

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS
APPOINTED BY
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

IN THE MATTER OF §
PERRY CORTESE § **CAUSE NO. 59813**
STATE BAR CARD NO. 00790508 §

PETITION FOR COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE

TO THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), brings this action against Respondent, Perry Cortese, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing as follows:

1. This action is commenced by Petitioner pursuant to Part VIII of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Petitioner is providing Respondent a copy of this Board's procedures for handling a compulsory discipline matter by attaching a copy of such procedures to this petition.

2. Respondent, Perry Cortese, may be served with a true and correct copy of this Petition for Compulsory Discipline, its attachments, as well as a notice of hearing, at Perry Cortese, Inmate 57791-380, Bastrop FCI, 1341 Highway 95 North, Bastrop, Texas 78602.

3. On or about September 24, 2015, Respondent was charged by Superseding Indictment (Exhibit 1) with Wire and Mail Fraud Conspiracy and International Money Laundering Conspiracy, , in Cause No. 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW, styled *United States of America v. Perry Don Cortese*, in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division.

4. On or about October 20, 2017, a Judgment in a Criminal Case (Exhibit 2) was entered in Cause No. 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW, styled *United States of America v. Perry Don Cortese*, in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, wherein Respondent was found guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud in violation of 18

U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343 and 1349 and Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1956(a)(2)(A), 1956(a)(2)(B)(i) and 1956(h) and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 300 months, consisting of 240 months as to count one and 60 months as to count two, each count consecutive to the other, and ordered to pay \$3,767,196.00 in restitution Upon release from imprisonment, Cortese will be on supervised release for a term of 36 months. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein, are true and correct copies of the following documents in the Cortese criminal case: Superseding Indictment (Exhibit 1) and Judgment in a Criminal Case (Exhibit 2). Petitioner expects to introduce certified copies of Exhibits 1 and 2 at the time of hearing of this cause.

5. Respondent, Perry Cortese, whose bar card number is 00790508, is the same person as the Perry Don Cortese who is the subject of the Superseding Indictment and Judgment in a Criminal Case, described above, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2.

6. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein is a true and correct copy of an affidavit of Judith Gres DeBerry, Attorney of Record for Petitioner herein, attesting to the fact that Respondent is the same person as the person who is the subject of the Superseding Indictment and Judgment in a Criminal Case, entered in the Cortese criminal case. Petitioner expects to introduce the original of said affidavit at the time of hearing of this cause.

7. The offenses for which Respondent was convicted are intentional crimes as defined by Rule 1.06(T), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. They are as well serious crimes as defined by Rule 1.06(AA), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

8. Having been convicted of intentional crimes and such conviction currently being

appealed, Respondent should be suspended as an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas during the pendency of the appeal. Further, upon a showing by Petitioner that the order has become final after determination of the appeal, Respondent should be disbarred as provided by Rule 8.05, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.


PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that Respondent be given notice of these proceedings as provided by law and, upon hearing of this matter, that the Board enter its order suspending Respondent during his appeal, and for such other and further relief to which Petitioner may be entitled to receive including costs of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

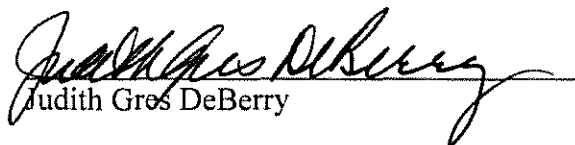
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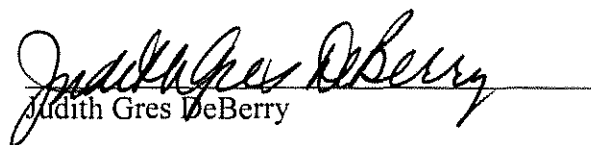
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been sent for personal service on Perry Cortese, Inmate 57791-380, Bastrop FCI, 1341 Highway 95 North, Bastrop, Texas 78602, on this 1 day of December 2017.


Judith Gres DeBerry

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a trial on the merits of the Petition for Compulsory Discipline heretofore sent to be filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals on this day, will be held in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of Texas, Tom C. Clark Building, 14th and Colorado Streets, Austin, Texas, at **9:00 a.m. on the 25th day of January 2018.**


Judith Gres DeBerry

INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

Board of Disciplinary Appeals

Effective February 19, 2015 and amended September 20, 2016

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SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 1.01 Definitions

- (a) “BODA” is the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- (b) “Chair” is the member elected by BODA to serve as chair or, in the Chair’s absence, the member elected by BODA to serve as vice-chair.
- (c) “Classification” is the determination by the CDC under TRDP 2.10 or by BODA under TRDP 7.08(C) whether a grievance constitutes a “complaint” or an “inquiry.”
- (d) “BODA Clerk” is the executive director of BODA or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) “CDC” is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and his or her assistants.
- (f) “Commission” is the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a permanent committee of the State Bar of Texas.
- (g) “Executive Director” is the executive director of BODA.
- (h) “Panel” is any three-member grouping of BODA under TRDP 7.05.
- (i) “Party” is a Complainant, a Respondent, or the Commission.
- (j) “TDRPC” is the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (k) “TRAP” is the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (l) “TRCP” is the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (m) “TRDP” is the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (n) “TRE” is the Texas Rules of Evidence.

Rule 1.02 General Powers

Under TRDP 7.08, BODA has and may exercise all the powers of either a trial court or an appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining

disciplinary proceedings. But TRDP 15.01 applies to the enforcement of a judgment of BODA.

Rule 1.03 Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TRCP, TRAP, and TRE apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except for appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by TRDP 2.10 and by Section 3 of these rules.

Rule 1.04 Appointment of Panels

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion by panel, except as specified in (b). The Chair may delegate to the Executive Director the duty to appoint a panel for any BODA action. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting en banc. Nothing in these rules gives a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting en banc.
- (b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as Respondent must be considered by BODA sitting en banc. A disciplinary matter naming a BODA staff member as Respondent need not be heard en banc.

Rule 1.05 Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers

- (a) **Electronic Filing.** All documents must be filed electronically. Unrepresented persons or those without the means to file electronically may electronically file documents, but it is not required.
 - (1) **Email Address.** The email address of an attorney or an unrepresented party who electronically files a document must be included on the document.
 - (2) **Timely Filing.** Documents are filed electronically by emailing the document to the BODA Clerk at the email address designated by BODA for that purpose. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day

that the email is sent. The date sent is the date shown for the message in the inbox of the email account designated for receiving filings. If a document is sent after 5:00 p.m. or on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas, it is considered filed the next business day.

- (3) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by email to obtain the correct email address for BODA and to confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document that is illegible or that cannot be opened as part of an email attachment will not be considered filed. If a document is untimely due to a technical failure or a system outage, the filing party may seek appropriate relief from BODA.
- (4) **Exceptions.**
 - (i) An appeal to BODA of a decision by the CDC to classify a grievance as an inquiry is not required to be filed electronically.
 - (ii) The following documents must not be filed electronically:
 - a) documents that are filed under seal or subject to a pending motion to seal; and
 - b) documents to which access is otherwise restricted by court order.
 - (iii) For good cause, BODA may permit a party to file other documents in paper form in a particular case.
- (5) **Format.** An electronically filed document must:
 - (i) be in text-searchable portable document format (PDF);
 - (ii) be directly converted to PDF

rather than scanned, if possible;
and

(iii) not be locked.

- (b) A paper will not be deemed filed if it is sent to an individual BODA member or to another address other than the address designated by BODA under Rule 1.05(a)(2).
- (c) **Signing.** Each brief, motion, or other paper filed must be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party pro se and must give the State Bar of Texas card number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and fax number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed or of the party (if applicable). A document is considered signed if the document includes:
 - (1) an “/s/” and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
 - (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.
- (d) **Paper Copies.** Unless required by BODA, a party need not file a paper copy of an electronically filed document.
- (e) **Service.** Copies of all documents filed by any party other than the record filed by the evidentiary panel clerk or the court reporter must, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

Rule 1.06 Service of Petition

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition on the Respondent, the petition must be served by personal service; by certified mail with return receipt requested; or, if permitted by BODA, in any other manner that is authorized by the TRCP and reasonably calculated under all the circumstances to apprise the Respondent of the proceeding and to give him or her reasonable time to appear and answer. To establish

service by certified mail, the return receipt must contain the Respondent's signature.

Rule 1.07 Hearing Setting and Notice

- (a) **Original Petitions.** In any kind of case initiated by the CDC's filing a petition or motion with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA Clerk for the next regularly available hearing date before filing the original petition. If a hearing is set before the petition is filed, the petition must state the date, time, and place of the hearing. Except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23, the hearing date must be at least 30 days from the date that the petition is served on the Respondent.
- (b) **Expedited Settings.** If a party desires a hearing on a matter on a date earlier than the next regularly available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the request. Unless the parties agree otherwise, and except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23, the expedited hearing setting must be at least 30 days from the date of service of the petition, motion, or other pleading. BODA has the sole discretion to grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date.
- (c) **Setting Notices.** BODA must notify the parties of any hearing date that is not noticed in an original petition or motion.
- (d) **Announcement Docket.** Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA must confirm their presence and present any questions regarding procedure to the BODA Clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. Each party with a matter on the docket must appear at the docket call to give an announcement of readiness, to give a time estimate for the hearing, and to present any preliminary motions or matters. Immediately following the docket call, the Chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard.

Rule 1.08 Time to Answer

The Respondent may file an answer at any time, except where expressly provided otherwise by these rules or the TRDP, or when an answer date has been set by prior order of BODA. BODA may, but is not required to, consider an answer filed the day of the hearing.

Rule 1.09 Pretrial Procedure

- (a) **Motions.**
 - (1) **Generally.** To request an order or other relief, a party must file a motion supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion must state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other documents must be served and filed with the motion. A party may file a response to a motion at any time before BODA rules on the motion or by any deadline set by BODA. Unless otherwise required by these rules or the TRDP, the form of a motion must comply with the TRCP or the TRAP.
 - (2) **For Extension of Time.** All motions for extension of time in any matter before BODA must be in writing, comply with (a)(1), and specify the following:
 - (i) if applicable, the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
 - (ii) if an appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
 - (iii) the original deadline for filing the item in question;
 - (iv) the length of time requested for the extension;
 - (v) the number of extensions of time that have been granted

previously regarding the item in question; and

- (vi) the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension.

- (b) **Pretrial Scheduling Conference.** Any party may request a pretrial scheduling conference, or BODA on its own motion may require a pretrial scheduling conference.
- (c) **Trial Briefs.** In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, except with leave, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the BODA Clerk no later than ten days before the day of the hearing.
- (d) **Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Exhibits Tendered for Argument.** A party may file a witness list, exhibit, or any other document to be used at a hearing or oral argument before the hearing or argument. A party must bring to the hearing an original and 12 copies of any document that was not filed at least one business day before the hearing. The original and copies must be:
 - (1) marked;
 - (2) indexed with the title or description of the item offered as an exhibit; and
 - (3) if voluminous, bound to lie flat when open and tabbed in accordance with the index.

All documents must be marked and provided to the opposing party before the hearing or argument begins.

Rule 1.10 Decisions

- (a) **Notice of Decisions.** The BODA Clerk must give notice of all decisions and opinions to the parties or their attorneys of record.
- (b) **Publication of Decisions.** BODA must report judgments or orders of public discipline:
 - (1) as required by the TRDP; and

- (2) on its website for a period of at least ten years following the date of the disciplinary judgment or order.

- (c) **Abstracts of Classification Appeals.** BODA may, in its discretion, prepare an abstract of a classification appeal for a public reporting service.

Rule 1.11 Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions

- (a) BODA may render judgment in any disciplinary matter with or without written opinion. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and must be made available to the public reporting services, print or electronic, for publishing. A majority of the members who participate in considering the disciplinary matter must determine if an opinion will be written. The names of the participating members must be noted on all written opinions of BODA.
- (b) Only a BODA member who participated in the decision of a disciplinary matter may file or join in a written opinion concurring in or dissenting from the judgment of BODA. For purposes of this rule, in hearings in which evidence is taken, no member may participate in the decision unless that member was present at the hearing. In all other proceedings, no member may participate unless that member has reviewed the record. Any member of BODA may file a written opinion in connection with the denial of a hearing or rehearing en banc.
- (c) A BODA determination in an appeal from a grievance classification decision under TRDP 2.10 is not a judgment for purposes of this rule and may be issued without a written opinion.

Rule 1.12 BODA Work Product and Drafts

A document or record of any nature—regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission—that is created or produced in connection with or related to BODA’s adjudicative decision-making process is not subject to disclosure or discovery. This includes documents prepared by any BODA member, BODA staff, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

Rule 1.13 Record Retention

Records of appeals from classification decisions must be retained by the BODA Clerk for a period of at least three years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters must be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later. For purposes of this rule, a record is any document, paper, letter, map, book, tape, photograph, film, recording, or other material filed with BODA, regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

Rule 1.14 Costs of Reproduction of Records

The BODA Clerk may charge a reasonable amount for the reproduction of nonconfidential records filed with BODA. The fee must be paid in advance to the BODA Clerk.

Rule 1.15 Publication of These Rules

These rules will be published as part of the TDRPC and TRDP.

SECTION 2: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rule 2.01 Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases

- (a) A current member of BODA must not represent a party or testify voluntarily in a disciplinary action or proceeding. Any BODA member who is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to appear at a disciplinary action or proceeding, including at a deposition, must promptly notify the BODA Chair.

- (b) A current BODA member must not serve as an expert witness on the TDRPC.
- (c) A BODA member may represent a party in a legal malpractice case, provided that he or she is later recused in accordance with these rules from any proceeding before BODA arising out of the same facts.

Rule 2.02 Confidentiality

- (a) BODA deliberations are confidential, must not be disclosed by BODA members or staff, and are not subject to disclosure or discovery.
- (b) Classification appeals, appeals from evidentiary judgments of private reprimand, appeals from an evidentiary judgment dismissing a case, interlocutory appeals or any interim proceedings from an ongoing evidentiary case, and disability cases are confidential under the TRDP. BODA must maintain all records associated with these cases as confidential, subject to disclosure only as provided in the TRDP and these rules.
- (c) If a member of BODA is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, the member must not disclose a matter that was discussed in conference in connection with a disciplinary case unless the member is required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Rule 2.03 Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members

- (a) BODA members are subject to disqualification and recusal as provided in TRCP 18b.
- (b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals under (a), voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any reason. The reasons that a BODA member is recused from a case are not subject to discovery.
- (c) These rules do not disqualify a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the law firm of a BODA member from serving on

a grievance committee or representing a party in a disciplinary proceeding or legal malpractice case. But a BODA member must recuse him- or herself from any matter in which a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the BODA member's firm is a party or represents a party.

SECTION 3: CLASSIFICATION APPEALS

Rule 3.01 Notice of Right to Appeal

- (a) If a grievance filed by the Complainant under TRDP 2.10 is classified as an inquiry, the CDC must notify the Complainant of his or her right to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or another applicable rule.
- (b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal of a grievance classified as an inquiry, the CDC must send the Complainant an appeal notice form, approved by BODA, with the classification disposition. The form must include the docket number of the matter; the deadline for appealing; and information for mailing, faxing, or emailing the appeal notice form to BODA. The appeal notice form must be available in English and Spanish.

Rule 3.02 Record on Appeal

BODA must only consider documents that were filed with the CDC prior to the classification decision. When a notice of appeal from a classification decision has been filed, the CDC must forward to BODA a copy of the grievance and all supporting documentation. If the appeal challenges the classification of an amended grievance, the CDC must also send BODA a copy of the initial grievance, unless it has been destroyed.

SECTION 4: APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS

Rule 4.01 Perfecting Appeal

- (a) **Appellate Timetable.** The date that the evidentiary judgment is signed starts the appellate timetable under this section. To make TRDP 2.21 consistent with this

requirement, the date that the judgment is signed is the "date of notice" under Rule 2.21.

- (b) **Notification of the Evidentiary Judgment.** The clerk of the evidentiary panel must notify the parties of the judgment as set out in TRDP 2.21.

- (1) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Commission and the Respondent in writing of the judgment. The notice must contain a clear statement that any appeal of the judgment must be filed with BODA within 30 days of the date that the judgment was signed. The notice must include a copy of the judgment rendered.

- (2) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant that a judgment has been rendered and provide a copy of the judgment, unless the evidentiary panel dismissed the case or imposed a private reprimand. In the case of a dismissal or private reprimand, the evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant of the decision and that the contents of the judgment are confidential. Under TRDP 2.16, no additional information regarding the contents of a judgment of dismissal or private reprimand may be disclosed to the Complainant.

- (c) **Filing Notice of Appeal.** An appeal is perfected when a written notice of appeal is filed with BODA. If a notice of appeal and any other accompanying documents are mistakenly filed with the evidentiary panel clerk, the notice is deemed to have been filed the same day with BODA, and the evidentiary panel clerk must immediately send the BODA Clerk a copy of the notice and any accompanying documents.

- (d) **Time to File.** In accordance with TRDP 2.24, the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the judgment

is signed. In the event a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is timely filed with the evidentiary panel, the notice of appeal must be filed with BODA within 90 days from the date the judgment is signed.

- (e) **Extension of Time.** A motion for an extension of time to file the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 15 days after the last day allowed for filing the notice of appeal. The motion must comply with Rule 1.09.

Rule 4.02 Record on Appeal

- (a) **Contents.** The record on appeal consists of the evidentiary panel clerk's record and, where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record of the evidentiary panel hearing.
- (b) **Stipulation as to Record.** The parties may designate parts of the clerk's record and the reporter's record to be included in the record on appeal by written stipulation filed with the clerk of the evidentiary panel.
- (c) **Responsibility for Filing Record.**
 - (1) Clerk's Record.
 - (i) After receiving notice that an appeal has been filed, the clerk of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record.
 - (ii) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the clerk's record on appeal must contain the items listed in TRAP 34.5(a) and any other paper on file with the evidentiary panel, including the election letter, all pleadings on which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, any findings of fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other orders appealed from, the notice of decision sent to each

party, any post submission pleadings and briefs, and the notice of appeal.

- (iii) If the clerk of the evidentiary panel is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain why the clerk's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the clerk's record to be filed.

(2) Reporter's Record.

- (i) The court reporter for the evidentiary panel is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if:
 - a) a notice of appeal has been filed;
 - b) a party has requested that all or part of the reporter's record be prepared; and
 - c) the party requesting all or part of the reporter's record has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter.
- (ii) If the court reporter is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the reporter's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reasons why the reporter's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the reporter's record to be filed.

(d) Preparation of Clerk's Record.

- (1) To prepare the clerk's record, the evidentiary panel clerk must:
 - (i) gather the documents

- designated by the parties' written stipulation or, if no stipulation was filed, the documents required under (c)(1)(ii);
 - (ii) start each document on a new page;
 - (iii) include the date of filing on each document;
 - (iv) arrange the documents in chronological order, either by the date of filing or the date of occurrence;
 - (v) number the pages of the clerk's record in the manner required by (d)(2);
 - (vi) prepare and include, after the front cover of the clerk's record, a detailed table of contents that complies with (d)(3); and
 - (vii) certify the clerk's record.
- (2) The clerk must start the page numbering on the front cover of the first volume of the clerk's record and continue to number all pages consecutively—including the front and back covers, tables of contents, certification page, and separator pages, if any—until the final page of the clerk's record, without regard for the number of volumes in the clerk's record, and place each page number at the bottom of each page.
- (3) The table of contents must:
- (i) identify each document in the entire record (including sealed documents); the date each document was filed; and, except for sealed documents, the page on which each document begins;
 - (ii) be double-spaced;
 - (iii) conform to the order in which documents appear in the clerk's record, rather than in alphabetical order;
 - (iv) contain bookmarks linking each description in the table of contents (except for descriptions of sealed documents) to the page on which the document begins; and
 - (v) if the record consists of multiple volumes, indicate the page on which each volume begins.
- (e) **Electronic Filing of the Clerk's Record.** The evidentiary panel clerk must file the record electronically. When filing a clerk's record in electronic form, the evidentiary panel clerk must:
- (1) file each computer file in text-searchable Portable Document Format (PDF);
 - (2) create electronic bookmarks to mark the first page of each document in the clerk's record;
 - (3) limit the size of each computer file to 100 MB or less, if possible; and
 - (4) directly convert, rather than scan, the record to PDF, if possible.
- (f) **Preparation of the Reporter's Record.**
- (1) The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for perfecting the appeal, must make a written request for the reporter's record to the court reporter for the evidentiary panel. The request must designate the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of the request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the appellee. The reporter's record must be certified by the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.
 - (2) The court reporter or recorder must prepare and file the reporter's record in accordance with TRAP 34.6 and 35 and the Uniform Format Manual

for Texas Reporters' Records.

- (3) The court reporter or recorder must file the reporter's record in an electronic format by emailing the document to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose.
- (4) The court reporter or recorder must include either a scanned image of any required signature or "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear.
- (5) A court reporter or recorder must not lock any document that is part of the record.
- (6) In exhibit volumes, the court reporter or recorder must create bookmarks to mark the first page of each exhibit document.
- (g) **Other Requests.** At any time before the clerk's record is prepared, or within ten days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may file a written designation requesting that additional exhibits and portions of testimony be included in the record. The request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the other party.
- (h) **Inaccuracies or Defects.** If the clerk's record is found to be defective or inaccurate, the BODA Clerk must inform the clerk of the evidentiary panel of the defect or inaccuracy and instruct the clerk to make the correction. Any inaccuracies in the reporter's record may be corrected by agreement of the parties without the court reporter's recertification. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record that the parties are unable to resolve by agreement must be resolved by the evidentiary panel.
- (i) **Appeal from Private Reprimand.** Under TRDP 2.16, in an appeal from a judgment of private reprimand, BODA must mark the record as confidential, remove the

attorney's name from the case style, and take any other steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the private reprimand.

Rule 4.03 Time to File Record

- (a) **Timetable.** The clerk's record and reporter's record must be filed within 60 days after the date the judgment is signed. If a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is filed with the evidentiary panel, the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 120 days from the date the original judgment is signed, unless a modified judgment is signed, in which case the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 60 days of the signing of the modified judgment. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record on time does not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but may result in BODA's exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or apply presumptions against the appellant.
- (b) **If No Record Filed.**
 - (1) If the clerk's record or reporter's record has not been timely filed, the BODA Clerk must send notice to the party responsible for filing it, stating that the record is late and requesting that the record be filed within 30 days. The BODA Clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the clerk of the evidentiary panel.
 - (2) If no reporter's record is filed due to appellant's fault, and if the clerk's record has been filed, BODA may, after first giving the appellant notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure, consider and decide those issues or points that do not require a reporter's record for a decision. BODA may do this if no reporter's record has been filed because:
 - (i) the appellant failed to request a

- reporter's record; or
- (ii) the appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record, and the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.
- (c) **Extension of Time to File the Reporter's Record.** When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter. The affidavit must include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.
- (d) **Supplemental Record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the clerk's record or reporter's record, BODA may, on written motion of a party or on its own motion, direct a supplemental record to be certified and transmitted by the clerk for the evidentiary panel or the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

Rule 4.04 Copies of the Record

The record may not be withdrawn from the custody of the BODA Clerk. Any party may obtain a copy of the record or any designated part thereof by making a written request to the BODA Clerk and paying any charges for reproduction in advance.

Rule 4.05 Requisites of Briefs

- (a) **Appellant's Filing Date.** Appellant's brief must be filed within 30 days after the clerk's record or the reporter's record is filed, whichever is later.
- (b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed.
- (c) **Contents.** Briefs must contain:
 - (1) a complete list of the names and addresses of all parties to the final decision and their counsel;

- (2) a table of contents indicating the subject matter of each issue or point, or group of issues or points, with page references where the discussion of each point relied on may be found;
 - (3) an index of authorities arranged alphabetically and indicating the pages where the authorities are cited;
 - (4) a statement of the case containing a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
 - (5) a statement, without argument, of the basis of BODA's jurisdiction;
 - (6) a statement of the issues presented for review or points of error on which the appeal is predicated;
 - (7) a statement of facts that is without argument, is supported by record references, and details the facts relating to the issues or points relied on in the appeal;
 - (8) the argument and authorities;
 - (9) conclusion and prayer for relief;
 - (10) a certificate of service; and
 - (11) an appendix of record excerpts pertinent to the issues presented for review.
- (d) **Length of Briefs; Contents Included and Excluded.** In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption, identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented, statement of the jurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix. Briefs must not exceed 15,000 words if computer-generated, and 50 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A reply brief must not exceed 7,500 words if computer-generated, and 25 pages if not, except on

leave of BODA. A computer-generated document must include a certificate by counsel or the unrepresented party stating the number of words in the document. The person who signs the certification may rely on the word count of the computer program used to prepare the document.

- (e) **Amendment or Supplementation.** BODA has discretion to grant leave to amend or supplement briefs.

- (f) **Failure of the Appellant to File a Brief.** If the appellant fails to timely file a brief, BODA may:

- (1) dismiss the appeal for want of prosecution, unless the appellant reasonably explains the failure, and the appellee is not significantly injured by the appellant's failure to timely file a brief;
- (2) decline to dismiss the appeal and make further orders within its discretion as it considers proper; or
- (3) if an appellee's brief is filed, regard that brief as correctly presenting the case and affirm the evidentiary panel's judgment on that brief without examining the record.

Rule 4.06 Oral Argument

- (a) **Request.** A party desiring oral argument must note the request on the front cover of the party's brief. A party's failure to timely request oral argument waives the party's right to argue. A party who has requested argument may later withdraw the request. But even if a party has waived oral argument, BODA may direct the party to appear and argue. If oral argument is granted, the clerk will notify the parties of the time and place for submission.
- (b) **Right to Oral Argument.** A party who has filed a brief and who has timely requested oral argument may argue the case to BODA unless BODA, after examining the briefs, decides that oral

argument is unnecessary for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the appeal is frivolous;
 - (2) the dispositive issue or issues have been authoritatively decided;
 - (3) the facts and legal arguments are adequately presented in the briefs and record; or
 - (4) the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.
- (c) **Time Allowed.** Each party will have 20 minutes to argue. BODA may, on the request of a party or on its own, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument. The appellant may reserve a portion of his or her allotted time for rebuttal.

Rule 4.07 Decision and Judgment

- (a) **Decision.** BODA may do any of the following:
 - (1) affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel;
 - (2) modify the panel's findings and affirm the findings as modified;
 - (3) reverse in whole or in part the panel's findings and render the decision that the panel should have rendered; or
 - (4) reverse the panel's findings and remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:
 - (i) the panel that entered the findings; or
 - (ii) a statewide grievance committee panel appointed by BODA and composed of members selected from the state bar districts other than the district from which the appeal was taken.
- (b) **Mandate.** In every appeal, the BODA Clerk must issue a mandate in accordance with BODA's judgment and send it to the evidentiary panel and to all the parties.

Rule 4.08 Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee

If BODA remands a cause for further proceedings before a statewide grievance committee, the BODA Chair will appoint the statewide grievance committee in accordance with TRDP 2.27. The committee must consist of six members: four attorney members and two public members randomly selected from the current pool of grievance committee members. Two alternates, consisting of one attorney and one public member, must also be selected. BODA will appoint the initial chair who will serve until the members of the statewide grievance committee elect a chair of the committee at the first meeting. The BODA Clerk will notify the Respondent and the CDC that a committee has been appointed.

Rule 4.09 Involuntary Dismissal

Under the following circumstances and on any party's motion or on its own initiative after giving at least ten days' notice to all parties, BODA may dismiss the appeal or affirm the appealed judgment or order. Dismissal or affirmance may occur if the appeal is subject to dismissal:

- (a) for want of jurisdiction;
- (b) for want of prosecution; or
- (c) because the appellant has failed to comply with a requirement of these rules, a court order, or a notice from the clerk requiring a response or other action within a specified time.

SECTION 5: PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION

Rule 5.01 Initiation and Service

- (a) Before filing a motion to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC must contact the BODA Clerk to confirm whether the next regularly available hearing date will comply with the 30-day requirement of TRDP. The Chair may designate a three-member panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the 30-day requirement of TRDP 2.23.

- (b) Upon filing the motion, the CDC must serve the Respondent with the motion and any supporting documents in accordance with TRDP 2.23, the TRCP, and these rules. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained on the Respondent.

Rule 5.02 Hearing

Within 30 days of service of the motion on the Respondent, BODA must docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. On a showing of good cause by a party or on its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

SECTION 6: COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE

Rule 6.01 Initiation of Proceeding

Under TRDP 8.03, the CDC must file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the Respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.06 of these rules.

Rule 6.02 Interlocutory Suspension

- (a) **Interlocutory Suspension.** In any compulsory proceeding under TRDP Part VIII in which BODA determines that the Respondent has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and that the criminal conviction is on direct appeal, BODA must suspend the Respondent's license to practice law by interlocutory order. In any compulsory case in which BODA has imposed an interlocutory order of suspension, BODA retains jurisdiction to render final judgment after the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final. For purposes of rendering final judgment in a compulsory discipline case, the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final when the appellate court issues its mandate.
- (b) **Criminal Conviction Affirmed.** If the criminal conviction made the basis of a compulsory interlocutory suspension is affirmed and becomes final, the CDC must

file a motion for final judgment that complies with TRDP 8.05.

- (1) If the criminal sentence is fully probated or is an order of deferred adjudication, the motion for final judgment must contain notice of a hearing date. The motion will be set on BODA's next available hearing date.
- (2) If the criminal sentence is not fully probated:
 - (i) BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing if the attorney does not file a verified denial within ten days of service of the motion; or
 - (ii) BODA may set the motion for a hearing on the next available hearing date if the attorney timely files a verified denial.
- (c) Criminal Conviction Reversed. If an appellate court issues a mandate reversing the criminal conviction while a Respondent is subject to an interlocutory suspension, the Respondent may file a motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension. The motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension must have certified copies of the decision and mandate of the reversing court attached. If the CDC does not file an opposition to the termination within ten days of being served with the motion, BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing or set the matter for a hearing on its own motion. If the CDC timely opposes the motion, BODA must set the motion for a hearing on its next available hearing date. An order terminating an interlocutory order of suspension does not automatically reinstate a Respondent's license.

SECTION 7: RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 7.01 Initiation of Proceeding

To initiate an action for reciprocal discipline under TRDP Part IX, the CDC must file a petition with BODA and request an Order to Show Cause. The petition must request that the Respondent be disciplined in Texas and have attached to it any information concerning the disciplinary matter from the other jurisdiction, including a certified copy of the order or judgment rendered against the Respondent.

Rule 7.02 Order to Show Cause

When a petition is filed, the Chair immediately issues a show cause order and a hearing notice and forwards them to the CDC, who must serve the order and notice on the Respondent. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained.

Rule 7.03 Attorney's Response

If the Respondent does not file an answer within 30 days of being served with the order and notice but thereafter appears at the hearing, BODA may, at the discretion of the Chair, receive testimony from the Respondent relating to the merits of the petition.

SECTION 8: DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Rule 8.01 Appointment of District Disability Committee

- (a) If the evidentiary panel of the grievance committee finds under TRDP 2.17(P)(2), or the CDC reasonably believes under TRDP 2.14(C), that a Respondent is suffering from a disability, the rules in this section will apply to the de novo proceeding before the District Disability Committee held under TRDP Part XII.
- (b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's referral that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA Chair must appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. BODA will reimburse District Disability Committee members for

reasonable expenses directly related to service on the District Disability Committee. The BODA Clerk must notify the CDC and the Respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the Respondent where to locate the procedural rules governing disability proceedings.

- (c) A Respondent who has been notified that a disability referral will be or has been made to BODA may, at any time, waive in writing the appointment of the District Disability Committee or the hearing before the District Disability Committee and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension, provided that the Respondent is competent to waive the hearing. If the Respondent is not represented, the waiver must include a statement affirming that the Respondent has been advised of the right to appointed counsel and waives that right as well.
- (d) All pleadings, motions, briefs, or other matters to be filed with the District Disability Committee must be filed with the BODA Clerk.
- (e) Should any member of the District Disability Committee become unable to serve, the BODA Chair must appoint a substitute member.

Rule 8.02 Petition and Answer

- (a) **Petition.** Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC must, within 20 days, file with the BODA Clerk and serve on the Respondent a copy of a petition for indefinite disability suspension. Service must comply with Rule 1.06
- (b) **Answer.** The Respondent must, within 30 days after service of the petition for indefinite disability suspension, file an answer with the BODA Clerk and serve a copy of the answer on the CDC.
- (c) **Hearing Setting.** The BODA Clerk must set the final hearing as instructed by the

chair of the District Disability Committee and send notice of the hearing to the parties.

Rule 8.03 Discovery

- (a) **Limited Discovery.** The District Disability Committee may permit limited discovery. The party seeking discovery must file with the BODA Clerk a written request that makes a clear showing of good cause and substantial need and a proposed order. If the District Disability Committee authorizes discovery in a case, it must issue a written order. The order may impose limitations or deadlines on the discovery.
- (b) **Physical or Mental Examinations.** On written motion by the Commission or on its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the Respondent to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. Nothing in this rule limits the Respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by the District Disability Committee.
 - (1) **Motion.** The Respondent must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.
 - (2) **Report.** The examining professional must file with the BODA Clerk a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the CDC and the Respondent.
- (c) **Objections.** A party must make any objection to a request for discovery within 15 days of receiving the motion by filing a written objection with the BODA Clerk. BODA may decide any objection or contest to a discovery motion.

Rule 8.04 Ability to Compel Attendance

The Respondent and the CDC may confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the Respondent and the CDC as provided in TRCP 176.

Rule 8.05 Respondent's Right to Counsel

- (a) The notice to the Respondent that a District Disability Committee has been appointed and the petition for indefinite disability suspension must state that the Respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing. BODA will reimburse appointed counsel for reasonable expenses directly related to representation of the Respondent.
- (b) To receive appointed counsel under TRDP 12.02, the Respondent must file a written request with the BODA Clerk within 30 days of the date that Respondent is served with the petition for indefinite disability suspension. A late request must demonstrate good cause for the Respondent's failure to file a timely request.

Rule 8.06 Hearing

The party seeking to establish the disability must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Respondent is suffering from a disability as defined in the TRDP. The chair of the District Disability Committee must admit all relevant evidence that is necessary for a fair and complete hearing. The TRE are advisory but not binding on the chair.

Rule 8.07 Notice of Decision

The District Disability Committee must certify its finding regarding disability to BODA, which will issue the final judgment in the matter.

Rule 8.08 Confidentiality

All proceedings before the District Disability Committee and BODA, if necessary, are closed to the public. All matters before the District

Disability Committee are confidential and are not subject to disclosure or discovery, except as allowed by the TRDP or as may be required in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas.

SECTION 9: DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS

Rule 9.01 Petition for Reinstatement

- (a) An attorney under an indefinite disability suspension may, at any time after he or she has been suspended, file a verified petition with BODA to have the suspension terminated and to be reinstated to the practice of law. The petitioner must serve a copy of the petition on the CDC in the manner required by TRDP 12.06. The TRCP apply to a reinstatement proceeding unless they conflict with these rules.
- (b) The petition must include the information required by TRDP 12.06. If the judgment of disability suspension contained terms or conditions relating to misconduct by the petitioner prior to the suspension, the petition must affirmatively demonstrate that those terms have been complied with or explain why they have not been satisfied. The petitioner has a duty to amend and keep current all information in the petition until the final hearing on the merits. Failure to do so may result in dismissal without notice.
- (c) Disability reinstatement proceedings before BODA are not confidential; however, BODA may make all or any part of the record of the proceeding confidential.

Rule 9.02 Discovery

The discovery period is 60 days from the date that the petition for reinstatement is filed. The BODA Clerk will set the petition for a hearing on the first date available after the close of the discovery period and must notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. BODA may continue the hearing for good cause shown.

Rule 9.03 Physical or Mental Examinations

- (a) On written motion by the Commission or on its own, BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. The petitioner must be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven days to respond. BODA may hold a hearing before ruling on the motion but is not required to do so.
- (b) The petitioner must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.
- (c) The examining professional must file a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the parties.
- (d) If the petitioner fails to submit to an examination as ordered, BODA may dismiss the petition without notice.
- (e) Nothing in this rule limits the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

Rule 9.04 Judgment

If, after hearing all the evidence, BODA determines that the petitioner is not eligible for reinstatement, BODA may, in its discretion, either enter an order denying the petition or direct that the petition be held in abeyance for a reasonable period of time until the petitioner provides additional proof as directed by BODA. The judgment may include other orders necessary to protect the public and the petitioner's potential clients.

SECTION 10: APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Rule 10.01 Appeals to the Supreme Court

- (a) A final decision by BODA, except a determination that a statement constitutes an inquiry or a complaint under TRDP 2.10, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Texas. The clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas must docket an appeal from a decision by BODA in the same manner as a petition for review without fee.
- (b) The appealing party must file the notice of appeal directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas within 14 days of receiving notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within 60 days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due 30 days after the record is filed, and the responding party's brief is due 30 days thereafter. The BODA Clerk must send the parties a notice of BODA's final decision that includes the information in this paragraph.
- (c) An appeal to the Supreme Court is governed by TRDP 7.11 and the TRAP.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

AKOHOMEN IGHEDOISE,
IKECHUKWU DEREK AMADI,
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIS,
PERRY DON CORTESE,
STACEY MERRITT, and
KENIETTA RAYSHAWN JOHNSON

18 U.S.C. § 1349
18 U.S.C. § 1956
18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(C) and
982(a)(1) – Forfeiture
28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) – Forfeiture

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE
(Wire and Mail Fraud Conspiracy)

Introduction

At times relevant to this Superseding Indictment:

1. Akohomen IGHEDOISE was a citizen of Canada and a Nigerian national.
2. Ikechukwu Derek AMADI was a citizen of Canada and a Nigerian national.
3. Priscilla Ann ELLIS was a resident of Harker Heights, Texas, and the Chief Executive Officer of Vicken International Traders.
4. Perry Don CORTESE was a resident of Little River, Texas, and an admitted member and practicing lawyer of the Texas Bar Association.

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Exhibit

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5. Stacey MERRITT was a federal employee working for the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs in Alaska.

6. Kenietta Rayshawn JOHNSON was employed as a Relationship Banker by Capital One Bank and a resident of Alexandria, Virginia. JOHNSON was also the daughter of ELLIS.

7. Muhammad Naji was a resident of Tampa, Florida, and is a convicted money launderer.

The Conspiracy

8. Beginning on an unknown date, but no later than in or about January 2012, and continuing through and including the date of this Superseding Indictment, in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere,

AKOHOMEN IGHEDOISE,
IKECHUKWU DEREK AMADI,
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIS,
PERRY DON CORTESE,
STACEY MERRITT, and
KENIETTA RAYSHAWN JOHNSON

the defendants, did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, Muhammad Naji, and other persons, both known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, to wit:

(a) to commit wire fraud, that is, to knowingly, willfully, and with intent to defraud, devise, and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses,

representations, and promises that related to material facts, and, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, to transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and

(b) to commit mail fraud, that is, to execute and attempt to execute a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, by utilizing the United States mail and private and commercial interstate carriers, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

9. The manner and means by which the conspirators sought to accomplish the objects of the conspiracy included, among others, the following:

a. It was a part of the conspiracy that the conspirators would and did utilize interstate wire communications to defraud lawyers and law firms across the United States, including in the Middle District of Florida, and obtain funds from them by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses and representations;

b. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did incorporate shell companies with fictitious names and then open, and

cause to be opened, bank accounts in the names of said shell companies at various federally-insured financial institutions in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere;

c. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did contact victim lawyers and law firms, via email and telephone, for the purported purpose of seeking legal representation in transactional dealings and legal disputes. In truth and in fact, the purpose of the contacts with the victim lawyers and law firms was merely to gain access to their legal trust accounts;

d. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did acquire cashier's checks from various financial institutions in low dollar amounts;

e. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did use said cashier's checks to forge new ones made payable to the victim lawyers and law firms they had contacted for tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars;

f. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did advise the victim lawyers and law firms, via email and telephone, that the purported purpose of the legal representation had been settled;

g. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did send, and caused to be sent, via UPS, Federal Express, and / or the U.S. Postal Service, the aforementioned forged cashier's checks to the victim lawyers

and law firms as the supposed proceeds of the legal settlements and transactional conclusions;

h. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did instruct the victim lawyers and law firms to deposit the fraudulent cashier's checks into their legal trust accounts, and then promptly wire all or part of said funds across state lines into the accounts of the aforementioned shell companies and other entities created and controlled by conspirators;

i. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did wire, and caused to be wired, the proceeds that they had fraudulently obtained from the victim lawyers and law firms to multiple financial institutions, including financial institutions overseas; and

j. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did perform acts and make statements to misrepresent, hide, and conceal, and cause to be misrepresented, hidden, and concealed, the purpose of the conspiracy and the acts committed in furtherance thereof.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNT TWO
(International Money Laundering Conspiracy)

The Conspiracy

10. Beginning on an unknown date, but no later than in or about January 2012, and continuing through and including the date of this Superseding Indictment, in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere,

AKOHOMEN IGHEDOISE,
IKECHUKWU DEREK AMADI,
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIS,
PERRY DON CORTESE,
STACEY MERRITT, and
KENIETTA RAYSHAWN JOHNSON,

the defendants, did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, Muhammad Naji, and other persons, both known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, to wit:

(a) to transport, transmit, and transfer, and attempt to transport, transmit, and transfer, a monetary instrument and funds involving the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, and/or mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, from a place in the United States to and through a place outside the United States, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A); and

(b) to transport, transmit, and transfer, and attempt to transport, transmit, and transfer, a monetary instrument and funds involving the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, and/or mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, from a place in the United States to or through a place outside the United States, knowing that the funds involved in the transportation, transmission, and transfer represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and

knowing that such transportation, transmission, and transfer was designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(B)(i).

Manner and Means

11. Paragraphs 1 through 7 and 9 in Count One of this Superseding Indictment are hereby realleged and incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.

12. The additional manner and means by which the conspirators sought to accomplish the objects of this conspiracy included, among others, the following:

a. It was a part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did participate in a wide variety of fraud schemes, including, but not limited to, those referenced herein, as part of a transnational criminal organization, operating in the United States, Canada, Africa, Asia, and Europe, among other locations;

b. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did launder the fraudulently-obtained proceeds of these schemes;

c. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did obtain, and attempt to obtain, proceeds from the law firm scheme described in Count One;

d. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did fraudulently obtain, and attempt to obtain, proceeds from email intrusion schemes wherein conspirators unlawfully hacked into the email accounts of

individuals and businesses, fraudulently assumed the identities of those account holders, and authorized, and caused to be authorized, wire transfers of said account holders' funds to conspirators;

e. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did fraudulently obtain, and attempt to obtain, proceeds from romance schemes wherein conspirators targeted users of internet dating and social networking sites, feigned romantic relationships with those users, and created fictitious scenarios in which said users needed to wire funds to conspirators in order to further advance and culminate these relationships;

f. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did fraudulently obtain, and attempt to obtain, proceeds by "spoofing" email accounts of legitimate businesses – that is, by creating and using email accounts that appeared to originate from authorized users within those businesses but were wholly fraudulent – and, thereby, inserted themselves into business transactions with and on behalf of those businesses to authorize, and caused to be authorized, wire transfers of the businesses' funds to conspirators;

g. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did open, and cause to be opened, bank accounts at different financial institutions for the purpose of receiving, transmitting, or otherwise obtaining the proceeds of the aforementioned, and other, fraud schemes;

h. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did cause, and attempt to cause, victims of the aforementioned, and other, fraud schemes, to wire fraudulently-obtained proceeds into said bank accounts;

i. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did share in the proceeds of the fraud schemes, usually receiving percentages commensurate with their respective roles;

j. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did send fraudulently-obtained proceeds to and from multiple financial institutions, including financial institutions overseas, in order to conceal and disguise the source of, and to hinder any efforts to locate, said proceeds;

k. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did send fraudulently-obtained proceeds to and from multiple financial institutions, including financial institutions overseas, in order to promote the carrying on of the aforementioned fraud schemes; and

l. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators would and did perform acts and make statements to misrepresent, hide, and conceal, and cause to be misrepresented, hidden, and concealed, the purpose of the conspiracy and the acts committed in furtherance thereof.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

FORFEITURE

1. The allegations contained in Counts One and Two of this Superseding Indictment are incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging

forfeitures pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(a)(1) and 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c)

2. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 or Section 1343, the defendants,

AKOHOMEN IGHEDOISE,
IKECHUKWU DEREK AMADI,
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIS,
PERRY DON CORTESE,
STACEY MERRITT, and
KENIETTA RAYSHAWN JOHNSON,

shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property constituting, or derived from, proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of such violation.

3. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, the defendants,

AKOHOMEN IGHEDOISE,
IKECHUKWU DEREK AMADI,
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIS,
PERRY DON CORTESE,
STACEY MERRITT, and
KENIETTA RAYSHAWN JOHNSON,

shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), any property, real or personal, involved in such offense and any property traceable to such property.

4. The property to be forfeited includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of at least \$8.8 million;
- b. the real property located at 110 W. Veterans Memorial Blvd.,
Harker Heights, Texas 76548; and
- c. the real property located at 14 and 16 S. Main Street, Temple,
Texas 76501 (Bell County, Texas).

5. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be
divided without difficulty;

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property under the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

6. The property to be forfeited as substitute assets includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. the real property located at 1305 Springforest Circle, Killeen, Texas 76548; and
- b. the real property located at 1703 S. Roy Reynolds Drive, Killeen, Texas 76543.

A TRUE BILL,

M. Elise Wilson
Foreperson

A. LEE BENTLEY, III
United States Attorney

By:

Matthew Jackson
Assistant United States Attorney

By:

Robert A. Mosakowski
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Economic Crimes Section

I CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE
AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL
CLERK OF COURT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
BY: [Signature]
DEPUTY CLERK

No. 8:15-CR-320-T-23TGW

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Middle District of Florida
Tampa Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

AKOHOMEN IGHEDOISE,
IKECHUKWU DEREK AMADI,
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIS,
PERRY DON CORTESE,
STACEY MERRITT, and
KENIETTA RAYSHAWN JOHNSON

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

Violations:

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1349 and 1956

A true bill,

M. Elise Wiser
Foreperson

Filed in open court this 24th day

of September, 2015.

Clerk

Bail \$ _____

FILED
2015 SEP 24 PM 4:27
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA, FLORIDA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

vs.

CASE NUMBER: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW
USM NUMBER: 57791-380

PERRY DON CORTESE

Defendant's Attorney: Kenneth Siegel

After a plea of not guilty, the defendant was found guilty of counts one and two of the superseding indictment.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

<u>TITLE & SECTION</u>	<u>NATURE OF OFFENSE</u>	<u>OFFENSE ENDED</u>	<u>COUNT</u>
18 U.S.C. § 1341, 18 U.S.C. § 1343, and 18 U.S.C. § 1349	Conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud	September 24, 2015	One
18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(2)(A); 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(2)(B)(i); and 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)	Conspiracy to commit money laundering	September 24, 2015	Two

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages two through eleven of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

The Court dismisses counts one and two of the Indictment filed on August 20, 2015.

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

Date of Imposition of Judgment: October 16, 2017

I CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE TRUE
AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL
CLERK OF COURT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
BY: _____
DEPUTY CLERK

Steven D. Merryday

STEVEN D. MERRYDAY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

October 20th, 2017

Exhibit
2

AO 245B (Rev. 11/16) Judgment in Criminal
Sheet 2 — Imprisonment

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE
Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

Judgment - Page 2 of 11

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of **300 months**. The term consists of 240 months as to count one and 60 months as to count two, each count consecutive to the other.

X The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons in their order of preference: confinement in FCI Bastrop or FCI Three Rivers.

X The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

___ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district.

___ at ___ a.m./p.m. on ___.

___ as notified by the United States Marshal.

___ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons.

___ before 2 p.m. on ___.

___ as notified by the United States Marshal.

___ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____, with a certified copy of this judgment.

United States Marshal

By: _____
Deputy United States Marshal

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE
Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

Judgment - Page 3 of 11

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of **thirty-six (36) months**. The term consists of concurrent terms of thirty-six months as to count one and thirty-six months as to count two.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.
☒ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the courts determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
5. ☐ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. § 16901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
6. ☐ You must participate in an approval program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE

Judgment - Page 4 of 11

Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. I understand additional information regarding these conditions is available at the www.uscourts.gov.

Defendant's Signature _____

Date _____

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE
Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

Judgment - Page 5 of 11

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

The defendant is prohibited from incurring new credit charges, from opening additional lines of credit, and from obligating himself for any major purchase without permission of the probation officer.

The defendant must provide the probation officer access to any requested financial information.

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE

Judgment - Page 6 of 11

Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments.

	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>JVTA Assessment*</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Restitution</u>
TOTAL	\$200	n/a	waived	\$3,767,196.00

— The determination of restitution is deferred until _____. An *Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case* (AO 245C) will be entered after such determination.

X The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Total Loss**</u>	<u>Restitution Ordered</u>	<u>Priority or Percentage</u>
Clerk, U.S. District Court Debt Collection Unit 401 West Central Blvd. Suite 2100 Orlando, FL 32801			
for:			
Juan Arias	\$ 97,150.00	97,150.00	
Avenue Bank	200,000.00	200,000.00	
Capital Title and Closing Services, LLC	97,000.00	97,000.00	
Fletcher Carson	175,000.00	175,000.00	
Kathryn Cusumano	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Ellyson Abstract & Title	190,000.00	190,000.00	
Carolee Farnsworth	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Ferguson, Braswell & Fraser	200,000.00	200,000.00	
Loralea Francis	85,000.00	85,000.00	
Kay Goeden	40,000.00	40,000.00	
Green and Gold Depot Inc.	314,000.00	314,000.00	
Claudia Hart	112,000.00	112,000.00	
Peter Holzer	96,250.00	96,250.00	
Molly Johnson	101,700.00	101,700.00	
Donna Lanning	143,000.00	143,000.00	

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE
Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGWJudgment - Page 7 of 11

Linda Markey	30,460.00	30,460.00
Morris Mullen	96,250.00	96,250.00
Kimiko Mural	90,000.00	90,000.00
NexTitle	255,000.00	255,000.00
Elaine Nicoll	28,600.00	28,600.00
Radford and Wandrel	97,000.00	97,000.00
Fay Smith	38,000.00	38,000.00
Lorene Sparks	225,000.00	225,000.00
Debra Spudich	50,000.00	50,000.00
Sun Title Agency	180,000.00	180,000.00
Patricia Tarsl	60,000.00	60,000.00
Linda Theriot	132,000.00	132,000.00
Merlin Toeile	144,000.00	144,000.00
US Bank	183,286.00	183,286.00
United Escrow Company	261,500.00	261,500.00

TOTALS	<u>\$3,767,196.00</u>	<u>\$3,767,196.00</u>
---------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

- Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$ _____.
- The defendant must pay interest on a fine or restitution of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 7 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).
- The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:
 - the interest requirement is waived for the ____ fine ____ restitution.
 - the interest requirement for the ____ fine ____ restitution is modified as follows:

* Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.

** Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for the offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE

Judgment - Page 8 of 11

Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties are due as follows:

- A. ☒ Lump sum payment of **\$200** due immediately, balance due _____ not later than _____, or _____ in accordance with ___ C, ___ D, ___ E, or ___ F below; or
- B. ___ Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with ___ C, ___ D, or ___ F below); or
- C. ___ Payment in equal _____ (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ _____ over a period of _____ (e.g., months or years), to commence _____ days (e.g., thirty or sixty days) after the date of this judgment; or
- D. ___ Payment in equal _____ (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ _____ over a period of _____, (e.g., months or years) to commence _____ (e.g. thirty or sixty days) after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision; or
- E. ___ Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within _____ (e.g., thirty or sixty days) after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time, or
- F. ☒ Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties: While in the Bureau of Prisons, the defendant shall (1) pay at least \$25 quarterly if he has a non-Unicor job; or (2) pay at least \$50 of her monthly earnings if he does have a Unicor job. Upon release the defendant is to pay restitution at the rate of \$200 per month unless there is a demonstrated change in his ability to pay.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to the clerk of the court.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

☒ Joint and Several

Case Number**Defendant and Co-Defendant Names****Total Amount****Joint and Several Amount**

8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

\$3,767,196.00

\$3,767,196.00

Stacey Merritt

USM number: 18022-006

Defendant: PERRY DON CORTESE

Judgment - Page 9 of 11

Case No.: 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW Priscilla Ann Ellis USM number: 03260-180	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW Akohomen Ighedoise USM number: n/a	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW Perry Don Cortese USM number: 57791-380	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW Ikechukwu Derek Amadi USM number: n/a	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW Kenietta Rayshawn Johnson USM number: 25488-031	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:15-cr-126-T-23JSS Muhammad Naji	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:16-cr-149-T-36AEP Dana Marie Jewesak	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:16-cr-259-T-33JSS Michelle Ann Scalley	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00
8:17-cr-254-T-36AEP Dean Morgan	\$3,767,196.00	\$3,767,196.00

☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):☒ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:**The property identified in the preliminary order of forfeiture (Doc. 697), which is incorporated into this judgment.**

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine principal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) penalties, and (8) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW

PERRY DON CORTESE
_____ /

FORFEITURE MONEY JUDGMENT

A jury convicted Perry Don Cortese of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349 and conspiracy to commit money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), as charged in Counts One and Two of the Superseding Indictment. The United States has established that \$9,288,241.36 in proceeds was obtained from the offenses.

The United States moves (Doc. 582) under 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)(C) and 982 (a)(1), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and Rule 32.2(b)(2), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, for entry of a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$9,288,241.36, which at sentencing becomes a final order of forfeiture. The motion for entry of a forfeiture money judgment is **GRANTED**. Under 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(1), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and Rule 32.2(b)(2), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Cortese is liable — jointly and severally with convicted co-defendants and

any subsequently convicted co-conspirator — for a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$9,288,241.36.

The United States may seek, as a substitute asset in satisfaction of this judgment, forfeiture of any of Cortese's property up to the value of the money judgment. The court retains jurisdiction to enter any order necessary to the forfeiture and disposition of any substitute asset.

ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, on July 28, 2017.



STEVEN D. MERRYDAY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

AFFIDAVIT


THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Judith Gres DeBerry, Petitioner's attorney of record, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

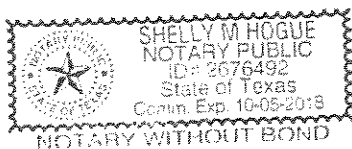
"My name is Judith Gres DeBerry. I am over the age of 18 years, of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and state the following:

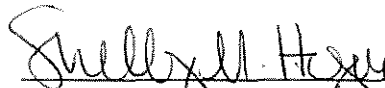
Based upon information and belief, Perry Cortese, whose Texas Bar Card Number is 00790508, is licensed as an attorney and counselor at law in the State of Texas. Based upon information and belief Perry Cortese, named as Respondent in the Petition for Compulsory Discipline filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is one and the same person as the Perry Don Cortese who is the subject of the Judgment in a Criminal Case entered in Cause No. 8:15-cr-320-T-23TGW, styled *United States of America v. Perry Don Cortese*, in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, wherein Respondent was found guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud and Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 300 months and ordered to pay \$3,767,196.00 in restitution."

FURTHER Affiant saith not.


Judith Gres DeBerry

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the 1 day of December 2017.




NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE STATE OF TEXAS

Exhibit

3