



**PATTIS & PAZ**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

383 Orange Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Tel. 203.393.3017  
Fax 203.393.9745  
www.pattispazlaw.com

February 14, 2025

Via Federal Express

Attorney Emil Bove, III  
Acting Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Connecticut Prosecution of Kostas Diamantis and Helen Zervas  
3:24-cr-108(SRU) and 3:25-cr-14(SFR)

Dear Mr. Bove:

I write to alert you to a disturbing prosecution currently underway by the Department of Justice in Connecticut. I am urging you to intervene. The relevant cases are USA v. Kostas Diamantis, 3:24-cr-108(SRU) and USA v. Helen Zervas, 3:25-cr-14(SFR). I represent Mr. Diamantis in the 2024 case. The prosecutions are a product of a highly unusual set of relationships between senior Justice Department officials and aides/attorneys of Gov. Ned Lamont. Some of these gubernatorial players are married to senior Justice Department officials, suggesting potential conflicts. Lamont is a Democrat rumored to be contemplating a third term in office.

Attention was diverted to Mr. Diamantis, one of the state's top officials in monitoring state spending, at or about the time serious questions emerged regarding the governor's wife, who is a partner of a powerful hedge fund. That hedge fund invested in a company called Sema 4 on at least two occasions during the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. Under the guise of a public health emergency declared by the governor, Sema 4 entered into two contracts with the state, one of which was a no-bid contract for COVID-19 testing products. The value of these public expenditures was in excess of \$25 million. The Lamonts were undoubtedly beneficiaries of the Sema 4 contracts. Mr. Diamantis raised concerns about the propriety of the contracts, after being alerted to them by members of his staff. Gov. Lamont hired a man who had previously been a beneficiary of Mrs. Lamont's hedge fund investments to serve as chief operating officer; this man had oversight over the Sema 4 contracts.

The propriety of these highly incestuous relationships has yet to be probed by federal or state officials.

Mr. Diamantis is a lawyer, former state representative and deputy budget director of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, arguably one of the most important offices in the state of Connecticut, with oversight over state spending. After a three-year federal grand jury investigation, he was arrested and charged with accepting about \$75,000 in bribes for directing school construction projects to favored vendors. He has pleaded not guilty and awaits trial, where he is expected to testify that he neither misused a position of public trust nor accepted money to influence school construction projects.

The investigation of Mr. Diamantis is ongoing. The extent to which the Government is going to silence him is remarkable.

In 2020, Helen Zervas, an optometrist, was informed she would be audited for Medicaid payments for the years 2017- 2019. In preparing for the audit, she also reviewed records for four additional years. She discovered that her office had been overpaid almost \$600,000 from Medicaid. She arranged, through counsel, to reimburse the state the entire sum. The state did not pursue criminal charges against her. Her fiancé, Chris Ziogas, is a relative of Mr. Diamantis. Mr. Ziogas asked Mr. Diamantis to assist in getting the restitution to the state. Mr. Diamantis agreed to do so. The state was reimbursed the entire sum and the audit was cancelled. All of this took place in the early summer of 2020. That matter was considered closed.

After press coverage of this, the United State's Attorney opened an investigation. This week, Ms. Zervas pleaded guilty to health care fraud and extortion. The claim is that she and her fiancé conspired with Mr. Diamantis to somehow "extort" the settlement of her Medicaid claim. She is believed to have entered into a cooperation agreement to testify against Mr. Diamantis, and, potentially her fiancé. This occurred on the eve of the expiration of the five-year statute of limitations for the health care fraud and extortion charges.

The local DOJ has made clear that it will spare no effort to convict Mr. Diamantis. That is its right, although one wonders about the wisdom of spending years of resources and untold funds pursuing a claim in which full restitution was made. What is stunning, however, is the office's suggestion that unless and until Mr. Diamantis enters a plea, it will pursue the Medicaid case and will seek to involve his family and those whom he loves in the investigation. One prosecutor told me the other day that the cases had reached an "inflection point," and that the only way Mr. Diamantis could stop the distress he was causing those he loved was to enter a plea.

In more than 30 years of practice, I have never heard such a threat from the Justice Department. It is thuggish and inconsistent with the DOJ's commitment to enforce the law fairly and with integrity.

I am requesting that you ask independent counsel to review this bizarre prosecution and to find out just why the governor's office has spent such time and resources seeking to influence a federal investigation. A prosecutor's obligation is to strike hard blows, but fair blows. *Berger v. U.S.*, 295 U.S. 78 (1935)(a prosecutor is not at liberty to strike "foul blows").

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman A. Pattis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Norman A. Pattis  
Partner  
npattis@pattispazlaw.com