



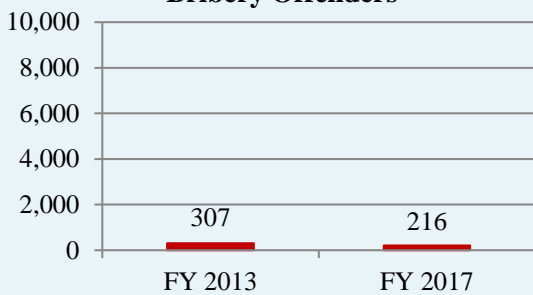
# Quick Facts

- ▶ THERE WERE 66,873 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2017.
- ▶ OF THESE CASES, 216 INVOLVED BRIBERY OF OR BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS.
- ▶ THESE OFFENDERS ARE SENTENCED UNDER SECTIONS 2C1.1 AND 2C1.2 OF THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION'S *GUIDELINES MANUAL*.

## Bribery Involving Public Officials<sup>1</sup>

In fiscal year 2017, there were 216 bribery offenders who accounted for 0.3% of all offenders sentenced under the guidelines.<sup>2</sup> The number of bribery offenders has decreased during the last five years.

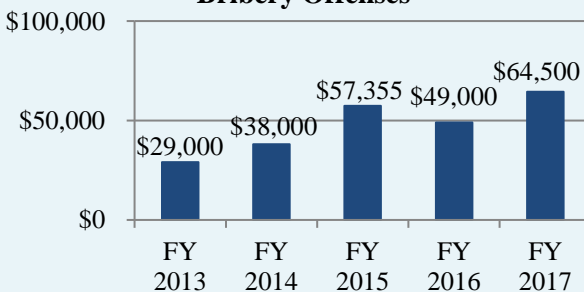
**Number of Bribery Offenders**



**Top Five Districts Bribery Offenders FY 2017**

Northern District of Illinois (N=14)
Southern District of Florida (N=12)
Central District of California (N=11)
District of Puerto Rico (N=11)
Southern District of Mississippi (N=10)

**Median Monetary Value Associated with Bribery Offenses**



### Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2017, the majority of bribery offenders were men (78.7%).
- Less than half were White (41.7%) followed by Black (34.3%), Hispanic (18.1%), and Other Races (6.0%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 48 years.
- These offenses were committed mostly by United States citizens (94.0%).
- Nearly all bribery offenders had little or no prior criminal history (94.4% of these offenders were assigned to Criminal History Category I).
- The median monetary value associated with the bribery was \$64,500.
  - ◆ 92.7% of bribery offenses involved less than \$1.5 million;
  - ◆ 33.3% of bribery offenses involved \$15,000 or less.
- Over one-half of bribery offenders were public officials (58.8%).
- Sentences for bribery offenders were increased for:
  - ◆ 75.5% of offenders because the offense involved multiple bribes;
  - ◆ 51.9% of offenders because the offense involved an elected or high-level public official;
  - ◆ 13.0% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense;
  - ◆ 8.8% of offenders for obstructing or impeding the administration of justice; and
  - ◆ 1.4% of offenders for being a public official and facilitating entry into the United States, or the obtainment of immigration or identification documents;
- Sentences for bribery offenders were decreased for:
  - ◆ 2.8% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense.

### Punishment

- Three-quarters of bribery offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (75.0%).
- The average sentence length for bribery offenders was 26 months.

<sup>1</sup> Bribery involving public officials offenses include cases with complete guideline application information in which the offender was sentenced under §2C1.1 (Offering, Giving, Soliciting, or Receiving a Bribe; Extortion Under Color of Official Right; Fraud Involving the Deprivation of the Intangible Right to Honest Services of Public Officials; Conspiracy to Defraud by Interference with Government Functions), or §2C1.2 (Offering, Giving, Soliciting, or Receiving a Gratuity) using a *Guidelines Manual* in effect on November 1, 2004 or later.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 66,873 offenders sentenced in fiscal year 2017, 4,956 were excluded from this analysis due to incomplete guideline application information.

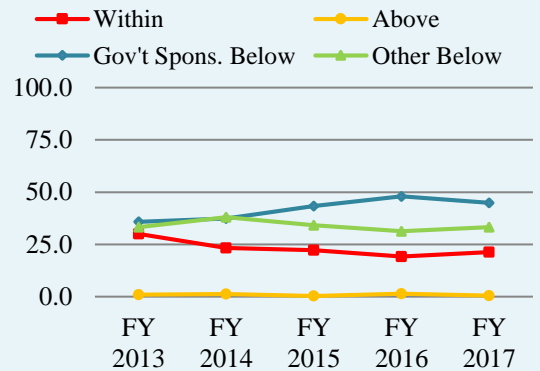
# Quick Facts

## Bribery Involving Public Officials

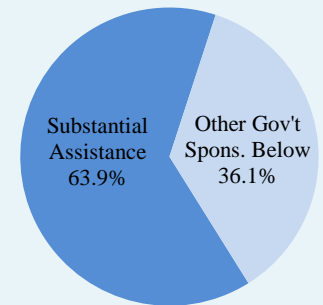
### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- During the past five years, the rate of within range sentences for bribery offenses has decreased (from 30.0% in fiscal year 2013 to 21.3% in fiscal year 2017).
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences for bribery offenses increased during the past five years (from 35.8% in fiscal year 2013 to 44.9% in fiscal year 2017).
  - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted in approximately 28 to 34 percent of bribery cases in each of the past five years.
    - ◇ These offenders received an average reduction of 65.7% in their sentence during the five-year time period (which corresponds to an average reduction of 30 months).
  - ◆ Other government sponsored departures were granted in approximately seven to 16 percent of bribery cases in each of the past five years.
    - ◇ These offenders received an average reduction of 55.7% in their sentence during the five-year time period (which corresponds to an average reduction of 26 months).
- The rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences remained relatively stable during the past five years (from 33.2% of bribery cases in fiscal year 2013 to 33.3% in fiscal year 2017).
  - ◆ Reductions for non-government sponsored below range sentences were smaller than in cases in which the government sponsored a below range sentence, with an average reduction of 52.7% during the five-year time period (which corresponds to an average reduction of 21 months).
- Both the average guideline minimum and the average sentence for bribery offenders varied during the past five years.
  - ◆ The average guideline minimum ranged between 41 months and 49 months during that time period;
  - ◆ The average sentence imposed ranged between 24 months and 30 months during that time period.

### Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



### Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2017



### Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)

