

Ex-Judge Given 8 Months In First FIFA Scandal Sentence

Share us on: By [Adam Rhodes](#)

Law360, New York (October 25, 2017, 8:56 PM EDT) –

A New York federal judge on Wednesday handed down the first sentence in the government's sprawling [FIFA](#) corruption case, sentencing a former judge and onetime general secretary of the Guatemalan soccer federation to eight months in prison over kickbacks he took related to media rights for World Cup qualifying matches.

U.S. District Judge Pamela K. Chen also ordered Hector Trujillo to hand over \$415,000 in restitution to the Guatemalan soccer federation. He was not given any supervised release.

The sentencing comes just two days after the federal government [lobbied for](#) a prison sentence between 41 and 51 months and \$415,000 in restitution for the wire fraud and wire fraud conspiracy charges Trujillo copped to [in June](#). In his own Oct. 11 memorandum, Trujillo urged Judge Chen to give him time served. "Rather than uphold the standards of honesty and integrity expected of the leadership of international soccer, the defendant and his co-conspirators lined their pockets with hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes," acting United States Attorney Bridget M. Rohde said in a [U.S. Department of Justice](#) announcement. "The defendant has now been brought to justice. This office and its law enforcement partners at the [FBI](#) and [IRS](#) will continue to vigorously pursue those who would use leadership positions to engage in corruption, especially when it involves the U.S. banking system."

In his June guilty plea, Trujillo admitted to taking \$175,000 in kickbacks from Media World, which nabbed the media and marketing rights to the Guatemalan soccer team's home World Cup qualifier matches leading up to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments in return.

According to the DOJ's announcement, Trujillo, co-defendant Brayan Jiménez and former FIFA executive committee member Rafael Salguero met in Miami in 2010 to sell Media World the overseas media and marketing rights to the country's qualifier matches leading up to the 2018 World Cup. It was during this meeting that Trujillo and Jiménez took the first \$200,000 kickback. Additionally, Salguero also pocketed \$20,000 for arranging the deal, the DOJ said.

In 2013, Trujillo and Jiménez again took \$200,000, the DOJ added, this time related to the rights for matches leading up to the 2022 World Cup, hiding their payments in the bank account of an American construction business owned by an acquaintance of Trujillo's, who later sent the money to Guatemala.

Trujillo's attorney **Florian Miedel of Miedel & Mysliwiec LLP** had mixed feelings about the ruling Wednesday. "Although we are gratified that the judge imposed a sentence well below

what the government requested, we are nevertheless disappointed,” Miedel said in a statement. “The U.S. government prosecuted Hector Trujillo on a legal theory not recognized in much of the world, and because the judge wanted to send a message to global soccer, a 64-year-old democratic reformer now must serve eight months of prison time before he can return to his family in Guatemala. It’s unnecessary and does not serve the ends of justice.”

Representatives for the DOJ could not be immediately reached for comment Wednesday. Trujillo is represented by Florian Miedel of Miedel & Mysliwiec LLP and Joshua Paulson. The government is represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Paul Tuchmann, Samuel P. Nitze, M. Kristin Mace, Keith D. Edelman, Kaitlin T. Farrell and Brian D. Morris. The case is U.S. v. Webb et al., case number [1:15-cr-00252](#), in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern mDistrict of New York.

--Additional reporting by Matthew Guarnaccia, William Gorta, Pete Brush and Zachary Zagger.
Editing by Alanna Weissman.