

Part 2: Photo Assignment: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



This photo captures the tension between justice and corruption. The courthouse, a symbol of fairness and accountability, contrasts with the phone in my hand, displaying stock messages that suggest insider information. This visual contrast connects directly to my SDG target of reducing bribery and corruption by banning congressional stock trading. The courthouse stands for the integrity we expect in governance, while the phone symbolizes the hidden, often unchecked actions that can undermine that integrity. I chose this image because it highlights how corruption can exist quietly, even in places meant to uphold justice. It reflects how easily ethical lines can blur when transparency is weak.

The photo also made me consider how slow progress has been in addressing this issue. Despite the STOCK Act (2012), loopholes and delayed disclosures allow unethical trading to continue with little accountability. The texts represent events that select politicians have profited from, in 2025 (Texts are based off of @PelosiTracker_, a twitter account that posts about congressional members' stock portfolios). The glowing phone screen against the courthouse backdrop represents how corruption thrives in these gaps. It connects to broader themes of power and responsibility, reminding me that reform requires more than laws—it demands enforcement and public scrutiny. This image reflects the challenge of ensuring our systems actively prevent corruption, rather than just appearing to.