

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

CASE NO. 14-CR-20731-LENARD(s)(s)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOSE W. GONZALEZ,

Defendant.

FACTUAL PROFFER

Had this case proceeded to trial, the United States would have proved beyond a reasonable doubt that between approximately mid-2010 and May 2012, JOSE W. GONZALEZ, (hereinafter “the defendant”) conspired to defraud the United States by stealing federal student aid funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Specifically, between approximately mid-2010 and May 2012, the defendant worked as an admissions representative at several campuses of Fast Train College (“Fast Train”), headquartered at 10100 S.W. 107th Avenue, Miami, Florida. Fast Train, which was owned by co-defendant Alejandro Amor, was for-profit college that awarded career diplomas and industry certifications in, among other things, medical assisting, medical coding, patient care, computer technology, and information technology. Fast Train operated seven campuses across the state of Florida, which included two in Miami-Dade County, two in Broward County, one in Hillsborough County, one in Pinellas County, and one in Duval County. At various times between approximately August 2008 and May 2012, Luis Arroyo, Juan Arreola, Michael Grubbs, Juan Peña, and Anthony Mincey, among others, also worked in the admissions department at Fast Train. At various times during the course of his employment, the defendant worked at the Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville and Clearwater campuses.

Fast Train was approved by the United States Department of Education to receive federal student aid on behalf of its students, including both Pell Grants, which did not require repayment, and Direct Loans, which required repayment. However, receipt of Pell Grants and Direct Loans, as well as any other form of federal student aid, was conditioned upon compliance with the Department of Education's eligibility requirements. In particular, students were required to possess a high school diploma, a General Equivalency Diploma ("GED"), or other credential approved by the Department of Education, in order to receive Pell Grant or Direct Loan funds. In addition, participating schools had to calculate refunds for students who dropped out or withdrew from school and refund the amount to the Department of Education. Alejandro Amor and his wife, D.A., were the sole signatories on all of Fast Train's bank accounts, including those accounts specifically designated to receive Pell Grants and Direct Loans.

Before the defendant began working at Fast Train, Alejandro Amor instructed Arreola and Arroyo to recruit any student they could find on the street, irrespective of whether that prospective student had a high school diploma and was therefore eligible for Pell Grants and Direct Loans. Amor further instructed Arreola and Arroyo to make sure that students without the requisite diploma falsely answered "yes" on Fast Train's enrollment paperwork when asked whether he or she had graduated from high school. Amor told Arreola and Arroyo to drive around in low-income neighborhoods looking for people who appeared to have nothing to do and to hire pretty, scantily-clad women to assist with the recruiting.

At Amor's direction, Arreola and Arroyo helped to train the defendant and Juan Pena, who had by that time also been hired as admissions representatives, to enroll students in Fast Train, irrespective of whether the student had a high school diploma. In some cases, Arroyo, Arreola, and Peña administered fictitious tests and manufactured fictitious high school diplomas for

students who had not graduated from high school, in order to falsely assure the student that he or she now had the requisite credential. In other instances, the defendant provided potential Fast Train students with a test and answer key from American Worldwide Academy, after which he provided them with a diploma, in exchange for a fee.


When the number of student admissions in the northern Florida campuses dropped, Amor instructed Michael Grubbs, the director of admissions for Fast Train's Jacksonville campus, located at 10752 Deerwood Park Boulevard South, Suite 201, Jacksonville, Florida, to come to Miami to learn Amor's fraudulent recruitment practices. During Grubbs's training, Grubbs, along with other Fast Train admission representatives, drove around low-income neighborhoods recruiting students without high school diplomas. In Jacksonville, Amor's fraudulent recruiting practices were implemented by, among others, Anthony Mincey and the defendant, who also knowingly enrolled students without high school diplomas and instructed those students to falsely tell Fast Train's Financial Aid office that he or she did have a high school diploma.

For example, in or around December 2010, the defendant recruited M.P. to enroll as a student at Fast Train's Fort Lauderdale campus, even though M.P. told the defendant she did not have a high school diploma. In or around December 2010, the defendant falsely and fraudulently told M.P. she could pay \$400 to take a test in order to earn her high school diploma from American Worldwide Academy. In or around December 2010, the defendant directed M.P. to falsely and fraudulently tell a Fast Train financial aid representative that she had graduated from high school. On or about December 21, 2010, the defendant caused M.P. to submit a FAFSA, with the help of a Fast Train financial aid representative, falsely and fraudulently indicating that M.P. had graduated from high school. On or about March 30, 2011, Alejandro Amor caused Fast Train to draw down approximately \$3,700 in Pell Grant funds granted to M.P. On or about April 1, 2011,

Alejandro Amor caused Fast Train to draw down approximately \$6,334 in Direct Loan funds provided to M.P.


WIFREDO A. FERRER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 9-30-15

By: 

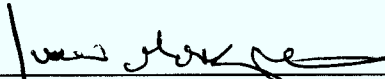
AMANDA PERWIN
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 9-30-15

By: 

WILLIAM AARON ESQ.
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

Date: 9-30-15

By: 

JOSE W. GONZALEZ
DEFENDANT