

# Stilman suggests undercover officer befriended accused



Toronto criminal lawyer [Jacob Stilman](#) has suggested to the court that the drug investigation that ensnared Rob Ford's friend and a drycleaner during the crack-tape scandal was based on a deception involving an undercover Toronto police officer who became friends with one of the accused, reports [CBC](#), [Globe and Mail](#), [Toronto Star](#), and [National Post](#).

Stilman represents Jamshid Bahrami, who has pleaded not guilty to several drug-related charges.

The trial for Bahrami and Alexander (Sandro) Lisi, a friend and occasional driver for Toronto's former mayor, started this week, nearly a year and a half after their arrest in October 2013, says the public broadcaster.

During Stilman's cross-examination of Det. Ross Fernandes, the lawyer asked him about a variety of subjects, including the relationship he'd established with Bahrami, 49, over the course of a six-week period, says the article.

They lunched together, smoked cigarettes and talked about life — including about Bahrami's family and his medical condition, the court heard.

But Stilman told the court that Fernandes was not the person he was presenting himself to be, says the article.

"Your whole persona is a fraud, a deliberate fraud," Stilman said to the officer. Fernandes, who agreed with Stilman, estimated that he spent between 10 and 15 hours at Bahrami's drycleaning shop, says the CBC.

However, the officer said he never saw Bahrami sell any marijuana, says the broadcaster.

"There was no procession of dubious characters in and out of the store?" Stilman asked during the cross-examination.

"No," said Fernandes. "Was Mr. Bahrami a nice man? Absolutely."

Stilman noted that Fernandes had driven Bahrami to pick up his son at one point, "something the officer admitted was a first for him during an undercover operation," says the CBC.

"Stilman also quizzed Fernandes about his wider experiences in prior drug cases he'd worked on. Fernandes admitted he'd never seen an investigation involving the use of surveillance aircraft and so-called pole cameras, some of the tactics police used to investigate Ford after reports emerged that someone had a video of the then-mayor smoking crack cocaine," says the article.

Ford, who is currently a city councillor, was never charged.