

Do you believe that if you have a high amount of money you could do anything more easily? Do you believe the idea of having more money means more power in society? Nowadays, in our society, there are many cases in a lot of countries indicating that rich people could be able to do something that they desire. They could bend the law for their own goods or make something become in their favor. In some cases, they could get away with murder or their crime and nobody can do anything to them because they are rich. Some people might not believe in this idea about rich people being able to run away from their crime but there is a lot of evidence that proves that it isn't true, for example, O.J. Simpson case who is rich and could get away with murder because they are rich(Pak,2019). Rich people get off easier when they break the laws because they could be able to hire talented lawyers, have more power than normal people had in society and they could use their money to bribe the government official for their favors; therefore, people in the society shouldn't think of this as something that should happen but should apply more pressure to this group of people so they couldn't do something that isn't right in an ethical point of view.

First, more money means they can hire a highly talented lawyer and gain advantages during the trial. In the case of Ethan Couch, who first made his headlines as a teenager when he was sentenced in 2013 to 10 years of probation for a drunken-driving crash that killed four people and seriously injured two others(Steve and Amanda, 2020). Couch comes from a wealthy family; his father is the owner of a construction company called Cleburne Metal Works. On June 15, 2013, in Texas, he was driving under the influence and ended up killing a total of four people and badly injured another two. According to the Texas Penal Code section 49.08, the guilty of Intoxication Manslaughter is punishable by imprisonment from 2 to 20 years and/or a fine up to \$10,000 (The Zendeh Del Law Firm, 2018). But because of his wealthiness, he managed to hire a lawyer that can turn black into white; which later on, successfully convinced the court that Couch suffered from a fake psychological disorder called Affluenza. Ultimately, the judge sentenced him to 10 years of probation instead of imprisonment. However, opponents of this idea might argue that even the greatest lawyers still couldn't help get rid of all the accusations and the guilty still get penalized. It is true that even the wealthiest one can indeed be charged with a crime if they are involved in unlawful activity. In the end, those people will inevitably get punished for the crime they commit. But, the penalty they get is usually not justified what they have done. There are many cases that the punishment given to the rich people is unsatisfactory to the victim's family. As in Couch's case, his penalty got significantly reduced because his lawyer presented the court with the evidence that Couch suffered from Affluenza, a disorder that affects wealthy people who repeatedly get spoiled by their parents. It arises from the desire to be more wealthy or successful. It can also be classified by the inability of the individual to realize the consequences of their activities due to their superior social status and financial privilege (Hayes, 2020). Although prosecutors sought the highest prison sentence of 20 years as stated by law, the judge's final sentence allowed him to not be imprisoned. On the contrary, in 2004, Eric Miller who was charged with the same crime; was given 20 years jail time by the

same judge(Smith, 2016) despite killing one person and the blood alcohol result was much lower than Couch. The difference is that in Miller's case, he couldn't afford to hire a private lawyer and was appointed with the public defender instead. This clearly proves that money is hugely influencing the fate of the guilty.

Second, Laws mean nothing when it comes to people who have a lot of connections in both legal and illegal ways. In the case of Pablo Escobar, who is the leader of Medellín Cartel and the drug lord in Columbia. He is most well known as “The King of Cocaine”.It all starts when he becomes the leader of the Medellín Cartel. At that age, most of Medellín people love Pablo Escobar because he does many things in that city. For example, he helps poor people construct many schools, hospitals, and churches. People called him “Robin hood” because of all his hard work for the Medellín people. But all of his activity that he does is just a front-page business. The truth is he successfully shipped cocaine to United State and gained a gigantic amount of money. He always has people who offer to help him avoid the capture of police. So, it’s hard for police to capture Pablo Escobar. Even in the police office, there will be the police who protect him and avoid him from the laws. That country can’t touch Pablo because of his height of power. He once becomes a member of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia. However, there will be someone who believes in justice. Luis Carlos Galán, the president of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia, started exposing Pablo Escobar and made him leave his position. The public starts to know him as a drug dealer who has a large network. This is the beginning of a mistake that Pablo has made. After that, Luis Carlos Galán was assassinated by one of Pablo’s assassin that he hired. He didn’t care about the laws but at some point that he needs to surrender and got punished by the laws. He contacts the president jailed at his private prison offered to stop the terrorist act. In this case, society exerts huge pressure on the president and police to the extent that their connections become useless. Therefore, He has to go to jail according to the laws. It is true that in highly controversial cases, the police officers are forced by the public to lawfully reevaluate the crime. But, we still don’t know what is happening internally, there might be some illegal stuff going on secretly. In the Pablo private prison, according to the police officer said. It almost looks like a casino and has many illegal things, especially drugs and strippers. Pablo’s punishment is not likely to fair for his activity that he does. He deserved to get a harsher punishment. But due to an agreement with the president, he got a light punishment. At the end of this story, he becomes a person who lost everything because of his terrorist act that he did from 1991 to 1993. Pablo Escobar was killed by Columbia police on his 44th birthday.

Third, rich people can bribe the law enforcer to bend the laws for their benefits. There are a lot of cases where rich people offer money under the table to someone to cheat on something or even to make them innocent when they have done illegal things. In Thailand, conscription exists. Under the Military Service Act, all Thai men who reach the age of 21 and have not gone through reserve training are required to register for the military draft. If they don’t volunteer, they must participate in a lottery that takes place each April. Every year, about 100,000 personnel are recruited (Quinley, 2019). Their fate rests on the choice of a card:

black for exemption, red for mandatory enlistment. A lot of young men who present for the military draft wish to pull a black card. Because some men might lose job opportunities for getting conscripted for full 1 or 2 years if they pulled a red card. On the contrary, a coin has two sides. Likewise, many men who wished to join the military said it was an easy decision because they could serve the country and did not have to worry about their income. However, the draft system has a loophole that can lead to bribery, particularly during April's registration process. As is often the case in Thailand, it's possible if they know the right people to have an informal discussion with the local army recruiters so they would not register in the draft or make a deal with the doctors so they would be disqualified during the check-ups. Online sources say the going rate for a memory lapse might be around 35,000 baht these days (Dauzat, 2017). Alternatively, bribery is no guarantee of dodging the draft. There are some cases reported that even though they have paid money but still get to register for a draft or even the worst case: facing a military warrant. In March, a case was highlighted in the media of a Chon Buri conscript whose mother was approached after he drew a red card. The district registrar asked for 30,000 baht, and she dutifully paid, but her son soon found himself facing a military warrant. He now has to serve out his tenure at the naval base to which he was assigned, plus a nine-month sentence in a military jail (Thongnoi, 2014). Anyway, although people who bribe get caught or not. We can not refuse that money is the power of rich people.

To conclude, rich people could get away with their crime because they could acquire the lawyer that could help them, have more power that could change wrong to right, and use their money to make government officials help them. The world would be better if this kind of act can be justified instead of leaving criminals out of their punishment because they're rich. All of the citizens should apply pressure to the media and government if this kind of act happen again in the future so that we could eliminate the possibility of criminal running away from their punishment.

