

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of New York

PTH F. #2017R00353 271 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201

October 19, 2017

TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

By Hand and ECF

The Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto United States District Court Eastern District of New York 225 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201 U.S. DISTRICT COMPTED PLY.

BROOKLYN OFFICE

Re:

United States v. John Doe

Criminal Docket No. 17-466 (KAM)

Dear Judge Matsumoto:

The government respectfully submits this letter to request that the Court accept the guilty plea of the defendant in the above-captioned case. As the Court is aware, the defendant pled guilty before United States Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollak on August 29, 2017. A copy of the transcript of the defendant's guilty plea and the exhibit referenced therein are enclosed with this letter, attached as Exhibits A and B, respectively. In addition, the government also encloses for the Court's consideration a proposed order accepting the defendant's guilty plea, attached as Exhibit C.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIDGET M. ROHDE Acting United States Attorney

By:

/s/ Patrick T. Hein

Patrick T. Hein

Assistant U.S. Attorney

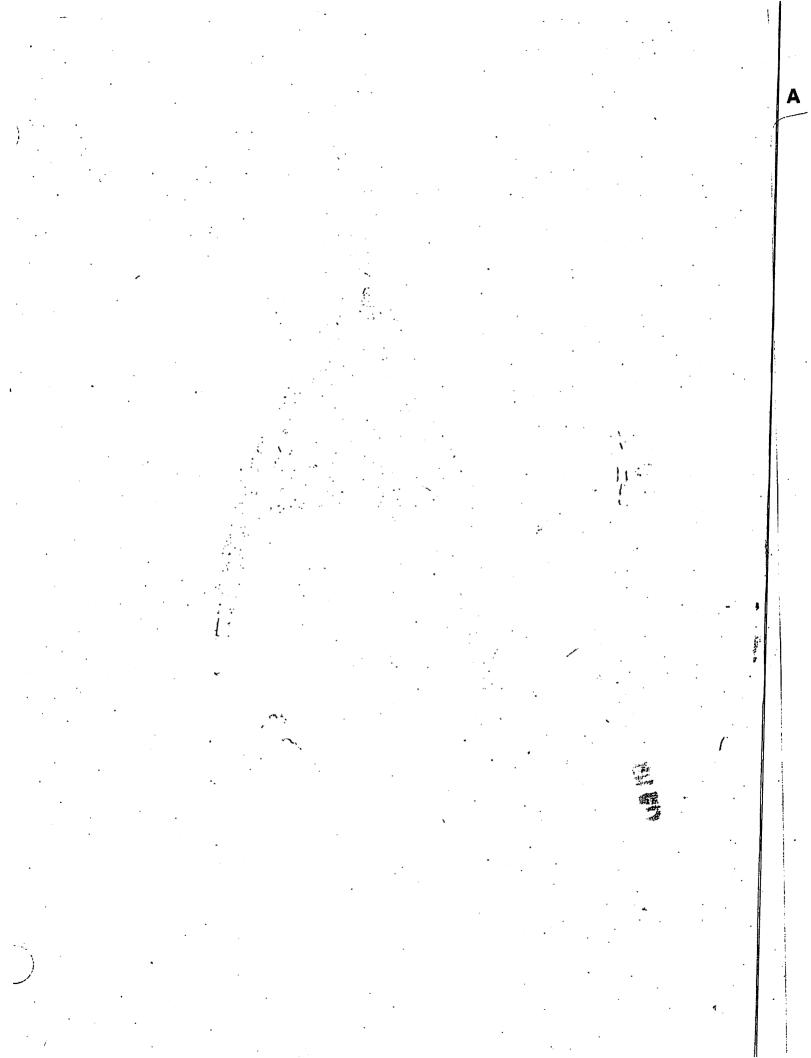
(718) 254-6284

Enclosures

cc:

Clerk of Court (KAM) (by ECF)

Defense Counsel, Esq. (by E-mail)



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X Docket#

: 17-cr-466-KAM-CLP UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

- versus -

: U.S. Courthouse

: Brooklyn, New York

JOHN DOE,

: August 29, 2017

Defendant -----X

SEALED PROCEEDING TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR PLEADING BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHERYL L. POLLAK UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

ARA C E S: N

For the Government: Bridge M. Rohde, Esq. Acting U.S. Attorney

BY: Patrick Hein, Esq.

Assistant U.S. Attorney 271 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201

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Proceedings recorded by electronic sound-recording, transcript produced by transcription service

This is the matter of United States 1 THE CLERK: v. John Doe, case number 17-cr-466, Criminal Cause for 2 Pleading. 3 Counsel, please state your appearances for the 4 5 record. MR. HEIN: Good afternoon, your Honor. 6 Patrick Hein, Derek Ettinger and David Fohr 7 (ph.) on behalf of the United States. 8 Good afternoon, your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Good afternoon. 10 11 MR. CARROLL: Good afternoon, your Honor. John Carroll and Brittany Lipson from Skadden 12 on behalf of the defendant. 13 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Good afternoon, 14 sir. I take it that you understand English. 15 16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Okay. If at any point something is 17 said that you don't understand, please tell me, all 18 19 right? THE DEFENDANT: Okay. 20 THE COURT: All right. You may be seated. 21 Now before I begin, should I be addressing the 22 defendant as John Doe or in his name? 23 MR. CARROLL: Your Honor, we're comfortable 24 that there are no problematic witnesses in the courtroom 25

and comfortable that the record is going to be sealed. So I think it will be best for all if you address him in his name and we will talk about proper nouns and with their names, rather than John Doe entities.

THE COURT: Okay. I mean I have done it both ways. I just wanted to see what your preference was.

All right.

So Mr. Chow, the first issue that I want to deal with is your consent to have me hear your plea. You understand that this is Judge Matsumoto's case and she is the United States district judge who will sentence you and who will make the ultimate decision as to whether or not to accept your plea of guilty.

If you wish, you have the absolute right to have Judge Matsumoto hear your plea and if you choose to do that, there will be no prejudice to you.

On the other hand, if you wish, I will hear your plea this afternoon and a transcript of these proceedings will be made from the tape recording devices here in the courtroom and that transcript will be given to Judge Matsumoto to review at the time of your sentence and when she makes her decision as to whether or not to accept your plea of guilty.

Do you wish to have Judge Matsumoto hear your plea or are you willing to give up that right and agree

- 1 | to have me hear your plea this afternoon?
- THE DEFENDANT: I am willing to waive that
- 3 | right and have you.
- 4 THE COURT: All right. Do you make this
- 5 | decision voluntarily and of your own free will?
- 6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
- 7 | THE COURT: Has anyone made any threats or
- 8 promises to get you to agree to have me hear your plea?
- 9 THE DEFENDANT: No.
- 10 | THE COURT: All right.
- 11 | (Pause)
- 12 THE COURT: My law clerk is showing you the
- 13 order of referral that was sent down from Judge Matsumoto
- 14 and we also have the consent form.
- 15 | (Pause)
- 16 THE COURT: And my law clerk has just handed
- 17 | you the consent form that I believe you may have signed
- 18 | earlier.
- 19 Is that your signature there, sir, at the
- 20 | bottom of the page?
- 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.
- 22 THE COURT: All right. And I will note for the
- 23 record that it's also been signed by counsel for the
- 24 defendant, by the assistant United States attorney and I
- 25 | will be endorsing it, as well.

1 (Pause) THE COURT: All right. Now before I can hear 2 your plea, there are a number of questions that I must 3 ask you to ensure that it is a valid plea. Again, if you don't understand any of my questions, just tell me and I'll rephrase them; all right? All right. 6 7 THE COURT: I'm going to ask you to raise your right hand, please. 8 JEFFREY CHOW, called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, 10 was examined and testified as follows: 11 THE COURT: Do you understand that having been 12 13 sworn -- yes, you're right, if you wouldn't mind just pulling that a little bit closer. 14 So having been sworn, your answers to my 15 questions will be subject to the penalties of perjury or 16 of making a false statement if you don't answer them 17 18 truthfully. 19 Do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do. 20 THE COURT: What is your full name? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Jeffrey Shiu Chow. 22 THE COURT: And how old are you, sir? 23

Transcriptions Plus II, Inc.

I was born in 1958. 59, this

THE DEFENDANT:

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November.

THE COURT: I guess that's good enough. What education have you had, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: A bachelor or science in civil engineering and a J.D.

THE COURT: And have you had any problems communicating with your attorneys?

THE DEFENDANT: None whatsoever.

THE COURT: Counsel, have you had any problems communicating with your client?

MR. CARROLL: None at all, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Chow, are you presently or have you recently been under the care of either a physician or a psychiatrist?

THE DEFENDANT: Just physician for my asthma.

THE COURT: Okay. And have you been prescribed medication for that condition?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Have you taken that

19 | medication in the last 24 hours?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. When did you last take it?

THE DEFENDANT: A few minutes ago, just a

23 | ventilate inhaler.

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24 THE COURT: Okay. Does that medication have

25 any affect on your ability to think clearly?

THE DEFENDANT: None whatsoever. 1 THE COURT: All right. Other than that 2 medication that you just described, have you taken any 3 other drugs, pills or medicine of any kind in the last 24 5 hours? THE DEFENDANT: I took one antihistamine about 6 7 20 hours ago. THE COURT: Okay. And does that have any 8 affect on your ability to think clearly? THE DEFENDANT: No. 10 11 THE COURT: Okay. No narcotic drugs in the last 24 hours? 12 THE DEFENDANT: No. 13 THE COURT: Okay. Have you had any alcohol to 14 drink in the last 24 hours? 15 16 THE DEFENDANT: No. THE COURT: Have you ever been hospitalized or 17 treated for a narcotics addiction? 18 19 THE DEFENDANT: No. 20 THE COURT: Have you ever been treated for any mental or emotional problems? 21 22 THE DEFENDANT: No. 23 THE COURT: As you sit here before me today, is

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

your mind clear?

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THE COURT: Do you understand what we're doing here today?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

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THE COURT: Now I don't know if you can see
that, sir, but this is the information that the
government has filed against you.

Have you received a copy of it?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

THE COURT: Okay. And have you had an

10 | opportunity to review it with counsel?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.

THE COURT: And do you understand what you're charged with?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Okay. Essentially, the information charges that in or about and between 2000 and 2016, both dates being approximate and inclusive within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, you together with others, did knowingly and willfully conspire to commit one or more offenses against the United States.

Specifically, (a) to make use of the mails and means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, corruptly and in furtherance of an offer, payment, promise to pay, and authorization of the payment of any money, offer, gift, promise to give and authorization of

the giving of anything of value to a foreign official, to a foreign political party and official thereof and to a person well knowing that all or a portion of such money and thing of value would be offered, given and promised to a foreign official and to a foreign political party, an official thereof, for the purposes of:

- (1) influencing acts and decisions of such foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, in his or her or its official capacity;
- (2) inducing such foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, to do and admit to do acts in violation of the lawful duty of such official and party;
 - (3) securing any improper advantage;

And (4) inducing such foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, to use his, her or its influence with a foreign government and agencies and instrumentalities thereof to affect and influence acts and decisions of such government and agencies and instrumentalities in order to assist you in obtaining and retaining business for and with and directing business to RIG Construction Company and others in violation of United States law.

The charge also charges you with conspiring in paragraph (b), while in the territory of the United

States to willfully make use of the mails and means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, corruptly and in furtherance of an offer, payment, promise to pay, and authorization of the payment of any money, offer gift, promise to give and authorization of the giving of anything of value to a foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, and to a person well knowing that all or a portion of such money and thing of value would be offered, given and promised to a foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, for the purpose of:

- (1) influencing acts and decisions of such foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, in his, her or its official capacity;
- (2) inducing such foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, to do and admit to do acts in violation of the lawful duty of such official and party;
 - (3) securing any improper advantage;

And (4) inducing such foreign official, foreign political party and official thereof, to use his, her or its influence with a foreign government and agencies and instrumentalities thereof to affect and influence acts and decisions of such government and agencies and instrumentalities in order to assist, RIG Construction

company and others, in obtaining and retaining business for and with and directing business to RIG Construction Company and others in violation of United States law.

In furtherance of ths conspiracy and to achieve the objects thereof, you together with others, committed and caused to be committed the following overt acts:

- (A) in or about November 2009, you coordinated the signing in Houston, Texas of a marketing and sales representation agreement between RIG Construction Company and a consulting company controlled by RIG Construction Company agent.
- (B) in or about August 2012, on behalf of RIG Construction Company, you executed an agreement dated November 30th, 2011, with a consulting company controlled by RIG Construction Company agent.
- (C) in or about August 2012, on behalf of RIG Construction Company, you executed a marketing, consulting and services agreement dated December 1st, 2011, with a consulting company controlled by RIG Construction Company agent.

And (D) on or about April 12th, 2012, you sent an e-mail to an executive of RIG Construction Company discussing how to structure commission payments that RIG Construction Company would make to a consulting company controlled by RIG Construction Company agent in violation

of United States law.

Now my first question is do you understand what a conspiracy is?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Basically, a conspiracy is simply an agreement between two or more people to do something unlawful. In this case, you are charged with agreeing with others to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in the manner that I have just read to you from the indictment.

Do you understand the charge?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: All right. Now this is a felony charge and because it is a felony charge, you have a constitutional right to be charged by way of an indictment brought by the grand jury. The grand jury is a group of at least 16 and not more than 23 people, who listen to the evidence presented by the government and at least 12 of them must find that there is probable cause to believe that you committed the crime that the government is charging you with.

Now the government could present the case to the grand jury, and the grand jury could vote to indict you or it could vote not to indict you. But the only way that the government can proceed on this felony charge as

it is here today, is if you agree to give up your right to have the case presented to the grand jury.

If you waive your right to have the case presented to the grand jury, then the government can proceed against you on this charge just as if the grand jury heard the evidence and voted to indict you.

Do you follow me so far?

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THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: All right. Have you discussed waiving your right to be indicted by the grand jury with your attorneys?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

THE COURT: And do you understand your right to be indicted by the grand jury?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

16 THE COURT: Has anyone made any threat or 17 promise to get you to waive indictment?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Do you wish at this time to waive your right to be indicted by the grand jury?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Counsel, do you know of any reason why the defendant should not waive indictment?

MR. CARROLL: No, your Honor. I know of no such reason.

THE COURT: All right. Ariela, would you show that to the defendant? This is the waiver of indictment form that I believe you may have signed earlier.

Have you seen this before, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

THE COURT: Okay. And is that your signature there at the bottom of the page?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.

THE COURT: All right. And I note that it's also been signed by counsel for the defendant, as well.

MR. CARROLL: That's correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I will take it back now. And I am endorsing it, as well, finding that the defendant has been apprised of the nature of the charges, the proposed information and his rights and he has hereby waived prosecution by indictment in open court today.

What year is this?

THE DEFENDANT: 2017.

MR. CARROLL: I wrote '18 on all of them.

(Laughter)

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THE COURT: I'm like did I lose a year?

MR. CARROLL: How about that?

23 THE COURT: Did I lose a year somewhere along

24 | the way? Okay, I'll fix it.

MR. CARROLL: I was just into writing 8s

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   because of August.
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    (Pause)
              THE COURT: Now counsel, have you discussed the
   matter of pleading quilty with your client?
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              MR. CARROLL: At great length, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Does he understand the rights that
   he will be waiving by pleading guilty?
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              MR. CARROLL: He does, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: In your view, is he capable of
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    understanding the nature of these proceedings?
              MR. CARROLL: Absolutely, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Do you have any doubt as to his
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    competence to plead at this time?
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              MR. CARROLL: No, doubt whatsoever.
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              THE COURT: Have you advised him of the maximum
    sentence and the fine that can be imposed as a result of
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   his plea here?
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              MR. CARROLL:
                            I have, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: And have you discussed with him the
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   operation of the sentencing guidelines in this case?
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              MR. CARROLL:
                            I have, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: All right Mr. Chow, do you
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   understand that you have the right to be represented by
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   an attorney from this point forward in connection with
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these charges.

1 Do you understand that?

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THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: And I take it, counsel, you are retained in this matter, is that correct?

MR. CARROLL: That's correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: If Mr. Chow, you could not afford to pay for counsel, the Court would appoint an attorney to represent you. That's how important your right to counsel is.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Do you believe that you have had enough time to discuss your case with your attorneys?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

THE COURT: And are you satisfied to have them represent you?

THE DEFENDANT: Very much so.

THE COURT: All right. I want to make sure that you understand the rights that you will be giving up if you decide to plead guilty to this charge.

Under the Constitution and the laws of the United States, you would be entitled to a speedy and public trial by jury with the assistance of counsel on the charge contained in the information.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: At the trial, you would be presumed innocent and the government would have to overcome that presumption and prove you guilty by competent evidence and beyond a reasonable doubt.

You would not have to prove that you were innocent. If the government were to fail, the jury would have the duty to find you not guilty.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: In the course of a trial, the witnesses for the government would have to come to court. They would have to testify in your presence. Your attorney would have the right to cross-examine those witnesses for the government, to object to any evidence offered by the government and to subpoena witnesses and offer testimony on your behalf.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: At the trial, while you would have the right to testify if you chose to do so, you could not be forced to testify. Under the Constitution of the United States, a defendant in a criminal case cannot be forced to take the witness stand and say anything that could be used to show that he is guilty of the crime with

which they've been charged.

If you were to decide not to testify, the Court would instruct the jury that they could not hold that decision against you.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: If you plead guilty on the other hand, I'm going to have to ask you certain questions about what it is that you did in order to satisfy myself that you are, in fact, guilty of the charge to which you seek to plead guilty. And you're going to have to answer my questions and acknowledge your guilt.

Thus, you will be giving up that right that I just described. That is the right not to say anything that could be used to show that you are guilty of the crime with which you've been charged.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: If you plead guilty and I recommend to Judge Matsumoto that she accept your plea, you will be giving up your constitutional right to a trial and all of the other rights that I have just described. There will be no further trial of any kind. Judge Matsumoto will simply enter a judgment of guilty based upon your guilty plea.

	Proceedings
1	Do you understand that?
2	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
3	THE COURT: Are you willing to give up your
4	right to a trial and the other rights that I have just
5	described?
6	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
7	THE COURT: Now I understand that there is a
8	plea agreement in this case. I have an older version, so
9	I want to make sure I am marking it as Court Exhibit 1
10	for purposes of these proceedings. Ariela, would you
11	show that to the defendant please.
12	Have you seen this agreement before, sir?
13	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.
14	THE COURT: And have you have a chance to read
15	it?
16	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.
17	THE COURT: And have you discussed it with
18	counsel?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
20	THE COURT: And do you understand what it says?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
22	THE COURT: And if you would flip to the last
23	page for me, please, is that your signature there?
24	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.

THE COURT: All right. Does this agreement

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fully and accurately reflect your understanding of the agreement that you have with the government?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it does.

THE COURT: Other than the promises that are in the agreement, has anyone made any other promise that has caused you to plead guilty here?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Has anyone made any promise to you as to what your sentence will be?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: I want to briefly review with you the sentencing scheme that applies here. The statute that you are accused of violating carries a minimum term of imprisonment of zero years but a maximum of up to possibly five years in prison.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Now there are in effect what are called sentencing guidelines and those guidelines are merely that; a guide to help the Court determine where within that zero to five year range your sentence should fall.

The guidelines are not mandatory but the Court is required to consider the guidelines along with all other relevant factors in determining what an appropriate

1 | sentence for you should be.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: The important thing that you must understand is that until the time of sentencing when Judge Matsumoto is going to get what is called a presentence report which will be prepared by the probation department following your plea here and the judge has an opportunity to hear from you, and to hear from your attorneys, and to hear from the government, until that time, no one can promise you exactly what your sentence will be; not your attorneys, not the government, not me, not even Judge Matsumoto until that then.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Nevertheless, I am going to ask the government just to put on the record what your estimate of the guideline range would be based upon what we know today.

MR. HEIN: Yes, your Honor. The government's estimate is an adjusted offense level of 36 and that's calculated by a base offense level of 12 with a two level enhancement for more than one bribe and another 22 level enhancement for more than \$25 million.

The adjusted offense level has a sentencing

range of 188 to 235 months with a three level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government estimates a total offense level of 33 with a sentencing range of 135 months to 168 months and the government is, of course, aware of the statutory maximum of 60 months.

THE COURT: Okay. Counsel, do you have any quarrel with the government's calculation that you want to put on the record at this time?

MR. CARROLL: While we don't consent to it, we have no quarrel at this time.

THE COURT: Okay.

So you understand the government's estimate brings your guideline level way above the maximum of the statute but that is the maximum that can be imposed.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

MR. CARROLL: I take it that, Mr. Chow, is a citizen of the United States?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

THE COURT: Okay. Because if you were not a citizen of the United States, I would have to inform you that you might be subject to deportation based upon your guilty plea here but since you're a citizen, that shouldn't be a concern.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: You do understand though that you face a term of supervised release.

Do you know what supervised release is?
THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Basically, once you have completed any sentence of imprisonment that you may be directed to serve, you will be released from jail but there may be certain restrictions placed on your freedom. For example, you might have to report to a probation officer on a periodic basis and there may be other restrictions, as well.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: The important thing here is that you face a maximum term of supervised release of three years.

And if you violate any of the conditions of supervised release, you may be sentenced up to two years in prison without getting any credit for the time that you previously served in prison and without getting any credit for the time that you served successfully on supervised release up until the date that you committed the violation.

Do you understand that?

	Proceedings
1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
2	THE COURT: You also face a potential fine.
3	The maximum fine that can be imposed is the greater of
4	\$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss.
5	Does the government have an estimate of what
6	that might be in this case?
7	MR. HEIN: One second, your Honor.
8	(Counsel confer)
9	MR. HEIN: Not at this point, your Honor.
10	THE COURT: Okay. But it could be higher than
11	the \$250,000?
12	MR. HEIN: It could be, your Honor, yes.
13	THE COURT: Based on the numbers that you were
14	stating before?
15	MR. HEIN: Yes.
16	THE COURT: Do you understand that, Mr. Chow?
17	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
18	THE COURT: And you must pay a \$100 special
19	assessment.
20	Do you understand that, as well?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
22	THE COURT: Now you can appeal your conviction
23	if you believe that your guilty plea here was somehow
24	unlawful or involuntary or there was some other
25	fundamental defect in these proceedings that was not

| waived by your plea.

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You also have a statutory right to appeal your sentence under certain circumstances if you believe that your sentence is contrary to law. However, in the plea agreement, you have agreed that you will not file an appeal or otherwise challenge your conviction or your sentence, so long as the Court imposes a term of imprisonment at or below five years.

Do you understand that you've agreed to that?

THE COURT: Anything else in the plea agreement

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

12 | that I need to review with the defendant?

MR. HEIN: Not from the government, your Honor.

THE COURT: Counsel?

MR. CARROLL: Nothing else, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Chow, do you have any questions that you would like to ask me about the charge or your rights or the plea agreement or anything else before we proceed?

THE DEFENDANT: No, I don't.

THE COURT: Are you ready to plead at this

22 | time?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

24 THE COURT: Counsel, do you know of any reason

25 | why the defendant should not plead guilty?

MR. CARROLL: I know of no reason, your Honor.

THE COURT: Are you aware of any viable legal defense to the charge?

MR. CARROLL: No, your Honor.

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THE COURT: Jeffrey Chow, what is your plea to the charge contained in information 17-cr-466, guilty or not guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Are you making this plea of guilty 10 voluntarily and of your own free will?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

THE COURT: Has anyone threatened or forced you to plead guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: No one.

THE COURT: Has anyone made any promise to you what your sentence will be?

17 THE DEFENDANT: No.

18 THE COURT: All right.

I read the charge to you a few minutes ago. I want you to tell me in your own words what exactly you did in connection with the conspiracy that's charged in the information.

THE DEFENDANT: I worked in the Legal Department at Keppel Offshore Marine for over 25 years and among my duties and responsibilities were to draft and prepare

contracts with the company's agents and one of those was an agent in Brazil.

By no later than 2008, I realized that Keppel was overpaying the agent, sometimes by millions of dollars, so that the agent could pay bribes to individuals who could help Keppel Offshore Marine doing business with Petrobras. The Petrobras was a Brazilian-state -- state-owned and controlled oil company. Although no one ever named the bribe recipients for me, I knew that they were government officials and ruling political party.

I should have refused to draft the contract that we used for paying bribes and I should have resigned from Keppel. Instead, I discussed the economic terms of the contracts with my seniors at Keppel and acting in agreement with my seniors, and others at Keppel, I drafted the contracts and made sure that they were executed.

And at least one case, it was in the U.S., that I sent the executed copy of the contract from Houston,

Texas to the agent to confirm that my seniors at Keppel had signed the contract.

While I didn't negotiate the contracts or make the decisions to pay the bribes, I knew that the contracts existed to make the payments legitimate and

that they were an important part of the bribery scheme.

I am deeply sorry for my conduct.

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THE COURT: So in terms of the overt act, is he pleading to the first one, in or about November 2009?

MR. HEIN: Yes, your Honor, that's the government's understanding.

THE COURT: Okay. And what role does Rigg
Construction Company play in this? Is that the name of
the company for whom you were --

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, the Rigg Construction Company is Keppel Offshore Marine or --

THE COURT: The same name?

THE DEFENDANT: -- one of the subsidiaries that handled the contract execution.

THE COURT: Okay. That was the one thing that was missing.

Is there anything else I should inquire of him?

MR. HEIN: Not from the government, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Anything else, counsel?

MR. CARROLL: Nothing else, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

Based on the information given to me, I find that the defendant is acting voluntarily, fully understands his rights and the consequences of his plea and that there is a factual basis for the plea.

I will, therefore, recommend to Judge Matsumoto that she accept your plea of guilty to the charge contained in the information.

What happens now, Mr. Chow, is that you are going to be meeting with someone from the probation department to prepare the presentence report that we talked about a little bit earlier. I urge you to cooperate with them, obviously with counsel's advice.

And I believe that once that report is prepared, either the probation department or the Court will schedule a sentencing date. I don't believe we have one right now.

MR. HEIN: We do not have one yet, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Now it's also my understanding that this is Mr. Chow's first appearance in the Court. So I need to hear you on bail.

MR. HEIN: Yes, your Honor. The government and defense counsel have spoken regarding bail and are in agreement to the following terms if the Court is amenable. A \$250,000 bond and that would be secured by two suretors who are brothers of the defendant. My understanding is one lives in New Orleans and one in Houston and my understanding is that they are financial responsible suretors who have agreed to be liable for the bond and within approximately two weeks, will make

arrangements to go to the federal courthouse in their respective cities and sign the bond.

Given the natural disaster in the Houston and Texas area, defense counsel and I have spoken about seeing if the two weeks is a reasonable deadline for them.

THE COURT: It may not be realistic at this point but --

MR. HEIN: But it may not be, yeah. The other important part of the bail package is that the government has agreed that the defendant may return to his residence in Singapore during the pendency of the case.

THE COURT: Okay. Are you agreeing to allow him to leave before the bond is fully signed off on?

MR. HEIN: That has been the agreement. Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

(Pause)

THE COURT: While she is actually looking for the second page of the bond, Mr. Chow, I want to make sure you understand what your responsibilities are under the bond.

The bond, as counsel has indicated, is in the amount of \$250,000. If you should final to come back to court at any time in the future when you are required to

be here, the bond will be revoked and the government will come to me for an arrest warrant. You will be rearrested and at that point, you will be held without bond until the case is resolved.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Okay. Do you also understand that if you fail to appear, the government can bring additional charges against you for the separate crime of bail jumping. That's a separate felony offense. It carries its own separate term of imprisonment.

And what that means is that you could actually be given a very short period of time under these charges and yet end up facing a significant period of time simply because you didn't come back to court.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Okay. Do you also understand that if you don't come back to court, your brothers who are signing as suretors on the bond, will lose \$250,000 which is the amount of the bond. That means that if they have a home, car, bank account, assets of any kind, the government will seize their assets up to that \$250,000 limit. And if they don't have assets, the government can garnish their wages, meaning every time they get a

paycheck, a certain amount is going to be taken out until the bond amount is satisfied.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Okay. You also understand that you are not to commit any crimes while on bond? If you commit a crime while on bond, that's grounds for revoking your bond, increasing your punishment under these charges and bringing new charges against you for whatever new crime you are alleged to have committed.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Finally, you are not to threaten or attempt to influence anyone who you think might be a witness against you in this case. If you do that, that is considered witness tampering and the government cannot only have you rearrested for that but will bring additional charges against you for that crime.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: All right.

22 (Pause)

THE COURT: While he is doing that, do we have the address of the courthouses where the brothers are supposed to go? Just because we're going to have to fax

- I the bond once the defendant signs it down there.
- MR. HEIN: I will get the addresses, your
- 3 Honor.
- 4 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 5 (Pause)
- 6 THE COURT: Are there any travel restrictions?
- 7 In other words, is he restricted to traveling back and
- 8 | forth from Singapore or is there any -- no restrictions.
- 9 MR. HEIN: One second, your Honor.
- 10 (Counsel confer)
- MR. CARROLL: Your Honor, with regard to the
- 12 travel, as far as I know (indiscernible) -- prior to Mr.
- 13 | Chow traveling anywhere from Singapore, we would give the
- 14 government prior notice and an opportunity to object. We
- 15 don't foresee problematic travel but Mr. Chow isn't going
- 16 to leave Singapore until the government knows that and
- 17 | agrees.
- 18 THE COURT: Okay.
- 19 (Pause)
- 20 THE COURT: I assume there's no one that he
- 21 | should avoid contact with?
- 22 MR. HEIN: The government would propose that
- 23 the defendant avoid contact with individuals from Keppel.
- 24 MR. CARROLL: Your Honor, Mr. Chow's life in
- 25 | Singapore has been working for Keppel. If he didn't see

- those individuals, he would be talking to his dog all
 day. You know, we've certainly counseled him to not have
 substantive conversations with people from Keppel. I
 think that his circumstance is such that his contacts are
 more limited than they were previously but I don't think
 that that's realistic --
- 7 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. CARROLL: -- and I think upon reflection, the government agrees.
- THE COURT: Of course I like talking to my dog

 11 better than some people.
- MR. CARROLL: Yeah, my dog is the only one welcoming me at home most days, Judge.
- 14 THE COURT: Okay. And the names of the 15 suretors, I'm sorry, are?
- 16 MR. CARROLL: Jimmy and Joseph Chow.
- THE COURT: Okay. So I've indicated under

 other conditions that he may travel outside of the United

 States and Singapore with prior notice to the government.
- MR. HEIN: That's fine with the government, your Honor.
- 22 THE COURT: Okay. So really the only other 23 condition is the signatures of the suretors, am I right?
- 24 MR. HEIN: I believe so, your Honor.
- 25 THE COURT: Okay. I mean, there's no pretrial

Proceedings

service involvement here because he's not in the United

States essentially. We do have a pretrial service

officer here and I did want to make sure that there

wasn't anything that you needed to inform me of because I

know your computers went down.

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER: No, not at all. We all are kind of in agreement with the bond.

THE COURT: Okay, excellent. Has he been processed by the marshals?

MR. CARROLL: He has not, your Honor. He's been to the FBI. He's been to pretrial services. The marshals were asked whether they wanted to see him and they said no for now.

MR. HEIN: It's also my understanding, your Honor, speaking to the FBI who processed him at 26 Federal Plaza, was that they were going to pass him to the marshals and the marshals declined. The FBI brought the defendant to pretrial services here for his initial interview and then he came here for the guilty plea. So I can speak again to the marshals but that's where it's been left.

THE COURT: He's got to go to the marshals. I mean, in the twenty-some years I've been doing this, not including the nine I was an assistant, I don't recall ever --

Proceedings

MR. HEIN: And I agree with you, your Honor. It was -- we had several conversations with the FBI agents today who were seeking to pass him to the marshals and this was at 26 Federal Plaza, having him brought him and then they declined to do so.

I would be happy before the defendant leaves to contact them myself directly to ensure that that's their understanding.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, let me do this. This is -- that's the defendant's copy. That's the pretrial officer's copy and this is a copy that normally goes to the marshals. So that's -- I don't know what I do with that one.

If you wouldn't mind, let me call them.

MR. HEIN: Okay.

THE COURT: And I will see what the story is.

MR. HEIN: And, your Honor, if I may and defense counsel alluded to this earlier but the government would move to have the information and the transcript from today's plea sealed on the basis of an

THE COURT: Okay. So ordered.

ongoing investigation.

(Court confers with Marshal Service via Telephone)

24 THE COURT: They want to process him. I don't 25 know what you were told but --

Proceedings

That's fine to me, your Honor. 1 MR. HEIN: 2 thought the same. That was our understanding and we were told differently but --4 THE COURT: Okay. So I am sorry about this but you need to go back downstairs to the United States 5 Marshal's Service where they will do the fingerprinting and processing and all of that. But Mr. Hein, I am going to ask you to take the bond down --9 MR. HEIN: Yes. THE COURT: -- and show the defendant where to 10 11 go. MR. HEIN: Will do. 12 13 THE COURT: All right? MR. HEIN: Thank you, your Honor. 14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 15 Thank you, your Honor. MR. CARROLL: 16 THE COURT: Oh, and don't forget, Mr. Hein, to 17 get us the addresses of the two courthouses. 18

MR. HEIN: I have those here and maybe perhaps

should I e-mail them to your clerk?

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THE COURT: Yeah, why don't you e-mail them to Ariela and then we'll fax them out.

MR. HEIN: Thank you.

(Matter concluded)

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CERTIFICATE

I, LINDA FERRARA, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the said proceedings is a true and accurate transcript from the electronic sound-recording of the proceedings reduced to typewriting in the above-entitled matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 11th day of October, 2017.

Janda Gerrara

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F. #2017R00353	
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	x
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	COOPERATION AGREEMENT
- against –	17 CR 466 (KAM)
JEFFERY CHOW,	
Defendant.	
	x

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States

Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section and the United States Attorney's Office

for the Eastern District of New York (together, the "Government") and JEFFERY CHOW (the

"defendant") agree to the following:

- 1. The defendant will waive indictment and his right to challenge venue in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and plead guilty to an information to be filed in this district, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. The count carries the following statutory penalties:
 - a. Maximum term of imprisonment: 5 years (18 U.S.C. § 371).
 - b. Minimum term of imprisonment: 0 years (18 U.S.C. § 371).
 - c. Maximum supervised release term: 3 years, to follow any term of imprisonment; if a condition of release is violated, the defendant may be sentenced to up to 2 years without credit for pre-release imprisonment or time previously served on post-release supervision (18 U.S.C. § 3583 (b) & (e)).

- d. Maximum fine: the greater of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or twice the gross loss
 (18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(3) and (d)).
- e. Restitution: N/A.
- f. \$100 special assessment (18 U.S.C. § 3013).
- 2. The defendant understands that although imposition of a sentence in accordance with the United States Sentencing Guidelines (the "Guidelines" and "U.S.S.G.") is not mandatory, the Guidelines are advisory and the Court is required to consider any applicable Guidelines provisions as well as other factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to arrive at an appropriate sentence in this case. The Government will advise the Court and the Probation Department of information relevant to sentencing, including all criminal activity engaged in by the defendant, and such information may be used by the Court in determining the defendant's sentence. If the defendant clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility, through allocution and subsequent conduct prior to the imposition of a sentence, a two-level reduction will be warranted, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a). Furthermore, if the defendant has accepted responsibility as described above, and if the defendant pleads guilty on or before August 31, 2017, an additional one-level reduction will be warranted, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b).
- 3. The defendant agrees not to file an appeal or otherwise challenge, by petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or any other provision, the conviction or sentence in the event that the Court imposes a term of imprisonment at or below 5 years. This waiver is binding without regard to the sentencing analysis used by the Court. Nothing in the foregoing waiver of

appellate and collateral review rights shall preclude the defendant from raising a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in an appropriate forum.

- 4. The defendant will provide truthful, complete and accurate information and will cooperate fully with the Government. This cooperation will include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. The defendant agrees to be fully debriefed and to attend all meetings at which his presence is requested, concerning his participation in and knowledge of all criminal activities.
 - b. The defendant agrees to furnish to the Government all documents and other material that may be relevant to the investigation and that are in the defendant's possession or control and to participate in undercover activities pursuant to the specific instructions of law enforcement agents or the Government.
 - c. The defendant agrees not to reveal his cooperation, or any information derived therefrom, to any third party without prior consent of the Government.
 - d. The defendant agrees to testify at any proceeding in the Eastern District of New York or elsewhere as requested by the Government.
 - e. The defendant consents to adjournments of his sentence as requested by the Government.
 - f. The defendant agrees that all of the defendant's obligations under this agreement continue after the defendant is sentenced.

5. The Government agrees that:

a. Except as provided in paragraphs 1, 9 and 10, no criminal charges will be brought against the defendant for his participation in the criminal activity, as described in the above-captioned criminal information, involving the bribery of government officials in Brazil from the period of 2000 through 2016, or in bribe payments made with respect to (i) the sale of two rigs to Seadrill and Standard Drilling, respectively, between 2008 and 2010, (ii) the sale of semisubmersible rigs to Chornomornaftogaz in 2012, and

- (iii) a May 2, 2012 consultancy agreement between Prismatic Services Limited and Grovewalk Limited.
- b. No statements made by the defendant during the course of this cooperation will be used against him except as provided in paragraphs 2, 9 and 10.
- 6. The defendant agrees that the Government may meet with and debrief him without the presence of counsel, unless the defendant specifically requests counsel's presence at such debriefings and meetings. Upon request of the defendant, the Government will endeavor to provide advance notice to counsel of the place and time of meetings and debriefings, it being understood that the Government's ability to provide such notice will vary according to time constraints and other circumstances. The Government may accommodate requests to alter the time and place of such debriefings. It is understood, however, that any cancellations or reschedulings of debriefings or meetings requested by the defendant that hinder the Government's ability to prepare adequately for trials, hearings or other proceedings may adversely affect the defendant's ability to provide substantial assistance. Matters occurring at any meeting or debriefing may be considered by the Government in determining whether the defendant has provided substantial assistance or otherwise complied with this agreement and may be considered by the Court in imposing a sentence regardless of whether counsel was present at the meeting or debriefing.
- 7. If the Government determines that the defendant has cooperated fully, provided substantial assistance to law enforcement authorities and otherwise complied with the terms of this agreement, the Government will file a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 with the sentencing Court setting forth the nature and extent of his cooperation. Such a motion will allow the Court, in applying the advisory Guidelines, to consider a range below the Guidelines

range that would otherwise apply. In this connection, it is understood that a good faith determination by the Government as to whether the defendant has cooperated fully and provided substantial assistance and has otherwise complied with the terms of this agreement, including the demonstration of acceptance of responsibility described in paragraph 2, and the Government's good faith assessment of the value, truthfulness, completeness and accuracy of the cooperation, shall be binding upon him. The defendant agrees that, in making this determination, the Government may consider facts known to it at this time. The Government will not recommend to the Court a specific sentence to be imposed. Further, the Government cannot and does not make a promise or representation as to what sentence will be imposed by the Court.

- 8. The defendant agrees that with respect to all charges referred to in paragraphs 1 and 5(a) he is not a "prevailing party" within the meaning of the "Hyde Amendment," 18 U.S.C. § 3006A note, and will not file any claim under that law. The defendant waives any right to additional disclosure from the Government in connection with the guilty plea. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment by check payable to the Clerk of the Court at or before sentencing.
- 9. The defendant must at all times give complete, truthful, and accurate information and testimony, and must not commit, or attempt to commit, any further crimes. Should it be judged by the Government that the defendant has failed to cooperate fully, has intentionally given false, misleading or incomplete information or testimony, has committed or attempted to commit any further crimes, or has otherwise violated any provision of this agreement, the defendant will not be released from his plea of guilty but the Government will be released from its obligations under this agreement, including (a) not to oppose a downward

adjustment of two levels for acceptance of responsibility described in paragraph 2 above, to make the motion for an additional one-level reduction described in paragraph 2 above and (b) to file the motion described in paragraph 7 above. Moreover, the Government may withdraw the motion described in paragraph 7 above, if such motion has been filed prior to sentencing. The defendant will also be subject to prosecution for any federal criminal violation of which the Government has knowledge, including, but not limited to, the criminal activity described in paragraph 5 above, perjury and obstruction of justice.

- 10. If the defendant violates any provision of this agreement, prosecutions for crimes currently known and unknown to the government that are not time-barred by the applicable statutes of limitation on the date this agreement is signed may be commenced against the defendant notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitation between the signing of this agreement and the commencement of any such prosecutions. If any such prosecutions are brought, the defendant waives all claims under the United States Constitution, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, or any other federal statute or rule that statements made by the defendant on or after February 2, 2017, or any leads derived therefrom, should be suppressed.
- authority other than the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section and does not prohibit the Government from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceedings directly or indirectly involving the defendant. The Government, will, however, bring the cooperation of the defendant to the attention of other prosecuting offices, both in the United States and foreign

jurisdictions, if requested by the defendant. If the Government receives a request from any local, state, federal or foreign law enforcement office or prosecutor's office for access to statements made by the defendant, the Government may furnish such information, but will do so only on the condition that the requesting office honor the provision of the written proffer dated February 2, 2017 (and subsequent initialed proffer agreements) and this agreement.

12. Apart from the written proffer agreements dated February 2, 2017, March 28, 2017, and June 20, 2017, no promises, agreements or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this agreement, and none will be entered into unless memorialized in writing and signed by all parties. This agreement supersedes any prior promises, agreements or

conditions between the parties and remains binding beyond the date of the defendant's conviction. To become effective, this agreement must be signed by all signatories listed below.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York August <u>21</u>, 2017

BRIDGET M. ROHDE Acting United States Attorney Eastern District of New York

By: Alixandra Smith
Patrick Hein

Assistant U.S. Attorneys

SANDRA L. MOSER Acting Chief, Fraud Section Criminal Division, Dept. of Justice

By: Derek J. Ettinger David Fuhr

Trial Attorneys

Approved by:

Whitman Knapp

Supervising Assistant U.S. Attorney

Approved by:

Christopher Cestaro

Assistant Chief, Fraud Section

I have read the entire agreement and discussed it with my attorney. I understand all of its terms and am entering into it knowingly and voluntarily.

JEFFERY CHOW

Defendant

Approved by:

John Carroll

Counsel to Defendant

Gr.

PTH F. #2017R00353	
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
X	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	PROPOSED ORDER
- against -	Docket No. 17-CR-466 (KAM)
JOHN DOE,	
Defendant.	
X	
Upon the application of BRID	GET M. ROHDE, Acting United States Attorney for
the Eastern District of New York, by Assista	ant United States Attorney Patrick T. Hein, and after
review of the transcript of the guilty p	olea of the defendant JOHN DOE, entered on
August 29, 2017, before United States Mag	gistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollak, I hereby adopt the
recommendation of Magistrate Judge Pollak	and accept the defendant's plea of guilty to Count
One of the above-captioned Information. I fi	ind that the plea was made knowingly and voluntarily
and that there is a factual basis for the plea.	
Dated: Brooklyn, New York, 2017	

THE HONORABLE KIYO A. MATSUMOTO UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK



; ; ;

N. CLERKS SOFICE IN CLERKS SOFICE IN SECTION

TO FILE DOCUMENT UNDER SEAL APPLICATION FOR LEAVE

BROOKLYN OFFICE

	SIGNATURE	DATE
		10/14/10
This is a criminal document submitted, and flight public safety, or security are significant concerns. (Check one)	nitted, and flight public safety, or secu	C. This is a criminal document subm.
itute or regulation; or	Service is excused by 31 U.S.C. 3730(b), or by the following other statute or regulation;	B.) Service is excused by 31 U.S.C. 3
upon all parties to this action	A copy of this application either has been or will be promptly served upon all parties	A.) A copy of this application either
DATE		MANDATORY CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE: (Check One)
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE/U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE RECEIVED IN CLERK'S OFFICE		
DATED: BROOKLYN, NEW YORK	į (If yes, state description of document to be entered on docket sheet:
ORDERED SEALED AND PLACED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, AND MAY <u>NOT</u> BE UNSEALED UNLESS ORDERED BY THE COURT.	Z O	E-Mail Address: Patrick.Hein@usdoj.gov INDICATE UPON THE PUBLIC DOCKET SHEET.
		ımber:
		Firm Name: USAO - EDNY Address: 271 CADMAN PLAZA EAST
B) If a new application, the statute, regulation, or other legal basis that authorizes filing under seal	LOQ X	SUBMITTED BY: Plaintiff Defendant Name: AUSA PATRICK T. HEIN
	Docket Number	************
	17-466 (KAM)	John Dos
Date Entered:	•	-v
A) II pursuant to a prior Court Order: Docket umber of Case in Whitin Entered: Judge/Magistrate Judge:		**************************************