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Akrivis Law Group Clients Granted Probation and Significantly Reduced Penalty Following Charges of Attempted Violations of Iran Sanctions



Farhad R. Alavi

Akrivis Law Group, PLLC is pleased to announce that a two-year investigation of its clients Hetran, Inc. of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania and its upstream owner Helmut Oertmann has concluded following charges against the clients of conspiracy to violate U.S. sanctions on Iran under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). Notably, Mr. Oertmann received a one-year probation (without any prison time) and he and the company were jointly fined \$337,500 by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), with a \$500,000 suspended fine.



Teresa N. Taylor

Founded in the early 1970s, Hetran, Inc. manufactures sophisticated bar-peeling machines used to carve metal into cylinders for various industrial uses, primarily for automotive, medical, aerospace, and defense applications. The company employs over 60 people and is one of only a handful of companies around the world producing such equipment. The company and Mr. Oertmann became the subject of a federal investigation spearheaded by the Office of the U.S. Attorney in the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the BIS following allegations that Hetran knowingly sought to sell one of its machines to a purchaser in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) which intended to reexport the same equipment to Iran. Iran is subject to a very comprehensive U.S. trade embargo prohibiting the trade of most goods, services, and technologies between the two countries. The machine was not subject to export controls under the U.S. Export Administration Regulations (EAR) for dual civilian and military use.

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Hetran and Mr. Oertmann's representation has been spearheaded by Akrivis Law Group's Managing Partner Farhad Alavi and Partner Teresa Taylor, who together worked opposite the Office of the U.S. Attorney and the BIS.

"We are delighted at the outcome of this case, which is the result of our relentless efforts to make a compelling argument to U.S. authorities. This matter does highlight, however, the vigilance with which the United States is pursuing such activities civilly and criminally and evidences the need to be aware of the full extent of the application of U.S. law and ensure compliance" said Mr. Alavi.

Akrivis Law Group is a boutique firm in Washington, DC, focusing on Sanctions and Trade Regulatory, Banking & Finance, International Commercial Transactions, White Collar & Corporate Investigations, and Offshore Tax Compliance & Tax Controversy law. The firm represents clients in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, ranging from major multinationals to high net worth individuals, with a focus on middle market companies having sophisticated needs.

Mr. Alavi's practice covers a wide spectrum of trade compliance issues, with heavy emphasis on U.S. sanctions on Iran, export controls, anti-corruption, and cross-border business matters. He is often quoted in major global media such as *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal* on these topics and presents on sanctions in the United States and abroad.

Ms. Taylor, a former federal law clerk, has significant experience in large federal white collar investigations and regularly represents clients on various sophisticated litigation in federal courts and regulatory bodies, as well as on related matters.

For more information contact Farhad Alavi at (202) 686-4859 or falavi@akrivislaw.com.

This Client Alert is intended solely for informational purposes and should in no way be construed as legal advice. If you have any questions or are unclear on any of the subject matters addressed or discussed on this Client Alert, please consult a licensed legal professional.