

March 25, 2024

Honorable Judge Terence Kern
U.S. Department of Justice
Northern District of Oklahoma
110 West 7th Street Suite 300
Tulsa, OK 74119

RE: United States vs Phillip Albert
Sentencing 4:23-cr-00034-SEH-1 Phillip Barry Albert
(Original Case # 2023R00058 and Court Docket # 23-CR-00034)

Your Honor,

My name is Steve Parduhn, I'm a founder and owner of Pelco Structural, LLC. and it's primarily through this company, as to, how I'm related to this case as a victim. I am representing the Parduhn family and the family's interest in Pelco Structural and parent company Pelco Industries. I'm joined today by my wife Linda and my son Brandon, who's employed by Pelco Structural. My brother Jeff is also an owner but had a last-minute conflict and couldn't make it back to Oklahoma in time. My parents Lois and Phil Parduhn regretfully were unable to make the trip from Oklahoma City due to their advanced age and poor health, my sister Diana is helping to care for our parents today.

In 2004, life was good, as the Parduhn family continued to grow our successful business, Pelco Products, Inc., which we founded in 1985. Phil Albert entered our lives when he targeted and leached onto Pelco Products President Phil Parduhn. Little did we know Albert was a sycophant and a liar of pathological proportion. After meeting Phil Albert for the first time, my wife shared her negative intuition of him with me and looking back, I deeply regret initially taking him at his word.

Albert was dishonest and deceptive regarding the circumstances and motives as to why he pursued my dad and our company. It wasn't until after Albert had his financial and check signing privileges taken away from him, that he left his previous employer of 23 years. After that job took a bad turn, Albert targeted my dad as a shortcut to success, which was only the first step of a new premeditated, egotistical and maniacal ruse.

Phillip Barry Albert, or Mr. Albert, as he expected to be addressed, was hired as President of Pelco Structural upon its formation in 2005. Sadly, Albert wasted no time with improper reimbursement theft which began in the first month of operations. For the entire fourteen year period that he was employed by Pelco Structural, Albert embezzled and defrauded companies owned by the Parduhn family. The embezzlement scheme was stopped after its discovery with Albert's abrupt termination in 2019.

In one of Albert's statements to the court regarding his illegal conduct, he regretted his actions and that they were "atypical" for choices he traditionally made.

- That's complete nonsense, denial and an attempt to save face.
- Every hour of every day for 14 years, Albert was faced with opportunities to consider right from wrong and legal from illegal.
- Albert not only chose wrong and illegal every single time, but he went "all in" with lies, by taking up false personas to hide his lies.
- One false persona was that of an ethical and successful businessman who selflessly gave to the community.
- The methodology Albert used to steal from Pelco Structural was complex and laborious, requiring significant thought and effort to conceal every day.
- At this point, Atypical would be to see him own up to his lies and the irreparable harm he has caused my family.

Albert's illegal scheme and resulting theft was motivated by the need for self-promotion, power and influence.

Albert knew:

- what he was doing.
- how he would do it.
- why he was doing it.
- that it was illegal, thus the need to secretly conceal the fraudulent scheme.

This all worked to his benefit, until he was caught in the act and fired.

Our losses were significant. A thorough forensic accounting audit with additional investigation by myself and others, points to a theft amount exceeding \$10,000,000.00. Our investigations discovered a fictitious Work-in-Process account that was elaborately concealed, password protected and accessible to only Albert and the accountant he hired. That single account alone had over \$7,500,000.00 of illegal payments to himself, reimbursements and items that benefited him that he wanted to conceal.

In another statement to the court, Albert was presumed to lead an exemplary life and only at the time of committing these crimes were his actions inconsistent with his history.

- Documented theft and lies for at least 20 years do not constitute an exemplary life.
- It is unbelievable how Albert was able maintain multiple false personas while juggling the unique types of lies needed to maintain secrecy for each one.
- Building your own “brand” and reputation with stolen money does not constitute an exemplary life.
- Lavishly spending money on yourself and people you wanted to impress with stolen money is not an exemplary life.
- Business and embezzlement lies, family lies, community lies, and chosen lifestyle secrets and lies do not constitute an exemplary life.

The emotional and mental impact has been devastating to me and my family at both the personal and business level.

I’ve battled with stress, anxiety and depression because of the collective theft and painstakingly long road that brought us here today.

The direct financial impact of the embezzlement scheme is staggering. The economic impact of the embezzlement and concealment schemes goes well beyond the financial amount and could be easily double the \$10,000,000.00 figure.

Albert’s statements to the court are clearly lacking remorse. It’s hard to have or show remorse if you’re still in denial about stealing, let alone how much you really stole and that people other than yourself were hurt.

- Albert is in denial as he continues to ignore that Pelco Structural LLC has always been a single member LLC, with the Parduhn family always owning 100% of that single member LLC.
- Albert is in denial as he continues to refer to Pelco Structural as his own business or treating it as his own which implies that if you take money from yourself, is it really stealing?
 - In a recent statement Albert said the amounts he stole in 2018 and 2019 were insignificant based on gross sales for those periods, which is another lie.
 - Interestingly, Albert didn’t invest a single dollar into the business, nor did he risk a single dollar.

We are all blessed with an unknown and continually decreasing amount of time in this life, so we naturally want to spend most of our time with what we love.

- Since Phil Albert firing, almost five years of our lives been lost while we pieced to together facts and try to make sense these horrible acts.
- There’s hardly a day when I wake up not thinking about this case and whether there will ever be accountability and justice.
- We are a small family with a relatively small business and rely on our system of laws and courts to hold criminal action accountable.
- Regarding my family, I’ve tried to make up for at least some of the lost time, but it just doesn’t work that way, because there are specific moments in time that can’t be recreated or made up later, especially with my wife, kids, grandkids and aging parents.

Thank you for considering all the negative emotional and economic impacts these crimes have had on the Parduhn business, family members and our lives, as I pray that Phil Albert receives as punishment:

- Maximum sentence to be served in prison.
- Maximum supervised release after serving the max time in prison.
- Maximum monetary penalties
- Maximum restitution for offenses
- Maximum restitution interest from the dates of the crimes he participated in and allowed to perpetuate.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Parduhn