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U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Central District of California

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May 19, 2014

Molly Dwyer Clerk of Court U.S. Court of Appeals P.O. Box 193939 San Francisco, CA 94119-3939 (Via Ninth Circuit CM/ECF) 1000 United States Courthouse 312 North Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 (213) 894-0705 (telephone) (213) 894-8513 (facsimile)

Re: United States v. Rene Flores et al., CA No. 14-50227

Dear Ms. Dwyer:

Pending before the Court is the government's emergency motion to stay the district court's May 12, 2014, order dismissing the indictment and releasing defendants-appellees Rene Flores, Randy Garmon, and Arturo Cortez. In its May 12, 2014, order granting a temporary stay, this Court directed the government to submit the transcript of the district court's May 12, 2014, hearing today, May 19, 2014. A copy of the transcript is attached to this letter.

Very truly yours,

ANDRÉ BIROTTE JR. United States Attorney

JEAN-CLAUDE ANDRÉ

Assistant United States Attorney

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF MAY 12, 2014, HEARING

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1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		
2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA WESTERN DIVISION		
3			
4	HONORABLE MANUEL L. REAL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE PRESIDING		
5	UNITED STATES DISTRICT GODGE PRESIDING		
6			
7	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)		
8	PLAINTIFF,) CERTIFIED COPY)		
9	VS.) CR 13-751 R		
10	RENE FLORES, et al.,)		
11	DEFENDANTS.)		
12			
13			
14			
15	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014		
	A.M. SESSION		
16	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA		
17			
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20	SHERI S. KLEEGER, CSR 10340		
21	FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER 312 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 402		
22	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 PH: (213)894-6604		
23	FH. (213)094-0004		
24			
25			

APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL: ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF: UNITED STATES ATTORNEY BY: VICKI CHOU, AUSA CAROL CHEN, AUSA ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY 1100 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE 312 NORTH SPRING STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANT: JAMES BISNOW, ESQUIRE ANTHONY SOLIS, ESQUIRE MICHAEL MAYS, ESQUIRE

Case: 14-50227 05/19/2014 ID: 9101446 DktEntry: 8 Page: 5 of 22 3 1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014 2 A.M. SESSION 3 4 5 6 THE CLERK: Calling Item 2, C.R. 13-751-R. 7 Defendant No. 2, Defendant No. 3, Defendant No. 5. 8 United States of America versus Rene Flores, Randy Garman and Arturo Cortez. 9 10 Counsel, please state your appearances. 11 MS. CHOU: Good morning, Your Honor. Vicki Chou and Carol Chen for the United States. 12 13 And in the gallery is also the case agent, ATF Special Agent Ionis Stiropis. 14 15 MR. BISNOW: Good morning, your Honor. James Bisnow for Rene Flores, who's present in custody 16 before the Court. 17 18 MR. SOLIS: Good morning, Your Honor. 19 Anthony Solis on behalf of Mr. Cortez, who's present in 20 custody. 21 MR. MAYS: Good morning, Your Honor. Mike 22 Mays on behalf of Mr. Garman, who is present in custody.

THE COURT: All right. I'm still very

disappointed with the government who has not given me

exactly what I asked for in any sense.

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And what has been given to me is a calendar of events that was prepared especially for this hearing. They're not the reports that were created during the matter that have been set forth, and as indicated, at least even in reference to those reports, we have to question the accuracy of those reports to begin with. And also that -- as a matter of fact, that the government agent participated in the so-called matter by -- that he would be present to allow them into the, quote, stash house; and that he would provide for them the escape from the stash house; that at least, as it would appear, is a part of the conspiracy that was charged in the indictment.

And there is also a big question as to the question of what the sentence was to be in this matter. Because the so-called 35 -- or 25 kilograms of drug in this false stash house, if it had been a real matter of a true robbery of a stash house, and as a result of the real stash house, there was only a meager amount, like one kilogram of drugs to which went to the possession of the defendants, if at all at that time, that the charging of 25 kilos in the indictment is just another part of the government's outrageous conduct in this matter.

And the government has never had any reason

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to suspect any of these defendants in the drug business before targeting them to join its fictitious scheme which came out of a part of the government that had nothing to do with drugs but rather with matters of guns which they -- which the agents suggested as the only method upon which the robbery could take place.

And in evaluating whether the government's conduct is outrageous, the Ninth Circuit has identified the following factors to consider: One, the known criminal characteristics of the defendants; two, the individualized suspicion of the defendants; three, the government's role in creating the crime of conviction; and four, the government's encouragement of the defendants who commit the offense conduct; and five, the nature of the government's participation in the offense conduct; and the nature of the crime being pursued and necessity for actions taken in light of the nature of the criminal enterprise at issue, as set forth in United States versus Black, 733 Fed 3d 294, Ninth Circuit 2013.

And here the so-called false robbery of a false stash house was not to be of any help to any matters having to do with drugs or stash houses or the drug -- so-called drug war. The government used two paid confidential informants to convince citizens to join the government's scheme. And C-1 was paid \$2500

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for his work in the case. C-2 was paid \$6100 for something, without getting any indication that there would be any true kind of criminal conduct by the individuals who were being convinced by these confidential informants to take that in those reasons.

And if the post arrest reports of these paid informants are to be believed, the only information the government had before attempting to lure any other defendants was that Roberts had spent time in prison, and not for drug matters, even if the paid informant's account is to be credited, the government had no knowledge of what Roberts was in prison for; moreover, the government knew nothing of Flores nor Garman before targeting them and still knew nothing of Cortez until after his arrest; thus the government cannot show that it knew of any of the defendants' criminal propensities for use of the kind of conduct that these -- the agents were used to do in this case, nor had any individualized suspicion of them in the crime of narcotics for which the ATF had no responsibility, at least in the matters having to do with drugs, but with rather alcohol, tax and guns.

More importantly, the government created the fictitious crime from whole cloth. The government provided the location to the plan of the fictitious

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crime where undercover ATF Agent Carr insisted on running through a script to ensure a conspiracy had been hatched and that Carr also provided the getaway car with the fictitious conspiracy.

Further, there was no evidence that the defendants even knew of the location of the fictitious stash house or could have had any ability to check the stash house as to whether or not it was other than as represented by Agent Carr as being part of the stash house that he participated in, in fact. Which was a lie and a falsehood to start this whole conspiracy.

So the government's provided no evidence that there have been any stash house robberies in Southern California nor any evidence of the necessity of trolling poor neighborhoods to ensure and ensnare its poor citizens, that the government cannot bootstrap, quote, post hock knowledge to justify this scheme from the beginning.

That's United States versus Hudson, 13-126, Central District of California, March 10th, 2014.

And there certainly cannot be any serious concern that these defendants would embark on a career of robbing stash houses. And see for that United States versus Kindle, 698 Fed 3d 401, Seventh Circuit 2012.

These cases are dismissed for the

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government's outrageous conduct and the orders to be made pursuant to that. And I'm going to write an opinion having to deal with all the factors which were used by the government to convince these defendants to participate in a false stash house robbery. That's it. MS. CHOU: Your Honor, if we might move the Court to stay its order pending appeal. THE COURT: Beg your pardon? MS. CHOU: The government would like to move for the Court to stay its order of release pending appeal. THE COURT: I don't know any reason for it. MS. CHOU: Your Honor, under 3143 there is no change in the presumption of detention. And until the Ninth Circuit has actually upheld the dismissal --THE COURT: I'm sorry. What? MS. CHOU: Until the Ninth Circuit has actually upheld the dismissal, there still a basis for these defendants to be detained under the law. And if the Court doesn't want to order the stay until the Ninth Circuit has resolved this, we would ask for at least a week so that we can petition the Ninth Circuit for an emergency stay. THE COURT: There is no reason. Is there? MR. SOLIS: On behalf of Mr. Cortez, I'd ask

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that the defendants be released forthwith because the
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    Court just dismissed the case.
                As far as my client's concerned, there's no
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    hold; there's no other case; there's no reason he
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    shouldn't be released immediately.
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                MR. BISNOW: We would join on behalf of
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    Mr. Flores, Your Honor.
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                MR. MAYS: Join, Your Honor, on behalf of
    Mr. Garman.
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                THE COURT: Any hold on these people?
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                MS. CHOU: What?
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                THE COURT: Is there any hold anywhere on
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    these people?
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                MS. CHOU: There is no separate hold on
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    these people.
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                THE COURT: Well, then -- I don't see that.
    Because I don't think they committed a crime under the
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    circumstances of this case and the outrageous part of
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    the government in the matter.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, just for --
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                THE COURT: If at all, they should also have
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    been indicted based on what they did in connection with
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    this so-called false stash house robbery.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, just for
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    clarification, I believe the Court indicated you will be
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    issuing a written order.
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                THE COURT: Yes.
                MS. CHEN: And pending that -- will the
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    defendants be detained pending the issuance of
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    that order?
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                                  They are now released.
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                THE COURT: No.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, will the Court also
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    hear some brief arguments addressing some of the issues
    you raised today?
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                THE COURT: What?
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                MS. CHEN: Will you also hear some argument
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    now regarding some of the issues you raised?
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                THE COURT: I'm open to anything from the
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    government.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, just for the record,
    just for a few of the issues you raised this morning,
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    the government does apologize if the Court is
    disappointed with the government's responses to what the
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    Court had ordered.
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                As the Court knows, the government did file
    two briefs in response to the Court's questions.
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                THE COURT: Both were not in answer to what
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    I asked for. Both of them.
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                MS. CHEN: And, Your Honor, I believe you
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    stated that you had asked for the reports. And just for
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a clarification for the record, with one 1 of the
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    government's briefs I believe it is --
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                THE COURT: Then the government prepared a
    report.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, a document --
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                THE COURT: Not the reports that were made
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    at the time that this was going on.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, we actually did
    produce every single report that the ATF had produced,
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    and it was as exhibits to document No. 139 with one of
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    the two government briefs.
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                So in addition to our briefs we actually did
    produce to the Court for its review all of the reports.
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                THE COURT: There was not a signed or dated
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    question that a report which was so dated.
16
                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, I believe all the
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    reports were dated and approved by the ATF supervisors.
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                Very quickly, Your Honor, I understand --
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                THE COURT: That report was prepared for me.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, those reports were
    actually prepared at --
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                THE COURT: Post all other reports that were
23
    made.
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                MS. CHEN: Actually, Your Honor, those
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    reports -- we did produce all reports which were made in
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the process of the investigation. They were not made for the purpose of this hearing or for the Court's purpose.

It was actually produced by the ATF as the investigation progressed.

Your Honor, also just very briefly, I know you also pointed out. You described it as a false stash house. Obviously the stash house did not -- was not in existence, Your Honor.

However, the crime to which the defendants did plead in this case was a conspiracy to commit a robbery of a stash house.

And I believe the Court also stated that each defendant would have been in possession of one kilogram. As the reports note, each of the defendants agreed to rob a 25 to 30 kilogram stash house. And that each of them would split four kilograms each which they would then sell.

THE COURT: If that were a true robbery,

Counsel, and they had said that we were going after 25

kilograms of drugs and they only got one kilogram of

drugs, they could not be prosecuted for 25 kilograms of

drugs.

MS. CHEN: With all due respect, Your Honor, if the crime is conspiracy to rob a stash house

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containing 25 to 30 kilograms, they would be able to be
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    prosecuted for that.
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                Your Honor, we do intend to file a
    protective notice of appeal as soon as possible by no
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    later than the end of today. We would ask for a stay of
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    at least until the end of today if not tomorrow morning,
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    Your Honor, of your order --
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                THE COURT: There is no reason for it,
    Counsel.
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                MS. CHEN: Your Honor, for the record, the
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    government -- Your Honor, just based on the criminal
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    history as well as -- nothing has changed since the
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    original detention hearings other than, obviously, this
    Court's order dismissing the indictments.
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                However, we do believe that they continue to
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    be a risk to the community as well as major flight
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    risks. And again, Your Honor, we do reiterate just a
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    short stay of either by the end of today --
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                THE COURT: I see no reason for it, Counsel.
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    I've already told you that. I see no reason for it.
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    don't think that we should foster illegal conduct by the
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    government.
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                MS. CHEN: Just for the record, we do
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    reiterate our request for a stay.
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                THE COURT: All right. It is denied.
                                                        All
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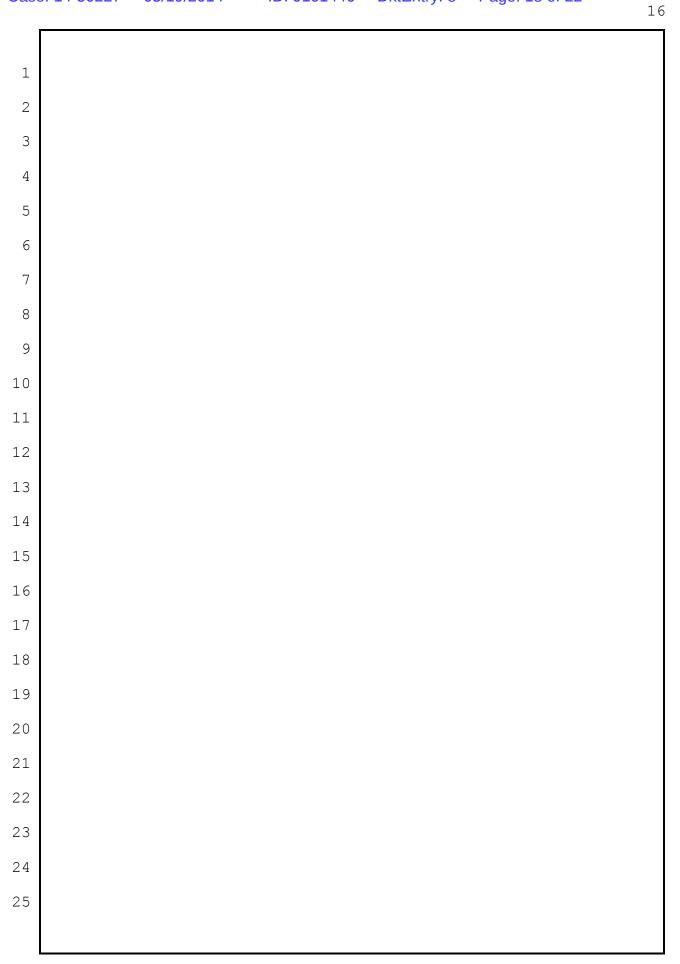
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right. We'll be in recess.
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                  THE CLERK: All rise.
                   (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.)
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               CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
4
    COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )
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                             ) SS.
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    STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
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    I, SHERI S. KLEEGER, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER, IN AND FOR
    THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL
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    DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PURSUANT
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    TO SECTION 753, TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, THE
    FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF THE
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    STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED PROCEEDINGS HELD IN THE
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   ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER AND THAT THE TRANSCRIPT PAGE
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    FORMAT IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE
    JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.
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    DATE: MAY 13, 2014
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    /S/_____
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21
    SHERI S. KLEEGER, CSR
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    FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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