

## Civil Forfeiture Cases 2013-2017

The following is a list of 88 civil forfeiture cases filed by federal authorities in the past five years that are unrelated to currency seizures by state or local police agencies.

*United States v. 208 Burberry Handbags*, 2012 WL 5398676 (W.D.N.Y. Nov. 2, 2012) (trademark infringement);

*United States v. One Tyrannosaurus Bataar Skeleton*, 2012 WL 5834899 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 14, 2012) (dinosaur skeleton illegally smuggled from Mongolia);

*United States v. \$2,000,000 in U.S. Currency*, 906 F. Supp.2d 1260 (drug money laundered by Mexican money exchange using US bank account);

*United States v. \$2,164,341 in U.S. Currency*, 2013 WL 321768 (D. Ariz. Jan. 28, 2013) (drug proceeds of fugitive Mexican drug dealer);

*United States v. Any and All Funds Contained in Bancorpsouth Account*, 2013 WL 840042 (N.D. Ala. Mar. 6, 2013) (proceeds of fraud involving mortuary that provided services to an organ donor center associated with the University of Alabama);

*United States v. \$1,026,781.61 in Funds From Florida Capital Bank*, 2013 WL 1943436 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 16, 2013)(proceeds of murder of ex-wife);

*United States v. One Gulfstream G-V Jet Aircraft*, 941 F. Supp. 2d 1 (D.D.C. 2013) (aircraft purchased with proceeds of public corruption by leader of West African country);

*United States v. The Painting Known as Hannibal*, 2013 WL 1890220 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 25, 2013) (forfeiture to recover stolen painting);

*United States v. A 10<sup>th</sup> Century Cambodian Sandstone Sculpture*, 2013 WL 1290515 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 28, 2013) (cultural property stolen during civil war in Cambodia);

*United States v. One M119 105mm Howitzer, Serial Number S793*, 2013 WL 992664 (D. Ariz. Mar. 13, 2013) (weapon sold by unlicensed arms dealer);

*United States v. \$104,250.00 in U.S. Currency*, 947 F. Supp.2d 560 (D. Md. 2013) (currency found in drug courier's carry-on luggage);

*United States v. \$7,599,358.09*, 953 F. Supp.2d 549 (D.N.J. 2013)(proceeds of fraud seized from defendant who promised to provide workmen's comp insurance but did not, and committed suicide before trial);

*United States v. 318 Cartons of Love Roses and Mustic Vases*, 520 Fed. Appx. 620 (9th Cir. 2013) (crack pipes imported into United States);

*United States v. \$8,440,190.00 in U.S. Currency*, 719 F.3d 49 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2013) (currency tossed overboard by drug trafficker fleeing Coast Guard);

*United States v. \$671,160.00 in U.S. Currency*, 730 F.3d 1051 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013) (money seized from fugitive Canadian drug dealer);

*In re 650 Fifth Avenue*, 2013 WL 4572527 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 27, 2013) (building in New York owned by Government of Iran and maintained in violation of economic sanctions);

*United States v. Any and All Funds on Deposit at J.P. Morgan Chase*, 2013 WL 5511348 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 2, 2013) (bank account of Peruvian company laundering South American drug proceeds through U.S. bank);

*United States v. \$399,101.96 More or Less, In United States Currency*, 2013 WL 3994632 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 1, 2013) (proceeds of scheme to bribe public official to receive contracts to provide medical services);

*United States v. Value of Certain E-Metal Accounts*, 2013 WL 5664678 (D. Md. Oct. 17, 2013) (assets of company that used internet-based electronic gold business to launder criminal proceeds);

*United States v. 2005 Porsche Cayenne*, 2013 WL 5755044 (M.D.N.C. Oct. 23, 2013)(car carrying evidence and purchased with proceeds of credit card fraud);

*United States v. All Funds on Deposit with R.J. O'Brien & Associates*, 2013 WL 5567562 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 9, 2013) (fund held in investment account of affiliate of Al Qaeda);

*United States v. 12636 Sunset Avenue, Unit E-2*, 991 F. Supp. 2d 709 (D. Md. 2014) (trafficking in counterfeit goods);

*United States v. Funds in the Amount of \$1,669,675.00*, 2014 WL 698553 (S.D. Fla. Jan. 16, 2014) (\$1.6 million that target of an SEC investigation was attempting to move from the Cayman Islands to Honduras through a New York bank);

*United States v. \$5,253.00 in U.S. Currency*, 2014 WL 122254 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 13, 2014) (counterfeit merchandise being sold from retail outlets in New York);

*United States v. \$4,656,085.10 in Bank Funds*, 2014 WL 552864 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 27, 2014) (fraud proceeds defendant transferred to Panama to conceal from his wife during divorce proceedings);

*United States v. \$154,853.00 in U.S. Currency*, 744 F.3d 559 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) (currency found in heat-sealed packages in vehicle driven by courier who claimed no knowledge of the currency);

*United States v. Real Property Located at 272 Old Montauk Highway*, 2014 WL 726772 (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 22, 2014) (complex of luxury beachfront condos and hotels, alleging that it was acquired with the proceeds of a massive securities fraud);

*United States v. \$142,256.00 in U.S. Currency*, 2014 WL 547879 (D. Nev. Feb. 11, 2014) (proceeds of identity theft);

*United States v. \$77,670.00 Previously Contained in Bank of America Account*, 2014 WL 1669929 (D.N.J. Apr. 28, 2014) (international money laundering scheme / Black Market Peso Exchange involving Los Angeles jewelry dealers);

*United States v. All Funds on Deposit at Old Mutual of Bermuda, Ltd.*, 2014 WL 1689939 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 19, 2014); *United States v. All Funds on Deposit at Old Mutual of Bermuda, Ltd.*, 2014 WL 1689939 (S.D. Tex. May 1, 2014) (proceeds of Mexican public corruption laundered through U.S. bank accounts);

*United States v. 323 Quintales of Green Coffee Beans*, 21 F. Supp.3d 122 (D.P.R. 2013) (illegal importation of agricultural product);

*United States v. Mask of Ka-Nefer-Nefer*, 752 F.3d 737 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) (3,000-year-old Egyptian mask stolen from museum in Cairo);

*United States v. \$795,652.33 in Funds Seized from Account xxxxxx1607*, 2014 WL 3558744 (D.S.C. July 11, 2014) (proceeds of scheme to fraudulently export luxury vehicles to China); *United States v. Various Vehicles and Funds*, 2014 WL 3384632 (D.S.C. June 6, 2014) (same);

*United States v. \$166,450.48 in U.S. Currency*, 2014 WL 3891748 (D. Or. Aug. 7, 2014) (gold dealer using precious metals to conduct unlicensed money transmitting business);

*United States v. \$72,050.00 in U.S. Currency*, 587 Fed. Appx. 241 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) (proceeds of an investment fraud scheme involving an oil drilling venture);

*United States v. \$311,229.00 in U.S. Currency*, 585 Fed. Appx. 549 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) (proceeds of an investment fraud scheme);

*United States v. A 1937 Packard Super 12 Automobile*, 2014 WL \_\_\_\_\_ (N.D. Ill. Nov. 3, 2014) (Josef Stalin's armor-plated Packard limousine misappropriated in Bulgaria and found in Chicago museum);

*United States v. \$90,000 in U.S. Currency*, 56 F. Supp.3d 744 (D. Md. 2014) (money found in car of murdered drug dealer);

*United States v. Armalite, Model AR-18*, 2014 WL 5441185 (W.D. Ky. Oct. 22, 2014) (two machine guns found in a storage locker when renter failed to pay the rent);

*United States v. Real Property Known as 200 Acres of Land*, 773 F.3d 654 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) (real property in Texas purchased with drug proceeds by Mexican drug dealers who remained in Mexico);

*United States v. One Parcel . . . 66 Branch Creek Dr.*, 2014 WL 6473212 (W.D. Tenn. Nov. 18, 2014) (property in Tennessee of fugitive drug dealer who fled to Lebanon);

*United States v. \$122,640 in U.S. Currency*, 81 F. Supp.3d 482 (D. Md. 2015) (currency seized from luggage of courier at the airport);

*United States v. The Painting Known and Described as "Madonna and Child"*, 2015 WL 108416 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 6, 2015) (13<sup>th</sup> Century painting known as "Madonna and Child," stolen from its rightful owner in Europe, smuggled into the United States, and offered for sale at auction at Sotheby's in New York);

*United States v. \$25,982.28 in U.S. Currency*, 2015 WL 410590 (N.D. Ohio Jan. 29, 2015) (currency, vehicles and jewelry of murdered drug dealer);

*United States v. \$11,071,188.64 in U.S. Currency*, 2015 WL 630291 (E.D. Mo. Feb. 13, 2015) (funds derived from cocaine sales to Sinaloa drug cartel found in Florida brokerage account of Caribbean company engaged in ostrich farming);

*United States v. \$1,181,895.00 in U.S. Currency*, 2015 WL 631394 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 12, 2015) (currency given to courier by “unknown” third party with instructions to hold it for person from Mexico);

*United States v. Funds . . . \$56,634 in U.S. Currency on Deposit in Banesco Intl*, 79 F. Supp.3d 112 (D.D.C. 2015) (proceeds from U.S. drug trafficking found in bank accounts in Panama);

*United States v. All Assets Listed in Attachment A (MegaUpload, Ltd.)*, 89 F. Supp.3d 813 (E.D. Va. 2015) (funds derived from theft of U.S. intellectual property on internet website managed from New Zealand);

*United States v. Real Property Located at 229 Potter Road*, 2015 WL 778830 (D. Conn. Feb. 24, 2015) (property purchased with proceeds of health care fraud);

*United States v. \$29,373.00 in U.S. Currency*, 86 F. Supp.3d 95 (D.P.R. 2015) (assets of owner of small air transport company, involved in drug trafficking and found beaten to death in the Dominican Republic);

*Langbord v. U.S. Dept. of Treasury*, 783 F.3d 441 (3rd Cir. 2015) (action to recover 1933 gold coins stolen from the U.S. Mint in the 1930s and found in Philadelphia 70 years later);

*United States v. All Assets Held in Account Number 80020796*, 83 F. Supp.3d 360 (D.D.C. 2015) (\$2 billion stolen from Nigeria by Gen. Abacha, laundered through U.S. banks, and deposited in Jersey, France and the UK);

*United States v. Sum of \$309,500,000*, 85 F. Supp.3d 111 (D.D.C. 2015) (\$309 million that ING Bank allowed its customers to send into the United States from Iran and other countries in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act);

*United States v. 29 Pre-Columbian and Colonial Artifacts*, 2015 WL 1518033 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 2, 2015) (action to recover a collection of antiquities from Peru);

*United States v. One Smith & Wesson 66 Revolver*, 2015 WL 1505975 (S.D. Ga. Mar. 31, 2015) (firearms in possession of alien who overstayed his visa);

*United States v. Any and All Funds on Deposit in Account . . . at HSBC Bank*, 2015 WL 1546350 (D.D.C. Apr. 6, 2015) (funds in accounts of Thai nationals indicted in federal court on charges relating to the bribery of a foreign public official);

*United States v. 2003 BMW X5*, 2015 WL 2330292 (D. Md. May 15, 2015) (automobile about to be exported from the Port of Baltimore to Nigeria that was purchased with the proceeds of a fraudulently-obtained loan);

*United States v. Real Property Located at 9144 Burnett Road*, 86 F. Supp.3d 95 (D.P.R. 2015) (property in Washington State involved in the laundering of assets of Romanian citizen)

extradited to Romania to face criminal charges involving tens of millions of dollars in unpaid excise taxes);

*United States v. Any and All Radio Equipment*, 2015 WL 1498967 (E.D. Tenn. Mar. 31, 2015) (equipment used to operate unlicensed radio station; forfeited in lieu of criminal prosecution of operator);

*United States v. Funds in the Amount of \$246,197.44*, 2015 WL 1943346 (N.D. Ill. Apr. 29, 2015) (bank account used to receive payment for electronic goods, such as iphones and ipads, sold to customers in the UAE, China, and Hong Kong, by Chicago-based electronics wholesaler who knowingly purchased stolen and fraudulently-obtained mobile devices, repackaged them, and sold them to customers);

*United States v. \$526,695.24 Seized from JP Morgan Chase Bank Investment Account*, 2015 WL 2239111 (N.D. Ohio May 12, 2015) and 2015 WL 2239071 (N.D. Ohio May 12, 2015) (assets of fugitive operators of illegal pharmacy who fled to Israel);

*United States v. Approximately \$620,349.85 Seized from Wachovia Bank Account Numbers Ending \*6176 and \*6189*, 2015 WL 3604044 (E.D.N.Y. June 5, 2015) (bank account of an online retailer of computers and consumer electronics who knowingly accepted drug proceeds as payment for some off its merchandise as part of a Black Market Peso Exchange);

*In re Search of 32900 Five Mile Road*, 2015 WL 3742589 (E.D. Mich. June 15, 2015) (payments to law firm as part of mortgage fraud scheme);

*In re The Premises Known and Described as 100 Sweeneydale Ave.*, 2015 WL 3607572 (E.D.N.Y. June 6, 2015) (counterfeit merchandise);

*United States v. Prevezon Holdings, Ltd.*, 2015 WL 4719786 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 7, 2015) (proceeds obtained by Russian criminal organization that stole the identities of legitimate Russian companies and used them to obtain undeserved tax refunds totaling \$230 million from the Russian Treasury);

*United States v. Real Property . . . 246 Main Street*, 2015 WL 4254381 (M.D. Fla. July 13, 2015) (property purchased with fraud proceeds);

*United States v. Real Property Located at 8 Drift Street*, 2015 WL 5007830 (D.N.J. Aug. 20, 2015) (property traceable to Chinese fraud proceeds transferred from China to the United States);

*United States v. All Assets Held at Bank Julius Baer & Co.*, 2015 WL 4450899 (D.D.C. July 20, 2015) (action to recover more than \$250 million deposited into over 20 bank accounts located in Guernsey, Antigua, Switzerland, Lithuania and Lichtenstein by former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazerenko); 2017 WL 65554 (D.D.C. Jan. 6, 2017) (same);

*United States v. 6 Firearms, Accessories and Ammunition*, 2015 WL 4660126 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 5, 2015) (firearms purchased by elderly woman for convicted-felon son; forfeited civilly in lieu of prosecution of mother);

*United States v. Approximately \$94,600 U.S. Currency*, 2015 WL 5254542 (E.D. Wis. Sept. 9, 2015) (proceeds of sale of dietary supplements stolen from a laboratory, sold for \$334,500, and used to buy a Bentley automobile and various items of jewelry);

*United States v. One 2014 Black Porsche Cayman Coupe*, 2015 WL 6408009 (D.N.J. Oct. 20, 2015) (vehicle and other property purchased with \$6.4 million in proceeds of Chinese trading company's submission of counterfeit U.S. coins to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia for redemption);

*United States v. \$465,789.31 Seized From Term Life Ins. Policy*, 150 F. Supp.3d 175 (D. Conn. 2015) (proceeds of Ponzi scheme obtained by defendant who died after entering guilty plea);

*United States v. Approximately \$6,658.92 in U.S. Currency*, 2015 WL 7750619 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 2, 2015) (action to recover over \$100,00 in proceeds of investment fraud scheme);

*United States v. All Property . . . in the UBS Financial Services, Inc. Account*, 2015 WL 9243838 (S.D. Tex. Nov 17, 2015) (brokerage account involved in the laundering of the proceeds of public corruption in Mexico);

*United States v. Fifty-Five Boxes of Tide Downy Powder*, 2015 WL 9581876 (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 30, 2015) (tens of thousands of units of allegedly counterfeit health and beauty products);

*United States v. All Funds on Deposit in Lee Munder Wealth Planning Resource Account*, 2016 WL 287058 (D. Mass. Jan. 22, 2016) (\$17.9 million in assets transferred as part of a bankruptcy fraud scheme);

*United States v. Various Restaurant Furniture and Good of Iranian Origin*, 2016 WL 7496130 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 8, 2016) (goods imported from Iran in violation of 31 CFR 560.201 and 19 U.S.C. § 1595a(c));

*United States v. 370 Units of Hardware*, 2016 WL 1056599 (W.D. Tenn. Mar. 16, 2016) (electronic hardware seized at the FedEx facility in Memphis on the ground that the property bore a counterfeit trademark);

*United States v. Real Property Known as 4401 Collins Ave, Unit 3315*, 2016 WL 1546425 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 15, 2016) (Miami Beach condo purchased with fraud proceeds);

*United States v. \$1,879,991.64 Previously Contained in Sberbank of Russia's Interbank or Correspondent Bank Account*, 185 F. Supp.3d 493 (D.N.J. 2016) (\$1.8 million in proceeds of export of restricted items to Russia in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and deposited in Russian bank); 2017 WL 396542 (D.N.J. Jan. 30, 2017) (same);

*United States v. Real Property Known As 7208 East 65<sup>th</sup> Pl.*, 185 F. Supp.3d 1288 (N.D. Okla. 2016) (property of fugitive who defrauded terminally-ill cancer patients and fled to Mexico following indictment);

*United States v. FIE Titan Tiger Revolver*, 2016 WL 1638786 (N.D. Ohio Apr. 21, 2016) (firearm and 30 rounds of ammunition found in the possession of a convicted felon who claimed that Pope Francis has taken control of the US military and domestic police forces);

*United States v. Batato*, 833 F.3d 413 (4th Cir. 2016) (civil forfeiture action against \$75 million held in Hong Kong and New Zealand derived from theft of intellectual property by MegaUpload);

*Doraville Properties Corporation v. Her Majesty's Attorney General* [2016] JRC128, Royal Court, Bailiwick of Jersey, (July 2016) (enforcement of US civil forfeiture judgment against \$287 million stolen by Gen. Abacha from Nigeria and laundered through the US);

*In re 650 Fifth Ave. and Related Properties*, 830 F.3d 66 (2nd Cir. 2016) (civil forfeiture action against a building and related properties owned by front for the Government of Iran, and financed in violation of IEEPA);

*United States v. \$50,900 in U.S Currency*, 2016 WL 4257328 (D. Mass. Aug. 11, 2016) (money wired from South America to purchase Gulfstream jet for drug organization);

*United States v. Prevezon Holdings, Ltd.*, 839 F.3d 227 (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. 2016) (\$1.9 million in assets of Russian criminal organization that stole the identities of legitimate Russian companies, obtained undeserved tax refunds, and used it to purchase real property in Manhattan);

*United States v. 2005 Pilatus Aircraft*, 838 F.3d 662 (5th Cir. 2016) (action against an airplane owned by Mexican fugitive indicted on money laundering and bank fraud charges);

*United States v. \$506,069.09 Seized from First Merit Bank*, \_\_\_ Fed. Appx. \_\_\_, 2016 WL 6211978 (6th Cir. Oct. 25, 2016) (proceeds of illegally dispensing pain killers by doctor who fled to Pakistan), aff'g 2014 WL 7185585 (N.D. Ohio Dec. 16, 2014);

*United States v. Two General Electric Aircraft Engines*, 2016 WL 6495397 (D.D.C. Nov. 2, 2016) (civil forfeiture action against two aircraft engines being shipped to Iran in violation of US law and were intended to be delivered to a terrorist organization: the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force);

*United States v. Approximately 64 Dogs*, 2016 WL 6651297 (C.D. Ill. Nov. 10, 2016) (dogs being used in an illegal dogfighting operation);

*United States v. Approximately 1,784,000 Contraband Cigarettes*, 2016 WL 7387094 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 21, 2016) (untaxed cigarettes forfeited as the proceeds of a violation of the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act);

*United States v. \$70,990,605*, 2017 WL 573499 (D.D.C. Feb. 13, 2017) (action to recover funds in Afghan banks traceable to \$70 million in fraud proceeds paid to contractor to provide transportation for military supplies in Afghanistan); *United States v. Sum of \$70,990,605*, 4 F. Supp.3d 189 (D.D.C. 2014) (same);

*United States v. Tracts 31A, Lots 31 and 32*, \_\_\_ Fed. Appx. \_\_\_, 2017 WL 946288 (5th Cir. Mar. 9, 2017) (proceeds of defrauding a school district of \$3.7 million by submitting false or inflated invoices for electrical supplies and materials);

*United States v. Archaeological Resources Taken From The Emigrant Trail*, 2017 WL 892806 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 6, 2017) (artifacts from the Gold Rush Era illegally taken from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470ee);