



PRESS RELEASE

Google Employee Charged With Insider Trading

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District
of New York

Using the Alias "AlphaRaccoon," Google Employee Michele Spagnuolo Obtained More Than \$1.2 Million Trading on Polymarket on the Basis of Confidential Business Information

United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Jay Clayton, and Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), James C. Barnacle, Jr., announced today the unsealing of a complaint charging MICHELE SPAGNUOLO, a/k/a "AlphaRaccoon," a software engineer at Google, with commodities fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering arising from his scheme to misappropriate confidential information from his employer and use that information to place a series of profitable Google-related trades on a prediction market platform. SPAGNUOLO, who resides in Switzerland, was presented today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in the Southern District of New York.

"Today's charges reinforce a decades-old message: corporate insiders cannot use confidential business information to turn a profit in our markets," said U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton. "As alleged,

Spagnuolo violated the duties he owed to his employer and used Google's confidential business information to make more than \$1.2 million in trading profits on Polymarket. Insider trading compromises the integrity of our markets, and the American people want this greed-driven conduct investigated and prosecuted."

"Michele Spagnuolo allegedly abused his elevated access to confidential trends to place bets with nonpublic information and receive more than one million dollars in unlawful profits," said FBI Assistant Director in Charge James C. Barnacle, Jr. "The FBI remains dedicated to searching for fraudsters who betray their employer for personal financial gains."

As alleged in the Complaint unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:(1)

SPAGNUOLO is a software engineer at Google. In connection with his role, SPAGNUOLO had access to Google's internal data systems, including an internal software tool that provided him with access to confidential, nonpublic data. That software tool bore a banner that stated, in part, "Google Confidential" in red text. Indeed, SPAGNUOLO certified his understanding of various Google confidentiality and ethics policies. SPAGNUOLO created an account on Polymarket, which is a prediction marketplace, in May 2024. That account was known as "AlphaRaccoon." Shortly after accessing Google's internal information, SPAGNUOLO used the AlphaRaccoon account to place trades in various markets on Polymarket. In total, from on or about October 15, 2025, through on or about December 4, 2025, SPAGNUOLO used the AlphaRaccoon account to risk approximately \$2,754,092 on markets related to Google's internal information. Soon after Google's information was publicly announced, and the markets resolved, SPAGNUOLO's AlphaRaccoon account profited approximately \$1.2 million based on his use of inside information in connection with bets placed on Polymarket.

* * *

SPAGNUOLO, 36, an Italian citizen residing in Switzerland, is charged with one count of violating the Commodity Exchange Act, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison; one count of wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and one count of money laundering, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The maximum potential sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the judge.

Mr. Clayton praised the outstanding work of the FBI.

This case is being handled by the Office's Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Thomas Burnett, Ryan B. Finkel, and Allison Nichols are in charge of the prosecution.

1. [^](#)

As the introductory phrase signifies, the entirety of the text of the Complaint and the description of the Complaint set forth herein constitutes only allegations and every fact described should be treated as an allegation.

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Updated May 27, 2026

Attachment

[u.s. v. spagnuolo complaint.pdf](#) [PDF, 194 KB]

Topic

SECURITIES, COMMODITIES, & INVESTMENT FRAUD

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