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When the Fraud Stands Tall: A Football Triumph Story Turns Dark

By Daniel Libit

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Few narrative tropes captivate the media more than an athlete overcoming personal adversity through excellence on the field. It's a timeless formula—one that wins over audiences, earns journalism awards, and, when the drama runs deep enough, can even catch Hollywood's eye.

Cameron Colvin embodied that story, at least for a while.

A five-star wide receiver at California's storied De La Salle High School, under legendary coach Bob Ladouceur, Colvin was among the nation's top-ranked

college football(<https://www.sportico.com/t/college-football/>) recruits when he committed to the University of Oregon in 2004. He joined a celebrated incoming freshman class that included several of his high school teammates.

Colvin stood out not just for his athletic talent but for the string of personal tragedies he had endured up to that point. His father, John, died in 1992 of a morphine overdose—an event that led to criminal charges against Colvin's mother, Veronica, who was accused of poisoning him. Her prosecution ended in a mistrial in 1997, but she died of a stroke five years later, leaving her 15-year-old son orphaned.

Tragedy again struck two years later. Just days before they were due to report to Oregon for training camp, Colvin's best friend, teammate and fellow Ducks commit Terrance Kelly was fatally shot while sitting in a car.

Colvin's perseverance through these hardships captured media attention and was eventually portrayed in the major motion picture, *When the Game Stands Tall*.

"Those experiences have always been my motivation to succeed and live my life the right way," Colvin

told(<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2014/08/11/former-de-la-salle-star-cameron-colvin-pleased-that-movie-is-telling-his-story/>)

a California newspaper upon the film's release.

Colvin's post-football life seemed even more remarkable: Following a brief pro career, he remerged as a self-made billionaire and philanthropist—the ultimate Hollywood-style comeback. Or so he claimed.

But beneath the branding and bravado was a different story, told through a decade-long trail of lawsuits resulting in well over \$10 million in judgments against him. Together, they not only undercut Colvin's claims of financial success, but show a persistent pattern

of his duplicitous dealings with employees, landlords, business partners and paramours alike.

During a deposition in one of those lawsuits, Colvin, rather curiously, asked the lawyer interrogating him what he had discovered when researching Colvin's other **legal(<https://www.sportico.com/t/legal/>)** entanglements.

"That you are a criminal and that you defrauded multiple people and that you are probably going to prison," the lawyer replied.

Colvin is currently being investigated by federal authorities, according to multiple witnesses—or their attorneys—who have spoken with the FBI or U.S. attorney's office in Arizona over the past year. A spokesperson for the Department of Justice, which typically does not confirm or deny active investigations, did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Colvin did not respond to requests for an interview or a list of questions sent last week to him, an attorney who represents him and a PR person recently retained through another of his lawyers. On Saturday, he shared a video to his Instagram story featuring the quote: "When they can't break your character, they'll try to destroy your reputation. Stay unbothered."

Everybody's All-American

When the Game Stands Tall, starring Jim Caviezel, Laura Dern and Michael Chiklis, premiered in August 2014. The film, an adaptation of a 2003 book by the same name, would go on to earn \$30.1 million at the box office. It chronicles De La Salle's legendary 151-game win streak under Ladouceur from 1992 to 2004. It also depicted the off-field struggles of his players, including Colvin—portrayed by actor Ser'Darius Blain—who, in one poignant scene, is visited by his coach when his mother is dying. In another,

Terrance Kelly (Stephan James) encourages Colvin to commit to Oregon—a decision Colvin initially resists, only to reverse days before Kelly’s tragic murder.

Colvin had an effective but unremarkable stint at Oregon under head coach Mike Bellotti, playing 38 games across four seasons and finishing with nine touchdowns and 892 receiving yards. His senior year was cut short following the two best performances of his career—games with 136 and 74 receiving yards—when he shattered his ankle on Oct. 13, 2007, against Washington State. The injury confounded what was already a long-shot bid for the **NFL**(<https://www.sportico.com/t/nfl/>).

Once again, it seemed like the perfect setup for a redemptive second act—one ESPN.com **captured**(https://www.espn.com/nfl/draft08/columns/story?columnist=chadiha_jeffri&id=3354379).

in an April 2008 story. Five days after that piece ran, Colvin signed with the **San Francisco 49ers**(<https://www.sportico.com/t/san-francisco-49ers/>) as an undrafted free agent, but never played a regular season game. In 2011, he played for the Arizona Rattlers in the Arena Football League and the Las Vegas Locomotives in the UFL—both now-defunct leagues—marking the final chapter of his career as an athlete.

According to Colvin, however, this was just the beginning of a much grander story. As the country plunged into the Great Recession, Colvin began laying the foundation for what would become CamCo, a

self- (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250430205605/https://camcoholdin>) **described**

“global financial powerhouse” headquartered in Phoenix that recently boasted of managing \$4 billion in assets.

On social media, the doctorate-less @DrCamColvin documented his life as a hard-working, jet-setting, celebrity-adjacent high flyer: visiting pyramids in

Chichén Itzá(<https://www.instagram.com/p/CQufMGblMaM/>); gazing upon the Eiffel Tower in **Paris**(<https://www.instagram.com/p/Ba91RV4FuQy/>);

grinding in the gym in

Hong ([https://www.instagram.com/p/BKRcBYXBYEG/?](https://www.instagram.com/p/BKRcBYXBYEG/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

Kong [utm_source=ig_web_copy_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/BKRcBYXBYEG/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)).

; puffing a cigar on a **yacht**(https://www.instagram.com/p/C_TNlsYohGg/) in

Barcelona (caption: “Hustle like there’s no tomorrow”). There he was posing with fashion royalty Anna Wintour, design legend Giorgio Armani, *Shark Tank*’s

Kevin O’Leary(<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bo6dMPxlRly/>), and even

Spider-Man creator Stan Lee—who,

according(<https://www.instagram.com/p/BqGbKGwlqXY/>) to Colvin,

complimented him as a “real life super hero.”

Indeed, beyond cultivating his image as a wealthy tycoon, Colvin also established himself as a humanitarian. In 2017, he was appointed CEO and president of Linking Sports & Communities, an Arizona-based nonprofit founded by longtime Phoenix public relations consultant Denise Meridith, who personally selected Colvin as her successor. Colvin’s public profile rose even further in September 2020, at the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic, when he announced a landmark 20-year, \$200 million pledge to Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona.

“Generational wealth starts with creating more contributing members of society—and by wealth, we mean knowledge, health and self-actualization,” Colvin stated in a press release at the time.

Yet now, nearly five years later, the organization told *Sportico* it hasn’t received a single dollar from Colvin who, over that same span, has racked up millions of dollars in court-ordered damages from businesses and individuals accusing him of defrauding them. To date, the lion’s share of those judgments remain unpaid, court records show.

Billion Dollar Baby

Colvin's most recent alleged victim to come forward is Lori Miller, a New York woman who filed a federal RICO lawsuit against Colvin in March. Miller claims he exploited their romantic relationship from 2018 to 2023 by convincing her to loan him over \$1.1 million with false promises to pay her back double that amount.

By Miller's telling—and echoed by others who have sued him—Colvin's alleged scheme doesn't follow the classic, vanish-with-the-money playbook. Rather he is accused of stringing his victims along. He puts repayment plans in writing, blames delays on backend banking issues, offers extra compensation to make things right, agrees to new deadlines, signs amended settlements and repeatedly insists that their recompense is just around the corner. The cycle resets—often more than once, until they file suit, at which point he might try to offer yet another settlement or simply declines to respond, resulting in a number of default judgments.

Colvin's carefully curated image as a business mogul has already begun to unravel under oath. While being deposed in May 2023 as part of a lawsuit tied to a failed California real estate deal, Colvin admitted he personally had “no assets to my name.” Months later, he took the stand in a losing defense at trial, delivering testimony a judge, in ruling against him, would later describe as “not credible” and at times “directly impeached by reading his deposition.”

To some who knew him, this would all come as a shock.

“It is and it isn't,” said Bob Ladouceur, Colvin's former high school coach, who retired in 2014. The last time Ladouceur recalled seeing his former player was a few years earlier, when Colvin made an unannounced locker room appearance following a De La Salle road game in Las Vegas.

“When he was with us as an athlete, he was very quiet,” Ladouceur said. “He did all the things we asked him to do, was very athletic but he didn't say much. And when he came to [the game in Las Vegas] he appeared in our locker room and kind of surprised me. He

was all dressed up in real slick clothes like he had stepped out of *GQ*. So, I started quizzing him, ‘Where have you been and what have you been up to?’ And he was pretty evasive, not giving a lot of information. He did mention he was buying up businesses. I asked him what kind of businesses, and he was kind of hesitant to reveal anything.”

So how did Colvin supposedly go from barely tasting the NFL to amassing billions in assets—all within a decade?

In a 2019

interview(<https://resident.com/interviews/2019/03/01/cameron-colvin>)

with *Resident*, a luxury lifestyle magazine, Colvin described his “big break” as purchasing up real estate in San Francisco in 2008, just as the market was crashing—an investment he claimed ultimately returned “a hundred times over.”

During the May 2023 deposition, California lawyer Michael Hellman questioned Colvin about a proposed transaction in which Colvin and a business associate had agreed to acquire a 20-acre parcel of land from Hellman for \$3.25 million. Despite Colvin asserting that CamCo Commercial—the flagship entity at the helm of his business ventures—controlled assets valued at \$4 billion, he was somehow struggling to come up with the few million dollars to complete the deal.

When Hellman pressed for details on how CamCo had accumulated its supposedly vast fortune, Colvin explained that he had launched his enterprise with \$250 million in letters of credit, which he claimed to have purchased for as little as \$10,000. Over the span of six years, he said, that initial sum had grown into a 10-figure asset portfolio. He attributed his inability to close the purchase to a bank’s refusal to release \$300 million in cash, although he offered no definitive explanation for the alleged hold. Nevertheless, Colvin maintained that he remained committed to acquiring the property.

Hellman was incredulous, noting that Colvin had already racked up a number of fraud judgments against him, including one in Arizona that triggered an outstanding warrant

for his arrest.

“Do you really think that I’m stupid enough to enter into another agreement with you under those circumstances?” Hellman said.

A few weeks earlier, the local ABC affiliate in Phoenix ran an investigative **story(<https://www.abc15.com/news/local-news/investigations/az-employees-business-partners-say-ex-nfl-player-owes-them-money>)**

about Colvin, reporting, among other things, that he had not paid any of the \$200 million to the local Goodwill. After the story came out, Colvin took to Twitter, now X, to **dismiss(<https://x.com/DrCamColvin/status/1652154747301027842>)** it as a “hit piece,” adding that he was confident his lawyers would answer to the claims “at the appropriate time and in the appropriate forum.”

The news report marked a rare instance of Colvin facing media scrutiny, in contrast to the largely uncritical coverage that has consistently propped him up since *When the Game Stands Tall* was released.

He Got Game

In 2017, Colvin authored a self-help book, *Neverstop*, drawing on his personal experience of overcoming tragedy to elucidate “12 Principles of Success.”

“Most people will be sidetracked by money or immediate pleasure,” Colvin wrote in the book’s final page. “Very soon, you will end up on multiple dead ends. Importantly, even if your material needs are met, you will feel an emptiness inside that you will need to fill.”

Soon, Colvin made the rounds on podcasts, radio and TV shows to impart **his(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4n6sCLe7JHo>)** purported **expertise(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ys1YCLwHA_w)** on how to become, as one interviewer called him, a “

wildly successful
entrepreneur

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fzo4epwdAkQ>)

In 2018, Colvin appeared as a guest judge on *Entrepreneur* magazine’s *Shark Tank* knock-off show, *Elevator Pitch*, in which he

criticized(<https://therokuchannel.roku.com/watch/4bd3632dcec552038fc15a>)

one contestant hawking a skateboard concept for showing up in an expensive belt.

“I mean, as an entrepreneur, when you walk into a room and are asking for money, you should have left the belt at home,” Colvin opined to his fellow judges. “And that’s just a sign to me [about] priorities. If you are going to build your business, you build it, and you put every dollar you have, yourself, into your business. I’m just talking from experience.”

Later that year, Colvin was

featured(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4CGIWq8ogQ>) in an online spinoff of CNBC’s *Secret Lives of the Super Rich*, where the cameras followed him deliberating over which expensive yacht he would rent for an upcoming vacation.

It was around that time that Lori Miller says she first met Colvin at the five-star Baccarat Hotel in Manhattan, where he began pursuing her romantically.

According to Miller’s lawsuit, Colvin introduced himself as a “successful businessman and former NFL player who had temporarily fallen on hard times.” Over the next five years, she claims, he repeatedly asked her for loans to support various ventures, assuring her each time that he would repay the money. Miller says she agreed and often transferred the funds through Venmo or Zelle. In 2023, alone, she says she transferred \$525,000 to him.

Miller also alleges that throughout their time dating, Colvin concealed the fact that he was simultaneously involved with another woman, Maria Panayiota Frangos—someone

she believed he was either married to or had a child with.

In the May 2023 deposition, Colvin told Hellman that he was not legally married but had been in a decade-long relationship with a woman he did not identify. (*Sportico* could find no records of a marriage certificate for Colvin in either the state of Nevada or Maricopa County, Ariz.)

A former CamCo employee, who spoke to *Sportico* on the condition of anonymity, said Colvin had referenced having both a wife and at least one child in conversations with them. The former employee said it was their understanding that Colvin and his family had recently been living in Malibu, Calif.

Miller has named Frangos a co-defendant, along with CamCo Commercial Inc. and five other business entities Colvin is believed to own, as well as another company—Asea Swim LLC—that lists Frangos as its managing member in filings with the Arizona secretary of state. Asea Swim LLC’s organizer and statutory advisor is Ricky Lyons, a known business associate of Colvin’s and a co-defendant in the lawsuit filed by Hellman.

A thorough review of his social media channels could find no photos or references to Frangos or children. However, a September 2017 Facebook

post([https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1442100415827176&id=198827833487780&set=a.859670264070197)

[fbid=1442100415827176&id=198827833487780&set=a.859670264070197](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1442100415827176&id=198827833487780&set=a.859670264070197))

by the Arizona State University police, thanking Frangos for donating to a hurricane relief effort, included a note of gratitude for “Cameron,” who was described as her “fiancé.”

On her LinkedIn, Frangos says she is a current graduate student in psychology at Pepperdine University, which is based in Malibu. She did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Miller’s lawsuit alleges that in September 2024, Colvin executed a settlement agreement in which he pledged to pay her \$1.6 million to avert impending litigation. However, after

he failed to honor the terms, Miller initiated legal action in March 2025, joining a growing cohort of civil claimants. She contends his attempts to procure money from her amounted to racketeering, in addition to fraud, and is now seeking no less than \$5 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

Following the filing, Colvin agreed to a revised settlement, promising payment by July 25. When that deadline came and went without payment, the case was reactivated, according to court records. Miller's attorney, Jeffrey Benjamin, told *Sportico* his client has been providing evidence and information to federal investigators, but declined further comment.

The Blind Side

Miller is not the first woman to accuse Colvin of financial deception.

In 2020, two different women in separate jurisdictions sued him for breach of contract and unjust enrichment, with both cases ending in judgments against him.

Anna Hartman said she began dating Colvin in early 2011, when he was playing for the Arizona Rattlers. In a phone interview, Hartman recalled that her mother was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer shortly after they met, and she felt a bond with Colvin as someone who had lost his parents.

According to the lawsuit she later filed, Colvin borrowed nearly \$60,000 from her between early 2012 and late 2014. Hartman said the money went toward his rent, daily expenses and a business coach. She also co-signed a lease for him. Over the years, Hartman said he repeatedly promised to repay her, often claiming he was on the verge of closing a major real estate deal.

"It took me a long time to sue him—mostly because I was embarrassed, ashamed, and didn't think I had any legal recourse," Hartman said.

After she hired an attorney in October 2020, Hartman says Colvin, through his lawyer, agreed to pay her \$58,000 within two weeks. When he failed to follow through, Hartman filed suit. Colvin never responded to her civil complaint, resulting in a default judgment in her favor. She said she has not received any money, but relayed her story earlier this year to the FBI.

Morgan Petersen-Munoz, a Las Vegas woman, filed a lawsuit in Nevada district court against Colvin and CamCo Commercial, alleging that Colvin defrauded her out of \$26,100 under the pretense of an investment promising a \$70,000 return within four to six weeks. They also dated, according to a dossier of documents Petersen-Munoz shared with *Sportico*—including emails and text messages she claimed were with Colvin, now saved in her phone as “FUx2.”

Their relationship appears to have overlapped at least in part with Colvin’s relationships with both Miller and Frangos, though Petersen-Munoz said she did not believe she and Colvin were exclusive. Declining to elaborate further, she stated she had already shared a similar dossier with law enforcement months earlier.

The messages between Petersen-Munoz and Colvin reflect a relationship that shifted from romantic—marked by sexting and conversations about moving in together—to financial, with Colvin repeatedly making monetary requests. These ranged from smaller asks, such as \$60 to pay for his internet bill in May 2019, to larger ones, including a January 2020 plea for \$7,500 to fund a charitable ski trip for 100 children, presumably as part of Linking Sports & Communities.

“Babbbbyyy! I need your help and I’m sorry for asking,” Colvin wrote in one message. “I’m sending 100 kids to the snow tomorrow and I didn’t transfer the money into my charity account before I left.”

In April 2019, Colvin texted her: “Do you ever invest in anything....I always have smaller openings in my deals. I could flip anything for you.”

On May 26, 2019, just two weeks after asking her to cover his monthly internet bill, the documents show, Colvin formally presented the investment opportunity. In a proposal on CamCo Commercial letterhead, the deal, “focus(ed) on the [sic] enhancing our assets domestically with our Latin American associates,” would convert her \$15,000 investment to \$50,000. He later encouraged her to contribute an additional \$11,100, projecting a total return of \$70,000.

“I don’t do business with people I’m close to,” Colvin wrote. “But I want you to win and make the moves you want. ... When you get this documentation from me. Don’t look at me differently lol. It’s on some super extra balling shit ... It is very confidential and sensitive information.”

In February 2020, Colvin emailed her that the “capital [was] ready” and would be deposited into her bank account within three to five days—but the funds never arrived. He later cited the pandemic and market volatility as causes for the delay, yet continued to assure her the money was coming.

Colvin ultimately signed a settlement agreement in August 2020, promising to repay \$50,000 by the following month to avoid legal action. When he missed that deadline, the agreement was amended to \$55,000—another obligation he failed to meet.

In February 2022, a Nevada judge granted Petersen-Munoz summary judgment and awarded her \$96,923. The court determined that Colvin had misrepresented both the investment and his professional credentials—including his having claimed, at one point, managing \$15 billion—and had breached multiple settlement agreements.

According to the records she provided to *Sportico*, Petersen-Munoz received an email in November 2024 from “CamCo Compliance” proposing a new “more lucrative solution.” Rather than a refund, her original \$26,000 would be converted into a loan with a “potential” return of \$125,000, contingent on her dropping the lawsuit. She declined

and reiterated her request for repayment. In response, CamCo asked her to sign yet another settlement agreement earlier this year.

She told *Sportico* that she has still not been paid.

The Set-Up

According to court records, Colvin's legal troubles date back to at least 2015, when he was sued by a company called Complete Game, LLC. The lawsuit alleged that Colvin, through his company at the time, Lushh Estates LLC, failed to return a \$30,000 holding fee tied to a lease agreement for a proposed development he claimed to be building in Scottsdale. That would be the first in a string of lawsuits Colvin lost after failing to respond or appear in court..

In November 2018, Colvin signed a loan agreement with an Arizona-based company, Viridis Group, under which he received \$156,000 in exchange for repaying \$206,000 within 14 days. According to a lawsuit, after repeated requests, Colvin issued a check nearly four months later—but it bounced. He later promised to resolve the matter by July 15, 2019, but failed to do so. He then asked for an extension to Sept. 9, yet again did not pay. Viridis filed suit in October and ultimately secured a six-figure default judgment.

Colvin was not deterred.

Roughly a month after Viridis sued, Colvin met with The Solanna Group—a family-owned real estate investment firm—to discuss the possibility of CamCo joining its 550-acre, multibillion-dollar development project that would include a permanent pro soccer stadium for the USL's Phoenix Rising and theme park. Following that meeting, CamCo, through a new entity called CamCo Akimel, agreed to sublease 15.81 acres for the construction of a temporary soccer facility for the Rising as well as a restaurant.

According to court records, Colvin pitched Solanna on leading the entire development, claiming he could finance the \$2 billion project with funds he already controlled. Under the sublease, CamCo Akimel agreed to pay \$11.03 million in rent through a three-part installment plan. In a separate agreement in January 2020, CamCo was also granted rights to manage and develop the remaining land—conditional on a \$2 million up-front capital contribution.

Solanna said the partnerships were formed based on CamCo’s representations that it had already completed billions of dollars in real estate transactions.

After missing a critical deadline, Colvin maintained he had the necessary funds and produced a letter, supposedly from his “wealth management team,” asserting that he did, indeed, have control over \$2.5 billion in assets. On March 10, 2020, he stated he would be “moving capital” into Solanna’s accounts—yet no funds ever arrived.

Months later, amid continued delays, CamCo submitted another letter committing to pay both the \$11 million sublease and the \$2 million contribution by Sept. 1, 2020. That deadline, too, came and went.

“Remarkably, defendants’ misrepresentations do not end there,” the Solanna Group later explained in a civil complaint. “Indeed, from August 2020 to December 2020, defendants made repeated assertions that wire transfers were ‘being processed,’ that funding had been ‘approved,’ that Defendants were simply waiting on ‘wire statuses,’ and that Defendants would send confirmation ‘shortly.’”

In May 2021, Solanna extended the deadline again, giving Colvin until month’s end to deposit \$1 million. That payment never materialized either. According to Solanna, the drawn-out cat-and-mouse game spanned 16 months and consumed more than 2,000 employee hours.

In June 2021, Solanna filed suit against Colvin and CamCo. Commercial, alleging fraud, negligent misrepresentation and promissory estoppel. Four months later, after Colvin

failed to respond, an Arizona superior court entered a default judgment, ordering him to pay \$7.36 million and voiding the CamCo agreements due to fraud.

Exactly one year after Solanna's lawsuit, a UAE-based firm, Acme Global DMCC, filed its own complaint against CamCo over a \$60,000 loan issued three years prior. That case also ended in a default judgment: The court ordered CamCo to pay more than \$145,000 in damages and attorneys' fees.

In May 2023, CamCo faced yet another legal setback when the owner of its Scottsdale office space sued for unpaid rent, alleging over \$274,000 in arrears on a lease extending through mid-2027. The case concluded with another default judgment, ordering CamCo to pay \$1.29 million, plus attorneys' fees.

The Hustler

Though he has repeatedly failed to meet financial obligations, Colvin has managed to maintain a relatively polished online presence—one that, nonetheless, has raised its own set of questions.

Colvin's **Wikipedia entry**(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameron_Colvin) currently features a warning banner at the top, noting that it appears to have been “extensively edited by the subject or by someone connected to the subject.” Archived versions of the page show numerous references to his legal issues being removed in recent years.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, Colvin has been accused of exploiting labor to cultivate his brand.

In May 2022, a recent college graduate named Tyler Johnson was hired as a digital media specialist for another one of Colvin's ventures, Rise Above Development. Over the following months, Johnson produced and managed social content for several of Colvin's

entities—including his personal Instagram and CamCo Commercial’s Facebook page—in addition to doing front-end web design for Linking Sports & Communities.

In a phone interview, Johnson recalled being impressed by CamCo’s sleek, modern office in downtown Scottsdale—a setting that gave him confidence in the company’s success.

“I figured anyone who could afford that kind of office space must have money,” Johnson said.

Colvin also made a positive first impression.

“Speaking with him he seems very genuine,” Johnson said. “It seems like he knows what he is doing and talking about—he gives off that persona well.”

Aside from producing digital content, Johnson said he helped make brand guides for a number of Colvin’s product and business concepts, including those for “NeverStop” coffee company.

According to an offer letter later filed in court, Johnson was to be paid \$23.00 per hour. However, his first paycheck fell short, both in total amount and in the hours accounted for, the lawsuit alleges. After raising the discrepancy, he was assured the missing wages would be added to his next check. The following day, Johnson said Colvin told him a “bank issue” would cause further delay. When two checks eventually arrived, Johnson was told via Slack to cash only one.

Johnson claims that delayed payments were a staff-wide concern. On Oct. 24, 2022, he says, Colvin held a company meeting and personally assured employees that all outstanding pay would be resolved by the end of the week—a promise he also made to Johnson directly. Around that time, Johnson says, Colvin had told the staff that, given the ongoing payment issues, they could now work from home..

The former employee, who also worked on digital projects, said they stopped getting paid after their first month on the job, but went on working without compensation for another six months.

By December 2022, Colvin offered to settle Johnson's unpaid wages along with a \$10,000 bonus—contingent on Johnson signing a separation and mutual release agreement. When Johnson proposed edits to the agreement's language, Colvin withdrew the offer. After Johnson retained legal counsel, Colvin upped the proposed payout to \$25,000. Johnson accepted and signed a draft settlement in February 2023. But after two months with no payment, Johnson filed a federal lawsuit in April. In January 2024, yet another default judgment was entered against Colvin.

Field of Dreams

Even as he struggled to pay his staff and cover rent, Colvin's ambitions showed no sign of slowing. Operating through another CamCo entity, he signed a contract with Michael Hellman in July 2022 to buy a vacant lot in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., with the stated intention of building a \$40 million luxury resort on the property.

The purchase agreement was officially structured between Hellman's company, Pootie Pie Properties, and a CamCo affiliate LLC managed by Ricky Lyons.

CamCo initially placed \$100,000 into escrow, court records show, but failed to make any additional payments, despite repeated assurances that further funds were forthcoming.

After Hellman re-listed the property at \$4.195 million, Colvin agreed to a settlement in which CamCo would purchase the land for \$5 million in exchange for a release of all claims against it. The settlement required CamCo to deposit \$945,000 into escrow the following day, which it did not.

Weeks later, both parties entered into a forbearance agreement offering Colvin two options: either pay \$5 million for the property to resolve all claims, or pay a \$2 million penalty to walk away from the deal. When that deadline also passed unmet, Pootie Pie Properties sued CamCo, Colvin and Lyons in California superior court, alleging fraud, deceit and breach of contract.

On May 23, 2023, Colvin was deposed by Hellman, who represented his company *pro se*, at his law offices in Santa Barbara.

Under oath, Colvin admitted the CamCo entity that was party to the real estate transaction had neither employees nor capital, and that Lyons was personally covering its expenses—including the legal fees associated with the lawsuit. (Lyons did not respond to text and email messages seeking comment.)

When asked how he afforded his living expenses, Colvin replied that CamCo Commercial paid him \$200,000 a year.

Or, as he clarified: “It does not pay me. It covers my expenses as an individual.”

On Aug. 29, 2023, a California judge ruled in favor of Hellman, ordering Colvin, Lyons and their businesses to pay \$2 million in damages, over \$250,000 in pre-judgment interest and approximately \$85,000 in attorneys’ fees. As in similar cases involving admitted fraud and deceit, the judgment is non-dischargeable through bankruptcy. However, with Colvin stating he has no real assets, Hellman and a number of the other prevailing plaintiffs may be left with little more than a hollow victory.

The Longest Yard

Despite the cloud hanging over his head, Colvin continues to promote a narrative of success and generosity. In recent weeks, he has

**claimed([https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cameron-colvin-b7074634_camco-s7356114455912464384-KgR2?](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cameron-colvin-b7074634_camco-s7356114455912464384-KgR2?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAE)
[utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAE](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cameron-colvin-b7074634_camco-s7356114455912464384-KgR2?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAE)**

to have secured \$2.1 billion for a new investment fund, and has

announced(<https://riseaboveep.com/racs-news-1/f/camco-launches-new-pet-products-investment-division>)

the launch of CamCo's new pet products division.

Last year, Colvin reasserted his intentions to give \$200 million away to charity, this time as part of an educational gift fund in honor of his parents. Citing "initial delays due to economic conditions in 2020," he framed the contribution as a renewed philanthropic effort. In a LinkedIn

post(https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cameron-colvin-b7074634_colvinfamilyfoundation-activity-7208191874342277120-onW-/)

, Colvin reflected on the virtues of his late father, who died at the age of 39, describing him as having left "a legacy of love and invaluable skills that I will forever hold dear."

The younger Colvin turned 39 this year.

In light of the allegations against him, Denise Meridith, the Linking Sports & Communities founder, now worries what role she may have inadvertently played.

"I feel like maybe I created a monster," she said in a recent phone interview, recalling the advice she had given him years ago. "There are a couple of times I talked to him about public speaking, he was very imposing, he is a big football player, and he didn't smile. So, I used to tell him, 'You need to smile,' because he is a very good looking guy."

After handing off her charity to Colvin in 2017, Meridith said she's only seen him a handful of times—most recently at CamCo's Scottsdale offices a few years back. She said

Colvin never asked her for money and “did seem sincere” in his desire to help kids and those less fortunate. Beyond that, she’s left with questions.

“I am disappointed, because he has everything he should need,” Meridith said. “He is good-looking, presentable, does know how to give a talk, and he has a great life story.”

He sure did.

(This story has corrected the spelling of Mike Bellotti.)

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