



# THE FRYING PAN DOCTRINE

*A Satirical Chronicle*

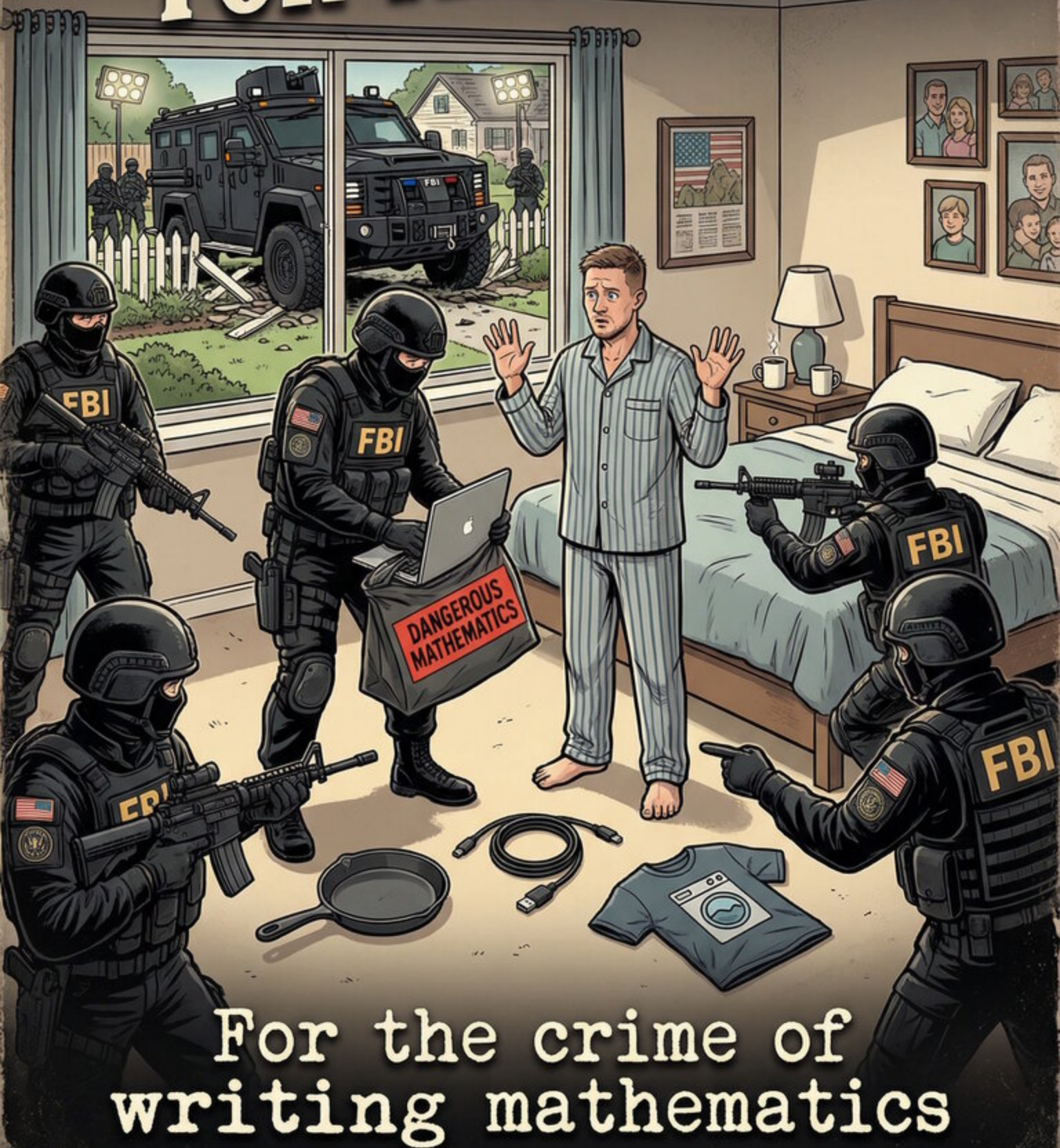
**EXHIBIT A**

How the SDNY Tried to Criminalize Math



# PROLOGUE

# THE DAY THEY CAME FOR THE COOKS



For the crime of  
writing mathematics



## PROLOGUE

CLASSIFIED

# THE DAY THEY CAME FOR THE COOKS

In the annals of American jurisprudence, few cases will be remembered as fondly as the day the United States Department of Justice officially declared war on frying pans, USB cables, T-shirts, and the concept of mathematics itself.



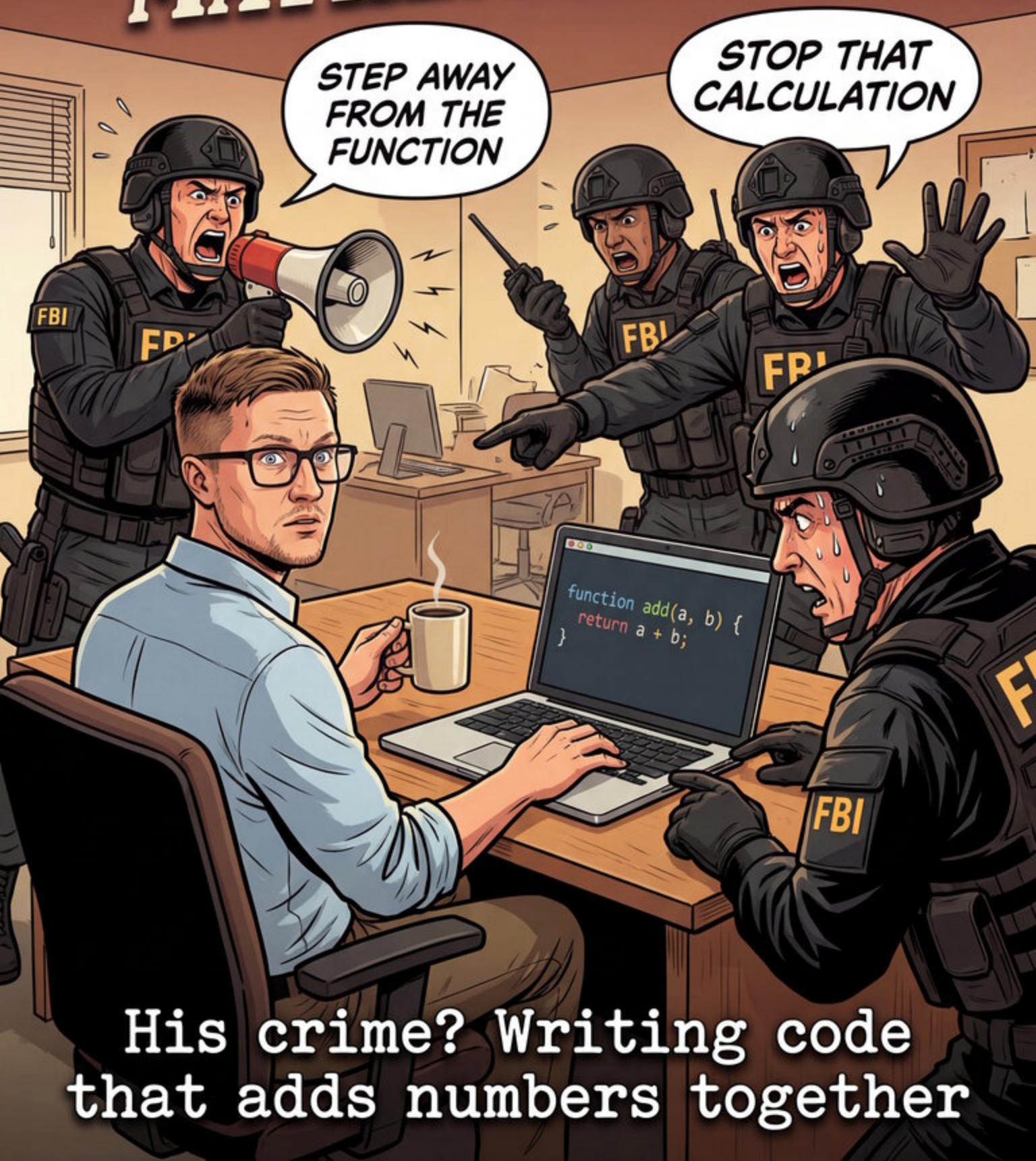
The defendant was running a giant washing machine for dirty money.

Yes. A T-shirt.  
That's the evidence.



# CHAPTER 1

## THE DANGEROUS MATHEMATICIAN



His crime? Writing code that adds numbers together



## CHAPTER 1

# THE DANGEROUS MATHEMATICIAN

**CLASSIFIED**

Once upon a time, in the land of software development, there lived a dangerous criminal mastermind named Roman Storm. His crime? Writing computer code that could add numbers together in a special way.



SILENCE,  
CITIZEN.  
THIS IS  
SPECIAL  
MATH.

The same math that protects your banking app, your WhatsApp messages, and your Signal chats.

But when Roman Storm used it?  
**CRIME.**

**TOP SECRET**



## CHAPTER 2

# THE FRYING PAN PRECEDENT



The DOJ compared smart contracts to kitchen equipment



## CHAPTER 2

# THE FRYING PAN PRECEDENT

From the official government brief  
(Document 53, we're not making this up):

A frying pan transfers heat from a stove to the contents of the pan, although neither situation involves exercising "control" over what is being transferred.

**DOCUMENT 53**

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Your kitchen is now a money transmitting business
- All-Clad stockholders advised to retain counsel
- Gordon Ramsay may be OFAC-sanctioned by morning
- MIT Thermodynamics Dept has been notified





## CHAPTER 2

**WANTED 53**

# THE FRYING PAN PRECEDENT

From the  
official govern-  
ment brief  
(Document 53,  
we're not making  
this up):

A frying pan  
transfers heat  
from a stove to  
the contents of  
the pan!

**DOCUMENT 53**

### CRIME SCENE REPORT

- Your kitchen: money transmitting business
- All-Clad stockholders: retain counsel
- Gordon Ramsay: OFAC-sanctioned
- MIT Thermodynamics: NOTIFIED

### MUGSHOT STYLE BOX



18 U.S.C. § 1960 VIOLATION  
UNLICENSED MONEY TRANSMITTER

Case #: TC-2023-PRY-PAN

**DOCUMENT 53**



## CHAPTER 3

# THE LOCKED PARCEL HYPOTHETICAL



The government accidentally  
proved the defense's point



## CHAPTER 3

# THE LOCKED PARCEL HYPOTHETICAL

Not satisfied with kitchen equipment, the government conjured this beauty:

**INNOCENT BY DEFINITION**

Case #:  
LOGIC-101



**CAN'T CONTROL WHAT YOU CAN'T OPEN**

Consider a business that accepts parcels of cash from criminals... such a business could escape liability by only accepting cash in locked parcels, as long as customers did not give it the keys.

**Thank you, SDNY, for that brilliant DEFENSE argument!**

**SELF-OWN**

**OOPS**



## CHAPTER 4

# THE POOL PARTY THEORY



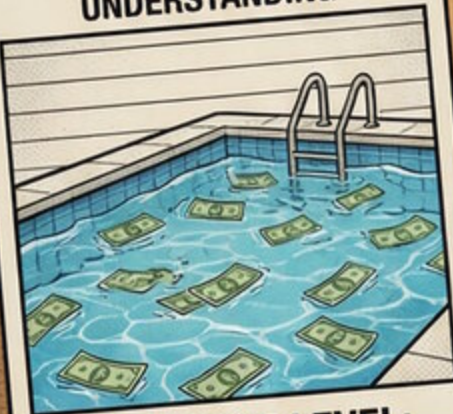
When crypto becomes...  
dollar bills in a swimming pool?



## CHAPTER 4

# THE POOL PARTY THEORY

GOVERNMENT'S TECHNICAL UNDERSTANDING



EXPERTISE LEVEL:  
POOL FLOATIE

Case #: CS-101-FAILED

The deposits are freely intermingled, just as if the pool were a physical pool that contained an undifferentiated hoard of dollar bills.

### NEVER HEARD OF:

- Cryptographic commitments
- Merkle trees
- Zero-knowledge proofs
- Any CS course from the last 40 years

PROSECUTORS SEEN ADDING CHLORINE TO METAMASK WALLETS

SPLASH

EXPERT  
WITNESS



## CHAPTER 5

# THE GOOGLE DEFENSE (That Wasn't)



150,000 employees = a for-loop, apparently



## CHAPTER 5

# THE GOOGLE DEFENSE (That Wasn't)

The government, in a moment of pure genius, compared Tornado Cash to Google:

"A customer who initiates a transfer on Tornado Cash is being provided with a service, not software, just as a Google user is provided with a service."

**FALSE EQUIVALENCE**

### GOOGLE

- 150,000+ employees
- Can be subpoenaed
- Has bank accounts
- Can modify results
- Has a CEO

### TORNADO CASH

- 0 employees (it's code)
- Cannot receive mail
- Is math
- Immutable (govt admits)
- Has a for-loop

**GENIUS  
MOMENT**

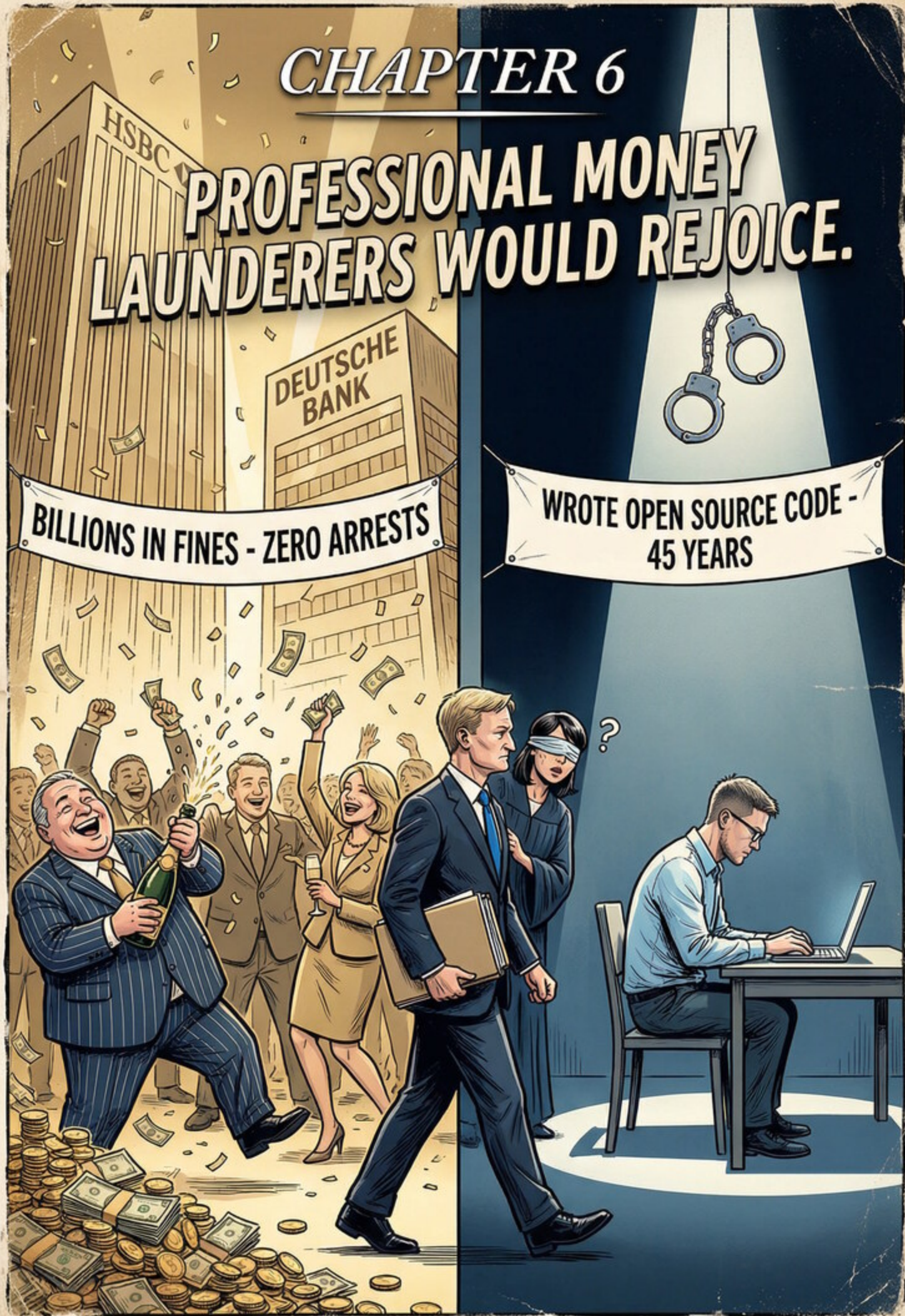
FOLLOWING THIS LOGIC:

- Linux is a service (\$10B in fees, please)
- Python is a service (Guido owes taxes)
- Git is a service (Linus Torvalds: WANTED)



## CHAPTER 6

# PROFESSIONAL MONEY LAUNDERERS WOULD REJOICE.



They were too busy not being prosecuted.



# CHAPTER 6

PRIORITIES

## PROFESSIONAL MONEY LAUNDERERS WOULD REJOICE

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

### The government's closing argument:

The defendant is asking this Court to decriminalize money laundering where the launderer is not a participant in the underlying crime. Professional money launderers would no doubt rejoice.



SARCASTIC COMMENTARY BOX

Yes. Professional money launderers everywhere are waiting with bated breath for... a software developer who published open-source code on GitHub.

ACTUAL LAUNDERERS:  
NOT PROSECUTED

FINES: BILLIONS | ARRESTS: ZERO

Case #: HSBC-DB-2012



PRIORITIES  
**IRONY**  
PRIORITIES

PUNCHLINE BOX

They were too busy  
not being prosecuted.



# CHAPTER 7

## THE IMMUTABILITY PARADOX



Charged for driving a car  
he sold two months earlier



# CHAPTER 7

PARADOX

LOGIC ERROR

## THE IMMUTABILITY PARADOX

Here's where it gets really fun. The government admits:

The Indictment alleges that they relinquished their ability to control the pools in May 2020, while maintaining control of the other aspects of the service.

EVIDENCE

LOGIC ERROR

PARADOX

MAY 2020:  
Storm loses control of  
pools (govt admits this)

SEPT 2020 - AUG 2022:  
Charged conspiracy period



TEMPORAL IMPOSSIBILITY

CRIME COMMITTED:  
AFTER LOSING CONTROL

Case #: TIME-TRAVEL-101



THE ENTIRE CHARGED PERIOD  
IS AFTER HE LOST CONTROL

CRIME COMMITTED:  
AFTER LOSING CONTROL

Case #: TIME-TRAVEL-101



TEMPORAL IMPOSSIBILITY

CRIME COMMITTED:  
AFTER LOSING CONTROL

Case #: TIME-TRAVEL-101

LOGIC ERROR

It's like charging someone with driving a getaway car when they sold the car two months before the robbery.



# CHAPTER 8

## THE User Interface CRIME

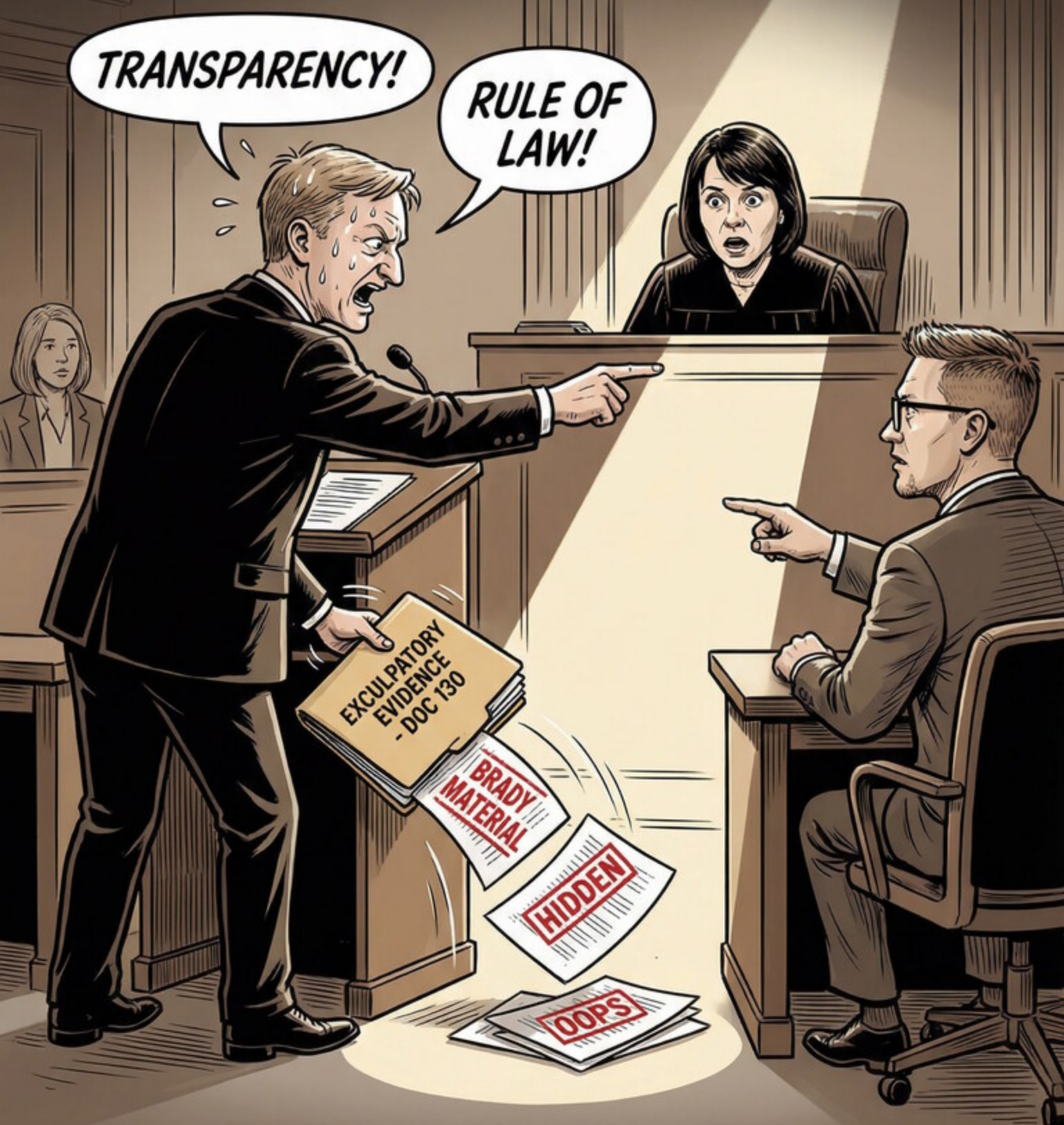


Making software user-friendly:  
up to 45 years



## CHAPTER 9

# THE BRADY HOLE



You can't make this stuff up



## CHAPTER 9

# SMASHED THE BRADY HOLE

While screaming about transparency and rule of law, the government was caught hiding exculpatory evidence (Document 130).

DOC 130

EXCULPATORY  
EVIDENCE

STATUS: **HIDDEN BY  
PROSECUTION**

Case #: BRADY-VIOLATION

### IRONY BOX:

That's right – the same government claiming Roman Storm was hiding criminal activity was itself hiding evidence that might prove his innocence.

DOCUMENT 130



CAUGHT RED-HANDED

You can't make  
this stuff up.



# CHAPTER 10

# THE VERDICT

we couldn't agree.

GOOGLE COMPARISONS

111-PAGE BRIEF

FRYING PAN ARGUMENTS

FRYING PAN ARGUMENTS

EVIDENCE

MILLIONS

COUNT 1: DEADLOCKED X

COUNT 2: CONVICTED ✓

COUNT 3: DEADLOCKED X

# CHAPTER 10

# THE VERDICT



## CHAPTER 10

# THE VERDICT

After years of prosecution, millions in legal fees, and 111-page briefs comparing smart contracts to frying pans, what did the jury decide?

**MIXED VERDICT**

**COUNT 1 (Money Laundering):  
DEADLOCKED – Jury couldn't agree**



**COUNT 2 (Unlicensed Money Transmitter):  
CONVICTED**



**COUNT 3 (Sanctions Violations):  
DEADLOCKED – Jury couldn't agree**



The jury rejected the government's most serious charges. Even after all the frying pan arguments, the Google comparisons, and the locked parcel hypotheticals, a jury of ordinary Americans couldn't swallow the government's theory that writing code is money laundering.

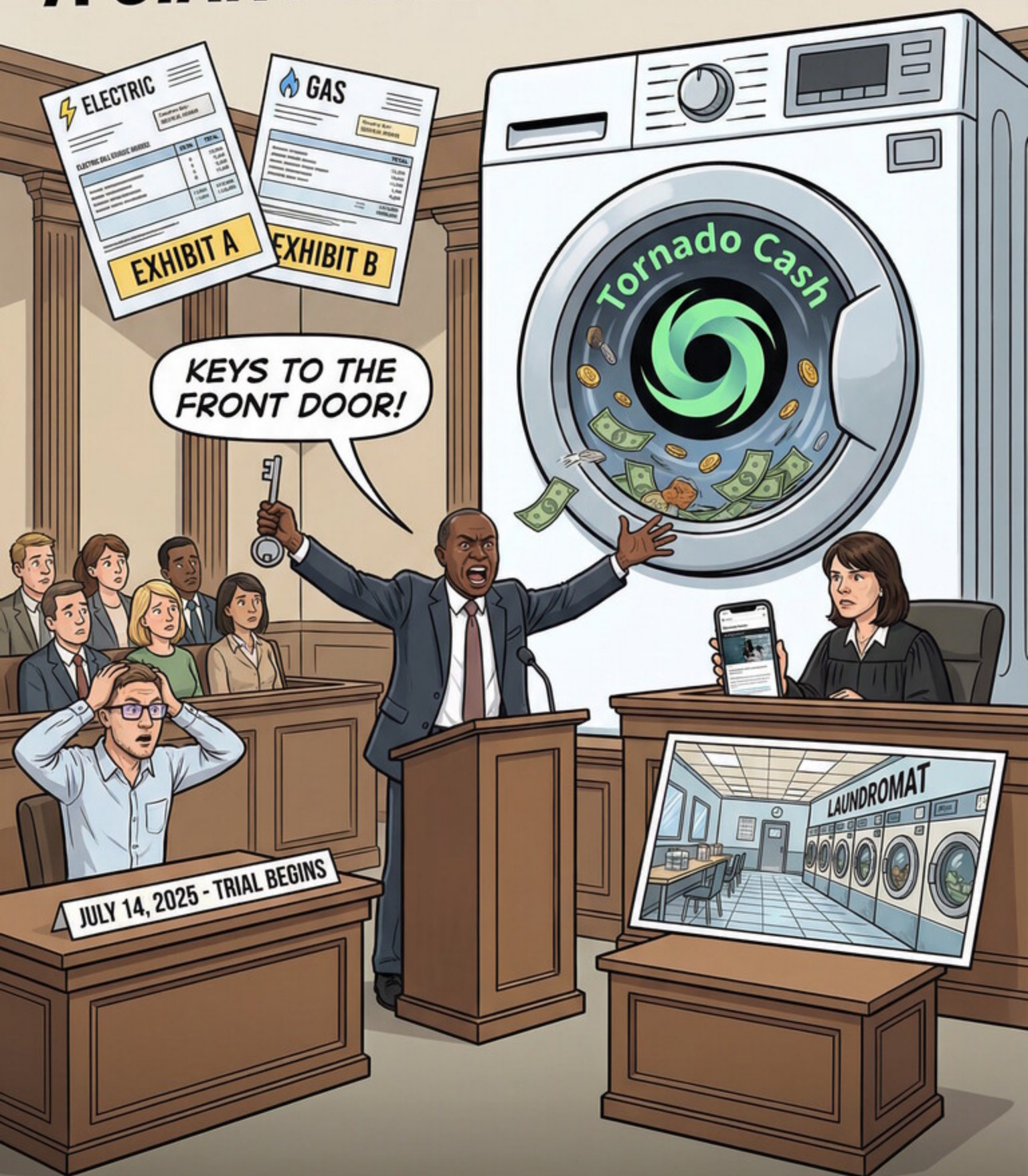
Only the money transmitter charge stuck – being appealed after Fifth Circuit ruled in Van Loon that OFAC overstepped.

**APPEAL PENDING**



# CHAPTER 11

## A GIANT WASHING MACHINE



The trial begins – July 14, 2025



## CHAPTER 11

# THE TRIAL BEGINS - A GIANT WASHING MACHINE



On July 14, 2025, the trial began. Special AUSA Kevin Mosley set the tone for the entire prosecution.

### THE LAUNDROMAT METAPHOR

He chose to remove the switch that could have shut off one part of the washing machine. He did that so he could pretend the whole washing machine was out of his control.

But you will also learn that he was running the whole laundromat. He had the keys to the front door, he paid the gas and the electric bills that kept it running.

The prosecutor literally compared running a website to owning a laundromat.

**LAUNDROMAT  
LOGIC**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 11 (CONTINUED)

### CRIME SCENE

#### ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY:

- Paying for web hosting = "paying the electric bill for the laundromat"
- Having a domain name = "having the keys to the front door"
- Writing open source code = CRIME

### CRIME SCENE

## THE PROSECUTION'S ADMISSION

Even in their opening statement, the government admitted the truth:

**ADMISSION**

Wait.

Wait. "Certain parts could not be changed"? That's the pools. The actual money-moving part. The part that matters for money transmission. ?

"In reality, while certain parts of the business could not be changed, the defendant was in full control of other parts of the business."



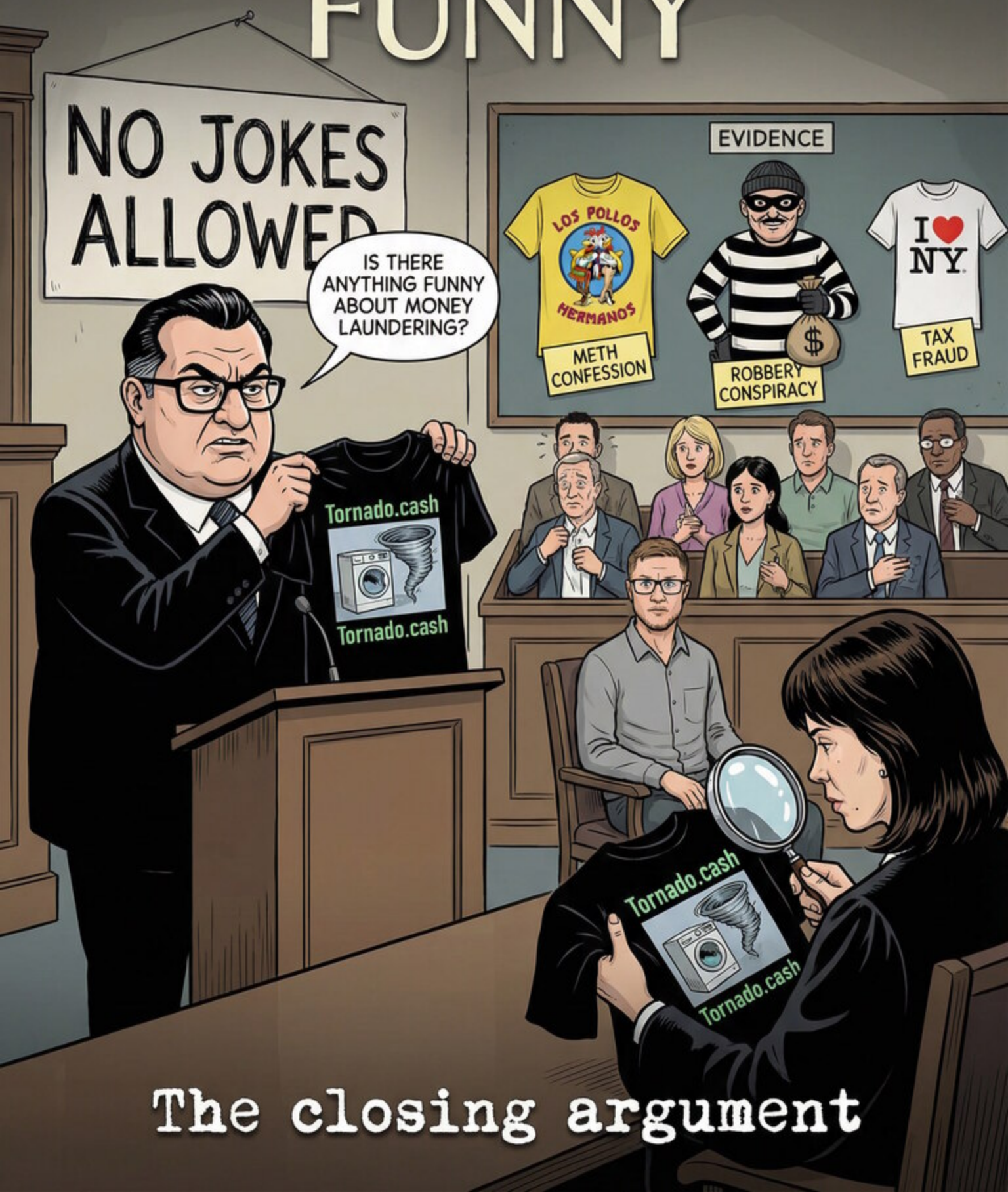
But sure, he controlled the website.  
**GUILTY.**

**SELF-OWN**



## CHAPTER 12

# JOKES AREN'T FUNNY



The closing argument



## CHAPTER 12

## T-SHIRT EVIDENCE

### NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Prosecutor Benjamin Gianforti delivered what may be the most unintentionally hilarious moment in legal history.

# JOKES AREN'T FUNNY

Can you think of a more literal advertising for a money laundering business than a T-shirt with a Tornado Cash-branded washing machine on it?

I expect the defense may say it was just a joke. But is there anything funny about money laundering?

# JOKES. AREN'T. FUNNY.

## HUMOR PROHIBITED

## CRIME SCENE

### BY THIS LOGIC:

- Breaking Bad T-shirts = meth manufacturing confession 
- Bank robber Halloween costumes = robbery conspiracy 
- "I ♥ NY" shirts = tax residency fraud 

CONTINUED... →



## CHAPTER 12 (CONTINUED)

### THE PRIVACY = CONCEALMENT DOCTRINE

#### LOGIC CHAIN

Privacy = Concealment

Concealment = Hiding

Hiding = Crime

Therefore:  
**PRIVACY = CRIME**

And by the way, way, notice that T-shirt talks about anonymity. But isn't anonymity just another word for concealment?



No. No it isn't. But thank you for asking.



### THE DRAMATIC TRIPLE

**Control,  
control,  
control.**



"The defendant had control over every aspect of Tornado Cash EXCEPT FOR THE POOLS."

**EXCEPT FOR THE POOLS.**  
The part that actually moves money. But other than that – control, control, control.

**LOGIC  
FAILURE**



## CHAPTER 13

# THE MEME DOCTRINE



All jokes are now confessions



## CHAPTER 13

# THE MEME DOCTRINE

## GALAXY BRAIN

In what may be the government's most galaxy-brained legal strategy yet, prosecutors sought to introduce as evidence of criminal intent... a joke t-shirt.



**That's right.  
A T-SHIRT.**

FROM THE OFFICIAL COURT FILING:

The Government will seek to introduce the following photograph... which shows the Tornado Cash logo on a washing machine, with a pile of 'dirty' ETH symbols on the left, and a 'clean' ETH symbol on the right.

**GALAXY BRAIN  
EXHIBIT A**

GOVERNMENT  
ANALYSIS:

A washing machine is about as literal an image for money laundering as one could possibly imagine.

**GALAXY BRAIN  
EXHIBIT A**

CONTINUED...



# CHAPTER 13 (CONTINUED)

## LEGAL PRECEDENTS ESTABLISHED:

- Wearing a "Breaking Bad" shirt = confession to methamphetamine manufacturing
- "I ♥ NY" shirts = admission of tax residency fraud
- Band t-shirts = conspiracy to distribute copyrighted music
- All jokes are now confessions

## CRIME SCENE BOX



The defense noted the t-shirt was meant to "poke fun at its subject matter."

The government responded:  
**CRIME IS NOT A JOKING  
MATTER, YOUR HONOR.**



STATUS: CRIMINAL EVIDENCE  
CHARGE: BEING FUNNY

Case #: MEME-2023

NO JOKES



# CHAPTER 14

## TRUTH IS PREJUDICIAL



Please hide the law from the jury



## CHAPTER 14

# TRUTH IS PREJUDICIAL

Perhaps the most revealing moment came when the government argued to HIDE a federal appeals court ruling from the jury.

### EVIDENCE BOX

The Fifth Circuit in *Van Loon v. Treasury* had ruled that OFAC's sanctions on the Tornado Cash smart contracts were **UNLAWFUL**.

A federal court said what they charged Storm with doing... wasn't illegal.

### THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE?

**“Any mention of Van Loon would be highly prejudicial to the Government.”**

**Read that again.**

**HIDE THE TRUTH**

CONTINUED...





## CHAPTER 14 (CONTINUED)

The government is literally arguing that THE TRUTH would be "prejudicial" to them.

They don't want the jury to know that another federal court found their sanctions illegal because... it might make the jury think the *sanctions were illegal*?

### TRANSLATION:

Please hide the law from the jury so they'll *convict based on our version of reality*.

This is like a murder prosecution asking the judge to hide from the jury that the "victim" is still alive.

**VAN LOON RULING**

STATUS: TOO TRUTHFUL  
CRIME: BEING CORRECT  
Case #: TRUTH-HURTS

**PREJUDICIAL FACTS**  
**REALITY BANNED**



# CHAPTER 15

## THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE PARADOX



Losing 2-1 and demanding  
the scoreboard be changed.



## CHAPTER 15

# THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE PARADOX

After the trial, the government faced a small problem: the jury deadlocked on 2 of 3 counts. Their response? Claim the evidence was "overwhelming."



*The evidence in support of the jury's verdict was more than sufficient; it was overwhelming. And while the jury did not reach a verdict on the other two counts...*

### SCOREBOARD **2-1 LOSS**

| NT | CHARGE            | VERDICT    | 'OVERWHELMING'? |
|----|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Money Laundering  | DEADLOCKED | Apparently not  |
| 2  | Money Transmitter | Convicted  | Maybe?          |
| 3  | Sanctions         | DEADLOCKED | Apparently not  |



CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 15 (CONTINUED)

# THE GOVERNMENT'S LOGIC:

- 12 jurors couldn't agree on 2/3 of the charges
- This means reasonable people disagreed
- BY DEFINITION, "overwhelming" evidence doesn't produce disagreement
- Therefore: the government is delusional

**DELUSIONAL**

The brief then spends 113 pages arguing why the jury **SHOULD** have convicted on the charges they couldn't agree on.

PAGES: 113  
PURPOSE: EXPLAINING  
WHY WE ACTUALLY WON  
Case #: SORE-LOSER-2025

**113 PAGES**

**This is the legal equivalent of losing 2-1 and demanding the scoreboard be changed because you felt like you played better.**



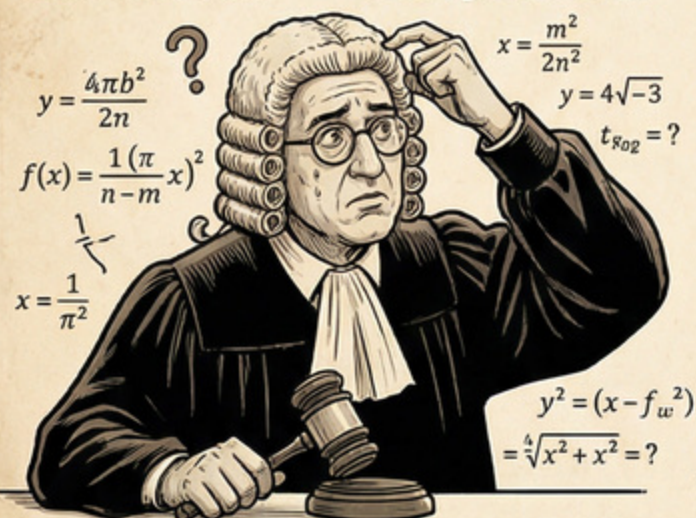
# CHAPTER 16

## THE CONTROL CONTRADICTION



MAY 2020

MAY 2020: → SEPT 2020-AUG 2022:  
Lost Control Charged Period



$$y = \frac{4\pi b^2}{2n}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1(\pi)}{n-m} x^2$$

$$x = \frac{1}{\pi^2}$$

$$x = \frac{m^2}{2n^2}$$

$$y = 4\sqrt{-3}$$

$$t_{\text{log}} = ?$$

$$y^2 = (x - f_w^2) = \sqrt[4]{x^2 + x^2} = ?$$



YEARS LATER



He sold the house,  
but still owned the mailbox



## CHAPTER 16

# THE CONTROL CONTRADICTION

### NEWSPAPER CLIPPING:

The government's brief contains this masterpiece of cognitive dissonance:

*"The pools were made 'immutable' in May 2020, meaning that they could no longer be modified after that time. HOWEVER, the Tornado Cash founders maintained control of other elements of the Tornado Cash service."*

### THE TIMELINE:

- MAY 2020:  
Pools become  
immutable  
(government  
admits this)

- SEPTEMBER 2020:  
Charged conspiracy  
begins

- AUGUST 2022:  
Charged conspiracy  
ends

**"THE ENTIRE CHARGED PER-  
IOD IS AFTER STORM LOST  
CONTROL OF THE POOLS."**

**COGNITIVE  
DISSONANCE**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 16 (CONTINUED)

It's like charging someone with arson for a fire that started a year after they moved out of the building.

Yes, Your Honor, the defendant admits he sold the house in 2019 and moved to another state.

**HOWEVER**

**But he still owned the MAILBOX.**

Case #: MAILBOX-2020



**EVIDENCE OF CONTROL**

**STATUS: STILL OWNED**

**MAILBOX EVIDENCE**

The government's entire case: he didn't control the money-moving part, but he controlled... everything else.



## CHAPTER 17

# THE ORAL ARGUMENT



It did not go well



## CHAPTER 17

# THE ORAL ARGUMENT

On July 12, 2024, the prosecutors had to defend had y to defend their theories **OUT LOUD** in front of Judge Failla. **It did not go well.**

THE COURT:  
Would you agree that the most aggressive or the least traditional of your charges is the 1960 charge?

MR. REHN:  
I think that with respect to this control question, the defendant's argument is novel in that no court has really addressed this argument before.

# OOPS

# OOPS

## ON THE RECORD

Wait. The **PROSECUTOR** is admitting this is unprecedented?  
In court? On the record?



CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 17 (CONTINUED)

### CRIME SCENE

BY THIS LOGIC:

- Building roads = being a taxi driver  
(both 'move people')
- Writing a cookbook = running a  
restaurant (both involve food)
- Publishing sheet music = being  
an orchestra  
(both make music happen)

ARBITRARY  
DISTINCTION

### ECONOMIC FUNCTION



CRIME: SAME VIBES  
CONTROL: IRRELEVANT  
Case #: ARBITRARY-2024

ALL DEVS  
GUILTY

ARBITRARY  
DISTINCTION

**The government's entire theory requires treating "economic function" as more important than actual control – which would criminalize every financial software developer in existence.**



**CHAPTER 17  
(CONTINUED)**

# **THE KNOCKOUT PUNCH**

**BRIAN KLEIN:** The reason why this is raised for the first time here is because this is the only case ever with a 1960 prosecution where the defendants didn't have control of the funds, period. There is no case where that is not the case.



**Every. Single.  
Previous. Case.  
Involved. Actual.  
Control.**

## **THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE:**

But there is no reason on offer why Congress would have wanted statutory liability to turn on such an arbitrary distinction when the economic function of the business is exactly the same.



The prosecutor called "not having control of the funds" an **ARBITRARY DISTINCTION**.

**KNOCKOUT**

CONTINUED...



# CHAPTER 18

## THE EVIDENCE THEY WANTED TO HIDE



73 pages of motions to  
exclude evidence



# CHAPTER 18

## THE EVIDENCE THEY WANTED TO HIDE

Before trial, the government filed 73 pages of motions asking the judge to **EXCLUDE** evidence. What were they afraid of?

### EXCLUSION REQUEST #1

Don't let the jury know the pools would work without him



*"The defendant's expert disclosures indicate that he will attempt to introduce evidence that the Lazarus Group could have figured out other ways of making deposits 'directly' to the pools, without using features that he controlled."*

**Government Response:**  
Such evidence is irrelevant.

**IRRELEVANT?! Evidence that sanctions violations would have happened WITHOUT HIM seems pretty darn relevant.**

# EXCLUDED

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 18 (CONTINUED)

### EXCLUSION REQUEST #2 Don't let him mention "war on crypto"

Defense counsel told the Wall Street Journal the case was "brought when Biden had declared war on crypto." The government demanded the judge exclude any mention of this.

Translation: Don't let the jury know this prosecution might be politically motivated.



### EXCLUSION REQUEST #3 Don't let him talk about his family

"The defendant should be precluded from offering evidence or argument concerning his personal background, family relationships..."

**CENSORED**

The government specifically complained that Storm mentioned his daughter was home during his arrest.

Translation: Please don't humanize the software developer we're trying to imprison for 45 years.



CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 18 (CONTINUED)

### EXCLUSION REQUEST #4

**Don't let him mention  
he consulted lawyers**

Storm consulted lawyers about whether Tornado Cash was legal. The lawyers said he was fine.

The government spent PAGES arguing this should be excluded.

BY NOBODYTHING

Translation:  
We don't want the jury to know he tried to follow the law.

## MUGSHOT

### 73 PAGES OF FEAR

CONTENTS:  
THINGS JURY  
CAN'T KNOW

Case #:  
HIDE-EVERYTHING



What the government didn't want the jury to know:

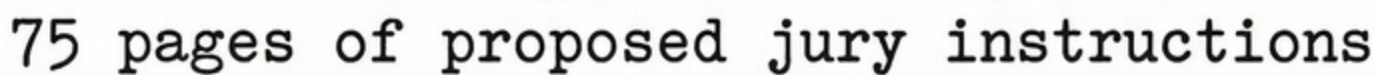
- The pools work without him
- The prosecution might be political
- He has a family
- He consulted lawyers

**AFRAID OF TRUTH**

**73 PAGES**



# THE JURY INSTRUCTIONS





## CHAPTER 19

# THE JURY INSTRUCTIONS

In June 2025, the government submitted 75 pages of proposed jury instructions. These are the rules they wanted the judge to tell the jury. Highlights include:

## THE ORIGINAL SIN DOCTRINE

*"If the Government proves that the proceeds of specified unlawful activity were mixed or commingled in the Tornado Cash pools with other funds... then ANY FINANCIAL TRANSACTION involving the Tornado Cash pools while they contained mixed or commingled criminal proceeds is a transaction involving the proceeds of a specified unlawful activity."*

**ORIGINAL SIN**

CONTINUED...





## CHAPTER 19 (CONTINUED)

TRANSLATION: If a criminal EVER used Tornado Cash, then EVERYONE who used it afterward is a money launderer.

**BY THIS LOGIC:**

- The US Dollar is a criminal instrument (cash has touched crime)
- Every bank is a money laundering operation
- PayPal is a criminal enterprise
- Your wallet contains proceeds of crime

## THE CONSCIOUS AVOIDANCE TRAP

If you find that the defendant was aware of a high probability that the object of the conspiracy was to commit money laundering, but that he acted with **DELIBERATE DISREGARD** of that fact, you may find that the defendant acted knowingly.



**EVERYONE  
GUILTY**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 19 (CONTINUED)

### TRANSLATION

Translation: If you DON'T actively spy on your users, you're "deliberately disregarding" criminal activity.

**CATCH-22**

## THE CATCH-22:

### CRIME SCENE

- If you **KNOW** criminals use your software and don't stop them: **CRIME**
- If you **DON'T LOOK** to see if criminals use your software: **ALSO CRIME**
- The only option: Don't build privacy software



## THE MINIMAL COMMERCE CLAUSE



Any effect on interstate or foreign commerce is sufficient to satisfy this element, **NO MATTER HOW MINIMAL.**



### SARCASTIC

By this standard, a tweet about cryptocurrency affects interstate commerce.

**CATCH-22**

**IMPOSSIBLE**



# CHAPTER 19 (CONTINUED)



## THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAYBOOK:

### 1. ORIGINAL SIN:

One criminal ever =  
everyone guilty forever

### 2. CONSCIOUS AVOIDANCE:

Don't spy on users =  
deliberate disregard

### 3. MINIMAL COMMERCE:

Any effect, no matter how  
small = federal jurisdiction

# 75 PAGES

# NO ESCAPE

**75 pages of instructions.  
Zero ways to be innocent.**



## CHAPTER 20

# THE TALE OF TWO COURTS



One says uncontrollable.  
One seeks prison time.



## CHAPTER 20

# THE TALE OF TWO COURTS

In November 2024, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals - a **HIGHER** court than the SDNY - ruled in *Van Loon v. Treasury* that:

Immutable smart contracts cannot be controlled or owned. Because the Tornado Cash keys were burned, the code is **OWNERLESS, IMMUTABLE, and UNCONTROLLABLE.**

The Fifth Circuit explicitly ruled that these smart contracts do not constitute a "service" they operate automatically without human effort.

Meanwhile, the SDNY prosecutors are seeking **PRISON TIME** based on the exact opposite theory.



**HIGHER COURT**

**NOV 2024**

CONTINUED...



**CONTRADICTION**

## **THE CONTRADICTION:**

### **FIFTH CIRCUIT (HIGHER COURT)**

- Code is uncontrollable
- No owner exists
- Not a "service"
- Immutable = no liability

### **SDNY PROSECUTORS**

- Storm "operated" it
- Storm was the owner
- Storm provided services to North Korea
- Immutable = irrelevant

**CONTRADICTION**

**MUGSHOT**



CASE:  
LEGAL SCHIZOPHRENIA

STATUS:  
COURTS DISAGREE

Case #:  
PICK-A-REALITY

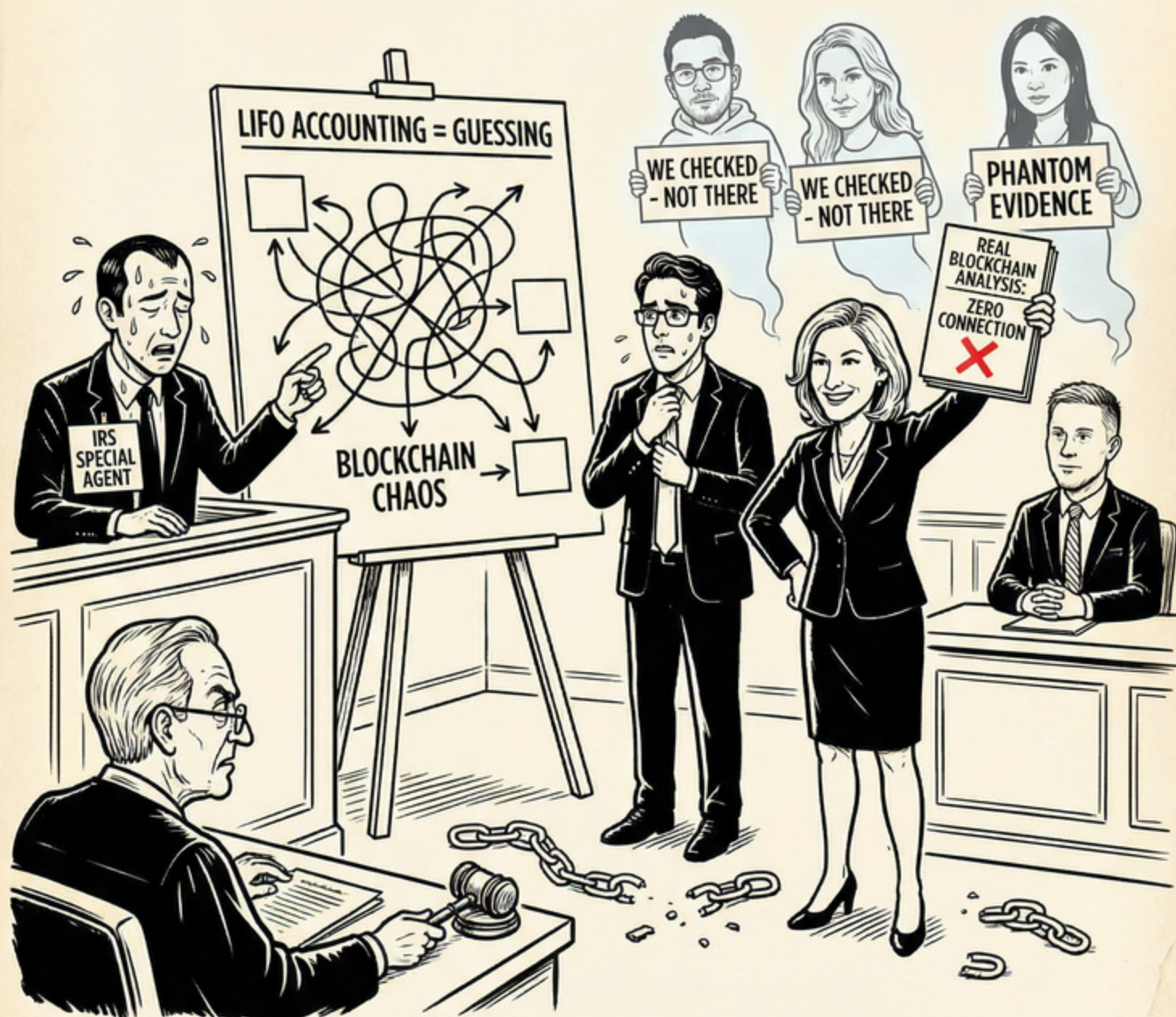
**HIGHER COURT SAYS NO**

**The prosecutors are literally jailing a man for failing to control something that a federal appeals court has ruled CANNOT BE CONTROLLED.**



## CHAPTER 21

# THE PHANTOM BLOCKCHAIN TRACE



They made up a methodology  
and hoped nobody noticed



## CHAPTER 21

# THE PHANTOM BLOCKCHAIN TRACE

One of the most damning incidents involved the government's attempt to link a "pig butchering" scam victim to Tornado Cash.

### THE SETUP:

The prosecution put victim Hanfeng Lin on the stand to testify that her stolen funds were laundered through Tornado Cash. She relied on a report from a dubious "crypto recovery service."

### THE REALITY:

Independent blockchain experts (including Taylor Monahan and ZachXBT) analyzed the chain and found **ZERO EVIDENCE** that her funds ever touched Tornado Cash.

**THE GOVERNMENT HAD INTRODUCED FALSE TESTIMONY.**



PHANTOM



ZERO  
EVIDENCE

CONTINUED...





## CHAPTER 21 (CONTINUED)

### THE "FIX":

Realizing their error, prosecutors called IRS Special Agent Stephan George. His "tracing methodology"?

A "Last-In, First-Out" (LIFO) accounting method – essentially **GUESSING** that funds were connected because they were the most recent deposit.



### UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION:

Agent George admitted:

*"No, not at all."*  
(When asked if his method proved the hacker moved money to Tornado Cash)

The defense described this as "really nuts."

**LIFO = GUESSING**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 21 (CONTINUED)

**REALLY  
NUTS**

### TRANSLATION:

The government couldn't actually trace the blockchain, so they made up a methodology, put it in front of a jury, and hoped nobody noticed.

**REALLY NUTS**



**MUGSHOT**

EVIDENCE: PHANTOM  
METHODOLOGY: MADE UP  
ACCURACY: "NO, NOT AT ALL"  
Case #: LIFO-GUESS-2025

**PROSECUTION CLAIM:**  
Funds traced to  
Tornado Cash

**REALITY:**  
Zero evidence  
(per independent experts)

**SOLUTION:**  
Invent LIFO  
methodology

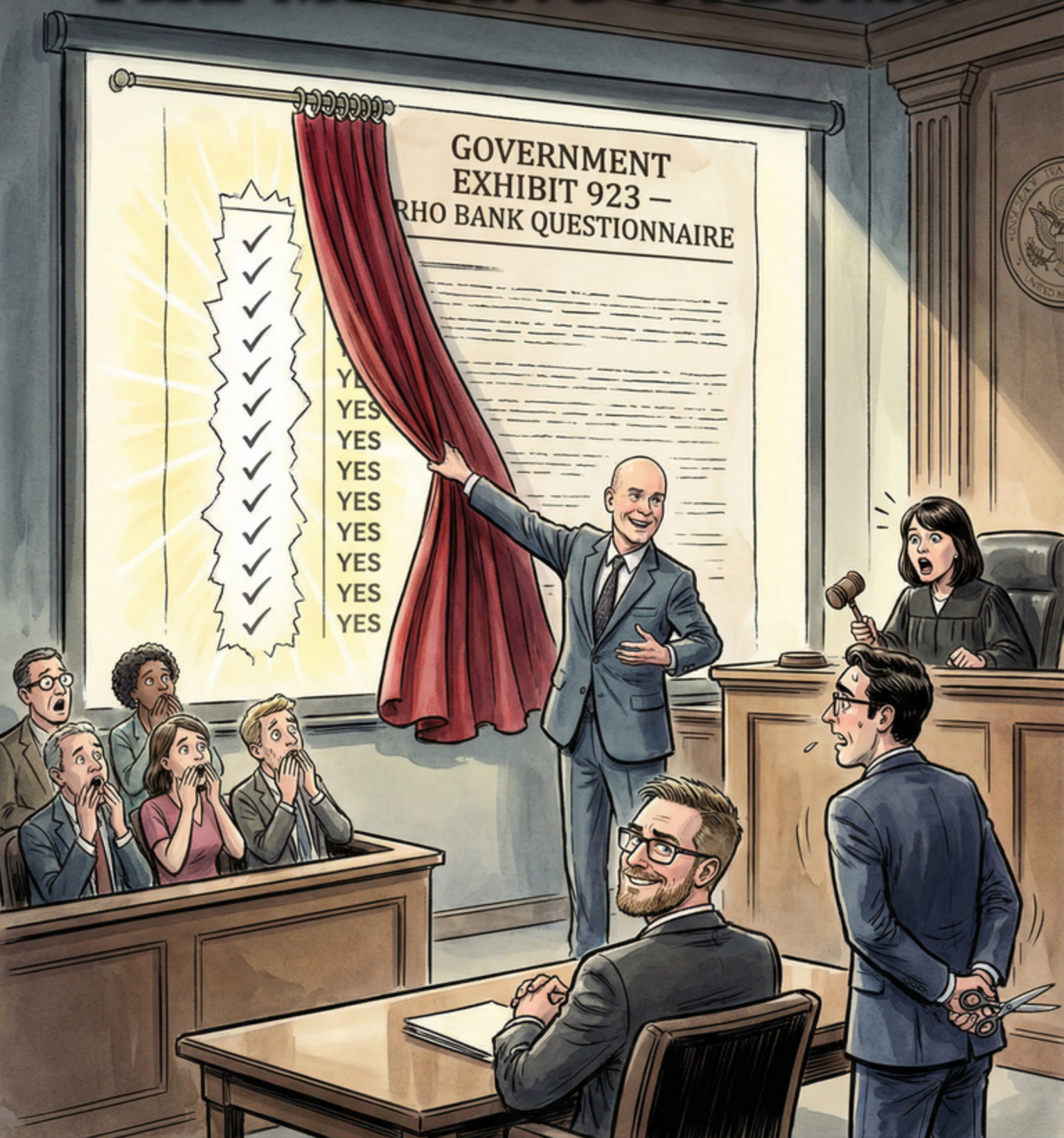
**RESULT:**  
"Really nuts"

**MADE UP**



## CHAPTER 22

# THE MISSING COLUMN



This isn't spin.  
This is hiding evidence.



## CHAPTER 22

SMASH!

# THE MISSING COLUMN

CRACK!

CRACK!

Perhaps the most objectively verifiable lie involved the Rho Bank questionnaire.

### GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM (CLOSING ARGUMENT):

Tornado Cash doesn't appear once in this questionnaire.... look at how he answered no to essentially every crypto-related question.



The prosecutor displayed Government Exhibit 923 to the jury.

### THE REALITY:

During the defense closing, Mr. Patton revealed that the government's display **OMITTED A SPECIFIC COLUMN.**



### REVELATION BOX

When the full document is reviewed, there is a column where Mr. Storm explicitly answered **"YES"** to whether investments were received in the form of cryptocurrency.




**EXHIBIT 923**

YES

CONTINUED...





## CHAPTER 22 (CONTINUED)

### WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HID:

- Storm openly disclosed receiving funds from Gitcoin
- Storm openly disclosed working on Tornado Cash
- Storm answered 'Yes' to crypto-related questions

CRIME SCENE

### SARCASTIC BOX

The defense called the government's claim that Storm was hiding his crypto involvement "crazy."

**CRAZY**



EXHIBIT: 923  
STATUS: COLUMN MISSING  
HIDDEN ANSWER: "YES"

**HIDDEN  
COLUMN**



**THIS ISN'T SPIN. THIS IS  
HIDING EXCULPATORY  
EVIDENCE FROM THE JURY.**

CASE: OMIT-EVIDENCE



## CHAPTER 23

# THE FOUR-DAY GAP



Messages spliced from  
different conversations





## CHAPTER 23

# THE FOUR-DAY GAP

The government presented a text exchange to suggest Storm found criminal use "funny."

**GOVERNMENT'S PRESENTATION:**



User: "F\*ck, you are being advertised for free"

Storm: "It's f\*cking funny"

The implication: Storm welcomed criminals using his platform.

**THE REALITY:**

# REVELATION

Cross-examination revealed the messages were sent **FOUR DAYS APART.**



**CALENDAR EVIDENCE**

**SPLICED**

- First message: July 12
- Storm's response: July 16

**CONTINUED...**



## CHAPTER 23 (CONTINUED)

Storm was likely responding to an **ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TOPIC**.

### MUGSHOT OF SPLICED TEXT MESSAGES



MESSAGES: 2  
DAYS APART: 4  
CONNECTION: FABRICATED  
Case #: SPLICE-JOB-2025

**The government took messages from different conversations and spliced them together to fabricate an admission of guilt.**

### EVIDENCE BOARD

JULY 12: User message sent  
[4 DAYS OF OTHER CONVERSATIONS]

JULY 16: Storm responds to something else entirely  
PROSECUTION: "Look, they're connected!"

**FABRICATED**

**4 DAYS**



## CHAPTER 24

# THE TIME-TRAVELING T-SHIRT



Evidence from years before  
the alleged crime



## CHAPTER 24

# THE TIME-TRAVELING T-SHIRT

ETH BOSTON  
2019

TIME TRAVEL

Remember that infamous washing machine T-shirt the government called "literal advertising for a money laundering business"?



### THE REALITY:

The shirt was worn at ETH Boston in 2019 - years before the charge the charged conspiracy began (September 2020 - August 2022).

### THE GOVERNMENT'S THEORY:

The T-shirt proved Storm's criminal intent to launder money.

TIME TRAVEL

The government ultimately *STIPULATED* to the 2019 date.

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 24 (CONTINUED)

# SO THE 'EVIDENCE' OF CRIMINAL INTENT WAS:

1. A joke T-shirt
2. Worn at a tech conference
3. Before the alleged crime even started



WORN:  
2019

CRIME CHARGED:  
2020-2022

TIME TRAVEL  
REQUIRED: YES

Case #:  
BACK-TO-FUTURE

**This is like prosecuting someone for bank robbery and introducing as evidence a Halloween costume they wore two years earlier.**



### TIMELINE:

2019: Wears joke T-shirt at tech conference  
[YEARS PASS - NO CRIME]

2020-2022: Conspiracy all

PROSECUTION: "The T-shirt was in n

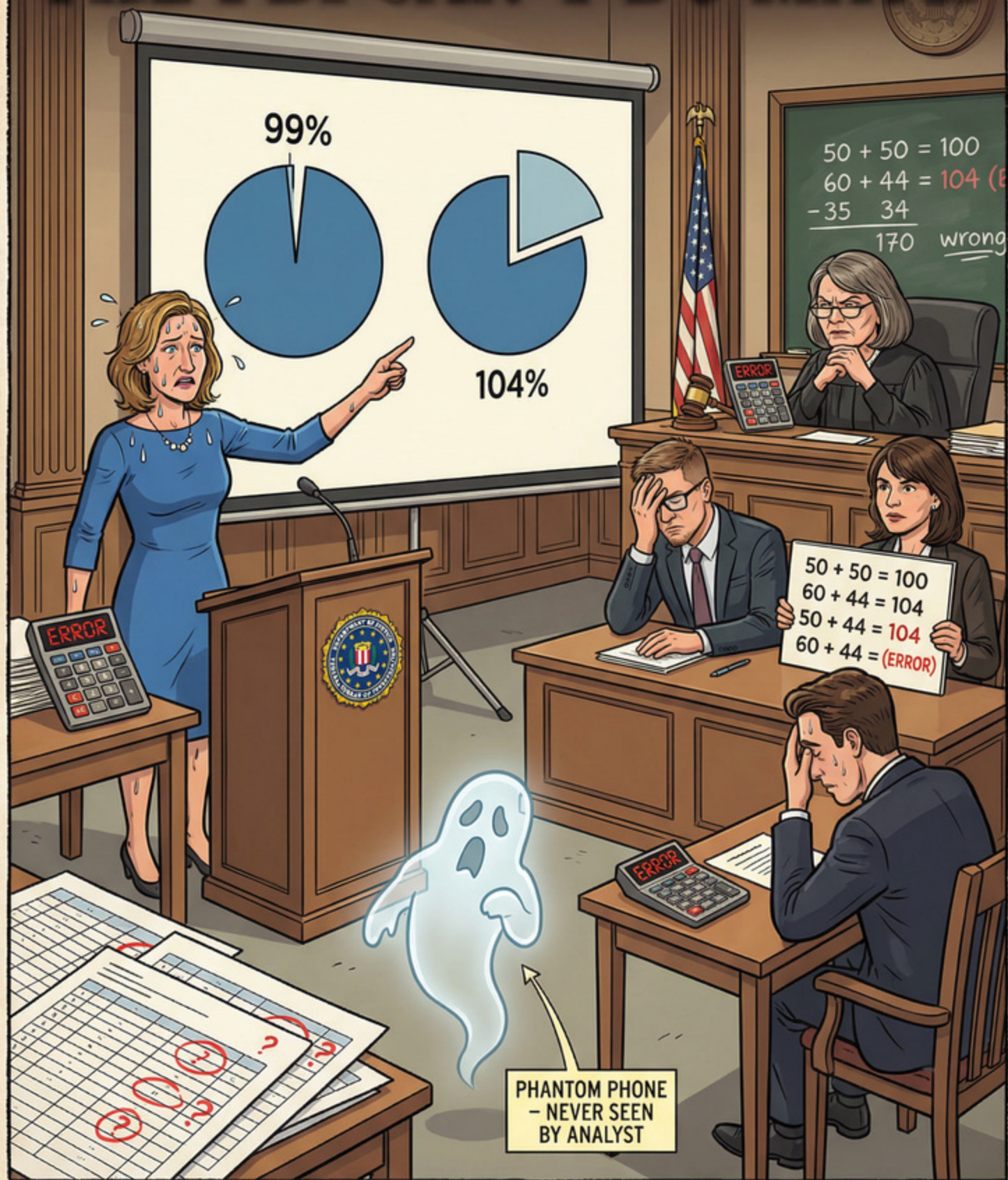
**STIPULATED**

**2 YEARS EARLY**



## CHAPTER 25

# THE FBI CAN'T DO MATH



Charts totaling 99% and 104%



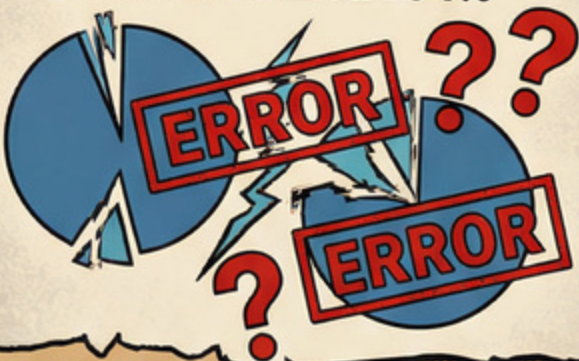
## CHAPTER 25

# THE FBI CAN'T DO MATH

### NEWSPAPER CLIPPING:

FBI forensic charts presented to the jury had a small problem: they didn't add up.

- One chart totaled 99%
- Another totaled 104%



When challenged, the FBI accountant admitted she needed to **“review the spreadsheet.”**

### THE MANIPULATION:

Draft versions altered time periods to inflate payroll expenses from approximately 45% to 80%, minimizing profit margins to portray Tornado Cash as a criminal enterprise rather than a software project.

**99%**  
**ERROR**

**104%**  
**ERROR**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 25 (CONTINUED)

### **THE PHANTOM PHONE:**

An FBI analyst testified about data from a seized phone he never physically saw, breaking the chain of custody.

GHOST PHONE



STATUS: NEVER SEEN  
TESTIMONY: GIVEN ANYWAY  
CHAIN OF CUSTODY: BROKEN  
Case #: PHANTOM-PHONE

**ERROR**

#### EVIDENCE BOARD

FBI MATH SKILLS:  
Chart 1: 99% (missing 1%)  
Chart 2: 104% (extra 4%)

Payroll inflation:  
45% → 80%

Phone evidence:  
Never touched

**OP WORKER**

**CHAIN BROKEN**

#### PUNCHLINE

**If the FBI cannot perform basic arithmetic or establish custody of evidence, why should the jury trust their blockchain analysis?**



# THE GAS RATIO GUESSWORK





## CHAPTER 26

# THE 'GAS RATIO' GUESSWORK



The government's star blockchain witness, Philip Werlau from AnChain.AI, claimed he could track "untraceable" transactions using a novel "gas ratio" analysis.

### THE ADMISSION (UNDER QUESTIONING):



**Q:** Is this methodology unique to you?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Do you know its error rate?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Can you provide a statistical probability of accuracy?

**A:** No.

**NOVEL METHOD**

**UNIQUE TO HIM**

CONTINUED...



**CHAPTER 26  
(CONTINUED)**

## **TRANSLATION:**

The government asked the jury to convict based on an experimental metric that EVEN ITS CREATOR COULDN'T VALIDATE.

**SCIENTIFICALLY  
UNSOUND**

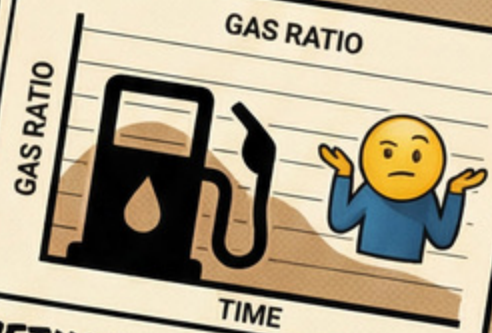
Defense expert Dr. Matt Edman called this methodology "scientifically unsound" - no nsties noncentre known error rate, no peer review, essentially speculative.

**SCIENTIFICALLY  
UNSOUND**

Case #:  
**TRUST-ME-BRO**

**SPECULATIVE**

## **MUGSHOT**



METHODOLOGY: UNIQUE  
ERROR RATE: UNKNOWN  
PEER REVIEW: NONE  
ACCURACY:  $\sim \text{ } (\text{ツ}) \text{ } \sim$

In a case about cryptographic privacy technology, the government's tracing evidence was: **"Trust me, bro."**



## CHAPTER 27

# THE FORWARDED MESSAGE TRAP



Forwarded from a reporter



## CHAPTER 27

# THE FORWARDED MESSAGE TRAP

The government presented a chat message asking 'How do you launder \$600 million?' to imply the founders were planning crimes.

### THE REALITY:

The message was **FORWARDED** FROM A REPORTER who was asking for comment on a news story.

The government's presentation made it appear as if the founders were asking each other how to launder money...

**FORWARDED**



REPORTER:  
"How do you  
launder \$600M?"

[FWD]

FOUNDERS: "How  
do we respond?"

**MEDIA INQUIRY**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 27 (CONTINUED)

...when in fact they were discussing how to respond to media inquiries.

### THE ANALOGY:



MUGSHOT

MESSAGE: "How do you launder \$600M?"

SOURCE: REPORTER

CONTEXT: ASKING FOR COMMENT

PROSECUTION CLAIM: CRIMINAL PLANNING

Case #: FWD-TRAP-2025

CONTEXT MATTERS

MEDIA INQUIRY

This is like prosecuting a lawyer for murder because they asked a client "How did you kill him?" during case preparation.

### THE FORWARD CHAIN:



REPORTER

1. Reporter asks question for story



STORM

2. Storm forwards to discuss response



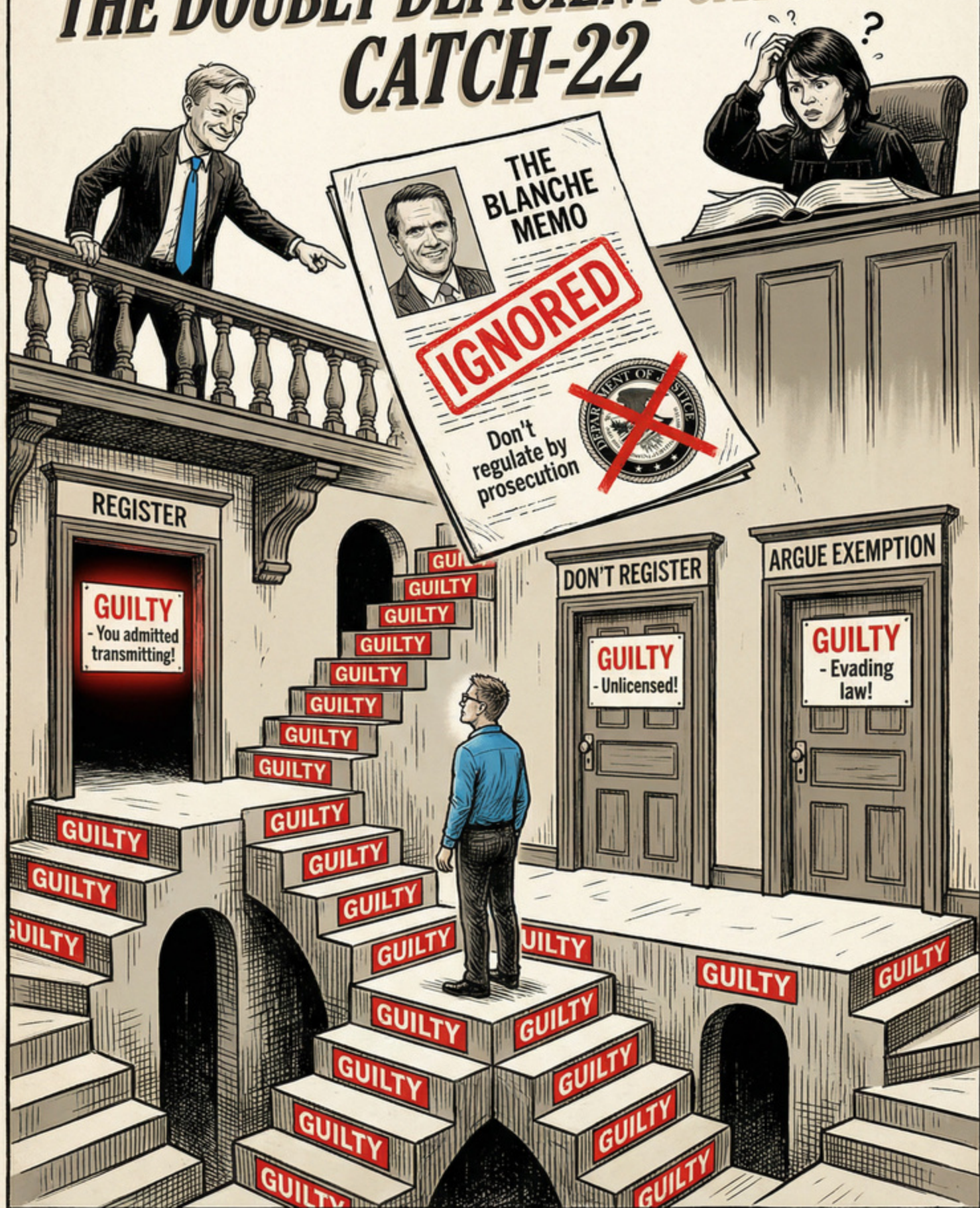
GOVERNMENT

3. Government: "Look! Criminal planning!"



## CHAPTER 28

# THE DOUBLY DEFICIENT CATCH-22 CATCH-22



Every path leads to GUILTY



## CHAPTER 28

# THE DOUBLY DEFICIENT CATCH-22

The DOJ created an impossible legal trap:

**CATCH-22**

1.

If you register as a money transmitter:  
You admit you're transmitting money  
(GUILTY)



2.

If you don't register:  
You're an **UNLICENSED** money transmitter  
(GUILTY)

3.

If you argue you're not a money transmitter:  
You're trying to evade the law  
(GUILTY)



The government literally argued that exempting non-registrants would be "absurd" - asking the court to convict based on regulatory vibes rather than statutory requirements.

**CATCH-22**

**NO ESCAPE**

CONTINUED...



## CHAPTER 28 (CONTINUED)

### THE BLANCHE MEMO:

Despite a DOJ memo **explicitly rejecting** "regulation by prosecution," Storm was charged as an **unlicensed money transmitter** contrary to FinCEN guidance on non-custodial software.

# HYPOCRISY

DOCUMENT:  
DOJ MEMO

## DOJ MEMO

**SAYS:** No regulation by prosecution

**DOJ ACTION:** Regulation by prosecution

**STATUS:** IGNORED

## CATCH-22-DOJ

### PUNCHLINE BOX

The very government that says "don't regulate by prosecution" is... regulating by prosecution.

DOJ POLICY:  
"Don't regulate by prosecution"

DOJ ACTION:  
Prosecutes to regulate

LOGIC:  
???

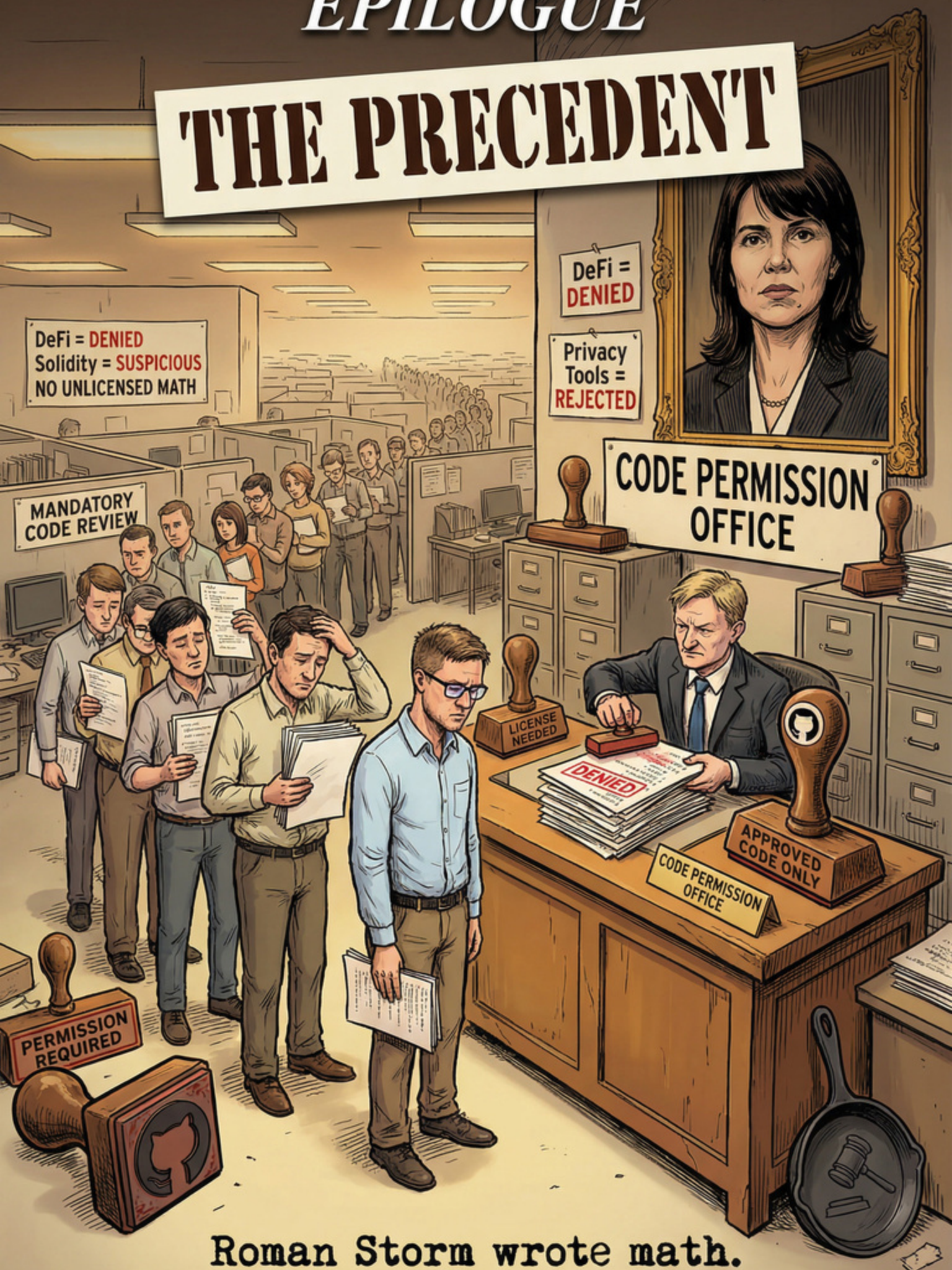
# HYPOCRISY

## MEMO IGNORED



# EPILOGUE

## THE PRECEDENT



Roman Storm wrote math.  
The government called it crime.





# EPILOGUE

# 'THE PRECEDENT'

**IF THE GOVERNMENT'S THEORIES  
ARE ALLOWED TO STAND:**

## CRIME SCENE

- ✗ — Every open-source developer is potentially liable for how others use their code
- ✗ — Every DeFi protocol is an unlicensed money transmitter
- ✗ — Every privacy tool is evidence of criminal intent
- ✗ — The First Amendment doesn't apply if your speech is written in Solidity

**PRECEDENT**

The Southern District of New York has effectively argued that you can write code, but not THAT code. You can build privacy tools, but not THOSE privacy tools.

**WARNING**

CONTINUED...



## EPILOGUE (CONTINUED)

You can develop financial software, but only if you get permission first and implement surveillance.

They want a permission-based internet, where innovation requires a license and privacy is a privilege granted by the state.

**Roman Storm wrote math.  
The government called  
it crime.**



And somewhere in a courthouse in Lower Manhattan, a prosecutor is still explaining how a frying pan transfers heat.

**THE END**

**UNIT CRL THE END**

**THE END**

**THE APPEAL THE END**



# APPENDIX

WE COULDN'T MAKE THIS UP

## THE BEST ACTUAL QUOTES

"A frying pan  
transfers heat"

"washing machine  
for dirty money"

"Trust me bro"



All from official court documents.  
We couldn't make these up.



# APPENDIX

## THE BEST ACTUAL QUOTES

### FROM GOVERNMENT BRIEFS:

1. "A frying pan transfers heat from a stove to the contents of the pan"

2. "Just as if the pool were a physical pool that contained an undifferentiated hoard of dollar bills"

3. "Professional money launderers would no doubt rejoice"

4. "Consider the example of a business that hat accepts parcels of cash from criminals and moves the money by courier to locations to cummi move to locations overseas... accepting cash in locked parcels"

5. "Network access services are the pipelines that give their customers access"

# ACTUAL QUOTES



CONTINUED...



# APPENDIX (CONTINUED)

FROM GOVERNMENT BRIEFS (CONT.):

6. "The UI could have been designed—or modified at any time—to maintain a copy of the secret note"

7. "A washing machine is about as literal an image for money laundering as one could possibly imagine"

## REAL QUOTES

8. "Any mention of Van Loon would be highly prejudicial to the Government"



## NOT SATIRE

9. "The evidence was overwhelming" (said after jury deadlocked on 2 of 3 counts)

10. "Guys, we are f\*cked" (defendant's reaction to sanctions – used as evidence of guilt)

CONTINUED...



# APPENDIX (CONTINUED)

## FROM GOVERNMENT BRIEFS (CONT.):

II. "The defendant claims Tornado Cash was decentralized... falsely"

I2. "The pools were made immutable... However..."

I3. "no court has really addressed this argument before"

I4. "such an arbitrary distinction" (calling "lack of control" arbitrary)

I5. "such an arbitrary distinction" (calling "lack of control" arbitrary)

I5. "this is the only case ever with a 1960 prosecution where the defendants didn't have control".

## FROM TRIAL TRANSCRIPTS (JULY 2025):

I6. "In short, the defendant was running and profiting from a giant washing machine for dirty money".

# UNPRECEDENTED

CONTINUED...



## APPENDIX (CONTINUED)

FROM TRIAL TRANSCRIPTS (CONT.):

17. "He had the keys to the front door, he paid the gas and the electric bills that kept it running"

18. "But is there anything funny about money laundering?"

19. "Isn't anonymity just another word for concealment?"

20. "Control, control, control"

21. "The defendant had control over every aspect of Tornado Cash except for the pools"

22. "Can you think of a more literal advertisement for a money laundering business than a T-shirt with a washing machine?"

**PROSECUTION  
QUOTES**

23. "It is a tale as old as time. It is a story about greed"

CONTINUED...



# APPENDIX (FINAL)

## FROM PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT EVIDENCE:

24. "No, not at all" (IRS Agent admitting his tracing method proved nothing)

25. FBI charts totaling 99% and 104%

26. "I don't know its error rate" (Government's blockchain expert on his own methodology)

27. The missing column hiding Storm's "Yes" answer on crypto investments

28. Messages 4 days apart presented as consecutive conversation

29. T-shirt from 2019 used as evidence for 2020-2022 conspiracy

30. Journalist's question presented as defendant's admission of intent

**DISCLAIMER:** This satirical piece is based on actual quotes from court documents in United States v. Roman Storm. The frying pan thing is real. We wish it weren't.

# THE END