

Bloomberg Wealth

Bill Gross Found in Contempt of Court, Gets Suspended Jail Time

By

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Bill and Amy Gross were found guilty of contempt of court for flouting a judge's order not to annoy their California neighbor with loud music. The couple was sentenced to 5 days in jail, which was suspended because of Covid-19.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Kimberly Knill ruled Friday that the Grosses flagrantly violated an order she issued last year prohibiting them from playing music too loudly in their backyard. The judge fined the couple \$1,000 each and ordered them to do two days of community service. They are also prevented from playing music outdoors at their ocean-front property.

The couple, both wearing masks, had no visible reaction to the ruling as it was read in the courtroom. But from the post-trial reaction of both Bill Gross and his neighbor, tech entrepreneur Mark Towfiq, the bad blood between the two sides remains.

“This trial was a travesty of justice and a black mark on the Orange County judicial system,” Bill Gross said in an emailed statement after the verdict. He accused the judge of being biased and said he would appeal.

“Gross still hasn’t learned his lesson,” Chase Scolnick, a lawyer for Towfiq and his wife, Carol Nakahara, said in an emailed statement. “He responded to his conviction not by accepting responsibility but by attacking and vilifying the trial judge, who is widely regarded as an excellent and fair jurist.”