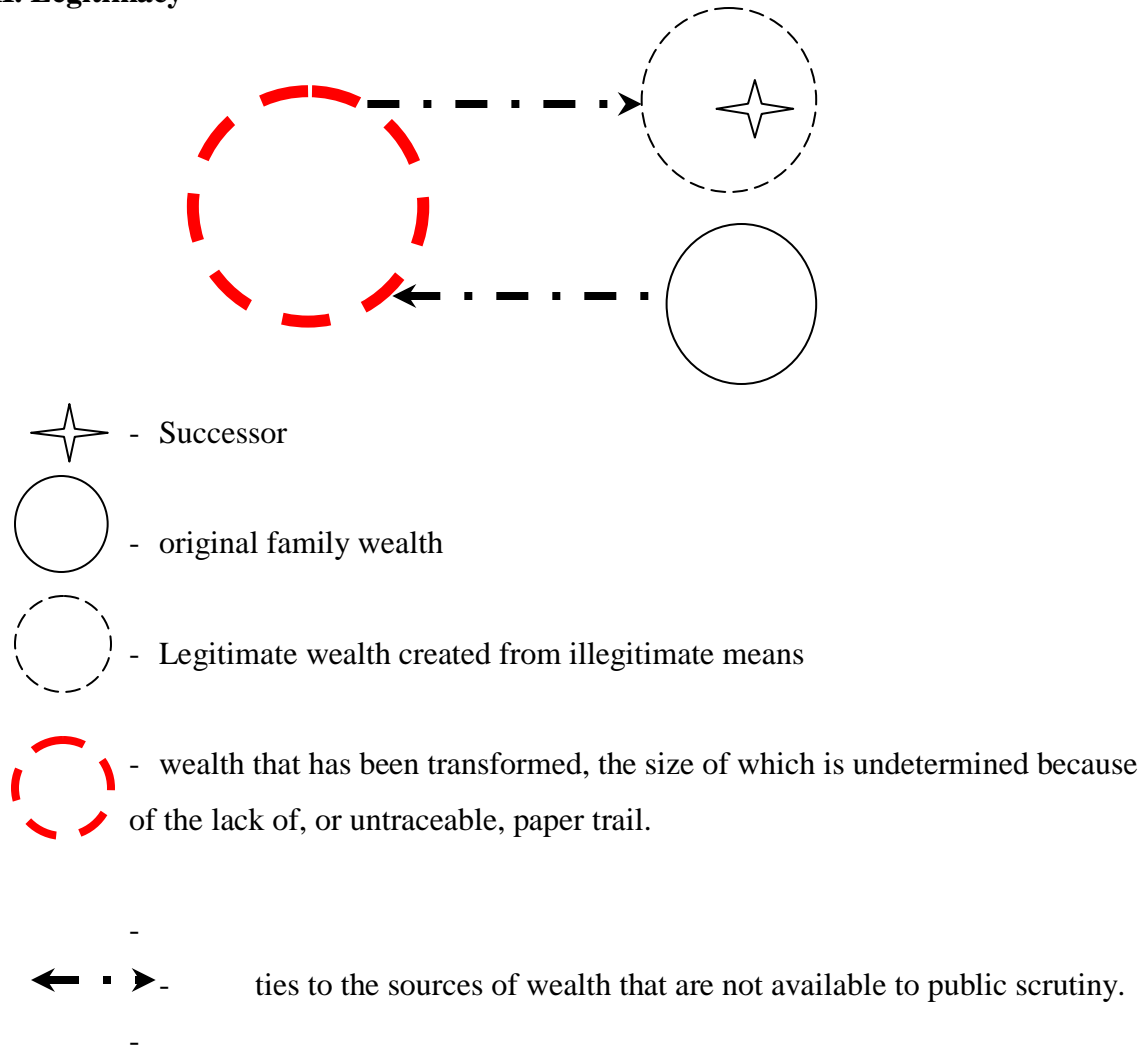


## VII. Legitimacy



The prevalence of furtive tales of illegally, or more accurately extra-legally, obtained wealth in American history has been widely known from movies like *The Godfather* trilogy, *Bugsy*, *Casino*, *Scarface*, *Road to Perdition*, and *American Gangster*, to name a few. But there are a good number of academic literatures about how this has helped shape the global economy in ways that are both benevolent and malevolent.<sup>i</sup> One thing is certain, the wealth that was created by racketeering, extortion, mobsters, deposed leaders, corrupt politicians, or dictator's booty does not end in the crime but go on with monies being kept by banking and financial institutions, and often invested in legitimate businesses. This is the reason why anti-money laundering and financial crime laws were enacted in an effort to stop the cycle initiated by shrouded sources of capital. In any case, offsprings should not, as widely accepted, be punished for the transgressions of their