

Goldman Sachs executive 'sidestepped' rules to illegally trade on stocks, UK court told

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By [Martin Coyle](#) and Abishek Kumar

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Mohammed Zina, who worked in GSI's London-based conflicts resolution group, is accused of six counts of insider trading and three offenses of fraud by false representation.

In his role at GSI, Mohammed had access to sensitive non-public information about company takeovers and is accused of using that information to make 142,000 pounds in profits from trading in six stocks.

Peter Carter, summing up the Financial Conduct Authority's case against him today, said that Zina was fully aware of strict rules in place at the bank that banned him from trading on companies the bank had client relationships with. "Zina sidestepped that because he chose to ignore the rules," he said.

Jurors at London's Southwark Crown Court were shown a picture of Zina's desk, taken following his arrest at the bank in December 2017. Among the paperwork, prosecutors found a copy of a Goldman Sachs internal document setting out its rules on stock trading by employees.

"You might think that this document listed 15 months before his arrest ... indicates that from whenever he got this document Mr Zina would have been in no doubt of the importance of the gray list and confidential information," said Carter.

Zina was told not to buy or recommend stock when in possession of non-public information. He was an "intelligent man" who knew the rules, said Carter. "Was it a terrible coincidence he traded when he had inside information but not when he had rumors?" Carter added.

Jurors were told that Zina set up trading accounts in the name of his brother, Suhail Zina, a former Clifford Chance lawyer, and his sister. He then traded on those accounts without informing the bank. Suhail, who also faced nine charges in the prosecution, walked free from court on Friday after the judge said he had no case to answer.

Mohammed is accused of illegally dealing in the stocks of ARM Holdings, Alternative Networks, Punch Taverns, Shawbrook, HSN and Snyder's Lance between July 2016 and December 2017. The FCA claims he made tens of thousands of pounds' profit from the trades.

He also faces fraud charges related to three loans he secured from Tesco Bank totaling 95,000 pounds. He is alleged to have told the lender that the money was for home improvements, but instead used it for trading. He denies all the charges.

The case continues, with jurors expected to deliberate on a verdict on Friday.

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Areas of Interest: Financial Crime, Sector Regulation

Industries: Banking & Finance

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