

Chandler Man Sentenced to Prison for Church Ponzi Scheme

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A Chandler man was recently sentenced to five years in prison for his role in an Arizona Ponzi scheme that preyed on church members. Edward Anthony Purvis was convicted of one count of illegal control of an enterprise, according to [Attorney General Tom Horne](#).

Between February of 2002 and March of 2007, Purvis allegedly persuaded more than 40 individuals, mostly members of the Chandler Christian Church and Vineyard Church in Avondale, to invest over \$8 million in an entity known as Nakami Chi Group Ministries International (NCGMI). Investors were promised returns of 2% per month.

However, NCGMI was really a [Ponzi scheme](#). It never generated a profit, and Purvis relied on new investors to continue operating and provide returns to previous investors. Unbeknownst to investors, Purvis also used some of these monies for his own personal benefit and the benefit of others.

Judge Bruce Cohen of the Maricopa County Superior Court further sentenced Purvis to a consecutive term of 7 years of supervised probation with special “white-collar” terms of probation on one count of fraudulent schemes and artifices. Purvis was ordered to pay restitution in excess of \$3.8 million.

“White-collar” terms of probation are ordered when the court determines that additional oversight by the probation department is warranted due to the financial nature of the crime. Some of the terms include:

- Not entering into any financial agreements without specific written approval of the probation department,
- Not opening bank or credit accounts without permission of the probation department, and
- Not borrowing or lending of money without specific approval of the probation department.

How We Can Help

If you have been charged with running a Ponzi scheme in Arizona, you need expert legal help. The issues involved can be complex, involving very large amounts of money and multiple defendants. At the Law Offices of Ashley D. Adams, our experienced white-collar-crime attorneys understand the complexities of fraud charges and can provide you the most effective and diligent defense available.

For more information on Arizona Ponzi schemes, please check out our previous post available [here](#).

About Ashley D. Adams, PLC

At Ashley D. Adams, PLC, we have a well-established track record of success that can make a difference, whether in defending charges of white-collar crime, health care fraud, financial fraud, general fraud charges, other criminal or civil matters, or representing our clients during a government investigation.

*We practice excellence, one client at a time. That means each of our clients is given personal attention and aggressive representation. Contact us today at **info@azwhitecollarcrime.com** or **1-480-646-4956** to schedule a free 30-minute consultation with one of our attorneys.*