



WARREN
LAW GROUP

**WHITE COLLAR
CRIMES & HOW
THEY GOT CAUGHT:**

**PRESIDENTIAL MONEY
LAUNDERING**

INTRODUCTION

A white-collar crime is a type of offense that is typically carried out by individuals or organizations in positions of power or trust, for financial gain, often within a professional setting. These offenses often involve sophisticated methods and can be challenging to detect, making them a serious threat to society and businesses.

Examples of white-collar crimes include activities such as corporate executives accepting kickbacks, employees embezzling funds, or cybercriminals stealing sensitive information for personal gain. In addition, individuals and organizations can face charges such as antitrust violations, environmental crimes, securities fraud, and tax evasion. The consequences of such crimes can be severe, including hefty imprisonment, fines, and damage to a person's reputation and credibility.

At the Warren Law Group, we have a wealth of experience representing individuals accused of white-collar crimes, including some of significant notoriety. One of our partner David Rosenfield's most notable cases involved representing a former President of Guatemala on money laundering conspiracy charges. Let's take a look at the details of the case.

FORMER GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY CHARGES

In 2013, one of David's former clients, the former President of Guatemala, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court to five years and ten months in prison for money laundering as a result of his accepting bribes to promote the interests the country of Taiwan while he was President of Guatemala from 2000 to 2004.

In a press release from the United States Justice Department, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York at the time, Preet Bharara, stated that the former President had "betrayed his oath of office, the people of Guatemala, and the United States" by accepting millions of dollars in bribes to promote the interests of certain individuals and companies. The former President pled guilty to a single count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and admitted to receiving \$2.5 million in bribes from Taiwan while he was President.

The case against the former President began in 2010 when he was arrested in Guatemala on criminal charges, and he was later extradited to the United States.

Overall, the events involving the former President demonstrate the consequences of accepting bribes. The former President's sentence serves as a warning to other public officials who may be tempted to engage in activities for personal gain.

FACTS OF THE CASE

Background

The client was elected President of Guatemala in 2000. During his Presidency, he received over \$2 million dollars in bribes from the government of Taiwan. The President supposedly then used his position of power to promote the interests of Taiwan.

Investigation and Arrest

The case against the former President began in 2010 when he was arrested in Guatemala on embezzlement charges, which he was later acquitted of. He was then extradited to the United States to face charges of money laundering and accepting bribes. The U.S. government alleged that the former President used U.S. banks to launder the bribes he had received.

Charges and Plea Agreement

The former President pled guilty to a single count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. The former President admitted to receiving \$2.5 million in bribes from Taiwan while he was president

Sentence and Release

In 2013, the former President was sentenced to five years and ten months in prison instead of the maximum sentence of over 20 years. He was released from a U.S. prison in 2015.

Impact and Significance

The former President's case highlighted a pervasive corruption problem in Guatemala and other countries. It also demonstrated the consequences of accepting bribes, and the slippery slope elected officials who commit crimes find themselves on. The former President's sentence served as a warning to other public officials who might be tempted to engage in illicit activities for personal gain.

What Was Done Wrong

Government officials are at times offered bribes in exchange for wielding influence or looking the other way on regulations. Sometimes the bribes are issued for the sole purpose of these officials to using their influence to support their causes. Taiwan was no stranger to offering elected officials bribes in the early 2000s.

Transparency International is an organization that tracks governmental corruption. It uses a Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) to measure this corruption on a scale that is ranked by comparing countries to one another and is the most widely used global corruption ranking in the world. The CPI measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and businesspeople.

In 1999-2000, when the bribes to the former President supposedly occurred, Taiwan had a CPI score of just 5.6. To compare, during that same time period, America's score was 7.5, Germany's was an 8, and Denmark was the only country to post a perfect 10. While other countries scored considerably lower than Taiwan, it had a reputation for bribery and corruption.

Expert Opinion

The lesson of the former President's case is that accepting bribes can have severe consequences. The former Presidents was beloved by millions of Guatemalans, particularly the poor people, whom he fought hard to help. But the Taiwanese bribery case had serious consequences for him, including years served in American prisons.



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Resource

- <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-president-guatemala-alfonso-portillo-sentenced-manhattan-federal-court>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27531896>
- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-guatemala-portillo/guatemalan-ex-president-who-took-bribe-released-from-u-s-prison-idUSKBN0LT28F20150225>

Protect Your Rights and Reputation:

Trust Warren Law Group for Skilled Defense in White Collar Crime Cases

If you or someone you know is facing allegations of a white-collar crime, it's essential to act quickly and seek out experienced legal representation. At the Warren Law Group, we have a proven track record of successfully defending individuals and organizations in complex white-collar criminal cases. Our team of highly skilled attorneys is dedicated to protecting your rights, reputation, and freedom.

To help you get started, we offer a free consultation to assess your case and discuss your legal options. We understand that facing charges related to fraud, embezzlement, insider trading, or other white-collar crimes can be overwhelming, but we are here to help you navigate the legal process and fight for your rights.

To schedule a consultation, you can call our phone number at (866) 954-7687 or email us at info@warren.law. You can also visit our website at <https://warren.law/> to learn more about our firm, the types of cases we handle, and our team of attorneys' experience and expertise.

If you are facing allegations of a white-collar crime, trust the Warren Law Group to defend your rights and help you achieve the best possible outcome. Contact us today to schedule your free consultation and take the first step toward a strong defense. And don't forget to subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date on legal news, insights, and developments from our legal team.



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