

Lawyer embezzles \$9 million to buy collectibles, is disbarred

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Modal Trigger



Anthony Chiofalo Photo: AP

What a joker!

A New York lawyer stole \$9 million from a Texas company so he could buy comic books and sports memorabilia — including a first-edition Batman worth \$900,000 and a baseball helmet signed by Pete Rose, according to court papers and reports.

Fordham Law grad Anthony Chiofalo, 52, embezzled the funds from the Houston crane company where he worked by creating a fictitious law firm, writing checks to that firm, then dropping the checks into his own account in 2011, court papers state.

“[Chiofalo] deposited the checks into an account he controlled and then used the funds to purchase, among other things, artwork, collectible comic books and sports memorabilia,” according to a recent New York appellate court decision that kicks him out of the state bar.

“[Chiofalo’s] name is stricken from the roll of attorneys and counselors-at-law in the state of New York.”

Chiofalo also bought a copy of the first issue of Playboy and a signed first-edition of Mario Puzo’s novel “The Godfather,” according to The Houston Chronicle.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 40 years in prison in May, but prosecutors said he will likely serve between four and eight years, the newspaper said.

Chiofalo's New York license was suspended in 2010 for two years because he used obscene language in correspondence with his wife and her divorce lawyers, according to his disbarment papers.

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