

GTA

# Toronto jeweller linked to Ryan Wedding may have hidden ‘immense wealth’ from bail sureties, judge notes as defence slams error in U.S. allegations

Rolan Sokolovski “seemingly managed to hide from his sureties his involvement in the transfer of enormous sums of money,” said Justice Peter Bawden.

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Rolan Sokolovski, left, is accused of laundering money on behalf of ex-Olympic snowboarder and accused drug lord Ryan Wedding, right.

U.S. Department of Justice

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By Calvi Leon Staff Reporter

A Toronto jeweller accused of laundering money for alleged [drug lord Ryan Wedding](#) appears to have hidden “enormous sums” from the very people he’s arguing should be responsible for his bail, a judge suggested in a series of probing comments in court on Wednesday.

Superior Court Justice Peter Bawden’s first concern, he said at [Rolan Sokolovski’s bail hearing on U.S. charges](#), is that he “seemingly managed to hide from his sureties his involvement in the transfer of enormous sums of money.”

The other, the judge continued, is “there remains some amount of undisclosed, immense wealth held in cryptocurrency accounts that would be potentially available to Mr. Sokolovski if he had the freedom to access it.”

Sokolovski, 37, is among several Canadians [facing extradition](#) to the United States as part of a sprawling investigation into a billion-dollar-a-year drug empire allegedly run by Wedding, a Canadian former Olympic snowboarder.



Rolan Sokolovski, owner of Toronto-based Diamond Tsar, is accused of being a chief money launderer for Wedding.

Ontario Superior Court Exhibit

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Prosecutors accuse Sokolovski of using [his business, Diamond Tsar, as a front](#) to launder hundreds of millions of dollars in cryptocurrency and luxury assets for Wedding and other members of the criminal enterprise — one authorities say is

linked to dozens of murders.

Sokolovski has pledged \$2 million to secure his release, in addition to the combined \$1.6 million posted by his four sureties. Their identities are protected by a publication ban meant to ensure their safety.

The Crown is arguing Sokolovski must remain in custody because his extensive financial resources, his role in the drug ring, and the prospect of life in a U.S. prison make him an “extraordinary” flight risk and a danger to the public.

Defence lawyer Scott Fenton said that if Sokolovski wanted to flee the country, he would have already done so, before his arrest. He has a Canadian passport, “solid roots” in and around Toronto, and no “meaningful connections” outside of the country, the lawyer said.

Fenton pointed to a “very strong plan of supervision,” which includes four sureties, 24-7 monitoring through an ankle bracelet and house arrest.

“The odds of him successfully escaping are infinitesimal,” the lawyer said.



NEWS

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### ‘He’s hiding something’

Court has previously heard that Sokolovski appears to broker luxury items, such as watches and jewelry, for clients. His company has no employees and no physical storefront — corporate records trace back to a postal box.

However, the Crown has argued that his financial records do not add up.

Sokolovski declared [no personal income on his tax returns](#) for the last two years, and has made nominal income in years prior. Records show Sokolovski also did not draw a salary or dividends from Diamond Tsar for several years.

Despite all of this, court heard that Sokolovski managed to pay rent on a downtown Toronto penthouse condo, bought a used 2023 Porsche, made a large down payment on a \$4-million house and paid for an expensive trip to the Bahamas.

“What strikes me as inexplicable,” Bawden said on Wednesday, is that Sokolovski managed to secure a mortgage for more than \$2 million while having no personal income — “How does that happen?”

Sokolovski had testified that his lifestyle was funded by poker winnings and trading crypto, but he did not declare those earnings because [he thought they were not taxable in Canada](#). The proceeds are not cited in his affidavit, Bawden noted. (Gambling winnings are often tax-exempt in Canada; profits from crypto investments are not.)

During submissions, Crown attorney Heather Graham pointed to discrepancies between financial records and Sokolovski’s testimony — at times calling it untruthful, vague and “very evasive.”

Sokolovski testified he did not take a salary from his business, nor pay anyone a salary, Graham noted before asking: “What is this business for?”

The evidence about how he supports himself suggests “he’s hiding something” and does not align with his lifestyle and assets, the Crown continued.

All told, Graham said his testimony strongly supports the claim that Sokolovski funds his lifestyle by working for Wedding’s alleged drug trafficking organization.

Bawden noted that none of Sokolovski’s sureties seem to know anything about his business or his earnings. “Doesn’t that cause me to find that he was quite deliberately hiding some fairly significant activity from the people who were absolutely closest to him?”

### **Why Sokolovski wouldn’t ‘run for the hills’**

In countering the Crown’s argument, Fenton, the defence lawyer, noted two “markers of confidence” to show why Sokolovski would not flee while on bail.

First, court heard that in April 2025, seven months before his arrest, Sokolovski was detained in Chicago and questioned about his business by two FBI agents and an RCMP officer.

Sokolovski was released that same day but did not flee, Fenton said. Instead, his client contacted a U.S. attorney who told American authorities to go through him for further questions.

Second, Fenton said, Sokolovski booked a round trip to the Bahamas in October, weeks before his arrest, but was turned away by border officials upon entry. He returned to Toronto that same day.

“He’s been collared by an FBI agent and asked about the Wedding DTO (Drug Trafficking Organization) in Chicago in April, and now there’s this unusual event of being prevented to enter into the Bahamas with no explanation given,” Fenton said.

Someone intent on evading justice might well say, “Things are closing in on me. I’m going to head for the hills,” he said — but Sokolovski didn’t.

### **An ‘unreliable’ letter from the U.S. Department of Justice?**

In a letter filed in Ontario court, U.S. Department of Justice prosecutors alleged Sokolovski attempted to flee to the Bahamas to avoid law enforcement detection after authorities seized [a \\$13-million Mercedes-Benz in Miami that he had allegedly procured for Wedding](#). However, at the start of the bail hearing, the Crown said it would no longer rely on this claim.

Fenton described the letter as unreliable, calling the allegation about the car an “egregious mistake.” According to the FBI’s own statements, he said, the Mercedes was not seized until mid-November — after Sokolovski made plans to visit the Bahamas.

In that same letter, American prosecutors accuse Sokolovski of serving as the “de facto bank” for Wedding’s organization, with “tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars” in crypto and physical assets at his disposal.

Court records allege he regularly moved large amounts of money via the cryptocurrency “wallets” he managed with KuCoin — including to a hub tether wallet controlled by Wedding.



STAR EXCLUSIVE

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There is no proof of this, Fenton argued, and the Crown's allegation that Sokolovski was the primary money launderer is not supported by any evidence.

"This is all rhetorical flourish by the Attorney General of Canada," Fenton charged, accusing prosecutors of exaggerating the claims.

Among the accusations is that Sokolovski made a bejewelled necklace for one of Wedding's sicarios as a reward for that person's role in the assassination of the FBI's key witness.

While Sokolovski may have been asked to make such a necklace, Fenton said it's unknown if his client knew the purpose for which it was being made, or how it would be used.

That "bald statement," he said, has managed to become a false claim that Sokolovski is somehow connected to the murder of the key informant.

Bawden will decide whether or not to grant Sokolovski bail next month.



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