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Lawyer for bikers guilty of gangsterism

Evidence suggests he was liaison between drug leader and pilot

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL -- A Montreal lawyer who has defended members of the Hells Angels biker gang was found guilty yesterday of various charges, including gangsterism and drug trafficking.

Prosecutors say Louis Pasquin is believed to be the first lawyer in Canada to be convicted of gangsterism.

Pasquin looked shocked as he heard the verdict, which was delivered by Quebec court Judge Carol St-Cyr after nine months of deliberation.

Pasquin, 49, has been a lawyer for more than 20 years and has also represented members of the Montreal Mafia.

St-Cyr said Pasquin's explanations during testimony didn't hold water.

"Your testimony did not withstand analysis, is unlikely and not credible," the judge said.

St-Cyr said he didn't believe Pasquin when he said he was unaware of the activities of two other men arrested in the case.

"The caution he used in his conversations and the cryptic language show that contrary to his assertions he knew perfectly well about their activities," St-Cyr said.

Evidence at Pasquin's trial suggested he acted as a liaison between a drug ring leader and a pilot who allegedly made cocaine runs.