

Reinsurer Gets Short Prison Stint In Ecuadorian Bribery Case

By **David Minsky**

Law360, Miami (June 24, 2025, 7:12 PM EDT) -- A Florida federal judge sentenced a reinsurance manager to 10 months of time served in prison for his role in a \$3 million Ecuadorian bribery scheme following a hearing in Miami court on Tuesday, potentially allowing him to leave the country to reunite with his family in South America.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen M. Williams handed down her sentence to Cristian Patricio Pintado following a hearing in the Southern District of Florida after he pled guilty to a money laundering charge. In April, Pintado admitted to wiring approximately \$87,000 from a Panamanian bank account in the name of a reinsurance intermediary company to a U.S. bank account listed in the name of an associate.

The transaction was a part of a larger scheme between 2013 and 2018 that involved bribing officials at the top of Ecuadorian state-controlled insurance agencies in exchange for business, according to prosecutors. U.S. government officials added that Pintado, who is a dual Ecuadorian and Italian citizen, resided in Costa Rica while the scheme was occurring.

Andrew S. Feldman of Feldman Firm PLLC, Pintado's attorney, told Law360 in an email that his client did not cooperate with the government and was given time served even though sentencing guidelines called for nearly six years in prison.

"Mr. Pintado is extremely pleased with Judge Williams' sentence of time served," Feldman said. "We are hoping that Mr. Pintado will be able to self-deport to his home in Quito to reunite with his wife and children."

The government did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment on Tuesday.

The government is represented by Drew Bradylyons and Katherine Raut of the U.S. Department of Justice and Annika M. Miranda of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.

Pintado is represented by Andrew S. Feldman and Kyra G. Harkins of Feldman Firm PLLC and Freddy Rubio of Rubio Law Firm PC.

The case is U.S. v. Merlo Hidalgo et al., case number 1:22-cr-20311, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

--Editing by Vaqas Asghar.