

The City of New York Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER COMMISSIONER

180 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK, NY 10038 212-825-5900

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(212) 825-5931

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## FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNITED PROBATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS' HOME INCARCERATION AND MUST PAY MORE THAN \$1.3 MILLION IN RESTITUTION AND FORFEITURE FOR STEALING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM THE ASSOCIATION AND TAXPAYERS

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of DOMINIC COLUCCIO, 75, the former President of the United Probation Officers Association ("UPOA"), to three years' probation with the special conditions of two years' home incarceration to be enforced by location monitoring, and 300 hours of community service, for stealing \$750,000 from the UPOA and its taxpayer-funded active and retirement welfare funds ("the Welfare Funds"). In addition, the defendant was ordered to pay \$684,929 in restitution (with \$100,000 to be paid by the end of this month and the remainder in monthly installments thereafter), and \$750,000 in forfeiture. COLUCCIO was sentenced in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by U.S. District Judge Lorna G. Schofield. In April 2024, COLUCCIO pled guilty to one count of wire fraud in connection with this theft scheme. As part of his plea agreement, COLUCCIO agreed to forfeit \$750,000 to the United States and to make restitution in the amount of \$684,929 to the UPOA and the Welfare Funds. This prosecution was handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "Mr. Coluccio abused his trusted position as the President of a labor organization to steal from its membership and from New York City taxpayers and today he faces the consequences. I thank the New York City Office of the Comptroller and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for their longstanding commitment to safeguard public funds."

According to the Information filed in the case and statements made in court:

The UPOA represents all current and former New York City Department of Probation ("DOP") officers and COLUCCIO was President of the organization from approximately 1989 to 2016. From 2012 until 2019, COLUCCIO was engaged in a multi-faceted scheme to embezzle money from the UPOA and the Welfare Funds. Among other means, COLUCCIO caused the UPOA to reimburse personal expenses charged on his personal credit card, such as luxury travel and retail items. COLUCCIO unlawfully caused the UPOA to fund an individual retirement account in his name and caused the UPOA and Welfare Funds to make unauthorized, and excessive, salary and leave reimbursement payments to him. COLUCCIO submitted and sought reimbursement for medical, dental, and vision expenses that he and his dependents incurred, routinely authorizing and concealing overpayments to him, his spouse, and his family members, i.e., payments that exceeded policy limits.

To read the April 2024 release about the guilty plea and investigation, please click here.

DOI Commissioner Strauber thanked the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Chiuchiolo of the Office's Complex Frauds Cybercrime Unit,

who handled the prosecution. Commissioner Strauber also thanked the New York City Comptroller's Unit of Research and Investigation for its assistance, and Research Analyst Robert Botfeld; and DOP Commissioner Juanita N. Holmes and the City Office of Labor Relations Commissioner Renee Campion for their agencies' cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted at DOI by DOC Captain Lawrence Bond, who is assigned to DOI, and Confidential Investigator Guylynne Joseph, and was supervised by Acting Inspector General Marissa Carro, Inspector General Ann Petterson, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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