

## Mercedes-Benz US CEO ousted over fraud?

Although the circumstances surrounding the departure of Ernst Lieb, the former CEO of Mercedes-Benz' United States operations, were initially shrouded in mystery, details are beginning to trickle in that suggest unethical spending was the reason behind his ouster.

A report from the German newspaper Handelsblatt states that Lieb has been accused of multiple breaches of compliance rules (read: fraud) while he ran the automaker, citing an unnamed, long-time Daimler executive.

Lieb's alleged offenses include expanding his New York home with Daimler money and putting his golf club membership fees on the company tab. The former CEO was also accused of using Daimler funds to provide favors.

"Ernst was repeatedly warned, but he did it again," the Daimler exec said.

Mercedes-Benz stated on Monday that Lieb was being "relieved of his duties, effective immediately, though he would remain with the company in an unspecified role. Lieb had been Mercedes' chief U.S. executive since 2006.