

What ALL Business Owners Who Received Pandemic Relief Funds Need to Know about the Government's Crackdown on PPP Loan Fraud

Greenbaum attorneys **Robert B. Hille** and **Neil M. Sullivan** will be joined by Withum partner **Jessica L. Hollobaugh** for a presentation on "What ALL Business Owners Who Received Pandemic Relief Funds Need to Know about the Government's Crackdown on PPP Loan Fraud." The firm-sponsored program will be presented as a live webinar by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, from 11:00am - 12:00pm on the GoToWebinar platform.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recently affirmed what many have suspected - that the federal government will continue to persistently pursue fraud related to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the total of which is estimated to be as high as \$80 billion. Federal prosecutors are calling this theft of taxpayer money "the largest fraud in U.S. history" as it represents approximately 10% of the \$800 billion handed out to small businesses during the pandemic. Although many businesses and individuals benefitted by using their pandemic relief payments as intended, an expedited applicant vetting process driven by the urgency of the pandemic's business impacts led to a relaxation of internal controls that increased the risk of PPP fraud and resulted in far too many business owners misappropriating funds.

In the course of the DOJ's pursuit of PPP fraud prosecutions, it may become challenging for the government to discern between borrowers that intended and affirmatively acted to commit fraud and those that were well-intentioned but nonetheless failed to comply with this fast-tracked federal relief program. As a result, many unwitting borrowers may find themselves caught in the DOJ's fishnet of fraud charges. Therefore, it is critical for those business owners who received PPP funds to immediately evaluate their compliance and potential exposure as the target of a federal investigation.

This program will provide critical information that ALL business owners who received PPP or other pandemic relief funds should have on their radar and be prepared to address, including:

Mr. Hille is a partner in the **Litigation** Department and a member of the **Criminal Defense & Regulatory Compliance** Practice Group. He focuses his practice in litigation, with a particular emphasis on trial advocacy, in areas including insurance, healthcare law, professional liability and ethics, and white-collar criminal matters, including those related to professional ethics.

Mr. Sullivan, who will moderate the presentation, is Counsel in the firm's **Corporate** and **Healthcare** Departments. He concentrates his practice in healthcare and insurance law, with a particular emphasis on the intersection of healthcare finance and delivery.

Ms. Hollobaugh is Market Leader of Withum's national **Forensics, Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense** practice, leading a team that specializes in performing complex forensic, white-collar, and corporate investigations.

If you were unable to attend, you can view the [presentation](#) and access the [webinar recording](#).

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