

Bond Case Briefs

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BRIBERY - PENNSYLVANIA

Com. v. Moran

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania - November 20, 2014 - A.3d - 2014 WL 6491605

Defendant was convicted in the Court of Common Pleas of three counts of bribery in official and political matters. Defendant appealed.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania held that:

- Evidence was sufficient to support conviction for bribery in official and political matters;
- The trial court erred when it failed to instruct the jury that the default culpability requirement of reckless conduct applied to offense of bribery in official and political matters; and
- The error was harmless.

Defendant, a publicly elected official, stated to purchaser, who was purchasing land from town, that zoning approval could be expedited if purchaser paid an additional \$500,000, the bribery statute did not require defendant to act with a corrupt motive, and it did not require that defendant solicit a benefit for himself, rather, benefit was defined to include situations where a public servant solicited money, gain, or an advantage for any other person or entity in whose welfare the servant was interested, and defendant sought to provide a benefit to town.