

16-11767

February 16, 2018

Honorable Christopher Alston
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
700 Stewart Street
Seattle, WA 98101

RECEIVED
Western District of Washington
at Seattle

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MARK L. HATCHER, CLERK
OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT

Dear Judge Alston,

I was an employee at Northwest Territorial Mint. I worked there for over 7 years before it went into bankruptcy and almost 2 years under Mr. Calvert, until I was laid off last year.

I must withhold my name, as I fear there would be retribution from Mr. Calvert in the form of a lawsuit if my identity was known. I have heard him make many such threats to me and those working around me and I believe he would carry them out. I guess this makes me a coward, but I still believe there are a few things you should know about the demise of this company. What we all have been told by Mr. Calvert, the managers he put in place and what he has posted on different web sites is a completely inaccurate and dishonest distortion of the facts.

I was hired when Northwest Territorial Mint was experiencing tremendous growth in all departments—bullion, online sales and custom minting alike. And while Ross Hansen ran the company, I was proud of the high-quality work we did and the innovative products we made. When I would speak with customers they would gush about our products and how cool they were.

Ross would constantly ask for our input on new designs and use us to market test them. We literally produced hundreds of new, innovative products every year (under Mr. Calvert there has not been one new product added to the inventory). And while Ross can be and a**hole, his anger was usually directed at those who produced an inferior product, gave bad customer service or didn't share his passion for our products. In fact, I think his main problem was that he was always at work or thinking about work. We would often get emails from him at all hours of the night and on holidays. Also, he didn't look the part of a CEO; opting to wear jeans and short-sleeved shirt to work every day and driving an older truck. I think his dogs were the only things he spent time on that weren't related to work.

Mr. Calvert is a dishonest bully (as are his staff and lawyers) and in my opinion has never worked to save this company. Or probably any other company. Since his first day, he has told us that we are all guilty of running a Ponzi scheme. He also forbade us to talk to Ross or Diane, which I have not done since they left, saying that it would be obstruction of justice and would cost us our jobs if he found out, or be a prison sentence if the FBI did. He also prohibited us from letting any customers or vendors talk to them either.

He repeatedly bragged that he has "fixed it" so that Ross is definitely going to jail and the only question would be which of the employees were going to go with him. He liked to brag that he has put other CEOs in jail and that as a trustee he could order the FBI to arrest us. These threats of criminal acts were devastating to our morale, causing many to quit.

When Mr. Calvert took over the company he immediately started laying off people (usually the most competent ones), closing down locations and destroying long-term relationships with good customers.

Most disturbing is that when he took over, Mr. Calvert immediately started liquidating the company's inventory of precious metals, including some that obviously belonged to our customers. He even had some local coin dealers come by and they left with boxes and boxes of metal, with little or no accounting. Meanwhile, I was instructed to tell customers that we didn't have their metals, nor could we provide an accounting.

Our Federal Way office, which housed our retail location and the majority of precious metals was completely empty of inventory and was vacated by the end of 2016. Our facility in auburn, called Bldg. B, mostly held millions of non-precious specialty coins, but there was one room in Bldg. B that held our gold and silver online coins and some bullion products. This room was completely liquidated last February (literally 2 van loads full). I was told by the manager there that most of the inventory was sold at a deep discount.

Mr. Calvert gets paid over \$500 an hour, his accounting staff gets hundreds of dollars and hour, the new CEO gets \$300,000 a year and the managers that would be loyal to him were given big raises. The rumor in the company was that Mr. Calvert gave bonuses of gold coins as an incentive for some of the top management to stay until the end. All of this and none of their efforts have been for the benefit of the company or the creditors. In fact, the management had the attitude of getting as much as they could before it all collapsed. I don't believe Mr. Calvert ever intended to save this company, only to work here long enough to burn through all the money.

This bankruptcy has been an emotional nightmare, with a new plan or scheme to save the company coming out almost every week. I've read on some web sites that some of the creditors are demanding an accounting. I would strongly recommend it, but I can tell you it will be difficult since the trustee has already thrown away many of the recent records.

I have been told that I might be owed money because of my vacation time and improper layoff notice, so I guess that makes me a creditor too. So as a creditor, I would object to the sale of what little of the company still exists.

Sincerely,
Concerned