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CORRUPTION CRIMINAL OFFENCES AND OFFENCES RELATED TO CORRUPTION: CRIMINAL LAW SIGNIFICANCE OF DISTINGUISHING THEM AS TYPES

ANASTASIYA BILOBRAN, student

ALLA I. RADU, Associate Professor, PhD in Philology, Language Adviser
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

One of the defining characteristics of the 21st century is the negative phenomenon of corruption. Its scale and forms of manifestation vary depending on the legal system of the state and the degree of interest of the authorities in serving the public interest or in using power for personal enrichment. In Ukraine, the process of democratic change is accompanied by a complex reform of political, economic, and legal relations. An important element of this complex process is the effective prevention and counteraction to corruption.

The purpose of this research paper is to clarify the difference between corruption criminal offenses and corruption-related offenses as separate categories of crimes. In this research paper I shall examine their legal essence, common and distinctive features, and the impact of such a division on the process of qualifying crimes, sentencing and combating corruption.

At first, it is worth defining the concept of corruption. Article 1 of **the Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Corruption”** defines corruption as the use of official powers by officials to obtain an unlawful benefit or acceptance of such a benefit or acceptance of a promise/offer of such a benefit for themselves or other persons, or, accordingly, a promise/offer or provision of an unlawful benefit to the said person or, at their request, to other individuals or legal entities in order to induce this person to unlawfully use. At the same time, Article 3 of the Law provides a clear list of persons (positions held) who may be subjects of corruption and who are subject to this law [3].

It is necessary to point out that in Article 1 of the Law, the legislator distinguishes between a corruption offense and an offense related to corruption. **A corruption offense** is an act containing signs of corruption committed by a person referred to in part one of Article 3 of the Law, for which the law establishes criminal, disciplinary and/or civil liability. **A corruption-related offense** is an act

that does not contain signs of corruption but violates the requirements and prohibition established by the Law, committed by a person referred to in part one of Article 3 of this Law, for which the law establishes criminal, administrative, disciplinary and/or civil liability.

The Ukrainian criminal legislation does not have a systematic approach to defining criminal corruption offenses and liability for them. In particular, such crimes are not singled out in a separate section of the Criminal Code of Ukraine [2]. In addition, the Criminal Code of Ukraine lacks a clear definition of the concept of “corruption crime”, and its content is disclosed by listing the relevant acts in Article 45. According to the note to this article, corruption crimes include offenses under Articles 191, 262, 308, 312, 313, 320, 357, 410 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, as well as crimes under Articles 210, 354, 364, 364-1, 365-2, 368-2, 369-2 of this Code.

The presence of a list of corruption criminal offenses in the current law on criminal liability has a number of legal advantages:

- 1) grouping of norms is an additional factor in resolving the issue of criminal law qualification of such offenses;
- 2) it helps to provide their correct legal assessment and distinguish them from other types of criminal offenses;
- 3) it will help to ensure criminal law restrictions for corruption criminal offenses and criminal offenses related to corruption.

The problem of criminalization of corruption offenses is multifaceted, and therefore its various aspects are reflected in many scientific works on criminal liability for such violations. In particular, these issues have been studied by P. Andrushko, O. Dudorov, O. Zhytnyi, V. Kyrychko, M. Melnyk, V. Navrotskyi, V. Nastiuk, V. Osadchyi, A. Savchenko, V. Tiutiugin, M. Khavroniuk, N. Yarmysh, O. Yaroshenko, V. Burdin. For instance, P. Andrushko is a professor at the department of Criminal Law Policy and Criminal Law at the Educational and Research Institute of Law of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. One of his key research papers in the field of corruption is devoted to the concept and typology of corruption criminal offenses [1].

Summing up, corruption remains one of the greatest challenges of modern society, negatively affecting all spheres of state and public life. In Ukraine, combating corruption is an important component of democratic transformations within the reform of political, economic, and legal relations. In qualifying corruption unlawful acts and determining the damage they cause, law enforcement officers must rely on the legislator's understanding of the social phenomenon of corruption and the qualification of criminal offenses related to corruption.

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LEGAL NATURE OF A TRADE SECRET AS A FORM OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

YULIA BILOUS, student

KHRYSTYNA KMETYK-PODUBINSKA, Associate Professor, PhD in Law,
Scientific Adviser

LILIA KUZNETSOVA, Associate Professor, PhD in Philology, Language Adviser
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Problem statement. At the current stage of economy and innovative development, ensuring competitiveness and achieving the goals of businesses is greatly connected with the formation of an effective intellectual property management system. In this context, the importance of trade secret as a tool for ensuring competitive advantages of businesses is increasing. The growing importance of trade secrets in ensuring the motivation of companies to innovate, increasing their profitability, pays our attention to the study of some theoretical aspects of this issue.

Objectives. The objectives of the research are to clarify the legal nature of trade secrets, to analyze their substantive characteristics and place in the system of intellectual property objects. The study aims to provide a clearer understanding of trade secret's legal status, highlight its main features, and offer recommendations for improving legal certainty and harmonization in both national and international contexts.

Methods. Among the most fundamental methods, which help greatly to explore the topic of the scientific work are: analysis and synthesis, ascent from abstract to concrete, scientific description, theoretical generalization, induction and deduction, clarifying the substantive characteristics of trade secret and comparing it with other categories.

Results. Trade secrets encompass both technical information, such as information concerning manufacturing processes, pharmaceutical test data, designs and drawings of computer programs, and commercial information, such as distribution methods, lists of suppliers and clients, and advertising strategies. A trade secret may also be made up of a combination of elements, financial information, formulas, recipes and source codes.

In the legislation of Ukraine, a trade secret is considered as an object of intellectual property rights. According to the Civil Code of Ukraine, a trade secret is referred to as confidential information, and must have such characteristics: it is information that is secret; it is unknown and not easily accessible to persons who usually deal with such type of information to which it belongs; it has commercial value; it has been the subject of adequate measures to maintain its secrecy, taken