scott Lee Cohen, Debra Cohen, lienholders and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 3141 Huntington Lane, Northbrook IL, was in default on a principal balance of \$241,262.53. The plaintiff requested foreclosure.

The complaint was filed on December 27, 2002.

The complaint was dismissed due to reinstatement of the subject mortgage on January 13, 2003.



**Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**03-CH-10023**

The plaintiff, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, filed a foreclosure complaint against defendants Scott Lee Cohen, Debra Cohen, lienholders and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 3141 Huntington Lane, Northbrook IL, was in default on a principal balance of \$134,840.56. The plaintiff requested foreclosure.

The complaint was filed on June 12, 2003.

The complaint was dismissed without prejudice pursuant to the tendering of ten money orders of \$7,000 apiece on April 13, 2004.

**Corus Bank v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**03-CH-12271**

The plaintiff, Corus Bank, filed a foreclosure complaint against defendants Scott Lee Cohen, Rothchild Inc, and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 4822-26 South Ashland, was in default on a principal balance of \$4,870.52. The plaintiff requested a total of \$12,474.97 through foreclosure.

The complaint was filed on July 24, 2003.

The complaint was dismissed with leave to reinstate following a separate settlement on November 4, 2003.

**Cambridge Bank v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division**  
**06-CH-24197**

The plaintiff, an assignee of Cambridge Bank, filed a foreclosure complaint against the defendants, Scott L. Cohen and unknown owners. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 9 North Wabash Avenue, was in default on a principal balance of \$1,654,715.71.

The complaint was filed on May 18, 2006.

On July 18, 2007, the complaint was dismissed by the plaintiffs, who stated that the defendants had reinstated or paid off the loan.



**Emigrant Mortgage Company v. Cohen et al**  
**Circuit Court of Cook County**  
**07-CH-7310**

The plaintiff, Emigrant Mortgage Company, filed a foreclosure complaint against the defendants, Scott L. and Debra E. Cohen. The plaintiff alleged that the property, 3141 Huntington Lane, was in default on a principal balance of \$645,757.15.

The complaint was filed on March 15, 2007.

Foreclosure judgment and order for sale was filed on June 13, 2007.

On November 16, 2007, the complaint was dismissed by the plaintiffs, who stated that the defendants had reinstated or paid off the loan.



### Building Code Violations

Cohen's pawn shops have been the subject of numerous building code violation citations. A total of 69 separate violations have been identified for the two addresses, in addition to two administrative judgments from the city where the violations were not listed. The citations range from minor, such as failure to post the owner's address and information, to major, such as the brick wall of one building's second floor being in "imminent danger of collapse."

The following table lists Cohen's building code violation charges:

Case #	Address	Description of charges [sic]
00-M1-403697	1608 W 47th St/4654 S Ashland Av	Front and rear exits no illumination
		4 inch waste stack has large hole- raw sewage in basement
		Rear door double key locked
		Properly label all doors at grade with correct addressees
		Post owner's or agent information
		Vacant restaurant and office at location
		Currency exchange rear door double key locked
		1st and 2nd floor rear egress locked
		Rear interior stairs loose hand rails and treads
		Front façade 2nd floor entire brick wall with heavy stone columns is detached from "back" brick- imminent danger of collapse (Dangerous and Hazardous)
		Protect sidewalk at bus stop with sidewalk canopy, dangerous and hazardous wall
		Obtain permit for repair of dangerous and hazardous wall
		Front 2nd floor lintels rusted through- wall above these two lintels is collapsing- dangerous and hazardous
Loose stone with elevators 2nd floor		
03-M1-613184	9 N Wabash	Unauthorized items in refuse containers or compactor
98-M1-402373	9 N Wabash	Failure to test governor and car safety and submit copy of test results
		Failure to replace defective hoist ropes for passenger elevator
		Failure to repair or replace defective emergency signal for freight elevator

Case #	Address	Description of charges [sic]
		Failure to repair or replace car door or gate for freight elevator
		Failure to obtain permit and install door restrictors on passenger cars
		Failure to employ licensed architect or registered structural engineer to prepare written report showing structural condition of exposed metal structure and support
		Failure to protect metal structural members of fire escape against corrosion and to scrape and paint every 3 years
		Failure to maintain fire escape the same as original construction
		Failure to remove treads, rust and corrosion between tread and risers
		Failure to replace fire escape treads by new bolts or new truss rods to match original construction
		Failure to repair or replace fire escape platform angle
		Failure to repair or replace fire escape railing
		Failure to provide and maintain uninterrupted means of egress to outside exit at grade level
		Rear interior stairway ceiling 4x8 section missing shop to basement 1st ceiling broken plaster
		Repair interior walls ceiling plaster and paint
		Rear shop to basement, missing rail
		2nd floor shop rear door, missing knob
		Rear exit steel gate pad locked
		2nd floor bedroom floor, rotted out
		Basement foul odors
		2nd floor rear block glass window missing
		1st floor commercial unit rear of building, install cover for partial



Case #	Address	Description of charges [sic]
		1st floor commercial unit rear of building remove armored cable ceiling lite
		1st floor commercial unit rear of building, remove fluorescent lite fixtures
		1st floor commercial unit rear of building, remove exposed wire at fluorescent lite fixture
		1st floor commercial unit, rear of building sink area remove armored cable to receptacle and secure junction box stairway to basement, removed armored cable to switch basement, remove all armored cable
		1st floor commercial unit patch hole for conduit entire of building
		1st floor commercial unit rear of building install covers junction boxes
		1st floor commercial unit rear of building install jumper across water meter
		2nd floor commercial unit furnace room strap lite fixture drop ceiling
		2nd floor commercial unit furnace room remove armored cable
		2nd floor commercial unit defective fluorescent lites
		2nd floor commercial unit provide adequate illumination, replace fluorescent tubes
		2nd floor commercial unit bathroom, remove flexible cord extending to vanity lite
		2nd floor commercial unit no illumination bath hallway
		Failure to obtain permit before starting electrical work
		1st floor rear submerged ball cock water closet
		1st floor rear defective piping, clarified fitting on supplies all fixtures
		1st floor rear domestic onto material soft copper
		1st floor rear air chambers all plumbing fixtures
		1st floor rear proper waste and vent play system for lavatory and hand sink

Case #	Address	Description of charges [sic]
		1st floor rear repair lavatory and hand sink faucet, defective faucet
		Basement open sewer odors stagnant water
		Basement water pipe material and water heater
		Basement relief valve drop pipe supply
		1st floor rear flue pipe back picked at water heater
		2nd floor supply water pipe relief drop pipe
		1st floor rear submerged ball cock
		1st floor rear bathroom impervious flooring
		1st floor rear loose fixture secure lavatory reset water closet
		Rear of 1st floor hallway servicing 2nd floor re-hang all soil waste pipes
		Contract licensed and bonded plumbing contractor to perform all repair of cited violations
		Obtain permits

[Cook County Clerk of Court]

## Divorce

Cohen's ongoing divorce contains many heated accusations and counter-accusations. When his wife filed the initial petition, she included a petition for an emergency order of protection, alleging that Cohen had on different occasions attempted to choke her, kicked in a garage door, and physically pressured her for unwanted sex. Cohen's motion to vacate the order claimed that he had consensual sex with his ex-wife four times following the establishment of the order of protection. He was also accused of abusing steroids in the motion for protection, and was later ordered to undergo random drug testing (with which he sporadically complied). The motion also accused him of "constantly taunting me about getting a sexual disease, and insisting that it is not because of him." It is unclear whether this language indicates that Debra York-Cohen has a sexual disease or was rather taunted about the possibility of getting one.

Cohen was accused of failing to pay child support several times. The court apparently agreed on several occasions, although a delinquency ruling was not found in the case file. Cohen's ex-wife also accused him of purchasing expensive automobiles, lavishly furnishing his new apartment and taking his "paramours" on vacation while falling behind on child support. Cohen was also accused of conducting all of his financial transactions in cash so they could not be traced. Both Cohen and his accountant seemed to agree with this accusation.

Based on the financial data in Cohen's divorce, it is unclear how he managed to finance a \$2.3 million campaign. As of his 2005 tax filing, his total gross revenue was about \$600,000; after expenses his net income was -\$349,060. Cohen has made vague statements in the press that his business has since picked up; however, he sold 9 N Wabash in 2007, and the proceeds were supposed to be delivered to an escrow account (his ex-wife later claimed he did not do so). Given his ex-wife's accusation that Cohen trades cash assets with his brother Randy for the purpose of concealing them, it is probable that his disclosures, both campaign and otherwise, are inaccurate.

## Notable Data

### 2005 Income Tax Filing

The following table lists significant line data from Cohen's 2005 income tax:

Line Number	Description	Amount
7	Wages, salaries, tips, etc	0
17	Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc	89019
21	Other income (Net operating loss carryover)	-438079
37	Adjusted gross income	-349060
40	Itemized deductions	51198
63	Total tax	0
E-3	Rents received	511,551
E-12	Mortgage interest	-147647

Line Number	Description	Amount
E-16	Taxes	-124182
E-19	Total Expenses	-484831

### Accounts Receivable

The following table lists Cohen's accounts receivable from his businesses from his asset declaration:

Business	A/R
State Jewelry and Loan	\$100,000
Pawn Shop	\$100,000
Rothchild Inc	\$220,000

### Business Associates

The following individuals were listed as debtors in Cohen's asset declaration:

Name	Description	Balance
Larry Cohen	Estate settlement	\$200,000
George and Niki Zervos	Loans	\$200,000
Niki Zervos	Loans	\$323,000
Thomas McMahan	Loans	\$50,000
Anthony Campanale	Legal Fees	\$213,000

### Significant Filings

The following subsection summarizes significant motions and filings in Cohen's divorce file.

#### Petition for Order of Protection Filed May 11, 2005

Petitioner Debra Cohen filed for an emergency order of protection as part of her divorce filing against Scott Lee Cohen. Significant allegations:

Petitioner alleged that "Scott continued to cuss and scream at" her and their older son Zack.

Petitioner alleged that "Scott came home in a fit of rage, and was planning on taking the kids for dinner. Our boys did not want to go with him, and Scott began swearing and cussing at him, telling him he was going to go....during this altercation, the other kids were upstairs hysterically crying."

Petitioner alleged that "On May 9, 2005, after having confessed to several affairs he had, he tried to have sex with me, and despite my refusals, he tried to force himself on me, until I pushed him away and emphatically said no. In fact, I have been having family members, including my mom and sister stay with me for the past several weeks because I am afraid to be home alone with him."



Petitioner alleged that "On May 4, 2005, my husband came home around 2:00 am...but no one answered because we were all sleeping, so he kicked in the Garage door disturbing everyone in the house."

Petitioner alleged that Cohen "was physically abusive to me many years ago. In fact, on one occasion, he became so enraged that he began choking me. As a result of his past behaviors, I am concerned for my safety now, since my husband is on all these steroids which make his mood swings very erratic."

Petitioner alleged that Cohen "also is constantly taunting me about sexual diseases. He knows how concerned I am, since he admitted to me that he has been sleeping around, and is constantly taunting me about getting a sexual disease, and insisting that it is not because of him."

**Agreed Order (Steroid Testing)  
Filed May 18, 2005**

The court entered an order that "Scott shall not use steroids during these proceedings and shall be subject to random drug testing starting May 18, 2005."

**Motion to Vacate Emergency Order of Protection  
Filed June 6, 2005**

Petitioner Scott Lee Cohen filed a motion to vacate the Emergency Order of Protection against Cohen entered on May 11, 2005. Significant allegations:

Petitioner alleged that "Quite simply, the petition for Order of Protection is completely devoid of any allegations as required by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, stating that the harm which the order of protection is intended to prevent, would be likely to occur if Respondent was given any prior notice."

Petitioner alleged that "On May 12, 2005, Debra and Scott slept in the same bed together, cuddling and engaging in loving discourse."

Petitioner alleged that "On or about May 19 or 20, 2005...Debra came up to his room, watched a movie with Scott in his room, and had sexual relations with him."

Petitioner alleged that "On May 29, 2005...Debra invited him in and the two of them had sexual relations in the marital residence. Thereafter, Scott, Debra and the children went out to breakfast at Once Upon a Grill restaurant. Upon returning to the marital residence, Scott and Debra again had sex and afterward, the whole family went to a carnival together."

**Test Results  
Filed August 30, 2005**

AMS Data reported that Scott Lee Cohen did not report to the testing facility on August 1, 2005 to be tested for steroids.

**Certificate of Dissolution**  
**Unknown file date**

The certificate of marital dissolution indicated that Debra York-Cohen's maiden name was Debra York. The marriage was dated March 4, 1990 in Miami.

**Complaint to Appoint Receiver**  
**Filed October 7, 2005**

Complainant Debra York-Cohen filed a complaint to appoint a receiver for the management of marital assets. Significant allegations:

Complainant alleged that Cohen failed to abide by a May 18, 2005 order to maintain household bills and expenses. Complainant alleged further that two additional orders were not obeyed on June 7, 2005 and June 20, 2005.

Complainant alleged that defendant purchased a 2006 500SL in Mars Red, costing approximately \$96,000. Complainant further alleged that Cohen rented an apartment at Newberry Plaza on State Street, furnishing the same with new furniture and two plasma TV screens.

Complainant alleged that just prior to the divorce complaint, Cohen took "one of his paramours to Palm Beach Miami [sic] where he stayed at the Ritz Carlton Hotel."

Complainant alleged that Cohen had not complied with a September 30, 2005 order to pay \$5,500 in child support.

Complainant alleged that Cohen's "own accountant" testified that "the only documents used to prepare his tax returns are those generated by Scott. He further testified that in his opinion people in the pawn and jewelry business deal in substantial amounts of cash."

**Response to petition for declaratory judgment declaring prenuptial agreement enforceable**  
**Filed November 17, 2006**

Petitioner Debra York-Cohen filed a response to a petition to declare the marital prenuptial agreement enforceable. Significant allegations:

Petitioner alleged that Cohen presented the prenuptial agreement without prior notice, the day before the wedding. Petitioner further alleged that independent legal counsel was not provided for her, and that she was not given an opportunity to "investigate Scott's true assets, liabilities and income."

Petitioner alleged that she was six months pregnant when the marriage ceremony was performed.

Petitioner alleged that "Scott would conduct almost all of their financial affairs in cash so that there would be no way to trace the acquisition of marital assets. Scott allegedly works primarily with cash and does not have any bank accounts."

Petitioner alleged that "Scott harassed her and stated that she could never leave him, because she would not get any money, because it was all cash, untraceable, and he would do to her what 'Randy

[REDACTED]

did to Kathy.' Randy is Scott's brother who also owns a pawn shop, which is thriving and doing substantial business; so much so, that he has allegedly been paying Scott's debts and expenses, including the mortgage on the marital residence. Randy, never married to Kathy, hid assets in Scott's name, and made determining his income very difficult, if not impossible, while he was involved in litigation over setting support of their child."

**Matrimonial Interrogatory Response**  
**Filed at unknown date**

Respondent Scott Lee Cohen filed response to matrimonial interrogatory seeking declaration of marital assets. Significant declarations:

Respondent claimed that the only bank accounts maintained were a joint checking account with a balance of \$1,400 and an individual checking account closed in 2005.

Respondent claimed that the fair market value of 9 N Wabash was \$1,800,000. He further claimed that the outstanding debt on 9 N Wabash was \$1,600,000.

**Agreed Order (9 N Wabash Sale)**  
**Filed May 5, 2007**

The court ordered the approval of the sale of 9 N Wabash to Development and Option Unlimited Company. The \$575,000 proceeds from the sale would be paid by the Purchaser to Debra Cohen's attorneys to hold in escrow.

**Emergency Petition for Indirect Civil Contempt**  
**Filed June 12, 2007**

Petitioner Debra York-Cohen requested indirect civil contempt against respondent Scott Lee Cohen. Significant allegations:

Petitioner alleged that when 9 N Wabash was sold, over \$300,000 was held in escrow due to judgments against Cohen.

Petitioner alleged that a check for \$48,000 was given to Cohen at closing, the only amount available outside the judgment escrow. Petitioner further alleged that Cohen kept the full amount instead of paying it over to petitioner's attorneys.

Petitioner alleged that Cohen bounced a check for \$1,250 to petitioner's attorneys for awarded attorney's fees. A copy of the bounced check was included.

**Property/Recorder Timeline**

This section lists a timeline of property, liens and judgments from the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

**Tax Liens**

4/17/98	Federal tax lien for \$57,437
11/22/99	Lien released
4/29/99	Federal tax lien for \$13,207
6/21/99	Lien released
11/26/01	Federal tax lien for \$22,078
6/17/02	Lien released
5/30/02	Federal tax lien for \$10,445
4/20/05	Lien released
12/3/02	Federal tax lien for \$159,468
4/20/05	Lien released
12/3/02	Federal tax lien for \$13,867
7/6/07	Lien released

**Judgments**

2/5/01	Judgment from Movado Corp for \$109,625
7/16/02	Judgment released
12/15/05	Judgment from Lawrence Cohen for \$194,606
6/26/07	Judgment released

**Property**

**1608 W 47<sup>th</sup> Street/4654 W Ashland, Chicago IL**

10/5/98	Lien filed by City of Chicago for building code violations
7/27/00	Lien field by City of Chicago for building code violations

**3141 Huntington Lane, Northbrook IL 60062**

12/8/94	Purchased from Bryan and Juliana Barrish for \$780,000
12/9/94	Mortgaged to World Savings and Loan for \$400,000



[REDACTED]

12/27/02 Foreclosure filed by World Savings and Loan  
4/30/05 Mortgage released

6/19/95 Mortgaged from Belmont National Bank for \$100,000  
10/15/97 Mortgage released

1/3/96 Credit line from Cole Taylor Bank for \$250,000  
12/12/97 Credit line released

12/4/97 Mortgaged from Metropolitan Bank and Trust for \$600,000  
12/4/98 Maturity date extended to 12/4/99  
6/12/03 Foreclosure filed by Metropolitan Bank and Trust

12/4/97 Second mortgage from Metropolitan Bank and Trust for \$220,000  
6/12/01 Foreclosure filed by Metropolitan Bank and Trust

8/1/02 Judgment granted to Providian National Bank for \$19,370.02

10/29/01 Mortgaged to Thomas and Kathy McMahon for \$170,000  
10/9/03 Mortgage released

4/13/05 Mortgaged to Emigrant Mortgage Company for \$650,000  
11/15/07 Foreclosure filed by Emigrant Mortgage Company

10/2/07 Lien from Huntington Land Homeowners Association for \$719

**791 Eastchester, Wheeling IL**

12/1/87 Purchased from Bank of Ravenswood

1/15/88 Mortgaged from Knutson Mortgage Corporation for \$129,500  
3/16/94 Mortgage released

2/23/94 Mortgaged from Comerica Mortgage Corporation for \$123,000  
3/28/95 Mortgage released


12/21/94 Sold to Mark and Adriane Reisman

**9 North Wabash, Chicago IL 60602**

6/30/97 Mortgaged from First National Bank Morton Grove for \$937,500  
11/17/00 Foreclosure filed by First National Bank of Morton Grove  
8/31/01 Mortgage released from LP IX LLC

5/15/98 Lien from City of Chicago for building code violation

6/30/98 Mechanics lien from Cooling Equipment Services Inc for \$53,111  
3/14/01 Lien released



9/30/98 Lien from New Era Roofing for \$20,000

2/28/01 Transferred to Scott and Debra Cohen

6/25/01 Percentage sold to Stanley Peters for \$900,000

5/20/02 Mortgaged to Cambridge Bank  
5/20/02 Rent assigned to Cambridge Bank  
11/9/06 Foreclosure filed by Cambridge Bank

5/22/02 Percentage purchased from Stanley Peters for \$1,550,000

6/6/07 Mortgaged from Development and Option Unlimited Company for \$2,296,318  
12/3/09 Mortgage released

7/1/07 Sold to Development and Option Unlimited Company for \$2,504,000



### Voter Registration and History

Cohen is currently registered to vote at 2128 N Winchester Avenue, Chicago IL. He has previously been registered at 1030 N State St, Chicago IL and 3141 Huntington Lane, Northbrook IL.

It is of note that Cohen seems to have used two distinct signatures on his voter registration cards. The same one was used for the Huntington and Winchester addresses; however, the signature for 1030 N State is markedly different. Further analysis is difficult due to blacking out by election authorities.

The following table lists elections in which Cohen has voted:

Date	Election
11/2/2004	General
11/4/2008	General
2/2/2010	Democratic Primary (Presumed)

[Chicago Board of Elections; Cook County Clerk]