

the property through the relationship, rather than in some other manner. It is sometimes difficult to prove, particularly in the case of embezzlement of cash from a bar, for example. The defendant must have taken ownership of the property or transferred the property to someone else (called conveyance). The defendant's actions were intentional. It is also sometimes difficult to prove intent.

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MONEY LAUNDERING. WHERE DOES THE USA STAND ON THIS ISSUE?

In the era of computerization, the development of information technology and the emergence of cryptocurrency, the growth in money-laundering crimes has increased significantly. The problem of money laundering is relevant for almost anywhere in the world, as a consequence of almost all income-generating crimes. This is a serious problem not only for the United States, but for the entire international community.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Introduction to Money-Laundering, “Money laundering is the method by which criminals disguise the illegal origins of their wealth and protect their asset bases, so as to avoid the suspicion of law enforcement agencies and prevent leaving a trail of incriminating evidence”.

Money laundering has three distinguishable phases – placement, layering and integration. The initial stage of money laundering comprises the placement of illegally obtained funds or assets into the financial system. Layering constitutes the second stage of money laundering and involves the conversion and movement of the illicitly derived funds to other legal institutions. This process aims at distancing the placed funds from their criminal source, such as by concealing or disguising their true source, ownership, and audit trail through complicated layers of financial

transactions. The final stage in the process involves the integration of funds into the legitimate economy and financial system [1].

As noted by the former Special Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, William F. Wechsler (2001), for decades money laundering and tax avoidance have relatively frequently been perceived by the international community as intricate issues “hinging on the minutiae of tax codes and regulatory laws” and yet that perception masks “a destructive, often bloody reality” [2].

The United States is one of the countries that has been taking measures to combat money laundering for more than 10 years. The primary source of laundered funds comes from the accessibility of the financial system. Trade-based money laundering is another method by which criminals have laundered funds in the USA. The Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 authorized the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury establish regulatory measures requiring the filing of currency transaction reports. Subsequently, Congress enacted the Money Laundering Control Act in 1986, which made the laundering of proceeds derived from any one of the long list of offenses a crime. These laws have become the basis for further measures to combat money laundering. The laws presented have a number of interesting provisions. First, U.S. money laundering laws are not confined to one statutory provision, but include an array of different offenses that are scattered throughout the United States Code. Second, money laundering statutes operate broadly in the United States, with the crime often added to garden variety fraud cases.

Each year, between \$500 billion and a trillion dollars of laundered money is generated through international banks and financial institutions. The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 amends the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) by requiring all financial institutions to establish Anti-Money Laundering (AML) programs. The Act is intended to strengthen the USA’s measures to prevent, detect, and prosecute money laundering and the financing of terrorism [3].

Money laundering crimes in the United States are addressed on three levels. First, the Bank Secrecy Act requires financial institutions to provide information to the government on transactions exceeding a certain amount. A financial institution that fails to comply not only can be held criminally liable, but liability also can be premised upon the “collective knowledge” of its employees.

The global threat of money laundering poses unique challenges to the law enforcement community. The existence of laws on money laundering in the United States suggests that this country is at the center of the advancement of other countries to adopt comparable legislation. Only with

laws that have been harmonized can law enforcement agencies, working together with financial institution administrators and regulators, combat this ever-increasing problem.

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AMERICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING STRATEGY IN MEXICO

Today, Mexico is the main drug supplier in the United States. As you know, the United States ranks first in the world in drug use, respectively, in neighboring Mexico, at one moment it became profitable to use this American weakness. The drug business in the country began to flourish, and with it the first drug cartels began to appear. Only from 2005 to 2010 on the southern border of the USA, the number of marijuana seizures increased by 49%, methamphetamine - by 54%, heroin - by 297%, and ecstasy - by 839% [1].

In 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderon decided to put the end of the unrest in the country and declared war on the drug cartels. He tried to resist the corruption of the police, which grew to unimaginable limits and was explained, first of all, by the minimum earnings of Mexican police officers. Calderon also added tens of thousands of troops to help the local police in the Mexican states, and in most cases completely replaced the local police forces.

Under this program, the military made several high-profile arrests and killings of cartel leaders. For example, in October 2012, Heriberto Lazcano, the leader of one of the most powerful Mexican cartels of Los Zetas, was killed. As part of bilateral cooperation with the United States,