



## The Fairness Center

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### **Former Pa. Corrections Union President Facing Six Felony Theft Charges**

*Corrections officers' lawsuit contributes to exposing widespread financial corruption in PSCOA's handling of members' dues*

**August 7, 2023, Harrisburg, Pa.** – Corrections officers searching for the truth about their union's finances have helped expose widespread financial corruption within the Pennsylvania State Corrections Association, leading to the arrest of two union officials and major reforms within the union.

In July, former PSCOA president Jason Bloom was [charged by state police with six felony counts of theft](#) for allegedly using the union's credit card for personal expenses totaling \$8,286.

According to court filings in [an ongoing lawsuit](#) filed by concerned corrections officers, **PSCOA officials also spent members' money on golf outings, NFL tickets, iTunes purchases, a \$12,000 Rolex watch, and made personal purchases totaling more than \$200,000 with union credit cards.**

Bloom's arrest and a local union treasurer's prior arrest and conviction on theft and forgery charges came after Huntingdon corrections officers Cory Yedlosky, Chris Taylor (now retired), and another officer launched a 2019 investigation into PSCOA Local SCI-Huntingdon's finances. The officers uncovered thousands of dollars in financial transactions at the local union that violated financial procedures. But when they brought their findings to Bloom, then PSCOA president, he "blew off" the report and "put [it] in a drawer to collect dust," according to subsequent court filings.

Yedlosky and Taylor resigned from the PSCOA in disgust, and in 2020 the Fairness Center filed a lawsuit, [Yedlosky v. PSCOA](#), on their behalf to force the union to address their concerns. Weeks later, [state police arrested](#) local union treasurer Bryan Peroni on felony theft and forgery charges for **writing checks to himself amounting to nearly \$30,000**. Peroni pled guilty to theft and was sentenced.

The lawsuit has also revealed a laundry list of highly questionable expenses at the statewide union, including:

- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in unsubstantiated mileage reimbursements
- \$60 shots and \$3,000 bar tabs
- Tickets to Miami Dolphins games
- Thousands of dollars in Apple iTunes purchases
- A \$12,000 Rolex watch
- Outings at PGA Tour level golf courses
- Unapproved computer purchases

- Improper cell phone and internet reimbursements

The PSCOA is also investigating **\$1.8 million missing from a trust fund** that was created and administered by PSCOA officers.

Nathan McGrath, president and general counsel for the Fairness Center, released the following statement:

“Our clients filed their lawsuit to bring transparency and accountability to the corrections officers’ union. They exposed widespread financial issues at the local and state unions, after which two union officials were charged with serious crimes. Because their litigation spurred the union to reform its financial practices, our clients have already made enormous progress on their goal.”

Following the Fairness Center’s clients’ lawsuit, the union has begun reforming its financial practices, including conducting trainings for local union treasurers and tightening credit card oversight. As a result, the PSCOA has seen a substantial increase in its savings accounts in recent years. And because of this, the union, which represents some 10,000 employees in 23 state prisons, has lowered membership dues across the board.

“Our clients are continuing to press their case in court to recover their own union dues which they believe were misspent and to ensure the union no longer violates its duty to fairly represent corrections employees,” McGrath said.

*Yedlosky v. PSCOA* is currently on appeal at the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

Fairness Center attorneys are available for comment. Please contact Anna Kertland at [amkertland@fairnesscenter.org](mailto:amkertland@fairnesscenter.org) or 717.980.3883 to schedule an interview.

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*The Fairness Center is a nonprofit, public interest law firm offering free legal services to those hurt by public-sector union officials. For more information visit [www.FairnessCenter.org](http://www.FairnessCenter.org)*