

## Brother May Pay Ex-BigLaw Atty's Legal Fees In Insider Case

By **Julie Manganis**

Law360, Boston (May 19, 2026, 2:28 PM EDT) -- A former BigLaw associate charged with orchestrating a sweeping insider trading scheme can have his legal expenses covered by his co-defendant brother if the two waive potential conflicts, a Massachusetts federal magistrate judge said Tuesday.

During a hearing in the case, U.S. Magistrate Judge Judith Dein said she would hold a colloquy about the potential conflicts at the May 27 arraignment of Nicolo Nourafchan, who had stints as an associate at Sidley Austin LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP and Goodwin Procter LLP, and his brother, Lorenzo Nourafchan, the founder and former CEO of Northstar Financial Advisory.

Prosecutors allege Nicolo Nourafchan misused his access to nonpublic law firm information about some of the biggest mergers and acquisitions of the past decade. He tipped off others, including Lorenzo Nourafchan, as part of a sprawling insider trading ring that involved dozens of people, according to **a pair of indictments** unveiled May 6.

Defense counsel told Judge Dein on Tuesday that Lorenzo Nourafchan wants to use the proceeds from the sale of his business last year to pay for his brother's representation.

Judge Dein said she wants to make sure the brothers are aware of "a whole litany of concerns that can happen" before formally signing off on the deal.

Given that they are defendants in a pair of related criminal complaints, their interests could potentially conflict, federal prosecutors said. The government took no formal position on the request, other than to urge the judge to conduct a conflict colloquy when the two are in court.

**Martin G. Weinberg, Nicolo Nourafchan's lawyer, argued that it's not unusual for a family member to pay for someone's legal fees.**

**Weinberg also stressed that he owes no loyalty to Lorenzo Nourafchan, who is represented by Steven Boozang.**

**The issue was one of several housekeeping matters taken up during Tuesday's brief hearing, where Weinberg and Boozang sought to modify some of the conditions set by a judge in the Central District of California, including a requirement that the defendants allow remote monitoring of their computers and other electronic devices, in keeping with the policy in that district. They are proposing an arrangement under which they could maintain certain devices specifically for attorney-client communications.**

Judge Dein asked the defendants and prosecutors to work out the language of an agreement for consideration.

They also asked that the court allow their mother's Marina del Rey, California, home, worth more than \$4 million, to serve as surety for both brothers. Lorenzo Nourafchan had previously pledged his home in San Francisco.

The judge said she would grant that request.

Nicolo Nourafchan's former BigLaw employers and at least two other major firms are described in the indictments as victims of the alleged scheme, which involved stock trades ahead of multibillion-dollar deals involving companies such as Amazon, Johnson & Johnson and Occidental Petroleum.

Besides the two criminal cases, one naming Nicolo Nourafchan and 14 others, and the second naming Lorenzo Nourafchan and five others, there is also a civil lawsuit by the Securities and Exchange Commission against both brothers and a number of other defendants.

**Nicolo Nourafchan is represented by Martin G. Weinberg of Martin G. Weinberg PC.**

Lorenzo Nourafchan is represented by Steven C. Boozang of The Law Office of Steven C. Boozang.

The government is represented by Kaitlin O'Donnell and Ian J. Stearns of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts.

The cases are U.S. v. Fejal et al., case number 1:26-cr-10133, and U.S. v. Nourafchan et al., case number 1:26-cr-10115, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

--Additional reporting by Chris Villani. Editing by Rich Mills.