



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER BARUCH COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACH SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR EMBEZZLING \$787,000 FROM SCHOOL

NEW YORK CITY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the federal sentencing to prison of a former City University of New York (CUNY) Baruch College basketball coach, who also acted as an athletics department official, for embezzling more than \$787,000 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, was sentenced today in the United States Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan to 20 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release for his prior plea to embezzlement. At the time of his plea, the court entered a judgment against Joseph for \$787,194.13 in forfeiture to the government – the amount stolen from the college – and ordered Joseph to pay the same amount to the school as full restitution.

“This defendant corrupted his position and squandered the trust placed in him while embezzling the better part of a million dollars that should have gone to the public institution for which he worked,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “His crimes went unchecked for years under what had been lax policies and oversight throughout CUNY that facilitated this criminal abuse at the school.”

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.

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 Geoffrey S. Berman and his office for prosecuting this case.

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