

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

down the hall from Donald Trump.

Nov. 15, 2022



*By Molly Crane-Newman, New York Daily News (TNS)*

The loyal controller of the Trump Organization was declared a hostile witness Monday as he sought to absolve his longtime employer of criminal wrongdoing for a multi-year tax fraud scheme by pinning it all on his boss.

Testifying for the prosecution under immunity, Jeffrey McConney, a senior vice president, admitted to regularly helping executives cheat on their taxes while

working down the hall from Donald Trump on Fifth Ave.

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

real estate business.

McConney, who oversaw the payroll department at the Trump Org, claimed the fraud was not known to the company or for its benefit, as the Manhattan district attorney has alleged. He said it was solely for Weisselberg's enrichment—who's already been convicted, having pleaded guilty in August to felonies he faced alongside the Trump entities in exchange for a reduced sentence.

"Allen was the boss. Who was I gonna tell? I wasn't gonna confront him about it. I wasn't gonna argue with him. This was what Allen wanted," McConney told Trump Org lawyer Susan Necheles on cross-examination.

McConney acknowledged engaging in illegal activity multiple times but claimed he hadn't known it at the time. He tried at one point to walk back an answer he gave last week about Trump being personally aware of the tax cheating, which McConney also told a grand jury. He told Necheles he'd feared prosecutors would accuse him of perjury for changing his answer at trial.

"I remember my conversation with Mr. Weisselberg; I don't remember him mentioning Mr. Trump," he said.

On redirect, an exasperated Assistant District Attorney Joshua Steinglass succeeded in his second request to Judge Juan Merchan to have McConney declared an adverse witness. He argued the controller was being "unbelievably" evasive and refusing "to speak English" compared to his demeanor under questioning by Necheles. Judge Merchan agreed it was "very clear to the average observer" McConney was a more helpful witness to the defense.

McConney was granted immunity after testifying before the grand jury that brought the indictment against Weisselberg and the Trump companies. Jurors have learned

he's been in close contact with Trump Org lawyers leading up to the trial and

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

lose my job.

Weisselberg, still on the Trump Org's payroll along with McConney, is expected to take the witness stand on Tuesday. If his testimony satisfies the prosecution and the judge, Judge Merchan will sentence him to five months on Rikers Island.

The criminal case is in a constellation swirling around former President Trump as he nears a possible announcement that he'll run for a second term.

Also Monday, in a parallel civil case against his family business brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, a judge appointed retired Judge Barbara Jones to oversee his company's business dealings while the case plays out.

---

©2022 New York Daily News. Visit [nydailynews.com](https://www.nydailynews.com). Distributed by Tribune Content Agency LLC.

Income Tax • Taxes

CPA Practice Advisor is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.

© 2024 Firmworks, LLC. All rights reserved