## White-Collar Crime in the News: Rajaratnam Appeal Set for October

By: Ashley D. Adams

http://arizonawhitecollarcrimeattorney.com/

Hedge fund trader Raj Rajaratnam will have the opportunity to appeal his criminal conviction for insider trading this fall. Oral arguments are scheduled for October 25.

Rajaratnam was convicted in 2011 on 14 counts of securities fraud and conspiracy, and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. Much of the evidence presented at his criminal trial relied on conversations recorded by the FBI without Rajaratnam's knowledge. Rajaratnam's <a href="mailto:criminal defense attorneys">criminal defense attorneys</a> unsuccessfully attempted to suppress the wiretaps as evidence in his trial and are now using the ruling allowing the wiretap evidence as the basis for an appeal.

The appeal specifically argues that prosecutors did not meet their obligations under the Federal Wiretap Act. The law requires the government to file an affidavit demonstrating that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been, is being, or is about to be committed. In this case, Rajaratnam's <u>criminal defense</u> attorneys allege that prosecutors omitted key information that would have influenced the court's decision to approve the wiretap.

"The government argues that this Court must close its mind to the truth and accept its pervasively misleading affidavit at face value because it was not 'outright false'; it was just filled with intentionally misleading 'omissions,'" the appeal states.

This case represents one of the first attempts by the government to expand the use of wiretaps to white-collar crimes. We will <u>continue</u> to follow the case and provide updates as they become available.

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