

1 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

2 COUNTY OF NEW YORK: CRIMINAL TERM: PART 61

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3 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

4 SCI No.: 73035-25

-against-

HGJ No.: 73033-25

5

EUGENE ALEXANDER,

6

PLEA & SENTENCE

7

8

Defendant.

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10

111 Centre Street  
New York, New York 10013

11

July 8, 2025

12 B E F O R E:

13 THE HONORABLE ALTHEA DRYSDALE, Justice

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

15

FOR THE PEOPLE:

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ALVIN BRAGG, JR., ESQ.  
District Attorney - New York County

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Attorneys for the People

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One Hogan Place

19

New York, New York 10013

BY: MATTHEW BOGDANOS, ESQ., ADA

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FOR THE DEFENDANT:

22

MINTZ & GOLD

23

600 Third Avenue, Floor 25

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New York, New York 10016

BY: ELLIOT SAGOR, ESQ.

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ROGER STAVIS, ESQ.

## PROCEEDINGS

1 THE CLERK: Calling calendar number 49, HGJ 73033  
2 of 25, as to Eugene Alexander.

3 THE COURT: All right. Appearances, starting  
4 with the defense, please.

5 MR. SAGOR: Elliot Sagor, Mintz and Gold, 600  
6 Third Avenue for defendant, Eugene Alexander.

7 THE COURT: Good morning, sir.

8 MR. STAVIS: Good morning.

9 Mintz and Gold by Roger Stavis, also on behalf of  
10 Mr. Alexander.

11 THE COURT: Good morning.

12 For the People.

13 MR. BOGDANOS: Matthew Bogdanos, B-O-G-D-A-N-O-S,  
14 for the People.

15 Good morning, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Alexander.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: How are you today?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Very good.

20 Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Before the case was called into the  
22 record, did you have an opportunity to speak with your  
23 attorneys?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: And did they answer all of your

## PROCEEDINGS

1 questions?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Did they also go over all the  
4 attending paperwork with you?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Bogdanos, please chronical for  
7 the record the offer to the defendant, please?

8 MR. BOGDANOS: Yes, your Honor.

9 Beginning in the year 2018 when the People began  
10 our investigation into Michael Steinhart that ultimately  
11 lead to the seizure of 180 antiquities valued at  
12 \$70 million, and a deferred prosecution agreement, as well  
13 as a lifetime band of buying and selling antiquities.

14 We also uncovered a series of global trafficking  
15 networks, of relevance to this case is the network that  
16 involved Michael Ward and Eugene Alexander.

17 Mr. Ward has since been convicted in this  
18 courtroom by your Honor for his criminal actions in regard  
19 to this trafficking network. Since then the People have  
20 seized from Mr. -- we have conducted six seizures from  
21 Mr. Alexander totaling 67 looted antiquities valued at  
22 approximately 31 million dollars, and then from Mr. Ward  
23 another three seizures of 44 antiquities valued at  
24 approximately 22 million dollars.

25 For all of these, both Alexander and Mr. Ward

## PROCEEDINGS

1       surrenderer them voluntarily after our investigation got to  
2       the point where we were able to establish that the  
3       antiquities were themselves looted, and they have all been  
4       returned to their country of origin, so at this point your  
5       Honor, the People have a dilemma, Mr. Alexander is in Dubai  
6       and not likely to come to the United States, well aware  
7       that we have conducted -- we are conducting a criminal  
8       investigation.

9               The ordinary course of events, as your Honor  
10       knows from other cases before you, we would get an arrest  
11       warrant, we would then convert that into a interpole red  
12       notice, and eventually one day maybe get Mr. Alexander.  
13       Your Honor knows the international system as well as I do,  
14       we've been waiting 12 years for one extradition from India,  
15       and the case -- another case before your Honor Mr. Lotfi,  
16       L-O-T-F-I, we had been waiting for a year -- at least four  
17       years now, and he is in Lebanon.

18              So we are again on the horns of a dilemma and  
19       about to engage in this lengthy international process,  
20       fortunately for Mr. Alexander he had the good fortune to  
21       hire two of the better attorneys in the system, Elliot  
22       Sagor and Roger Stavis, who rather than just wait, sit  
23       back, and wait for an arrest warrant, and a red notice came  
24       forward and used their vast experience and wisdom to  
25       attempt to craft a fair and just resolution.

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1           A fair and just resolution that is fair and just  
2           to all three parties. We tend to forget there's a third  
3           party in every case; fair to the defendant, fair to the  
4           victims of the crime, in this case individual countries,  
5           and fair to the criminal justice system as represented by  
6           your Honor.

7           We have, we respectfully submit, come to that  
8           fair and just resolution, and that is very specifically.

9           Mr. Alexander voluntarily surrenders himself.  
10          Ultimately he was in Switzerland, and we asked him to  
11          surrender himself from Switzerland to the Manhattan  
12          District Attorney's Office. He flew into the country on  
13          his own dime voluntarily on Sunday, July 6th. He  
14          surrendered 0800 yesterday, July 7th, to the Manhattan  
15          District Attorney's Office. He was arrested, processed,  
16          arraigned in AR 1, surrendered his passport and waived to  
17          this courtroom for his plea.

18          Second, he agreed to forfeit a total amount of  
19          \$750,000 as representing the proceeds of crime that we  
20          could reasonably prove. He has, in fact, wired all of that  
21          money in its entirety to the designated accounts; and for  
22          much of which is for the victim fund, the state victim  
23          fund.

24          And then third, he agrees to waive grand jury  
25          indictment and plead guilty to a Superior Court Information

## PROCEEDINGS

1 to the charge of conspiracy in the fifth-degree, a class A  
2 misdemeanor in full satisfaction of this office's  
3 investigation and prosecution, and then he will waive  
4 appeal.

5 On our behalf, your Honor, the People will not  
6 file any arrest warrant. It is overcome by events, in any  
7 event; nor notify interpole to issue any red notice. We  
8 will close our investigation, and as your Honor knows from  
9 the prior case, this is in fact a multinational  
10 investigation. We will notify authorities at Scotland  
11 Yard, London Metropolitan in the United Kingdom, German law  
12 enforcement authorities, Italian, Turkish, and Greek all of  
13 whom have been participating in this investigation with us  
14 to tell them that our investigation is concluded, and the  
15 resolution of this matter, which we believe to be fair and  
16 just, and then the People will request that the defendant  
17 be sentenced today to time served.

18 I thank you for your patience, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.

20 So Mr. Alexander, there are a number of documents  
21 before you right now. The first document that I am going  
22 to review with you is called the waiver of indictment. If  
23 at any moment you need a moment to consult with either  
24 attorney or both ask me to stop, and I will be happy to do  
25 so; do you understand?

## PROCEEDINGS

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Alexander, you have the right to  
3 have the prosecutor present your case to a grand jury; do  
4 you understand?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: When the grand jury hears your case  
7 they decide if the evidence is sufficient to indict, and  
8 for what crime to indict.

9 Do you understand?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: You have the absolute right to  
12 testify for the grand jury; do you understand?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: By signing this waiver of indictment  
15 you give up the right to have the grand jury hear your  
16 case; do you understand?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Instead you agree to be prosecuted by  
19 a Superior Court Information filed by the prosecutor, and  
20 not an indictment filed by the grand jury.

21 Do you understand?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: If you agree to this procedure the  
24 Superior Court Information will have the same force and  
25 effect as an indictment; do you understand?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Do you agree to this procedure?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. Please review with your  
5 attorney, and sign the waiver of indictment.

6 Before you do so, Madam Clerk, please swear in  
7 the defendant.

8 THE CLERK: Eugene Alexander, do you swear or  
9 affirm the testimony you are about to give this court will  
10 be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,  
11 do you swear or affirm?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

13 THE COURT: So sir, you're signing the waiver of  
14 indictment; is that right?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 MR. BOGDANOS: That will be three copies, your  
18 Honor.

19 THE COURT: Yes, please.

20 Let the record reflect that the defendant has  
21 reviewed the waiver of indictment in consultation with both  
22 of his attorneys. The Court finds that the waiver of  
23 indictment has been voluntarily signed, and the Court  
24 accepts it.

25 MR. STAVIS: One moment, your Honor.



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1 THE COURT: Let the record reflect that all  
2 parties have signed the waiver of indictment.

3 Madam Clerk, please read the SCI into the record?

4 THE CLERK: Do you want me to arraign him on it,  
5 Judge?

6 THE COURT: Yes, please.

7 THE CLERK: Eugene Alexander, the District  
8 Attorney has filed a Superior Court Information number  
9 73035 of 25 against you charging you with the crime of  
10 conspiracy in the fifth-degree; how do you plead to these  
11 charges, guilty or not guilty?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Not guilty.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 Counsel for the defendant, do you have an  
15 application for the Court?

16 MR. SAGOR: Your Honor, we are anticipating the  
17 anticipated plea bargain, and after your Honor accepts the  
18 plea we understand that the original --

19 THE COURT: Please enter the plea on your  
20 client's behalf.

21 MR. SAGOR: Yes, we ask that the --

22 THE COURT: Come up, please.

23 (Whereupon, there was an off the record  
24 discussion at the bench.)

25 THE COURT: Please enter the plea on your

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1 client's behalf.

2 MR. SAGOR: Your Honor, after full discussion  
3 with Mr. Alexander he now pleads guilty to the SCI in full  
4 satisfaction of all the charges.

5 I've also --

6 THE COURT: And specifically he's pleading guilty  
7 to conspiracy in the fifth-degree; is that right, Counsel?

8 MR. SAGOR: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Mr. Alexander, I understand from your attorney  
11 that you now wish to enter a plea of guilty to conspiracy  
12 in the fourth-degree in violation of Penal Law 105.05  
13 subsection 1, which is a class A misdemeanor, and will give  
14 you a criminal record.

15 Is that what you wish to do, sir?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Let me go over the plea again.

18 Sir, I understand that you now wish to enter a  
19 plea of guilty to conspiracy in the fifth-degree in  
20 violation of Penal Law 105.05 subsection 1; is that what  
21 you wish to do, sir?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty because you  
24 are in fact guilty of conspiracy in the fifth-degree?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Have you had a full and fair  
2 opportunity to discuss this plea with your attorneys?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with the  
5 representation you have received from your attorneys?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Have you discussed possible defenses  
8 with your attorneys?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Are you on any drugs, medication, or  
11 alcohol that is affecting your ability to understand what  
12 is happening here today, sir?

13 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty freely and  
15 voluntarily, of your own free will?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Listen to my question again.

18 Are you pleading guilty freely and voluntarily,  
19 of your own free will?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Has anyone forced you, threatened  
22 you, or coerced you in any way, shape, or form in order to  
23 get you to plead guilty?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Do you understand that your

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1 conviction by guilty plea has the same force and effect as  
2 if you had been convicted after trial?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Are you giving up your right to a  
5 jury trial and all the rights you have at that jury trial,  
6 including your rights to remain silent or to testify, to  
7 call and confront witnesses, and to have the People prove  
8 your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt; are you giving up  
9 those constitutional rights?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Now, let the record reflect that this  
12 defendant and his attorneys as well as the prosecutor has  
13 executed a plea agreement.

14 The plea agreement will be incorporated by  
15 reference into the plea.

16 Now sir, you should have another document before  
17 you, it's called the waiver of the right to appeal.  
18 Ordinarily, Mr. Alexander, a defendant retains the right to  
19 appeal even after pleading guilty. Thus a waiver of the  
20 right to appeal is separate and distinct from the waiver of  
21 a trial and other rights by a plea of guilty. In this  
22 case, however, as a condition of the plea agreement you are  
23 asked to waive your right to appeal.

24 What is an appeal; an appeal is a proceeding  
25 before a higher court, an Appellate Court. If a defendant

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1 cannot afford the cost of an appeal or of a lawyer the  
2 state will bear those costs. On an appeal the defendant  
3 may normally through his or her lawyer argue that an error  
4 took place in this court, which requires a modification or  
5 reversal of conviction. However, a reversal would require  
6 new proceedings in this court or a dismissal; do you  
7 understand?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: By waiving your right to appeal you  
10 do not give up your right to take an appeal, but if you  
11 take an appeal you are, by this waiver, giving up the right  
12 to have the Appellate Court consider most claims of error,  
13 and to consider whether the sentence I impose, whatever it  
14 may be, is excessive, and should be modified.

15 As a result, the conviction by this plea and  
16 sentence will normally be final; do you understand?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Among the limited number of claims  
19 that will survive the waiver of the right to appeal are the  
20 voluntariness of this plea, the validity and voluntariness  
21 of this waiver, the legality of the sentence, the  
22 jurisdiction of this court, the defendant's competency to  
23 stand trial, and the defendant's constitutional right to a  
24 speedy trial.

25 Do you understand?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Have you spoken to your lawyer about  
3 waiving your right to appeal?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Are you willing to do so in return  
6 for the plea and sentence agreement?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Do you waive your right to appeal  
9 freely and voluntarily, of your own free will?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Let the record reflect that the  
12 defendant has executed the waiver of the right to appeal in  
13 consultation with his attorneys.

14 The Court finds that it has been voluntarily  
15 signed, and the Court accepts it.

16 Now sir, you should also have a document before  
17 you, it's called the forfeiture agreement.

18 MR. STAVIS: Your Honor, we're going to first  
19 execute the waiver of appeal.

20 THE COURT: Yes, please.

21 MR. STAVIS: Then we will move onto the  
22 forfeiture agreement.

23 THE COURT: All right. The next document before  
24 you, sir, will be the forfeiture agreement.

25 Did you go over that document with your

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1 attorneys?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. And the forfeiture  
4 agreement will be incorporated by reference; and sir, have  
5 you spoken to your lawyer about executing the forfeiture  
6 agreement?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Are you willing to do so in return  
9 for the plea and sentence agreement?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Do you forfeit \$750,000 freely and  
12 voluntarily, of your own free will?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Let the record reflect that the  
15 defendant has executed the forfeiture agreement in  
16 consultation with his attorneys.

17 The Court finds that the forfeiture agreement has  
18 been signed voluntarily, and the Court accepts it.

19 Counsel, are you waiving I and S, and sentence?

20 MR. STAVIS: Yes, your Honor.

21 We wish to proceed directly to sentence.

22 MR. BOGDANOS: The defendant has a very brief  
23 allocution he needs to read.

24 THE COURT: I didn't get there yet.

25 Now Mr. Alexander, have you had a full and fair

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1 opportunity to discuss with your attorneys the negative  
2 immigration consequences of this plea, such as deportation,  
3 naturalization, and reentry?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Counsel, do you acknowledge having  
6 had this discussion with your client?

7 MR. STAVIS: Yes, your Honor.

8 MR. SAGOR: Your Honor, he's a U.S. citizen.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Notwithstanding that, sir, do you further  
11 understand that neither your attorney, nor I, nor anyone  
12 else can guarantee you will not be deported, excluded from  
13 the United States, or denied naturalization?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Knowing all of this, do you still  
16 wish to enter a plea of guilty to conspiracy in the  
17 fifth-degree in violation of Penal Law 105.05 subsection 1?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: And so the Superior Court Information  
20 charges that you, Eugene Alexander, in the County of New  
21 York otherwise known as Manhattan, and elsewhere, during  
22 the period from on or about December 8, 2010 to on or about  
23 September 8, 2023, with intent that conduct constituted a  
24 felony be performed agreed with one or more persons to  
25 engage in and cause performance of such conduct; is that



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1 all true, sir?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: And in your own words, sir, would you  
4 be kind enough to tell me what did you do that constitutes  
5 conspiracy in the fifth-degree?

6 Go on, please.

7 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I intended that  
8 someone commit a felony and agreed with one or more people  
9 to do so in the County of New York and elsewhere during the  
10 period from the -- on or about December 8, 2010, to on or  
11 about September 8, 2023, with intent that conduct  
12 constituting a felony be performed.

13 I agreed with one or more persons, in this case  
14 Michael Ward, a New York based antiquities dealer, to  
15 engage in and cause the performance of illegal  
16 conspiratorial acts. I received antiquities that I knew or  
17 should have known were derived unlawfully from the  
18 countries where they were found.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 So you, sir, are guilty of the crime of  
21 conspiracy in the fifth-degree in violation of Penal Law  
22 105.05 subsection 1; is that true, sir?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Do the People wish to further  
25 allocute the defendant?

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1 MR. BOGDANOS: No, your Honor.

2 It's satisfactory.

3 THE COURT: The plea is acceptable to the People?

4 MR. BOGDANOS: It is.

5 THE COURT: And the plea is acceptable to the  
6 Court.

7 Madam Clerk, please arraign the defendant on the  
8 plea, and enter the plea.

9 THE CLERK: Eugene Alexander, do you withdraw  
10 your previously entered plea of not guilty, and do you  
11 plead guilty to conspiracy in the fifth-degree Penal Law  
12 105.05 subdivision 1 to cover and satisfy SCI number 73035  
13 of 25; is that your plea?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 Madam Clerk, please arraign the defendant for  
17 sentence and move the case to sentence, please.

18 THE CLERK: Eugene Alexander, you are before the  
19 Court for sentence following your conviction by plea to the  
20 crime of conspiracy in the fifth-degree.

21 Before being sentenced the Court will allow you,  
22 your attorney, and ADA an opportunity to address the Court  
23 with any matters relevant to sentencing.

24 For the People.

25 MR. BOGDANOS: For the reasons already stated,

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1 the People respectfully request that justice in this case  
2 is time served.

3 Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 Anything from you, sir?

6 MR. SAGOR: No, your Honor. We rely on the plea  
7 bargain.

8 THE COURT: Anything from you, sir?

9 MR. STAVIS: No, we rely on the promised sentence  
10 and plea bargain.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 Mr. Alexander, anything you'd like to say to the  
13 Court before I impose your sentence, sir?

14 THE DEFENDANT: No.

15 Thank you, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 And so sir, on your plea of guilty to conspiracy  
18 in the fifth-degree in violation of Penal Law 105.05  
19 subsection 1, a class A misdemeanor, you are hereby  
20 sentenced to time served.

21 All fees are imposed. You are to pay the  
22 surcharge on or before --

23 MR. SAGOR: We intend to pay directly today, your  
24 Honor.

25 THE COURT: I am going to ask for the indulgence

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1 from my clerk today, and so I will still give you an  
2 outside date just because life may happen.

3 I'll give you an outside date of September 17th  
4 to pay; but again Madam Clerk, they'd like to pay today.

5 I am being told it won't register today, so you'd  
6 have to pay tomorrow. You can pay on his behalf.

7 MR. STAVIS: Very well, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Thank you very much, sir.

9 Good luck to you, sir. Have a good day.

10 MR. SAGOR: Thank you, your Honor. You're  
11 welcome.

12 THE CLERK: Again the plea agreement as well as  
13 all the other documents, the forfeiture agreement, the  
14 waiver of appeal are to be incorporated by reference.

15 Good day. Thank you very much.

16 \* \* \* \* \*

17 The preceding transcript is certified to be  
18 a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

19   
20 JoAnna Coglianor  
21 Senior Court Reporter

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25