



The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do about It

By J. C. Sharman

World Bank Publications. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 240 pages. Dimensions: 9.9in. x 6.9in. x 0.8in. Billions in corrupt assets, complex money trails, strings of shell companies and other spurious legal structures. These form the complex web of subterfuge in corruption cases, behind which hides the beneficial owner, the puppet master and beneficiary of it all. Linking the beneficial owner to the proceeds of corruption is notoriously hard. With sizable wealth and resources on their side, they exploit transnational constructions that are hard to penetrate and stay aggressively ahead of the game. Nearly all cases of grand corruption have one thing in common. They rely on corporate vehicles, legal structures such as companies, foundations, and trusts to conceal ownership and control of tainted assets. *The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It* takes these corporate vehicles as its angle of investigation. It builds upon cases, interviews with investigators, corporate registries and financial institutions, as well as a mystery shopping exercise that provides factual evidence of a criminal practice. This approach is used to understand the nature of the problem and design policy recommendations to facilitate the investigative process...



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