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AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 1

	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COUL	RT		
	District of	of Nevada			
UNITED STA	TES OF AMERICA v.	) JUDGMENT IN A	A CRIMINAL CA	SE	
EDWI	N FUJINAGA	) Case Number: 2:15-	Case Number: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1		
		)	USM Number: 50059-048		
		) Heidi Ojeda and Kat Defendant's Attorney			
THE DEFENDANT:		)			
$\Box$ pleaded guilty to count(s)					
□ pleaded nolo contendere t which was accepted by th					
Image: was found guilty on count(s) after a plea of not guilty.       1-20 of the Indictment (ECF No. 1)					
The defendant is adjudicated	l guilty of these offenses:				
Title & Section	Nature of Offense		Offense Ended	<u>Count</u>	
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud		1/18/2011	1	
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud		4/26/2012	2	
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud		7/5/2012	3	
The defendant is sent the Sentencing Reform Act of	enced as provided in pages 2 through of 1984.	8 of this judgment.	The sentence is impo	osed pursuant to	

The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s)

$\Box$ Count(s)	
-----------------	--

 $\Box$  are dismissed on the motion of the United States.

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

□ is

5/23/2019	
Date of Imposition of Judgment	
A.L.	
Signature of Judge	
0	

Gloria M. Navarro, Chief Judge U.S. District Court Name and Title of Judge

June 17, 2019 Date

#### Case 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK Document 338 Filed 06/17/19 Page 2 of 28

AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 1A

Judgment—Page 2 of 8

DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

## ADDITIONAL COUNTS OF CONVICTION

Title & Section	Nature of Offense	<b>Offense Ended</b>	Count
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud	9/4/2012	4
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud	9/14/2012	5
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud	11/15/2012	6
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud	11/15/2012	7
18 USC §§ 1341 & 2	Mail Fraud	1/18/2013	8
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	1/18/2011	9
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	4/26/2012	10
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	7/5/2012	11
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	7/5/2012	12
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	9/4/2012	13
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	9/14/2012	14
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	11/15/2012	15
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	11/15/2012	16
18 USC §§ 1343 & 2	Wire Fraud	1/18/2013	17
18 USC §§ 1957 & 2	Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity	9/22/2010	18
18 USC §§ 1957 & 2	Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity	9/22/2010	19
18 USC §§ 1957 & 2	Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity	9/4/2012	20

AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Judgment in Criminal Case Sheet 2 — Imprisonment

Judgment — Page <u>3</u> of <u>8</u>

DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

### IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of:

20 YEARS as to Counts 1-8, CONCURRENT to one another and CONSECUTIVE to Counts 9-20. 20 YEARS as to Counts 9-17, CONCURRENT to one another and CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1-8 and 18-20. 10 YEARS as to Counts 18-20, CONCURRENT TO ONE ANOTHER and CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1-17. TOTAL of 50 YEARS.

 $\mathbf{V}$  The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

The Court recommends the Defendant be allowed to serve his term of incarceration at FCI Terminal Island to be near family and for available medical services.

 $\blacksquare$  The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

□ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:

 $\Box$  at  $\Box$  a.m.  $\Box$  p.m. on

 $\Box$  as notified by the United States Marshal.

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

□ before 2 p.m. on

 $\Box$  as notified by the United States Marshal.

 $\Box$  as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

### **RETURN**

I have executed this judgment as follows:

а

Defendant delivered on	to	

, with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By \_

DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 3 — Supervised Release

DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

### SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of :

THREE (3) YEARS per count as to Counts 1-20, Concurrent to one another. TOTAL of THREE (3) YEARS.

### **MANDATORY CONDITIONS**

- 1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
- 2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
- 3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court, not to exceed 104 tests annually.
  - ☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
- 4. ✓ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
- 5. **V** You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. (*check if applicable*)
- 7. You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. (check if applicable)

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

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AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 3A — Supervised Release

Judgment—Page 5 of 8

DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

## STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

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

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

## **U.S. Probation Office Use Only**

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. For further information regarding these conditions, see *Overview of Probation and Supervised Release Conditions*, available at: <u>www.uscourts.gov</u>.

Defendant's Signature

Date

DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

### SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

1. Access to Financial Information - You must provide the probation officer access to any requested financial information and authorize the release of any financial information. The probation office will share financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

2. Debt Obligations - You must not incur new credit charges, or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer.

3. Employment Restriction – You must not engage in an occupation, business, or profession, or volunteer activity that would require or enable you to have access to investors or investors financial resources without the prior approval of the probation officer.

4. Search and Seizure - You must submit your person, property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computers (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1)), other electronic communications or data storage devices or media, or office, to a search conducted by a United States Probation Officer. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation of release. You must warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

The probation officer may conduct a search under this condition only when reasonable suspicion exists that you have violated a condition of supervision and that the areas to be searched contain evidence of this violation. Any search must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.

8 6 Judgment-Page of

Case 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK Document 338 Filed 06/17/19 Page 7 of 28

Judgment in a Criminal Case AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Sheet 5 — Criminal Monetary Penalties

> 8 Judgment --- Page of

DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

#### **CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES**

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments on Sheet 6.

	Assessment	JVTA Assessment*	Fine	<b>Restitution</b>
TOTALS	\$ 2,000.00	\$	\$	<b>\$</b> 1,129,409,449.00

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

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

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

Nan	ne of Payee	<u>Total Loss**</u>	<b>Restitution Ordered</b>	<b>Priority or Percentage</b>
Se	aled Restitution List Attached		\$1,129,409,449.00	
TO	ΓALS \$	\$_		
	Restitution amount ordered pursua	ant to plea agreement \$		
Ø		udgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C.	nan \$2,500, unless the restitution or § 3612(f). All of the payment optic 612(g).	÷
	The court determined that the defe	endant does not have the ability to	o pay interest and it is ordered that:	
	☐ the interest requirement is wa	ived for the 🗌 fine 🗌 r	estitution.	
	the interest requirement for th	ne 🗌 fine 🗆 restitution	is modified as follows:	

\* Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22. \*\* Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

AO 245B (Rev. 02/18) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 6 — Schedule of Payments Sheet 6 — Schedule of Payments

Judgment — Page <u>8</u> of <u>8</u>

### DEFENDANT: EDWIN FUJINAGA

CASE NUMBER: 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK-1

#### SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

А	Lump sum payment of \$ 2,000.00 due immediately, balance due	
	$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c }\hline & not later than & , or \\ \hline \hline & in accordance with & C, & D, & \hline & E, or & \hline \hline & F below; or \\ \hline \end{array}$	
В	Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with $\Box C$ , $\Box D$ , or $\Box F$ below); or	
С	Payment in equal       (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ over a period of         (e.g., months or years), to commence       (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after the date of this judgment; or	
D	Payment in equal       (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ over a period of         (e.g., months or years), to commence       (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment to a         term of supervision; or	
Е	Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within ( <i>e.g., 30 or 60 days</i> ) after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or	

F  $\checkmark$  Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:

It is recommended that any unpaid balance due and owing by defendant shall be paid at a rate of not less than \$25.00 per quarter during defendant's incarceration. Upon commencement of defendant's supervision, payments shall be paid at a rate of 10% of any gross income earned, subject to adjustment by the Court based upon defendant's ability to pay.

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

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

□ Joint and Several

Defendant and Co-Defendant Names and Case Numbers (including defendant number), Total Amount, Joint and Several Amount, and corresponding payee, if appropriate.

- The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- $\Box$  The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States: Final Order of Forfeiture Attached.

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine principal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) JVTA assessment, (8) penalties, and (9) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.

	Case 2:15-cr-00198-GMN-NJK Document 338 Filed 06/17/19 Page 9 of 28			
1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
2	DISTRICT OF NEVADA			
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,			
4 5	Plaintiff, vs. ) Order on Restitution and Final Order of			
6	EDWIN FUJINAGA, ) Forfeiture			
7 8	Defendant. )			
9	Before the Court is the Government's Proposed Final Order on Forfeiture, (ECF No.			
10	332), to which Defendant Edwin Fujinaga ("Defendant") filed a Response, (ECF No. 324).			
11	The Court orders forfeiture against Defendant as explained below.			
12	I. <u>PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FACTUAL FINDINGS</u>			
13	The Grand Jury returned a Criminal Indictment against Defendant on July 8, 2015,			
14	charging him with Counts 1 through 8 of mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 2;			
15	Counts 9 through 17 of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2; and Counts 18			
16	through 20 of monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity in			
17	violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1957 and 2. (Indictment, ECF No. 1).			
18	The Criminal Indictment includes several forfeiture allegations. The First Forfeiture			
19	Allegation included Counts 1 through 8 for a criminal forfeiture money judgment of			
20	\$1,559,335,710.94 under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c). ( <i>Id.</i> 8:5–9:12).			
21	The Second Forfeiture Allegation included Counts 9 through 17 for a criminal forfeiture money			
22	judgment of \$1,559,335,710.94 under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c). ( <i>Id.</i>			
23	9:13–10:20). The Third Forfeiture Allegation included Counts 18 through 20 for a criminal			
24	forfeiture money judgment of \$116,346.65 under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) with 28 U.S.C.			
25				

\$ 2461(c), 18 U.S.C. \$ 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. \$ 2461(c), and 18 U.S.C. \$ 982(a)(1). (*Id.* 10:21-12:4).

On November 27, 2018, a jury found Defendant guilty on Counts 1 through 20 of the
Indictment. (Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Trial Minutes, ECF No. 262); (Jury Verdict, ECF No.
267). In the case of United States v. Edwin Fujinaga, et al, 2:15-CR-198-GMN-NJK, the Court
finds that the Government has proven by preponderance of the evidence the following:

MRI International Inc. (MRI) is a Nevada Limited Liability Corporation, operated in Las
Vegas, Nevada. (Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Presentence Investigation Report (PSR), p. 4-5).
Defendant owned and controlled MRI as its President and Chief Executive Officer. MRI
operated a Service Center located in Tokyo, Japan. Defendant operated a scheme and artifice
to defraud as set forth in the PSR, p. 4-5, ¶ 7-16.

Although MRI began business operations in 1998, beginning as early as 2009 and 12 continuing through April 2013, Defendant made, and caused to be made, numerous material 13 misrepresentations and omissions in an effort to fraudulently obtain money from investors 14 15 investing in MRI. To develop the fraudulent scheme, Defendant represented that MRI engaged in the business of purchasing medical accounts receivable (MARS), which are debts owed by 16 17 recipients of medical services or products to the individuals or entities that provided those services. Defendant represented that MRI purported to purchase the accounts from providers at 18 a discounted rate and then collect on the accounts from the patients owing money. 19 Furthermore, it was represented that MRI's profit from this activity was generated from the 20 difference between the price at which MRI purchased the MARS and the amount MRI 21 collected on them due to MRI's purportedly superior collections capability. 22

In furtherance of the scheme and artifice, Defendant solicited investments in MRI by
 offering Certificates of Investment, claiming to provide investors with consistent, predictable
 returns resulting from their superior collections ability. Bearing a face value equal to the

amount of the initial investment, the Certificates of Investment promised a series of interest
payments which would accrue and be paid, along with the principal, when the Certificates of
Investment reached a specified maturity date. When the Certificates of Investment reached
maturity, investors were given the option to reinvest the total amount due and owing into a new
Certificate instead of receiving a cash payment of the amount they were due.

6 In efforts to continue the fraudulent scheme, Defendant fraudulently induced investments by knowingly publishing, mailing, distributing, and transmitting promotional 7 materials which falsely represented that MRI would use any money invested in the Certificates 8 of Investment exclusively to purchase MARS, the purported profitable business of MRI. 9 Defendant also falsely represented to investors that investment money would be held and 10 managed by an independent, third-party escrow agent in Nevada using a "lock box" method 11 that prevented MRI, or anyone else, from expending investment money for any purpose other 12 than the purchase of MARS. 13

Investigating agents determined that, despite representations made by Defendant,
Defendant routinely used investors funds for personal enrichment and operating expenses rather
than the intended purchase of MARS. Defendant employed numerous false, fraudulent,
deceptive, and deceitful representations as necessary to advance the fraudulent scheme, conceal
fraudulent activities from others, avoid detection, and enrich himself. The fraudulent scheme
caused many investors irreparable financial harm.

Throughout the charged time frame of the fraudulent scheme and artifice, Defendant used the United States Postal Service and other private and commercial interstate carriers to send and receive documents in furtherance of the fraudulent scheme. In addition, electronic wire transfers were used to send funds between bank accounts used by Defendant. During the course of the fraudulent scheme, Defendant laundered fraudulent funds through various financial institutions. 1

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A substantial number of the victim investors were elderly individuals that invested in the fraudulent scheme. Many of those victims were significantly impacted, causing them to reenter the work force to sustain a living. (PSR, p. 5-8); (Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Trial Minutes, ECF No. 262); (Jury Verdict, ECF No. 267).

5 From 2000 to 2013, Sterling Escrow was MRI's depository of funds disbursement agent that managed two of MRI's bank accounts Sterling Escrow designated as Class A and Select A. 6 These accounts were not like regular escrow accounts or regular trusts. Sterling Escrow only 7 had a contract with MRI and did not have a contract with the victims, unlike a regular escrow 8 or trust. The individual Japanese victims transferred money to Sterling Escrow Class A and 9 Select A. Defendant transferred the victims' money from Class A and Select A into the MRI 10 holding accounts so MRI could buy medical receivables. When Defendant instructed Sterling 11 Escrow to disburse the money from MRI bank accounts of designated Class A, Select A, and 12 the MRI holding accounts, Sterling Escrow transferred the funds to where Defendant directed. 13 Defendant did not have to prove anything nor show the money would purchase MARS. (See 14 15 November 7, 2018, morning session, Trial Transcript (11/7 MSTT), p. 74-106, 125-126, 130); (November 7, 2018, afternoon session, Trial Transcript (11/7 ASTT), p. 139-93); (November 16 17 19, 2018, Trial Transcript (11/19 TT), p. 34-35); (Exhibits (Ex.) 38, 80, 111A, 111B, 185, 241, 242, 243, 265, 266, 267, 450 476). 18

The MRI bank accounts Sterling Escrow designated as Class A or Select A were not
lockboxes. The money could be moved out of Sterling Escrow designated Class A, Select A,
and the MRI holding accounts without MARS of equivalent value being purchased. Contrary
to what Defendant told victims, MRI's expenses were not paid out of net revenue (i.e., the
money left over after MRI's victims were paid their interest). Instead, from 2000 to 2013,
Defendant used victims' money managed by Sterling Escrow in the Class A, Select A, and the
MRI holding accounts to pay interest to previous victims, to pay Defendant's personal

expenses, to pay for Defendant to set up companies and to buy companies, and to pay operating
expenses for Defendant's companies. Defendant caused all the money in Select A to be
transferred to Class A. Defendant instructed Sterling Escrow to transfer Class A money to MRI
general account that is not a lock box. (11/7 MSTT, p. 84-90, 130-31); (11/7 ASTT, p. 139-93);
(11/19 TT, p. 34-35); (Ex. 38, 80, 111A, 111B, 185, 241, 242, 243, 265, 266, 267, 450, 476).

6 All money paid from CSA Service Center account came from MRI General account that came from Class A, Select A, and the MRI holding accounts that came from the Japanese 7 victims. (11/8 TT, p. 25-27); (Ex. 227). For example, Defendant used the victims' funds to pay 8 the bills of Hoy's, The Factoring Company, and Harmon Primary Care, and used the funds to 9 pay for the use of a private jet with Bombardier. Personal expenses included a BMW car lease, 10 American Express balances, alimony payments to Defendant's ex-wife, a Bugatti, a McLaren, a 11 Ford GT, a Shelby, a Bentley, a boat, a horse trailer, payments to Red Rock Country Club, 12 payments to Isabelle Castillo Gardening Services. (Id.); (11/7 ASTT, p. 196-207); (11/8 TT, p. 13 21-25, 27-28); (11/19 TT, p. 34-35, 54-58); (Ex. 47, 219, 220, 227, 228, 230, 248, 263, 402, 14 15 403, 450, 455, 463, 464, 465, 466, 470, 471, 476).

Defendant used the victim's funds to purchase medical businesses among others:
Anaheim; Huntington Beach, Ontario; Four Seasons Surgery Center, Encino; Harmon Medical
Center; Med-Health Pharmaceutical: Hoy's pharmaceutical; One Stop Pharmacy Corporation,
Med-Health Medical Supplies. (11/8 TT, p. 30-39, 46-57); (Ex. 217, 223, 237, 239, 476, 477).
Defendant caused "buys and sweeps" of his company account receivables with MRI. No
profits were made because the "buy and sweeps" were similar amounts. (11/8 TT, p. 43-84);
(Ex. 73, 75, 106 A, 106B, 109, 188, 207, 217, 223, 235, 237, 253, 265, 477).

The last time Defendant purchased medical receivables from an outside company not
connected to Defendant was 1999 or 2000, where he purchased three of them. (11/8 TT, p. 3839). Defendant wanted to raise \$100,000,000 from October to December 2009 to fund a

pharmaceutical company and to establish a volume purchasing program with Defendant's factories so Defendant could buy his own receivables. (11/8 TT, p. 39-45); (Ex. 75).

1

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From January 2009 to May 2013, the collection on MARS was \$476,000. (11/19 TT, p. 3 49-54); (Ex. 247, 249, 450, 462). Defendant returned \$476,000 to MRI general account from 4 5 the collection on MARS. At the same time Defendant paid interest back to the victims in the amount of \$66,900,000 for 2010 and \$72,800,000 for 2011. (11/19 TT, p. 52-54); (Ex. 247, 6 249, 462). For 2010, Defendant would have had to collect approximately \$743,000,000 to pay 7 that amount of interest to the victims. For 2011, Defendant would have had to collect 8 approximately \$800,000,000 to pay that amount of interest to the victims. (11/19 TT, p. 52-54); 9 (Ex. 247, 249, 462). 10

11 Michael Petron is a forensic accountant, a certified public accountant, and a certified fraud examiner, and he examined the Class A, Select A, and the MRI holding accounts which 12 held the victims' money that Defendant fraudulently obtained. (11/19 TT, p. 18-21, 34-35); 13 (Ex. 364, 450). Petron examined numerous bank records and the MAS 90 database. (11/19 TT, 14 15 p. 21-22, 33); (Ex. 267, 300-309, 310A, 310B, 311-363, 366A, 366B, 366C, 366D, 366E, 367-390). The MAS 90 database was accurate with only \$225,000 of \$400,000,000 in the database 16 that was not supported by the bank records. (11/19 TT, p. 23-29, 32); (Ex. 267, 400). Petron 17 examined a detailed table from MRI that tracked the victims' deposits and rollovers, detailing 18 everything about the victims starting in January 1, 2008. (11/19 TT, p. 32-33); (Ex. 364). The 19 outstanding balance of money owed to victims based on the outstanding certificates was 20 21 approximately \$1,600,000,000. This amount represents both actual principal invested and accrued interest that was rolled over into new investment certificates. (11/19 TT, p. 60-68); 22 (Ex. 249, 450, 472, 473, 474, 475, 505, 506). 23

Defendant fraudulently obtained, acquired, or possessed \$813,181,566 from the
Japanese victims' payments into Class A, Select A, and the MRI holding accounts. Defendant

used the \$813,181,566 to pay interest back to the earlier victims, to pay MRI payroll, and for 1 personal use: to pay alimony to his ex-wife and others; to buy companies; to pay his other 2 companies' bills, including, but not limited to, The Factoring Company; Hoy's Pharmaceutical; 3 Harmon Primary Care; Harmon Medical Center; Bombardier Flexjet; Wildfire Detailing; 4 5 Anaheim; Huntington Beach, Ontario; Four Seasons Surgery Center, Encino; Med-Health Pharmaceutical; One Stop Pharmacy Corporation; and Med-Health Medical Supplies; to pay 6 for construction other than for MRI; to pay BMW; to pay American Express; to buy a Bugatti, 7 a McLaren, a Ford GT, a Shelby, a Bentley, a boat, a horse trailer; to pay for Red Rock Country 8 Club; and to pay for Isabelle Castillo Gardening Services; etc. (11/7 MSTT, p. 74-106, 125-9 126, 130-131); (11/7 ASTT, p. 139-207); (11/8 TT, p. 21-28; 30-39, 43-84, 94-95, 99-100, 145-10 11 150); (11/19 TT, p. 18-29, 32-83); (Ex. 38, 47, 73, 75, 80, 106 A-106B, 109, 111A-111B, 124, 12 154, 157, 179, 185, 188, 203, 207, 217, 219-220, 223, 227-228, 230, 235, 237, 239, 241-243, 247-249, 253-254, 263, 265-267, 300-309, 310A-310B, 311-364; 366A-366E, 367-390, 400, 13 402-403, 450-451, 453-455, 457-458, 462-466, 470-477, 480-506). Defendant controlled how, 14 15 where, to whom, how much, and when to spend the \$813,181,566 from the Class A, Select A, 16 and the MRI holding accounts that came from the Japanese victims.

# II. <u>FORFEITURE</u>

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# A. Criminal Forfeiture Money Judgments

The Court finds that the Government provided Defendant the required forfeiture notice
of \$1,599,335,710.94 for mail fraud and wire fraud and \$116,346.65 for monetary transactions
in property derived from specified unlawful activity. (*See* Indictment at 8–12, ECF No. 1); Fed.
R. Crim. P. 32.2(a); 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); *United States v. Lo*, 839 F.3d 777, 789–92 (9th Cir.
2016), *cert denied*, 138 S. Ct. 354 (2017); *United States v. Newman*, 659 F.3d 1235, 1239 (9th
Cir. 2011), *cert denied*, 566 U.S. 915, *abrogated on other grounds by Honeycutt v. United States*, 137 S. Ct. 1626, 1631–35 (2017). Further, the Court finds that the statutes cited in the

Indictment of 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A)
with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) authorize criminal forfeiture money
judgments for Defendant's crimes. *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1239–40, 1242; *Phillips*, 704 F.3d at
769, 771; *Casey*, 444 F.3d at 1076; Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(A); Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)
advisory committee notes ("Subdivision (b)(1) recognizes that there are different kinds of
forfeiture judgments in criminal cases. One type is a personal judgment for a sum of money;
another is a judgment forfeiting a specific asset.").

## **B.** Amount of Forfeiture

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The Government must prove the forfeitability of property by a preponderance of the 9 evidence, and may use relevant and reliable hearsay. Rule 32.2(b)(1)(B); Christensen, 828 F.3d 10 11 at 822; United States v. Mancuso, 718 F.3d 780, 798-99 (9th Cir. 2013); United States v. Shrvock, 342 F.3d 948, 991 (9th Cir. 2003), cert. denied, 541 U.S. 965 (2004); United States v. 12 Hernandez-Escarsega, 886 F.2d 1560, 1576-77 (9th Cir. 1989), cert denied, 497 U.S. 1003 13 (1990); Rule 32.2(b) advisory committee notes (2000) (stating "the government must establish 14 15 the forfeitability of the property by a preponderance of the evidence."); *Libretti*, 516 U.S. at 38-39, 41 (explaining that forfeiture is part of sentencing); U.S.S.G. § 6A1.3(a) ("In resolving any 16 dispute concerning a factor important to the sentencing determination, the court may consider 17 relevant information without regard to its admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable at 18 trial, provided that the information has sufficient indicia of reliability to support its probable 19 accuracy."); United States v. Huckins, 53 F.3d 276, 279 (9th Cir. 1995) (explaining that hearsay 20 evidence may be used at sentencing where "some minimal indicia of reliability accompany a 21 hearsay statement") (citation and quotation marks omitted) (quoting United States v. Petty, 982) 22 F.2d 1365, 1369 (9th Cir.), amended, 992 F.2d 1015 (9th Cir. 1993)) 23

The Court, not the jury, determines the criminal forfeiture money judgment amounts. *Libretti v. United States*, 516 U.S. 29, 49 (1995); *Lo*, 839 F.3d at 789–90; *United States v.*

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*Christensen*, 828 F.3d 763, 821-22 (9th Cir. 2016), *cert. denied*, 137 S. Ct. 626 (2017), *abrogated on other grounds by Honeycutt*, 137 S. Ct. at 1631–35; *Phillips*, 704 F.3d at 769–71. Moreover, the "district court must impose a criminal forfeiture in the amount of the proceeds of

the crime." *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1239-40; *Lo*, 839 F.3d at 789-94; *Mancuso*, 718 F.3d at 798-99; *Casey*, 444 F.3d at 1076; *United States v. Monsanto*, 491 U.S. 600, 607 (1989). The
Court's decision on the amount of forfeiture "may be based on evidence already in the record . .
and on any additional evidence or information submitted by the parties and accepted by the
court as relevant and reliable." Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(B); *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1244-45; *United States v. Pollard*, 103 F. Supp. 3d 1221, 1226 (D. Nev. 2015).

The Court finds that illegal proceeds are the total gross proceeds obtained, acquired, or possessed with dominion and control in a scheme of fraud and a conspiracy to commit a scheme of such fraud. See 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); Honeycutt, 137 S. Ct. at 1632; United States v. Christensen, 828 F.3d 763, 822-24 (9th Cir. 2016); Newman, 13 659 F.3d at 1243; Casey, 444 F.3d at 1073–74, 1076; Lo, 839 F.3d at 792–94. Applying that 14 15 finding to the facts in this case, the admitted trial exhibits of the fraudulent scheme to defraud the victims and the witnesses' trial testimony prove by a preponderance of the evidence that 16 Defendant obtained, acquired, and possessed fraudulently obtained illegal proceeds of 17 18 \$813,181,566, of which he transacted or caused to be transacted through a financial institution, causing forfeiture of \$116,346.65 for laundering. See Honeycutt, 137 S. Ct. at 1631. Evidence 19 admitted at trial revealed that Defendant, as MRI's president and CEO, made or caused to be 20 21 made numerous material misrepresentations and omissions in an effort to fraudulently obtain money from the victims. Further, Defendant controlled, determined, and accessed, or caused to 22 be controlled, determined, and accessed, the fraudulently obtained proceeds in the Class A, 23 24 Select A, and the MRI holding bank accounts from as early as January 2009 and continuing 25 through April 2013. Defendant deposited, laundered, disbursed, and spent, or caused to be

deposited, laundered, disbursed, and spent, the fraudulently obtained proceeds from the mail 1 fraud and wire fraud in the scheme and artifice to commit fraud on the Japanese victims. (PSR, 2 at 4-8); (Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Jury Verdict, ECF No. 267); (11/7 MSTT, p. 74-106, 125-3 126, 130–131); (11/7 ASTT, p. 139–207); (11/8 TT, p. 21–28; 30–39, 43–84, 94–95, 99–100, 4 5 145–150); (11/19 TT, p. 18–29, 32–83); (Ex. 38, 47, 73, 75, 80, 106 A-106B, 109, 111A-111B, 124, 154, 157, 179, 185, 188, 203, 207, 217, 219-220, 223, 227-228, 230, 235, 237, 239, 241-6 243, 247-249, 253-254, 263, 265-267, 300-309, 310A-310B, 311-364; 366A-366E, 367-390, 7 400, 402-403, 450-451, 453-455, 457-458, 462-466, 470-477, 480-506).<sup>1</sup> 8

9 The Court accordingly grants criminal forfeiture money judgments against Defendant in
10 the amount of \$813,181,566 for fraud and \$116,346.65 for financial transactions with illegal
11 proceeds pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), 18 U.S.C.
12 § 981(a)(1)(A) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1).<sup>2</sup>

# III. DOUBLE JEOPARDY CLAUSE

The Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment "protects only against the
imposition of multiple *criminal* punishments for the same offense, and then only when such
occurs in successive proceedings." *Hudson v. United States*, 522 U.S. 93, 98–99 (1997)
(citations omitted); *Helvering v. Mitchell*, 303 U.S. 391, 399 (1938); *U.S. ex rel. Marcus v. Hess*, 317 U.S. 537, 549 (1943); *Breed v. Jones*, 421 U.S. 519, 528 (1975); *Missouri v. Hunter*,
459 U.S. 359, 366 (1983); *United States v. Hickey*, 367 F.3d 888, 892 (9th Cir. 2004), *opinion*

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Court finds that *Honeycutt* does not apply to the criminal forfeiture money judgment of \$116,346.65 for the financial transactions. That is, the Government cites 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) and 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) as authority for forfeiture of property "involved in" monetary transactions of illegal proceeds by a criminal in a financial institution. Those statutes do not use "obtain," "acquired," or "possessed."

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Court finds that there is no constitutional or statutory right to a jury determination of the criminal forfeiture money judgment amount. *See Libretti v. United States*, 516 U.S. 29, 49 (1994); *Christensen*, 828 F.3d at 821–22; *Phillips*, 704 F.3d at 769-71. Additionally, the Court finds no statutory right exists for a jury to

decide criminal forfeiture money judgments. *See* Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(A) and (B), (b)(2)(A), and (b)(5)(A) and (B); *Christensen*, 828 F. 3d at 822; *Phillips*, 704 F.3d at 771; *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1242–43.

amended on denial of reh'g, 400 F3d. 658 (9th Cir. 2005). In criminal cases, the court may or 1 must, depending on the statutes, sentence the defendant with a special assessment, a fine, the 2 cost of imprisonment, the cost of residential re-entry center, the cost of supervised release, 3 restitution, and forfeiture. See 18 U.S.C. § 981 with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2461(c), 982, 1963, 3013, 4 5 3554, 3556, 3571, 3572, 3574, 3611, 3663, 3663A(a)(1), and 3664; U.S.S.G. §§ 5E1.1, 5E1.2, and 5E1.2(d)(7); and 21 U.S.C. §§ 853 and 881 with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); Newman, 659 F.3d at 6 1239-40; *Hunter*, 618 F.3d at 1064). Courts do not reduce or eliminate criminal forfeiture 7 amounts because it ordered restitution or because the defendant paid restitution partially or 8 completely. United States v. Boulware, 384 F.3d 794, 813 (9th Cir. 2004), cert. denied, 546 9 U.S. 814 (2005). 10

Double Jeopardy is not violated in this case because the Court orders restitution and 11 forfeiture at the same proceeding in a single criminal prosecution.<sup>3</sup> See 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663A 12 and 3664; Rule 32.2(b)(2)(B) and (b)(4)(A). Moreover, "[c]riminal forfeiture is separate from 13 the discretionary sentencing consideration under 18 U.S.C. § 3551," which incorporates by 14 15 reference the sentencing factors of 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Newman, 659 F.3d at 1240. "Criminal forfeiture is also separate from restitution, which serves an entirely different purpose" since 16 restitution focuses on making the victim whole again. Id. at 1241-42; United Sates v. Hunter, 17 618 F.3d 1062, 1064 (9th Cir. 2010); United States v. Davis, 706 F.3d 1081, 1082-84 (9th Cir. 18 2013). Relatedly, ordering forfeiture and restitution is not a double recovery "[e]ven if the 19 same government entity will receive both forfeiture and restitution." Davis, 706 F.3d at 1084. 20

- 21 **IV.**
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- EIGHTH AMENDMENT, EXCESSIVE FINES

In *United States v. Feldman*, 853 F.2d 648 (9th Cir. 1988), the Ninth Circuit adopted the grossly disproportionate analysis for the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause and the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> <sup>3</sup> The Court ordered Defendant to pay \$1,129,909,449.00 in restitution. To support that decision, the Court incorporates its findings as stated on the record at the time of sentencing into this Order.

Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment. *Feldman*, 853 F.2d at 663–64. In that
decision, the Ninth Circuit observed, "[w]hen the district court orders that the defendant forfeit
the profits gained from illegal activity, it is hard to imagine how such a forfeiture could
constitute cruel and unusual punishment." *Feldman*, 853 F.2d at 663 (citation omitted; brackets
added).

6 After Feldman, the United States Supreme Court decided United States v. Bajakajian, 524 U.S. 321 (1998). In *Bajakajian*, the reporting violation forfeiture, now codified at 31 7 U.S.C. § 5317(c)(1), was considered punishment. *Bajakajian*, 524 U.S. at 327–28 (citing Austin, 509 U.S. at 609-10 and 619). As discussed during the hearing on forfeiture in this case, *Bajakajian* creates an issue about the present viability of the theory and reasoning of *Feldman* and related decisions concerning violations of the Eighth Amendment. Even after Bajakajian, however, a three-judge panel in United States v. 22 Santa Barbara, 264 F.3d 860 (9th Cir. 2001), followed the reasoning of *Feldman*. The 22 Santa Barbara panel implicitly agreed with Feldman, and other circuit cases, that held illegal proceeds do not violate the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause or the Excessive Fines Clause because, based on the illegal proceeds analysis, illegal proceeds are not grossly disproportionate. The 22 Santa Barbara panel distinguished between illegal proceeds and facilitating property, as did *Feldman*, when determining that "the Eighth Amendment does not apply to a forfeiture action brought under 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6)," which is a statute that makes subject to forfeiture "all proceeds traceable to" a drug transaction. See 22 Santa Barbara, 264 F.3d at 875.

Here, the Court finds that *Bajakajian* is not clearly irreconcilable with *Feldman* nor 22 *Santa Barbara*. Further, as one court in this District has already stated, other decisions of three-judge panels in this circuit which challenge the legal theory and reasoning in *Feldman* did

not undergo the law-of-the-circuit analysis<sup>4</sup> to overturn *Feldman*. See United States v. Brandel, 1 No. 2:13-CR-439-KJD-VCF, 2019 WL 2110504, at \*8 (D. Nev. May 14, 2019) (discussing the 2 precedential value of Feldman and 22 Santa Barbara Street in comparison with United States v. 3 3814 NW Thurman Street, 164 F.3d 1191 (9th Cir. 1999), United States v. Beecroft, 825 F.3d 4 5 991 (9th Cir. 2016), and United States v. Mosley, 652 F. App'x 511 (9th Cir. 2016)). Accordingly, the Court's order of forfeiture in the amount of \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65 6 does not violate the Eighth Amendment, as Defendant's illegal proceeds are not legal 7 livelihood, not legally owned property, not instrumentalities, not a reporting violation, and not 8 facilitating property. 9

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# A. Grossly Disproportionate under United States v. Bajakajian

*Bajakajian* held that a reporting violation forfeiture was punishment. *See Bajakajian*,
524 U.S. at 327–28 (citing *Austin*, 509 U.S. at 609–10, 619). *Bajakajian* adopted the Cruel and
Unusual Punishments Clause grossly disproportionate analysis for the Excessive Fines Clause
for reporting violation forfeitures. *See id.* at 334–40 (citing *Solem*, 463 U.S. at 288; *Rummel v. Estelle*, 445 U.S. 263, 271 (1980)). The Court in *Bajakajian* stated,

The touchstone of the constitutional inquiry under the Excessive Fines Clause is the principle of proportionality: The amount of the forfeiture must bear some relationship to the gravity of the offense that it is designed to punish. . . . [A] punitive forfeiture violates the Excessive Fines Clause if it is grossly disproportional to the gravity of a defendant's offense.

*Bajakajian*, 524 U.S. at 334. Accordingly, in *Bajakajian*, the Supreme Court considered four
factors in weighing the gravity of the defendant's offense to determine the presence of an
Eighth Amendment violation: "(1) the nature and extent of the crime, (2) whether the violation
was related to other illegal activities, (3) the other penalties that may be imposed for the

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The law-of-the-circuit rule states, "a published decision of this court constitutes binding authority which 'must be followed unless and until overruled by a body competent to do so." *Gonzalez v. Arizona*, 677 F.3d 383, 389 n.4 (9th Cir. 2012) (en banc) (quoting *Hart v. Massanari*, 266 F.3d 1155, 1170 (9th Cir. 2001)).

violation, and (4) the extent of the harm caused." *United States v. \$100,348.00 In United States Currency*, 354 F.3d 1110, 1122 (9th Cir. 2004) (citation and quotation marks omitted) (a
currency reporting violation forfeiture). Moreover, Defendant must make a prima facie
showing of an Eighth Amendment violation. *See Feldman*, 853 F.2d at 663; *United States v. Ladum*, 141 F.3d 1328, 1349 (9th Cir. 1998); *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1241 n.4.

# B. Application of United States v. Bajakajian

Even when applying the grossly disproportionate test in *Bajakajian* to the forfeiture orders of \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65, Defendant has not demonstrated an Eighth Amendment violation.

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## i. The Nature and Extent of the Crime

The jury found Defendant guilty of financial transactions of illegal proceeds and a scheme to commit mail fraud and wire fraud. (Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Trial Minutes, ECF No. 262); (Jury Verdict, ECF No. 267). The illegal proceeds of \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65 were not Defendant's, but belonged to the Japanese victims. Defendant's crimes caused excessive harm, damage, and significant loss to victims. (PSR, p. 15-16, 18-19).

# ii. The Violation Related to Other Illegal Activities

Defendant obtained, acquired, or possessed the illegal proceeds of \$813,181,566 from the Japanese victims; decided how, when, how much, and where to disburse the \$813,181,566 for others' and his personal use; and committed financial transactions. Defendant is the type for whom the criminal forfeiture statutes were designed: those committing mail fraud and wire fraud to obtain victims' funds and making financial transactions with the illegal proceeds.

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# iii. The Other Penalties That May Be Imposed

Congress authorized a maximum sentence of 10 years for each count of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 and 20 years for each count of conviction under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, totaling 4,440 months (370 years). (Presentence Investigation Report (PSR), p. 2, 13, 18). Congress authorized a fine of \$250,000 for § 1957 and \$250,000 or \$2,259,818,898—twice the loss of
\$1,129,909,449—for §§ 1341 and 1343. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343, 3571(b)(3), 3571(b)(2) and
(d) (explaining "if the loss results in to a pecuniary loss to a person other than the defendant,"
the defendant's fine is "not more than ... twice the gross loss ...."); (PSR, p. 9-10, 13-16, 18).
The Congressional imprisonment and fine show the serious gravity of Defendant's crimes.

Defendant's estimated sentencing guidelines is offense level 51 but was reduced to 43 with imprisonment for life, but the statute limits it to 370 years. (PSR, p. 9-10, 13-14, 18). The fine for an offense level of 43 is \$25,000 to \$2,259,818,898. U.S.S.G. § 5E1.2(c)(1-4); 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(1), b(2) and (d). The USSG imprisonment and fines show the serious gravity of Defendant's crimes.

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The forfeitures of \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65 are less than the maximum fine of 11 \$2,259,818,898, and is presumptively constitutional. United States v Grossi, 359 F. App'x 830, 12 13 832 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing Bajakajian, 524 U.S. at 326). In Grossi, the court determined the forfeited property was worth \$345,347.28, and since "the relevant criminal statute and 14 Sentencing Guidelines permit fines in excess of \$345,347.28 for Grossi's crime[,]... Grossi's 15 forfeiture is presumptively constitutional." Id. (citations omitted). "[I]f the value of the 16 forfeited property is within the range of fines prescribed by Congress, a strong presumption 17 arises that the forfeiture is constitutional." United States v. 817 N.E. 29th Street, Wilton 18 Manors, Fla., 175 F.3d 1304, 1309 (11th Cir. 1999); United States v. Dicter, 198 F.3d 1284 19 (11th Cir. 1999); United States v. Moyer, 313 F.3d 1082 (8th Cir. 2002); United States v. 20 Wallace, 389 F.3d 483, 486 (5th Cir. 2004); United States v. Bernitt, 392 F.3d 873, 880-81 (7th 21 Cir. 2004); United States v. Heldeman, 402 F.3d 220, 223 (1st Cir. 2005) ("Some circuits have 22 treated a forfeiture of less than the statutory or guideline maximum as strongly suggesting or 23 24 conclusive of compliance with the Eighth Amendment."); United States v. Elfgeeh, 515 F.3d 100, 139 (2d Cir. 2008). "[I]f the value of the property forfeited is within or near the 25

permissible range of fines under the sentencing guidelines, the forfeiture almost certainly is not
 excessive." *817 N.E. 29th Street*, 175 F.3d at 1310 (citations omitted; brackets added).

When applying the gross disproportionality analysis, the amount that can be forfeited is 3 a multiple of the maximum amount of the fine. \$100,348, 354 F.3d 1110, 1122–24 (9th Cir. 4 5 2004) (inferring two times the Sentencing Guidelines maximum fine of \$5,000 is not grossly disproportionate); Mackby, 339 F.3d 1013, 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 2003) (a multiple of more than 6 7 12.5 times the amount of the loss); United States v. \$132,245 in United States Currency, 764 F.3d 1055, 1060 (9th Cir. 2014) ("[F]orfeiture does not per se violate the Eighth Amendment 8 simply because the amount to be forfeited exceeds the maximum fine under the Sentencing 9 Guidelines."); United States v. Riedl, 82 F. App'x 538 (9th Cir. 2003) (in a drug and money 10 laundering case, finding a forfeiture order of 12 to 13 times the maximum sentencing guideline 11 fine was not excessive). Other Courts have found that multiples of the sentencing guidelines 12 are not grossly disproportionate. United States v. Cheeseman, 600 F.3d. 270, 284-85 (3rd Cir. 13 2010); Wallace, 389 F.3d at 486 (a multiple of two is not grossly disproportionate); United 14 States v. Porcelli, 440 F. App'x 870, 879 (11th Cir. 2011) ("[T]hree times the statutory 15 maximum and four-and-a-half times" guideline maximum is not excessive). 16

Based on the *Bajakajian* analysis, the Court finds that, since the statutory fine and the sentencing guidelines fine is \$2,259,818,898, the forfeiture amounts of \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65 are presumptively not excessive and do not violate the Excessive Fines Clause because it is less than .36 or 36% of the fine.

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## iv. Extent of Harm Caused

As explained in the Court's factual findings above, a substantial number of the victim investors were elderly individuals. Moreover, many of Defendants victims were significantly impacted, causing them to reenter the work force to sustain a living. (PSR, p. 5-8); (Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Trial Minutes, ECF No. 262); (Jury Verdict, ECF No. 267). The fraudulent scheme caused many investors irreparable financial harm. Indeed, Defendant's crimes were grave. *See Bajakajian*, 524 U.S. at 336, 338–39.

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V.

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# EIGHTH AMENDMENT, CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT

Defendant's total punishment, including the forfeiture and the restitution, is not grossly 4 5 disproportionate and does not violate the Excessive Fines Clause or the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eighth Amendment.<sup>5</sup> Defendant's total punishment versus the 6 recommended punishment are the following: 7 8 **Congressional Maximum Imprisonment:** 370 years; 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343, 1957 U.S.S.G. Maximum Imprisonment: 370 years; PSR, p. 11-13, 19-22 9 **Recommended Imprisonment:** 40 years; PSR, p. 16, 18, 19 Actual Sentence: 50 years 10 **Congressional Maximum Fine:** \$2,259,818,898; 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343,1957 11 3571(b)(1), b(2) and (d) 12 \$2,259,818,898; 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(1), b(2) U.S.S.G. Maximum Fine: (d); and U.S.S.G. § 5E1.2(c)(1-4) 13 \$0; PSR, p. 13, 18, 19 **Recommended Fine:** Actual Fine: \$0 14 15 Special Assessment \$2000; 18 U.S.C. § 3013; PSR, p. 14, 19; 16 Forfeiture \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65; 17 \$1,129,909,449; 18 U.S.C. § 3663A; Restitution 18 Testimony; evidence; and PSR p. 8,13, 15, 18, 19 19 Actual Restitution \$1,129,909,449 20 Congressional Max. Supervised Release 3 years; USSG §§ 5D1.2(a)(2) and 5E1.2(d)(7); 18 U.S.C. §§ 3572(a)(6), 21 3583(b)(2) and 3642(e); PSR, p. 13-14, 16-19

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<sup>5</sup> Since restitution is not punishment, *United States v. Davis*, 706 F.3d 1081, 1084 (9th Cir. 2013); *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1241; *United States v. Hunter*, 618 F.3d 1062, 1064 (9th Cir. 2010), the Court ordering the payment of restitution and forfeiture does not violate the Excessive Fines Clause or Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eichth Amen dependence it is cleared with empty.

<sup>25</sup> of the Eighth Amendment because it is already inherently proportional and is inherently linked to the offender's culpability. *Beecroft*, 825 F.3d at 997; *United States v. Dubose*, 146 F.3d 1141, 1147 (9th Cir. 1998).

U.S.S.G. Maximum Supervised Release Actual Supervised Release 3 years: USSG § 5D1.2(a)(2); PSR, p. 19; 3 years

The Court finds that Defendant's 50-years imprisonment is well within the statutory 370 years and is less than the U.S.S.G. life sentence. The Court did not order a fine as part of Defendant's sentence, although the Congressional and U.S.S.G. maximum fine was \$2,259,818,898. The forfeiture is less than .36 or 36% of the fine. While restitution of \$1,129,909,449 is not punishment, the restitution of \$1,129,909,449 and the forfeiture order of \$813,181,566 and \$116,346.65, based on the fine that was not ordered, as combined are less than .86 or 86% of the fine. *See Davis*, 706 F.3d at 1084; *Newman*, 659 F.3d at 1241; *Hunter*, 618 F.3d at 1064.

Since Defendant's total punishment (fines, imprisonment, etc.) is much less than what the Court could have sentenced Defendant, the Court finds that Defendant's total punishment is not grossly disproportionate and does not violate the Excessive Fines Clause or the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eighth Amendment. *Feldman*, 853 F.2d at 664; *Busher*, 817 F.2d 1409. The Court finds the criminal forfeiture money judgments are (1) any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, specified unlawful activities as defined in 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(c)(7)(A) and 1961(1)(B), or a conspiracy to commit such offense; (2) any property, real or personal, involved in transactions or attempted transactions in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957, or any property traceable to such property; (3) any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1957, or any property traceable to such property; (3) and 1961(1)(B), or a conspiracy to commit such offense; and (4) any property, real or personal, involved in violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1957, or any property traceable to such property, and are subject to forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) with 28 U.S.C.

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\$ 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. \$ 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. \$ 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. \$ 982(a)(1); and 21
 U.S.C. \$ 853(p).

# VI. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendant Edwin Fujinaga shall pay the criminal
forfeiture money judgments of \$813,181,566 for mail fraud and wire fraud and \$116,346.65 for
financial transactions of illegal proceeds pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1) and (2); 18
U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) with 28 U.S.C.
§ 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1); and 21
U.S.C. § 853(p). (Criminal Indictment, ECF No. 1); (Minutes of Jury Trial, ECF No. 262);
(Jury Verdict, ECF No. 267).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Government recover from Defendant Edwin 11 Fujinaga the criminal forfeiture money judgments of \$813,181,566 for mail fraud and wire 12 13 fraud and \$116,346.65 for financial transactions of illegal proceeds, not to be held jointly and severally liable with any codefendants, and the collected money judgment amount between the 14 15 codefendants is not to exceed \$1,129,909,449 pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(4)(A) and (B); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) with 28 16 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) with 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c); 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1); 17 and 21 U.S.C. § 853(p). 18

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Government may amend this order at any time
to add subsequently located property or substitute property to the forfeiture order pursuant to
Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(2)(C) and 32.2(e).

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**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court shall send copies of this Order to all counsel of record and three certified copies to the United States Attorney's Office, Attention Asset Forfeiture Unit.

**DATED** this <u>17</u> day of June, 2019.

Gloria M. Navarro, Chief Judge United States District Court