

The Virgin Islands Consortium

FBI Makes 7th Arrest in Puerto Rico Public Corruption Case Where Contracts Were Said to be Fraudulently Obtained

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Federal agents on Wednesday arrested an accountant in a corruption investigation involving Puerto Rico's former education secretary.

FBI spokeswoman Limary Cruz identified the man as Aníbal Jover, who once was president of Puerto Rico's Association of Certified Public Accountants. Cruz told The Associated Press that there's a gag order in the case and that she could not provide further details.

Jover is the seventh person arrested in a case in which authorities say contracts were fraudulently obtained from Puerto Rico's Department of Education and its Health Insurance Administration.

He pleaded not guilty and was being held on a \$250,000 bond.

A federal grand jury last year returned indictments in the case for three contractors, a former government advisor, former Education Secretary Julia Keleher and the former director of Puerto Rico's Health Insurance Administration. At least two of the contractors have already pleaded guilty, while Keleher's attorneys have said she is innocent.

Keleher, who resigned in April 2019, faces charges including bribery and fraud in another federal case. She is accused of giving school property to a private company in exchange for living in an upscale apartment complex for six months on a \$1 lease even though the agreement stipulated a \$1,500 monthly rent. Keleher then bought the apartment and received a \$12,000 bonus in connection with the purchase when such bonuses rarely exceed \$5,000, officials said. Her attorneys have said she is not guilty.

Written by AP's Dánica Coto