

## Conviction in kidnap of debtor;

### An A.C. man accused of loan-sharking abducted a gambler who didn't pay up, a federal jury decided.

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## **Body**

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A **federal jury** yesterday convicted an Atlantic City **man** of **loan-sharking** and **kidnapping** a **man** who had failed to keep **up** his high-interest payments.

Chang Ping Lin, 34, was found guilty of **kidnapping**, conspiracy to **kidnap**, making extortionate extensions of credit, and collecting extensions of credit by extortion.

Lin, an undocumented immigrant under detention by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, could face life in prison and \$1 million in fines or deportation back to China. His sentencing was set for Jan. 17.

After the verdict, Deputy U.S. Attorney Lee A. Solomon said, "Obviously, we will seek the appropriate punishment," most likely deportation, after Lin's **federal** prison sentence.

Lin, a **gambler** who also had addresses in New York and Philadelphia, was **accused** of lending Feng Bin Ho, 24, a construction worker living in Queens, N.Y., \$20,000 at an interest rate of \$100 a day for each \$1,000 borrowed. The transaction took place in February while Ho was on the losing end of a gambling binge in Atlantic City.

After receiving telephone calls and threats, Ho **paid** back much of the money, but Lin still sought several thousand dollars in interest. As a result, according to the government, Lin **kidnapped** Ho from New York on March 25 and held him in an Atlantic City house for nearly two days. Ho escaped out a third-floor window and contacted police.

Lin's defense sought to discredit the government's case and Ho's credibility. Lawyer Lawrence Dubin of New York called Ho "a degenerate **gambler**" who was heavily in debt, and said he had made **up** the story.

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## **Classification**

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