

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL DOCKET NO.: 11-304
v.	*	SECTION: "A"
DAVID DUPLANTIS	*	VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a)
	* * *	

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter proceed to trial, the United States will prove beyond a reasonable doubt, through credible testimony of special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), state and local law enforcement agencies, witnesses and the production of reliable evidence, the following facts:

On November 17, 2011 at approximately 1:25 p.m., the Whitney National Bank, located at 2200 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, Louisiana, was robbed of United States currency in the amount of \$1,669.97. The bank robber (later identified as **DAVID DUPLANTIS** and hereinafter "**DUPLANTIS**") was standing alone in line at the bank when the victim teller at window number three called **DUPLANTIS** to the window for customer assistance. **DUPLANTIS** approached and placed a demand note on the teller counter, which essentially stated, "Do not hit the alarm, no dye

packs and give me everything you got.” Once the victim teller had read the note, **DUPLANTIS** removed the note from the teller counter and kept it.

DUPLANTIS then removed a grocery style bag from under his sweatshirt and handed it to the victim teller, nodding his head as if to indicate that she was to put the money in the bag. The victim teller complied with the demand and placed United States currency from her drawer in the bag provided by **DUPLANTIS**. **DUPLANTIS** then exited the Whitney National Bank. The manager of the Whitney National Bank witnessed **DUPLANTIS** exit the bank and enter a silver or gray newer model Nissan Altima. **DUPLANTIS** fled in the vehicle through the parking area and drove toward the South I-10 Service Road.

The victim teller was interviewed at the scene and described the bank robber as a white male, about 5’7”, and weighing over 200 pounds. The bank robber was wearing a green long sleeve sweatshirt, tan or white pants, tennis shoes, a black baseball cap, dark sunglasses, and wore what appeared to be a fake beard. Several other employees also saw the bank robber and gave fairly consistent descriptions of his appearance.

On November 23, 2011, **STEPHEN DUPLANTIS (STEPHEN)** contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), New Orleans Division. **STEPHEN** advised he recognized his brother, **DUPLANTIS**, in a photograph posted on the www.NOLA.com website as the said bank robber.

On November 23, 2011 **WALTON F. DUPLANTIS, JR. (WALTON)** contacted the FBI and indicated that he observed a picture of the Whitney National Bank robber in the Times Picayune Newspaper on November 18, 2011 and the said the bank robber resembled his son, **DUPLANTIS**. After seeing the photo, **WALTON** confronted **DUPLANTIS** with this information and **DUPLANTIS** became agitated. Further, **WALTON** advised that **DUPLANTIS** told him that he

[**DUPLANTIS**] shaved off his beard on the morning of Thursday, November 17, 2011.

DUPLANTIS has been living with **WALTON** for the last two months. **DUPLANTIS**, however, has not been home since Friday, November 18, 2011. **WALTON** further advised the FBI that **DUPLANTIS** had recently borrowed a gray Nissan Altima from **DUPLANTIS**' friend, **CHAD** Last Name Unknown.

As a result of a "Be On the Lookout" release of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO), the Nissan Altima utilized in the said bank robbery was recovered by JPSO on Thursday night, November 17, 2011, at Lakeside Hospital. In the referenced automobile was found a shirt, pants, hat, and bag matching identically to that observed in the Whitney National Bank security photographs. In the pants was a house-key and it matched the address of 2821 Transcontinental Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana, which is the residential address of **DUPLANTIS** and his father, **WALTON**. Additionally, a fake beard was also recovered. Investigation by JPSO revealed the Nissan Altima was registered to a **JOHN CHAD SMITH**, who had reported the vehicle stolen on Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

On November 23, 2011, **WALTON** again contacted the FBI and stated that he had just spoken with his son, **DUPLANTIS**, by telephone that same day at approximately 3:00 pm. When asked where he was, **DUPLANTIS** responded with words to the effect of, "You know I had to run. I robbed that bank." On November 23, 2011, FBI Special Agent (SA) Steve Rayes displayed two Whitney National Bank security photographs of the bank robber to **WALTON**. **WALTON** positively identified his son, **DUPLANTIS**, as the person in the photographs. Additionally, database checks indicated that **DUPLANTIS** fits the general description in height, weight, and age to that of the said bank robber.

On November 23, 2011, the FBI interviewed JOHN CHAD SMITH and he first stated that his silver Nissan Altima had been stolen while he was the Bulldog Bar on Canal Street on November 14, 2011. He filed an incident report with the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) on November 16, 2011. After the FBI asked SMITH to produce both keys to the vehicle, SMITH confessed that his Altima had not been stolen but that he and his friend, **DUPLANTIS**, were going to use the car to commit insurance fraud. SMITH stated that **DUPLANTIS** suggested on the evening of November 14, 2011, that SMITH report the car as stolen so he could obtain insurance money for the loss. SMITH agree to the plan and provided **DUPLANTIS** with the keys and the car alarm. SMITH claimed that he had no knowledge of **DUPLANTIS'** plans to rob a bank.

On November 28, 2011, the FBI also interviewed a "friend" of **DUPLANTIS**, URSULA BURNETT. She apparently knows **DUPLANTIS** through his brother, STEPHEN. BURNETT advised the FBI that she had recent contact with **DUPLANTIS** by telephone and Facebook and he told her that he planned to visit his former wife, daughter and granddaughter in San Jose, California. After that, he wanted to meet BURNETT in North Bend, Oregon. BURNETT confirmed that **DUPLANTIS** had in fact wired her \$1,000.00 via Western Union on November 17, 2011 in order to help her pay her monthly bills. She collected the funds the same day from U.S. Bank in North Bend, Oregon.

A representative of Whitney National Bank would testify that an audit conducted after the robbery established that approximately \$1,669.97 of United States currency was taken by **DUPLANTIS**. The same witness would also testify that the deposits of the Whitney National Bank

are also insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, an agency of the federal government,
on the day of the said robbery.

READ AND APPROVED:

EDWARD J. RIVERA
Assistant United States Attorney

DATE

GEORGE CHANEY, JR.
Counsel for Defendant

DATE

DAVID DUPLANTIS
Defendant

DATE