

... AND NOW FOR SOME BRACKETEERING

Illinois vs. Louisiana smackdown

Thomas Oliver
Former New Orleans
City Council president



LOUISIANA

Oliver took bribes from a local businessman who wanted a city contract for a parking garage. A parking garage? Blago is accused of trying to sell Barack Obama's Senate seat.

Blagojevich

ILLINOIS



Though neither has gone on trial, the feds have both on tape saying things that won't sound so good in court. But only Blago utters the now immortal line, "I've got this thing, and it's [bleeping] golden."

Rod Blagojevich
Former Illinois governor



ILLINOIS

Dan Rostenkowski
Former U.S. representative



ILLINOIS

Rosty went to prison for mail fraud, but the feds never found \$90,000 in cash stored in his freezer, as happened to Jefferson. Despite that evidence and incriminating FBI wiretaps, Jefferson maintains innocence.

Jefferson

LOUISIANA



LOUISIANA

William Jefferson
Former U.S. representative



Blagojevich

ILLINOIS



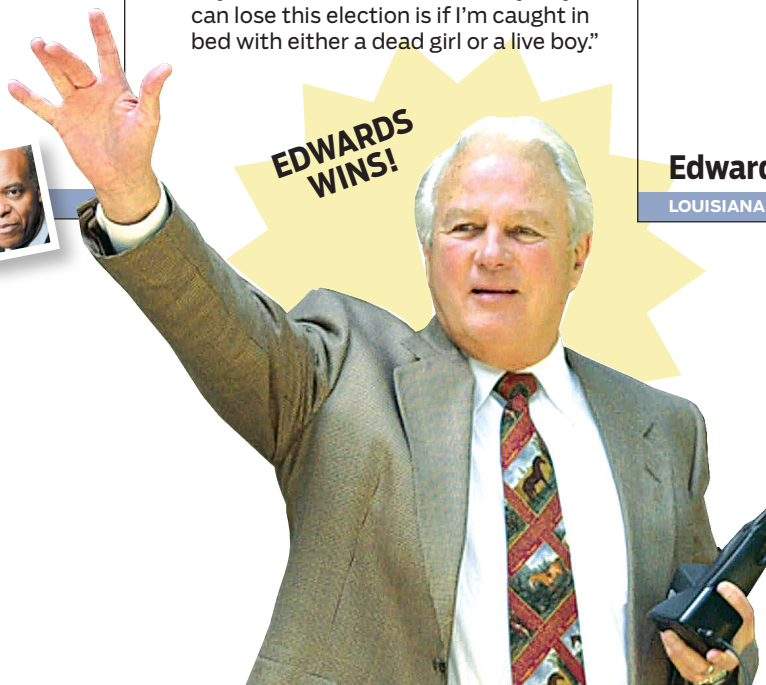
Edwards

LOUISIANA



Blago is the rare politician who can challenge Edwards for what we will politely call a "colorful" personality. But convictions on 17 federal counts put Edwards over the top. That and his famous line about being unbeatable the day before an election: "The only way I can lose this election is if I'm caught in bed with either a dead girl or a live boy."

EDWARDS WINS!



Troutman

ILLINOIS



Troutman was tearfully contrite when sentenced to four years in prison. But Edwards was defiant even headed to the pen facing 10 years. "I will be a model prisoner, as I have been a model citizen."

Edwards

LOUISIANA



Arenda Troutman
Former Chicago
alderman



ILLINOIS

In the upset of the bracket, Troutman wins by virtue of her conviction on charges of taking bribes from developers. Long? An icon of corruption to many, yes. Convicted, no.

LOUISIANA

Huey Long
Former governor,
U.S. senator



George Ryan
Former governor



ILLINOIS

Ryan profited from the sale of government licenses and contracts. But Edwards went to prison for longer and piled up more convictions for racketeering, extortion, money laundering, and wire and mail fraud.

LOUISIANA

Edwin Edwards
Former governor

