



2023 - The Year in Review

The year 2023 was exceptional for Mancano Law, PLLC! It was not only the first full year of operations, but was marked by major successes in two key practice areas:

Criminal Defense

Felony Convictions Vacated in The Fat Leonard Navy Corruption Case

Joseph Mancano successfully represented retired Navy Captain David Newland.

Newland, a highly decorated officer was unjustly targeted in the sprawling "Fat Leonard" Navy corruption criminal case brought in federal district court in San Diego, California in 2017. "Fat Leonard" is Leonard Glenn Francis, a 6'3" 350 lb. Singapore-based defense contractor with nearly \$300 million in Government contracts to resupply and service Navy ships in ports throughout the Asian Pacific.

Captain Newland and four other Navy officers were accused of conspiring to solicit and receive bribes from Francis, in exchange for aiding Francis in his contracting business. The retired Navy officers went to trial in 2022, denying any involvement in criminal activity. After a 4-month trial, Captain Newland and three officers were convicted, in spite of serious and repeated government misconduct during the trial.

The government misconduct uncovered by Mr. Mancano and the defense team found concealment of evidence, false testimony by the government's lead case agent, obstruction of justice, and intentional misrepresentations by the prosecutors to the court and counsel regarding sources of evidence. Because the misconduct was so pervasive, the Government voluntarily moved to vacate all of the convictions of Captain Newland and three others. In vacating the convictions at the September 6, 2023 hearing, the Court described the Government's misconduct as "outrageous"

[Read more about the case here.](#)

Some of the media reports about the case can be found below:

[Law 360 - Atty Says 'Fat Leonard' Prosecutors Should Face Ethics Probe](#)

[Washington Post - 4 convictions thrown out in 'Fat Leonard' case after prosecuter misconduct](#)

[Read Full Press Release →](#)



Commonwealth Can't Authenticate Facebook Evidence – Case Dismissed

On October 4, 2023, a trial was scheduled for Nicole Prussman in the Court of Common Pleas for Pike County, Pennsylvania on a charge of harassment.

Ms. Prussman, President of the Monroe County chapter of Moms for Liberty, was accused of harassing a member of Stop Moms for Liberty via Facebook communications. The only evidence to support the criminal charge were photocopies of undated alleged screenshots from Facebook that were made by a woman who claimed that she received the messages from Ms. Prussman. The screenshots were never verified by law enforcement, were not subjected to forensic analysis, or certified by Facebook as reflecting genuine communications.

Mr. Mancano challenged the authenticity of the screenshots, noting the ease with which any individual can create a phony Facebook account or post fake communications to a legitimate account. He argued that the Commonwealth had no competent proof that Ms. Prussman actually authored any of the Facebook communications at issue. The Court agreed and excluded the alleged Facebook messages from evidence and dismissed the case against Ms. Prussman.

Complex Civil Litigation

Boeing Pays \$8.1 Million to Settle Whistleblower Lawsuit

Joseph Mancano jointly represented three former Boeing Company employees who filed a whistleblower claim alleging that Boeing knowingly made false claims to the United States government related to the manufacture of approximately 80 V-22 Osprey aircraft.

The V-22 Osprey is a military aircraft that utilizes tilt-rotor technology to combine the vertical performance of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing airplane. Approximately half of a V-22's components are made of carbon fiber. V-22 carbon fiber components are made in large oven/pressure vessels according to strict specifications regarding temperature, pressure, and time. The whistleblowers alleged that Boeing knowingly produced and delivered V-22 aircraft which contained components that did not conform to contract specifications, and that Boeing knowingly concealed its non-compliance from the Government.

The whistleblower's Qui Tam lawsuit, originally filed in 2016, was settled after nearly seven years of litigation in September, 2023. Boeing paid the United States Government \$8.1 million, including \$1,539,000 to the whistleblowers for their assistance, plus the whistleblowers' attorneys' fees.

[Read more about the case here.](#)

[Read Full Press Release →](#)

Joseph Mancano, the firm's founder, is grateful to the many clients, colleagues and friends who contributed to a successful 2023. He looks forward to working with all of you this year to achieve even greater success in 2024.

2023 Awards

Best Lawyers

Best Lawyers in America: White Collar Criminal Defense

Super Lawyers

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers: White Collar Criminal Defense



Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating

Mancano Law PLLC is a boutique litigation firm that represents individuals and institutions in white collar criminal defense, regulatory enforcement matters and commercial litigation.

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