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Court officers praised for saving lawyer's life

By Bob Gardinier Published 7:05 pm, Friday, October 16, 2015

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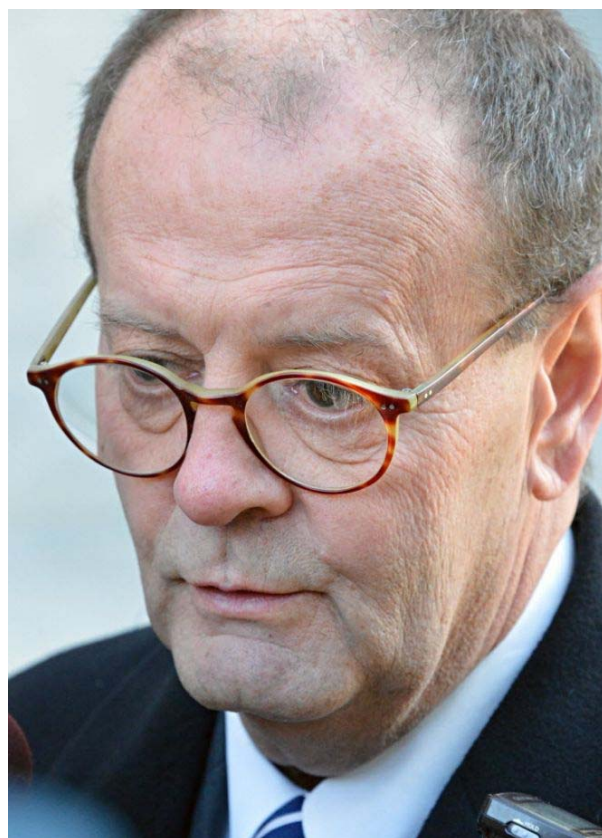


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In this file photograph, James Long, defense attorney for Martin Kimber, the man facing domestic terrorism-related charges for smearing potentially deadly mercury around Albany Medical Center Hospital speaks to ... [more](#)

TROY – Three Rensselaer County Court officers who sprang into action after defense attorney **James Long** collapsed from a heart attack on his way into the courthouse early Thursday are being praised by a state judge for saving Long's life.

Around 9 a.m. Long fell to the floor unconscious as he went to meet with Assistant

Attorney General **Michael Sharpe** and Judge **Debra Young** for a conference on plea negotiations for his client in the state's prosecution of a large drug case dubbed Operation Trojan Horse.

Court officers immediately began to work to get a heartbeat and restore Long's breathing in the doorway of the building's secure entrance. Troy Ambulance medics then arrived and

whisked Long to the hospital.

"I want to personally thank court officers Lt. **John DeRidder**, **Colleen Casey** and Will Clare for your efforts on Thursday, October 15, 2015, in administering life-saving aid to attorney **Jim Long**," 3rd Judicial Department Administrative Judge **Thomas A. Breslin** said in a statement to the courthouse team. "From reports that I have received, your swift actions were instrumental in saving Mr. Long's life."

Long, who was last reported in stable condition at **Samaritan Hospital**, has offices in Albany and has long represented **Democrats** in court elections cases. He is also a well known defense attorney and a regular at courthouses across the region.

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