

# Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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## Former Hotel Controller Sentenced to Eight Years for Embezzlement

The former financial controller of a hotel in downtown Los Angeles has been sentenced to eight years in prison for embezzling almost \$626,000 from the business, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jamal Zoukari (dob 9/21/57) of Palm Springs was sentenced yesterday after pleading no contest to five felony counts, including grand theft by embezzlement, computer data fraud and felony tax evasion. The defendant also admitted enhancements of white collar crime and excessive taking in the negotiated plea.

The court today issued a restitution order requiring Zoukari to repay his employer the \$625,975 that he stole, plus 10 percent for each year from the date of loss.

Zoukari stole the money from a corporate business account from June 2009 until December 2015, when an internal investigation by the Millennium Biltmore Hotel uncovered the missing funds. He was arrested and charged on June 30, 2017.

Deputy District Attorney Scott D. Dominguez of the White Collar Crime Division prosecuted case BA458735.

The Los Angeles Police Department's Commercial Crimes Division and the Criminal Investigations Bureau of the California Franchise Tax Board investigated the case.

### [About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.