

Void Contracts: Court Nullifies CFO's Employment Because of Prior Extortion Conviction

The doctrine of void contracts arose recently in an employment case in Florida, *Griffin v. ARX Holding Corporation*, writes **Jason M. Knott** for Zuckerman Spaeder LLP.

In that case, the plaintiff, Nicholas Griffin, had a prior conviction for extortion. ARX Holding hired him as its chief financial officer in 2009. But under federal law, an individual commits a crime if he has been convicted of a felony involving dishonesty and then willfully participates in the insurance business. **Knott explains** that Griffin could have obtained a waiver from insurance regulators, but he was unable to do so.

ARX fired Griffin, who sued, seeking an unpaid \$215,000 bonus. But a court ruled that his employment contract was void from the outset.

Read the article.