This book is replete with fascinating judicial decisions where the underlying factual situations were absolutely ripe for the introduction of a business bribe.

The bribes in these commercial cases, it turns out, are numerous and generous. They are doled out in the form of cash, stock, shares of future profits, vouchers, stock options, wire transfers, luxury golf vacations, all-inclusive trips to Las Vegas, and a wide range of other financial incentives. These dark, clandestine, under-the-table schemes are referred to by various names: baksheesh, payola, grease payments, or kickback. Still others simply call them bribes.

Regardless of the term used, these payments are used to lubricate the palms of various individuals to make matters move a little more smoothly in the direction of payor. Unfortunately for those involved, federal and state laws are violated in the process, along with stiff criminal and civil penalties to the offender.

The uncovering of such bribes is more difficult than it might first appear, because such payments are made surreptitiously. To hide the fact that these payoffs are being made, the monetary arrangements are almost always complex and are inevitably intriguing. The range of legal issues resulting from the prosecution of the companies and the individuals involved can be quite novel, as you will see here.

The bribery transactions described occurred around the country—Utah, Maryland, Florida, Alaska, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kansas, and New York, for example—and the globe—Haiti, Nigeria, India, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, and Hungary, to name a few. The industries involved include hotels, oil field services, electrical production, agriculture, construction, telecommunications, housing repair, women’s handbags, telephone utilities, labor
unions, real estate development, hospital maintenance, and Indian casinos, among many others.

It is my hope is that you will find this collection of bribery litigation to be interesting and informative, and even enlightening and thought-provoking.