

U.S.

Businessmen Accused of Conspiring With Giuliani Associates Plead Not Guilty

David Correia and Andrey Kukushkin charged with one count each in federal campaign-finance case



U.S. businessman David Correia exits the U.S. Courthouse in Manhattan on Wednesday. PHOTO: BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS

By Rebecca Davis O'Brien

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The Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office plans to produce "fairly voluminous" discovery in a campaign-finance case involving associates of Rudy Giuliani, a federal prosecutor said in court Thursday, including materials drawn from 10 search-warrant applications, email and electronic records for more than 10 accounts, and financial records from more than 50 bank accounts.

The investigative steps were described by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicolas Roos at an arraignment for two of the four men charged last week in an alleged scheme to make illegal campaign contributions to politicians who could advance their business and political interests.

The two men, David Correia and Andrey Kukushkin, both pleaded not guilty to one count of conspiring to violate the ban on foreign donations and contributions in connection with federal and state elections.

In an indictment unsealed last week, federal prosecutors alleged that Messrs. Correia and

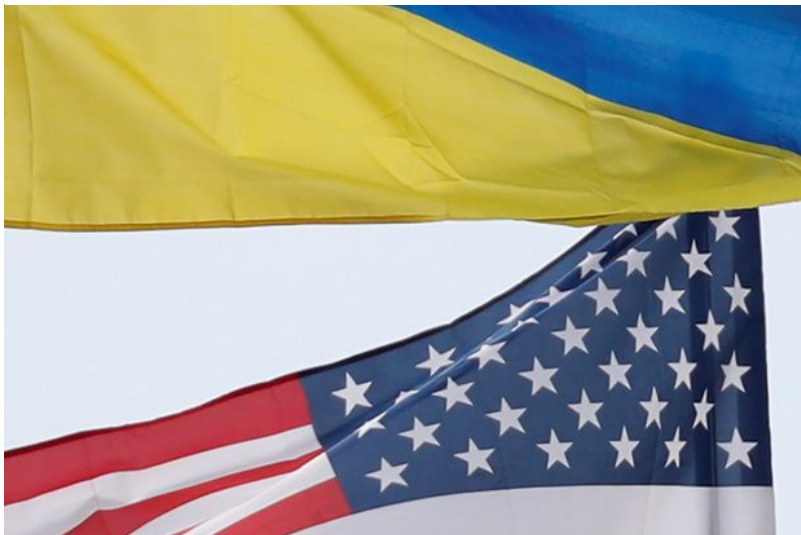


David Correia appears to pose with President Trump in an undated screen capture from Mr. Correia's social-media account.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Kukushkin conspired with Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman —both of whom have worked with Mr. Giuliani, President Trump's personal lawyer—to make political donations funded by a foreign national to candidates for federal and state office in the U.S. Their aim, according to the indictment, was to benefit a planned recreational marijuana business.

Mr. Kukushkin, 46 years old, was arrested in California last week. Mr. Correia, 44, was arrested Wednesday morning at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Mr. Correia's lawyer told a magistrate judge in Manhattan on Wednesday that Mr. Correia had been traveling last week in the Middle East when federal prosecutors unsealed their charges; he said his client had arranged to surrender upon his return.

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VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

Mr. Correia was released on a \$250,000 bond, and Mr. Kukushkin was released on a \$1 million bond. Both declined to comment following the court appearance Thursday.

Messrs. Parnas and Fruman, both Florida businessmen, were arrested last week while waiting to board an international flight at Dulles International Airport. They face four counts total, including conspiracy, false

statements, and falsification of records.

Mr. Fruman was released on bond Wednesday, prosecutors said, while Mr. Parnas—a longtime business partner of Mr. Correia—remains in custody in Virginia. They are due in court in Manhattan next week.

Asked by U.S. District Judge J. Paul Oetken on Thursday about possible additional charges in the future, Mr. Roos said the U.S. Attorney’s office investigation was “ongoing.”

Messrs. Parnas and Fruman had been working with Mr. Giuliani on a lobbying campaign aimed at removing the U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, which was described in the indictment. They were also part of Mr. Giuliani’s efforts to investigate Joe Biden and his son.

Federal prosecutors are examining Mr. Giuliani’s business dealings in Ukraine, including his finances, The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this week, citing people familiar with the matter. The office has also subpoenaed a former Texas congressman for details about his dealings with Mr. Giuliani and with Messrs. Parnas and Fruman, which were outlined in the indictment.

—Aruna Viswanatha contributed to this article.

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Corrections & Amplifications

David Correia and Andrey Kukushkin were each charged with one count of conspiring to violate election laws. An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated Mr. Correia was charged with four criminal counts.