

Will the Supreme Court Save This Movie Producer/Lawyer From 15 Years in Prison?

A bid to overturn a fraud conviction for Peter Hoffman, a lawyer turned movie producer, has picked up support from 14 retired federal judges, nine criminal law professors and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, **reports** *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Hoffman once ran a company called Carolco Pictures, which made some successful films. In the 1990s, he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of filing a false tax return. Then, in 2014, federal prosecutors charged Hoffman with wire fraud for submitting false expense reports on a Louisiana mansion being transformed into a postproduction facility. Hoffman did so to get \$1.13 million in movie tax credits issued by Louisiana, according to the *Reporter's* Eriq Gardner.

The trial court sentenced him to 60 months of probation, an unprecedented departure from federal sentencing guidelines that recommended a range of 168 to 210 months in prison. The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the trial court to take another look, possibly leading to a harsher sentence.

Hoffman has petitioned the court for a review.

Read the *Hollywood Reporter* article.