



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 17, 2018
Contact [John Milgrim](mailto:John.Milgrim@ny.gov): 518-474-1010

FORMER BARUCH COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACH PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING MORE THAN \$700,000 FROM SCHOOL; FACES UP TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

NEW YORK CITY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the federal guilty plea of a former City University of New York (CUNY) Baruch College basketball coach, who also acted as an athletics department official, to embezzling more than \$700,000 from the school over a six-year period by renting school athletic facilities to outside parties and keeping the proceeds for himself.

Machli Joseph, 43, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court this afternoon to one federal count of embezzlement. The charge carries a maximum term of 10 years in prison.

“This college official squandered and abused the trust placed in him by executing a multi-year scheme using school resources to benefit himself with close to three quarters of a million dollars in stolen public funds,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “His crimes went unchecked for years on end and were symptomatic of the lax policies and oversight throughout CUNY facilities that I have been investigating as a separate matter.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Joseph served as an athletic department official at Baruch College between 2002 and 2016. He served as Baruch’s women’s basketball head coach between 2004 and 2014, its men’s basketball coach in 2002, as assistant athletic director from 2003 to 2011 and as associate athletic director from 2011 until August 2016. At times when the Baruch College gym was not being used by the school’s athletic teams, it could be rented out to outside parties. In his administrative capacity, Joseph had sole control over those gym rentals and their scheduling.

On numerous occasions between 2010 and 2016, Joseph rented the gym to outside parties, ostensibly on behalf of Baruch College. When instructing the renting parties on how to provide payment, however, Joseph directed that payment be made to entities that were not, in fact, connected to Baruch College. Instead, they were entities with bank accounts over which Joseph had personal control, some of which merely sounded like Baruch-affiliated entities. On several occasions, Joseph simply directed that payment be made directly to himself or his associates. Many of these funds were ultimately spent on personal expenses and items for Joseph and his family, including renovations to his home in New Jersey.

Joseph is now due to return to federal court in Manhattan for sentencing on April 17, 2018.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Northeast Regional Office of the United States Department of Education’s Office of the Inspector General for their assistance with the investigation, and the offices of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York for prosecuting this case.

###