

Newsday

5/17/98

Frank Ragano, Gangland Lawyer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frank Ragano, a lawyer who defended gangland figures and wrote a book linking the mob to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, died Wednesday. He was 75.

Ragano long represented Santo Trafficante, the reputed Florida Mafia boss who died in 1987, and associated with Teamsters head Jimmy Hoffa. Ragano's clients included not

only reputed mobsters, but celebrities such as Burt Reynolds, Liberace and Rocky Marciano.

Ragano retired in 1992 but made headlines that year when he said he believed he took a 1963 Kennedy assassination order from Hoffa to Trafficante and another mob boss. His book, "Mob Lawyer," co-authored by New York Times reporter Selwyn Raab, was published in 1994.