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Veterinarian Gets 11 Years In Horse Doping Crackdown

By [Rachel Scharf](#) · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (July 11, 2022, 8:21 PM EDT) -- A former veterinarian was sentenced to 11 years in prison Monday after a Manhattan federal jury found him guilty of a nearly two-decade scheme to sell millions of dollars worth of homemade performance-enhancing drugs to elite racehorse trainers, including now-disgraced industry star Jorge Navarro.

U.S. District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil ordered Seth Fishman, 51, to pay a \$250,000 fine and forfeit \$13.5 million worth of proceeds from his illegal PED sales. He was also held jointly and severally liable for the \$25.8 million restitution order [previously entered](#) against Navarro.

Fishman was [convicted](#) in February of two counts of conspiracy to commit drug adulteration and misbranding. Jurors also found that he continued to engage in the illegal conduct after being arrested and released on bail.

"You used your training, knowledge and skill to sell illicit drugs intended to push animals beyond their actual capabilities," Judge Vyskocil told Fishman as she imposed the sentence Monday. "The only thing I can conclude from all the evidence at trial is that your motivation was greed."

Prosecutors alleged that over nearly 20 years, Fishman "concocted" and mass-produced novel PEDs designed to avoid detection in drug tests. With the help of his employee Lisa Giannelli, Fishman shipped his drugs to hundreds of professional horse trainers around the world, according to the government.

A jury [convicted Giannelli](#) of one count of conspiracy following a separate trial in May. She is scheduled to be sentenced in September.

"The sentence today sends a strong message that those looking to profit from the sale of illegal drugs intended to corruptly dope racehorses stand to face serious consequences for their crimes," Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said in a statement Monday.

Counsel for Fishman declined to comment following sentencing

Fishman and Giannelli were among more than 30 people [charged in 2020](#) after a years-long investigation that, according to prosecutors, uncovered widespread doping at every level of horseracing competitions worldwide. The probe ensnared veterinarians, drug distributors and horse trainers, including Navarro. The once-celebrated trainer [pled guilty](#) last summer to participating in the doping ring and was sentenced to five years in prison.

The government is represented by Sarah Mortazavi and Anden Chow of the [U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York](#).

Fishman is represented by Maurice H. Sercarz of [Sercarz & Riopelle LLP](#) and Marc Fernich of the [Law Office of Marc Fernich](#).

The case is U.S. v. Navarro et al., case number [1:20-cr-00160](#), in the [U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York](#).

--Additional reporting by Ivan Moreno. Editing by Peter Rozovsky.

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Marc Fernich

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Case Information

Case Title

[USA v. Navarro](#)

Case Number

[1:20-cr-00160](#)

Court

New York Southern

Nature of Suit

Date Filed

February 26, 2020

Law Firms

- [Law Office of Marc Fernich](#)
- [Sercarz & Riopelle](#)

Government Agencies

- [U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York](#)
- [U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York](#)

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