# Federal Prosecutors Unveil Texts and Emails in Menendez Bribery Trial



### Menendez Bribery Trial Unfolds with Evidence Presented in Court

**Location:** Federal District Court, Manhattan

**Date:** May 28, 2024, updated May 29, 2024

**Key Figures:** Senator Robert Menendez, Nadine Menendez, Wael Hana, Fred Daibes

During the third week of Senator Robert Menendez’s bribery trial in Manhattan, federal prosecutors introduced text messages and emails between Menendez and his wife, Nadine Menendez. These communications, recorded between 2017 and 2018, are being used to build a case of a bribery scheme involving gold bullion, cash, and a luxury car.

The trial focuses on the alleged five-year conspiracy where Senator Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, reportedly accepted bribes to influence criminal prosecutions in New Jersey and steer aid and weapons to Egypt.

Nadine Menendez, who married the senator in October 2020, is also charged but her trial has been postponed due to her breast cancer diagnosis. Prosecutors have shown that Menendez supported her financially troubled during their relationship, with Wael Hana providing funds to save her New Jersey home from foreclosure.

In one exhibit, Jurors saw that Hana, who owned a halal meat certification company, obtained an exclusive contract with Egypt allegedly through Menendez’s influence. Hana and another businessman, Fred Daibes, are standing trial with Menendez, while a third businessman involved has pleaded guilty and will testify.

Text messages also revealed affectionate exchanges between Menendez and his wife, suggesting her close role in the alleged illicit activities. The defense argues the senator did nothing illegal, portraying him as unaware of his wife's financial dealings and highlighting his trauma over losing family wealth as a reason for keeping large sums of cash at home.

The trial continues as prosecutors lay out evidence to jurors, building the narrative of corruption and bribery.

**Keywords:** Menendez, bribery trial, federal court, Nadine Menendez, Wael Hana, Fred Daibes, New Jersey, Egypt, FBI.