

# Panel: Lower DWI threshold to 0.05

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Most women would need to draw the line at two drinks, and men at two or three if states follow a blueprint by a prestigious scientific panel for eliminating the “entirely preventable” 10,000 alcohol-impaired driving deaths in the United States each year.

The government-commissioned report by a panel of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine made multiple recommendations, including significantly lowering drunken driving thresholds. It calls for lowering the blood-alcohol concentration threshold from 0.08 to 0.05. All states have 0.08 thresholds. Utah has set a 0.05 threshold starting Dec. 30.

The amount of alcohol required to reach 0.05 would depend on several factors, including the person’s size and whether the person has eaten recently. The report cites studies indicating most women over 120 pounds would

reach 0.05 after two drinks. Men weighing up to about 160 pounds would be likely to reach the lower threshold at two, and those over 180 pounds at three. More than 100 countries have adopted the 0.05 threshold or lower.

The panel, in a 489-page report, also recommended that states increase alcohol taxes and make alcohol less conveniently available, including reducing the hours and days alcohol is sold in stores, bars and restaurants. It also calls for cracking down on sales to those under 21 or who are already intoxicated to discourage binge drinking, and limiting alcohol marketing while funding anti-alcohol campaigns similar to those against smoking.

The proposals are likely to draw fierce opposition from the alcohol and restaurant industries. In Utah, the beverage institute took out full-page newspaper ads opposing the new law with a fake mug shot under a headline reading, “Utah: Come for vacation, leave on probation.”

# FEDS: COLLECTOR’S ASSISTANT STOLE MORE THAN \$1.2M IN WINE

BY JOHN RILEY  
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A wealthy wine collector with ties to Long Island was robbed by his personal assistant of hundreds of bottles worth more than \$1.2 million, according to an indictment filed Wednesday by federal prosecutors in Manhattan.

The victim was David Solomon, co-president and chief operating officer of Goldman Sachs, who the indictment said kept his rare wines both at his Manhattan apartment and in a wine cellar at his East Hampton residence.

Prosecutors said from 2014 to 2016, Solomon’s one-time personal assistant Nicolas DeMeyer ripped off parts of the collection including seven bottles from the French estate Domaine de la Romanee-Conti considered among the “best, most expensive and rarest wines in the world” that had sold for \$133,650.

DeMeyer, 40, a New Yorker, was responsible for receiving wine shipments at the Manhattan apartment and transporting them to East Hampton. Instead, the government said, using the alias “Mark Miller” he sold the stolen wine to a dealer from North Carolina he found on the internet.

Solomon, 56, was not identified in the federal indictment, but Goldman con-

firmed he was the victim in a statement. “The theft was discovered in the fall of 2016 and reported to law enforcement at that time,” the finance firm said. “They have been pursuing the matter.”

The Goldman executive’s interests were no secret. In 2010, he was chosen “Mr. Gourmet” by the Bacchus Society of America. And in 2016, when he put his co-op in the San Remo building overlooking Central Park up for sale, a real estate publication reported it included a 1,000 bottle wine storage area.

That sale coincided with the 2016 discovery of the theft.

DeMeyer, officials said, has been living outside the country. He was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport, and was expected to appear in court late on Wednesday.

The government said that as part of the scheme he had the North Carolina dealer or individuals who were buying the wine through the dealer come to his apartment in Manhattan to pick up the wine he was selling as “Mark Miller.”

The seven bottles of Domaine de la Romanee-Conti were stolen in October 2016, the indictment said, picked up at DeMeyer’s apartment, and transported to New Jersey and to California. Officials did not indicate whether they have been recovered.

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