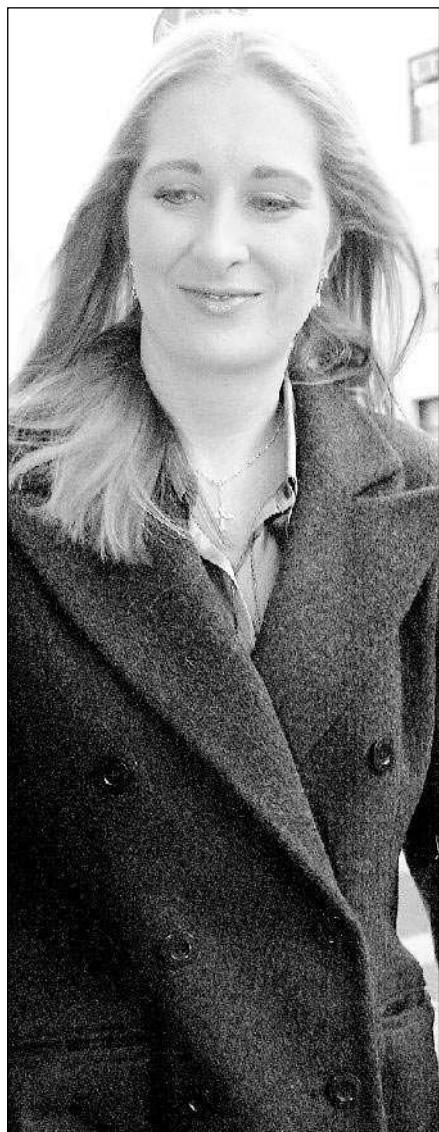
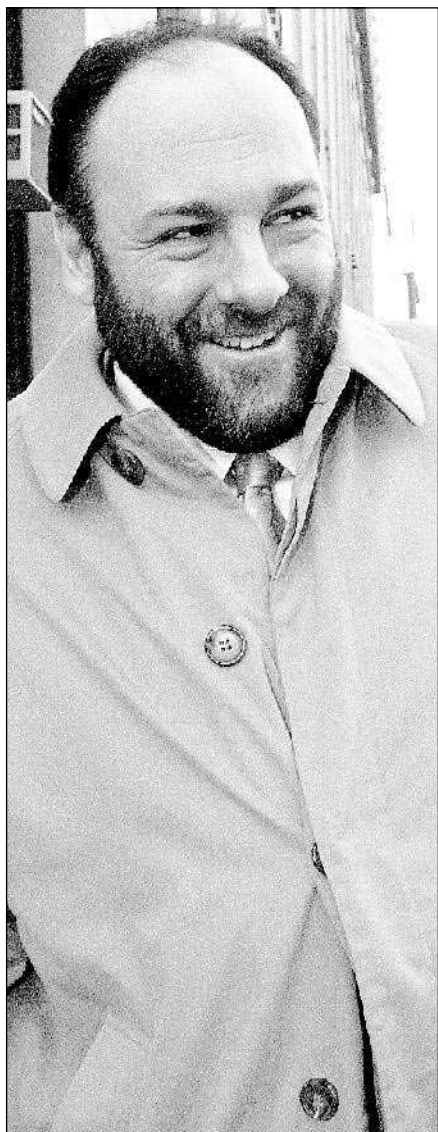


Divorce, Soprano-style

Gandolfini and real-life wife end 3-year marriage



MARIELA LOMBARO

THEY'RE THROUGH James and Marcy Gandolfini appear in good spirits outside court downtown after they were granted a divorce yesterday.

By HELEN PETERSON
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

“Sopranos” star James Gandolfini — whose TV character’s marriage is crumbling — got a real-life rehearsal in divorce court yesterday.

James and Marcy Gandolfini officially ended their three-year marriage yesterday, when Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Judith Gische granted Marcy Gandolfini a divorce on the grounds of abandonment.

“It’s over,” Gandolfini, who plays mob boss Tony Soprano, said after leaving court. “Everyone loves each other very much.”

The couple reached a confidential settlement Tuesday. A source said they will have joint custody of their son, Michael, 3, but the boy will live with his mother.

The settlement avoided what could have been a nasty trial.

Earlier this year the split took a bitter turn when Marcy accused the actor of drug and alcohol abuse. He later confirmed he once battled addictions to cocaine and booze.

Legal formalities required the couple to answer questions under oath yesterday, giving some insight into the breakup.

He up and left

First, her lawyer, Norman Sheresky, asked her if Gandolfini left their home Feb. 1, 2001. She said he did.

“Did he do that without your consent?” Sheresky asked.

“Yes,” she answered.

“Has he refused to return?” he asked.

“Yes,” she answered.

Next, Gandolfini, dressed in a beige suit and gold tie, took the stand. Gische showed him an agreement, which he acknowledged signing.

“Did you accept this agreement of your own free will?” the judge asked.

“Yes,” Gandolfini replied.

“I am going to grant the final judgment of divorce in favor of the defendant and against [Gandolfini],” said Gische, who presided over former Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s high-profile breakup with ex-wife Donna

Hanover.

“I wish you a lot of good luck in the future,” the judge added.

As he left the courthouse, Gandolfini joked with photographers, mumbling “perp walk, perp walk.” He then put an arm around one of his lawyers and said, “This is my boyfriend.”

While Gandolfini’s marriage is over, fans of “The Sopranos” will have to wait until next season to see whether Tony makes an appearance in divorce court. In the recent season finale, long-suffering wife Carmela told Tony their marriage was over.

Jayson charges upheld

A New Jersey judge yesterday upheld manslaughter charges against former basketball star Jayson Williams — and rejected efforts to keep jurors in the dark about his alleged coverup.

Superior Court Judge Edward Coleman ruled prosecutors made only minor errors in grand jury hearings on the shotgun death of limo driver Costas Christofi inside the ex-Net’s mansion last February. The judge also ruled that prosecutors can try Williams for both the shooting and obstruction of justice.

Williams’ lawyers argued yesterday that the coverup charges — that he tried to make it look like a suicide — would push the jury to convict him.

Prosecutors scoffed at that argument. “What can be more relevant . . . than the fact that he was trying to cover up the shooting?” said acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor Steven Lember. **Dave Goldiner**

Playboy bares its case against sexy Web site

By JOHN MARZULLI
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Judge Julie and Judge Jill, meet Judge Dearie.

We’re not kidding. “Sex Court” is headed for Brooklyn Federal Court today — where Judge Raymond Dearie will have to choose between two fellow jurists named . . . er . . . Judge Julie and Judge Jill.

At issue is whether Playboy Enterprises or a Web company has the rights to the “Sex Court” name.

Playboy claims the trademark belongs to its racy cable TV show — featuring Judge Julie, who resolves disputes of a sexual nature.

“It sounds a lot more interesting than the things I deal with from time to time,” quipped Dearie, warming up at an earlier hearing on the case.

But the head of On-Line Enter-

tainment — purveyor of the Web site sexcourt.com — says his cybersmut venture went up months before Playboy’s show aired.

The Web site — its homepage screams, “If sex is a crime . . . find us guilty” and costs \$39.95 a month to view — features a character called Judge Jill.

The leggy blond’s association with the law pretty much ends at her title, conceded On-Line honcho Mario Cavalluzzo. “Anything with the word ‘sex’ in it is a very valuable Web property to have,” he told the Daily News. “Anything with ‘sex’ sells.”

Playboy is accusing On-Line of “cybersquatting” and attempting to confuse consumers who might think there is an affiliation between the TV show and the Web site.

“[Judge] Jill sitting on a judicial dais is a clear attempt to evoke the image of the character

Judge Julie,” Playboy lawyer John Rawls argued in court papers. Rawls did not return a call for comment.

Seeing is believing

At another hearing, Dearie logged on to the Web site to see the evidence for himself. When he reached the homepage, he found the scantily clad Judge Jill reclining on a judicial bench. “If that’s a judicial robe, it’s not a robe that I am familiar with,” Dearie said.

Cavalluzzo has filed a counterclaim against Playboy. “It’s my name, and I have a right to it,” he said.

On-Line’s lawyer John Bostany has argued that sexcourt.com made its debut on the Internet on May 14, 1998, about three months before the TV show hit the small screen.

Playboy argues that a press release touting the show was sent out before May 14, 1998.



Judge Julie (r.) of Playboy TV and Judge Jill (above) of Sexcourt.com