



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2026

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USAWAE.Media@usdoj.gov

Former CEO sentenced to 48 months' incarceration for \$24,000,000 Embezzlement Scheme

Spokane, Washington – First Assistant United States Attorney Pete Serrano announced that on September 23, 2026, United States District Court Judge Thomas O. Rice sentenced Patrick Alan Bucknum, aged 55, to 48 months in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to wire fraud. Bucknum was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$24,368,427.37.

As set out in court documents, Bucknum was the Chief Executive Officer of Community Clinic Network (CCN), a company located in Wenatchee, Washington. CCN managed health care payment contracts for a conglomerate of health care clinics across Washington. Beginning in April 2017, Bucknum devised a scheme to obtain funds from CCN's business bank accounts, which he attempted to invest in stocks, options, and exchange-traded funds. Bucknum initially intended to keep profits from the investments for himself and return the embezzled funds to CCN. Bucknum was influenced by social media showing aggressive trading strategies. However, due to Bucknum's poor trades, he lost the majority of the funds invested. As a result, Bucknum embezzled additional funds in an attempt to recover his losses. Bucknum used his position and accounting background to conceal his embezzlement from CCN board members for years.

Bucknum also embezzled funds from CCN for personal purchases, including \$100,000 to purchase a pickup truck, \$77,000 to purchase a Tesla, and \$33,000 to purchase a boat. In August 2024, Bucknum embezzled \$1,199,000 to purchase precious metal coins. As part of the sentence, Judge Rice ordered that Bucknum forfeit the pickup truck, Tesla, boat, coins, and all funds in Bucknum's Chase Bank account.

Between 2017 and 2023, Bucknum embezzled approximately \$30,000,000 from CCN to invest, returning approximately \$7,000,000 to CCN over that same time frame. In total, Bucknum caused a loss to CCN of approximately \$24,368,427.37.

First Assistant United States Attorney Pete Serrano said, “The victims of Bucknum’s embezzlement are the patients of the health clinics who entrusted their funds to his care and the United States taxpayers. Unfortunately, these working families, farmworkers, children, seniors, and vulnerable individuals, who depend on community health centers across the Eastern District of Washington, will bear the harm of Bucknum’s theft of funds. Our office will continue to investigate and prosecute those who would betray the trust and welfare of others to enrich themselves.”

“For years, Mr. Bucknum abused his position of trust to steal millions of dollars from an organization he helped form, money intended to support delivery of health care in communities across Washington,” said W. Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Seattle field office. “As the scheme spiraled out of control, he repeatedly lied to longtime colleagues and stole funds intended for hardworking and vulnerable people across the state. The FBI will continue to pursue fraudsters who choose personal gain over faithful stewardship of the funds in their care.”

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jeremy J. Kelley and Frieda K. Zimmerman.

For additional information, please contact the United States Attorney’s Office of the Eastern District of Washington.

2:26-cr-00062-TOR-1