



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida
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United States v. Leo Govoni et al.
Case No. 8:25-cr-299-VMC-NHA

The United States alleges that Leo John Govoni (Age: 68) and John Leo Witeck (Age: 62) engaged in a fraud scheme that involved stealing more than \$100 million from the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration and other entities that managed trusts for vulnerable individuals with special needs.

Govoni and Witeck are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, four counts of mail fraud, six counts of wire fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. Govoni is also charged separately with one count of bank fraud, one count of illegal monetary transactions, and one count of making a false bankruptcy declaration. The bank fraud offense carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. Each count of wire fraud, mail fraud, conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, and the money laundering conspiracy offense carries a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment. The illegal monetary transaction count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and the false bankruptcy declaration carries a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment. If Govoni and Witeck were to proceed to trial and be found guilty of all counts, the judge would have discretion to sentence them up to the combined, consecutive maximum penalties for all counts.

Charge	Penalty Range	Defendant(s)
Conspiracy to Commit Wire and Mail Fraud	Up to 20 years' imprisonment.	Govoni and Witeck
Mail Fraud (Four Counts)	Each count carries a maximum penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment.	Govoni and Witeck
Wire Fraud (Six Counts)	Each count carries a maximum penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment.	Govoni and Witeck
Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering	Up to 20 years' imprisonment.	Govoni and Witeck
Bank Fraud	Up to 30 years' imprisonment.	Govoni

Conducting an Illegal Monetary Transaction	Up to 10 years' imprisonment.	Govoni
Making a False Bankruptcy Declaration	Up to 5 years' imprisonment.	Govoni

Although a jury trial is presently scheduled for the February 2027 trial term, many criminal cases are resolved by plea agreements, and it is not unusual for a defendant to seek to negotiate a plea agreement before a trial is scheduled to begin. In these negotiations, the prosecution evaluates several factors, such as the nature and circumstances of the offenses, comparable plea agreements with other defendants, and the desires of victims, who may have recommendations on potential sentences, or specific concerns about the testimonial process as a trial witness. If the case proceeds to trial, some victims may be subpoenaed by the prosecution to travel to Tampa, Florida to testify before the Court. The government will directly contact potential witnesses at the appropriate time about any necessary hotel and/or travel arrangements. Please use the questionnaire below to relay any concerns you may have about this process.

The United States Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice's Criminal Division invite victims to provide input regarding potential resolution by plea agreements by **Friday, August 14, 2026**, via email to usaflm.tpavw@usdoj.gov. Although the volume of interested parties may prohibit the ability to host individual conferrals, the prosecution will consider all emailed submissions.

The questionnaire that follows may be used as a guide to express your views and ensure the prosecution team may take them into account during any plea negotiations. While the prosecution will do its best to proceed with the case in alignment with victims' desires, many factors also influence the terms of resolutions by plea that the prosecution must consider in exercising its discretion. If a pretrial agreement with either defendant is reached, and the court schedules a plea hearing in this case, we will make our best efforts to notify you as soon as practicable. Please continue to check our victim notice website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/Govoni> for updates.

As a reminder, the Department of Justice cannot act as your attorney or provide you with legal advice. Victims can seek the advice of an attorney with respect to their rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Act, codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3771, or other related legal matters.

Thank you for your patience and participation during this difficult process.



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Plea Conferral Questionnaire

Please email responses by Friday, August 14, 2026, to usaflm.tpavw@usdoj.gov.

1. Name of victim:

2. Name of respondent if other than victim and relationship to victim:

3. Are you opposed to a resolution involving a plea agreement with Leo Govoni? If so, why?

4. Are you opposed to a resolution involving a plea agreement with John Witeck? If so, why?

5. For any potential resolution, the Government must weigh competing considerations. For example, a plea agreement can reduce the potential maximum sentence, but could lead to recovery of available funds more quickly. Please let us know what factors are most important to you, such as total potential prison sentence, certainty of a conviction, an opportunity to testify at a trial, a prompt resolution, recovery of funds, etc.

6. If the case proceeds to sentencing, the judge will be bound by law to consider all applicable sentencing guidelines, case law, and statutes that limit maximum penalties the defendant would face. To the extent you have an opinion, what sentence do you feel defendant Leo Govoni should receive?

7. If the case proceeds to sentencing, the judge will be bound by law to consider all applicable sentencing guidelines, case law, and statutes that limit maximum penalties the defendant would face. To the extent you have an opinion, what sentence do you feel defendant John Witeck should receive?

8. Is there other information you would like the United States to consider regarding a potential plea agreement involving Leo Govoni?

9. Is there other information you would like the United States to consider regarding a potential plea agreement involving John Witeck?

10. Is there other information you would like the United States to consider regarding potentially testifying as a witness in any case proceedings?