




# Toronto jeweller — called the ‘de facto bank’ to Ryan Wedding — appeals his bail denial. Judge found he ‘misled the court’ over finances

Rolan Sokolovski — described by American prosecutors as Ryan Wedding’s “de facto bank” — is wanted by the United States government on money laundering charges tied to the high-profile case against the former Olympic snowboarder.

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Rolan Sokolovski, shown left in an undated handout photo, is accused of laundering money on behalf of ex-Olympian and accused drug lord Ryan Wedding, right, who was arrested in Mexico in January.

U.S. Department of Justice

By Calvi Leon Staff Reporter

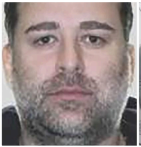
The Toronto jeweller and alleged money man for Ryan Wedding’s billion-dollar cocaine empire says he should be freed from custody, claiming [a judge denied his release based](#) on “unsubstantiated claims” and an unfair assessment of his proposed sureties.

[Rolan Sokolovski](#) — described by American prosecutors as Wedding’s “de facto bank” — is wanted by the United States government on money laundering charges tied to the high-profile case against [the former Olympic snowboarder](#). In an

application filed last month, Sokolovski's lawyer, Scott Fenton, asked the Court of Appeal for Ontario to quash the detention order and release his client ahead of his extradition hearing.

The court filing argues that Superior Court of Justice Peter Bawden ignored or misunderstood key evidence and "relied on unsubstantiated claims" in documents from U.S. prosecutors, causing the judge to "inflate both the seriousness of the allegations" against Sokolovski and concerns about undisclosed assets.

Bawden denied Sokolovski bail in February, ruling the Toronto jeweller had "considerable" incentive to flee because he faces a mandatory minimum 10-year sentence in U.S. prison.



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While he took no issue with the strength of the proposed \$3.2-million bail plan, Bawden had concerns about the reliability of Sokolovski and his proposed sureties. The judge found the jeweller "attempted to mislead the court with explanations for his finances that do not withstand scrutiny."

[The Crown](#) repeatedly pointed to discrepancies between Sokolovski's modest tax filings and his high-end lifestyle; prosecutors alleged the gap exists because his true income came from laundering hundreds of millions of dollars for Wedding through his jewelry business.

The Crown accuses Sokolovski of controlling vast drug proceeds held in cryptocurrency and physical assets — including [a \\$13-million Mercedes-Benz](#) he procured for Wedding.

Sokolovski's claim that his company made negligible profits despite yearly revenues exceeding \$30 million "was simply not credible," Bawden found. Instead of being open about his financial circumstances, the judge said the defendant "successfully concealed" his situation for years, including from his proposed sureties.

In his appeal, Fenton argued Bawden misconstrued evidence in drawing that conclusion. He said the fact that the proposed sureties weren't aware of his financial situation "before they were sureties is no reason to find them unsuitable," especially when the bail plan is strong.

The sureties didn't ask for details about Sokolovski's finances because, as they testified, it wasn't customary to do so, Fenton added.

Court had previously heard that Sokolovski declared no personal income on his past two tax returns, despite paying rent on a downtown Toronto penthouse condo while putting a down payment on a \$4-million house, buying a used 2023 Porsche and paying for a trip to the Bahamas.

Sokolovski himself had testified he funded his lifestyle [through poker winnings and trading cryptocurrency](#), but did not declare those earnings because he believed they were not taxable in Canada.



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Fenton argued Sokolovski's savings were enough to support his spending, and that the bail judge was wrong to assume Sokolovski had to resort to laundering money.

A Canadian citizen, Sokolovski has no criminal record and no connections outside of Canada, the application says.

In a federal U.S. indictment [unsealed late last year](#), authorities allege several Canadians helped Wedding track down and [murder a federal witness](#) in Colombia. "Unlike the other Wedding DTO defendants," Fenton wrote, Sokolovski "is not alleged to have been involved in the January 2025 murder of a co-operating witness."

Among his arguments, Fenton said the bail judge gave "insufficient weight" to his client's previous opportunities to flee, the substantial surety pledges and the conditions at Maplehurst Correctional Complex, where Sokolovski has been in custody since November 2025.

A bail review hearing is set for later this month.



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