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Published on FINalternatives (http://www.finalternatives.com)

Another Plea Deal Possible In Galleon Case



Anil KumarProsecutors of the alleged Galleon Group insider-trading circle appear poised to win their seventh guilty plea today.

Anil Kumar, a former senior director at consultancy McKinsey & Co. who is accused of providing non-public information to Galleon founder Raj Rajaratnam, is due to appear in federal court today in New York. Last month, prosecutors said that Kumar had agreed to waive indictment and that the U.S. Attorney's office would file a criminal information against him, indicating that a plea deal was in the works.

Kumar is accused of passing tips about Advanced Micro Devices, which he advised while at McKinsey, to Rajaratnam. AMD's acquisition of ATI Technologies is at the center of new charges prosecutors plan to make against the billionaire Galleon founder.

Meanwhile, prosecutors appear to be talking deals with seven more of the 21 people charged in the case. The U.S. Attorney's office and lawyers for the seven said yesterday that they had agreed to extended their discussions another 21 days, to Jan 27. Among those still talking to prosecutors are former Galleon employees Zvi Goffer and Craig Drimal, and Goffer's colleagues at hedge fund Incremental Capital Emanuel Goffer, Michael Kimelman and David Plate.

To date, only two individuals have been indicted in the case: Rajaratnam and former New Castle Partners executive Danielle Chiesi. Both have pleaded not guilty.

It was a busy day in court for all sides in the case. A hearing on the bail reduction sought by Rajaratnam and opposed by prosecutors was postponed until Jan. 12. It had been scheduled for tomorrow.

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