UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

24-20390-CR-BECERRA/TORRES

Case No. _____

18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)
18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)
18 U.S.C. § 1957
18 U.S.C. § 2
18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)

FILED BY MP D.C.
Sep 5, 2024
ANGELA E. NOBLE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S. D. OF FLA. - MIAMI

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,

Defendant.

_____/

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges that:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this Indictment, unless otherwise specified:

RELEVANT INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES

1. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** was a citizen of the United States of America residing in the Southern District of Florida and was a son of Carlos Ramon Polit Faggioni ("Carlos Polit").

2. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** controlled several companies, incorporated in Florida, including among others, Florida Company 1 through Florida Company 14 (together, the "Florida Companies"), the identities of which are known to the Grand Jury. The Florida Companies maintained bank accounts in the Southern District of Florida.

3. Carlos Polit was a citizen of Ecuador, the United States, and Italy, and served as the comptroller general ("comptroller") of Ecuador from in or around 2007 to 2017 ("the relevant

time period"). Ecuador created the office of comptroller to prevent fraud and corruption relating to the use of Ecuador's public funds. In that role, Carlos Polit had the power to initiate investigations, to impose fines, and to prepare reports relating to the misuse of public funds, including recommending prosecutions.

4. Intermediary Companies 1, 2, and 3 (together, the "Intermediary Companies") maintained bank accounts in Panama.

5. Odebrecht S.A. was a Brazilian holding company that, through its subsidiaries and companies in which it was a majority shareholder (collectively "Odebrecht"), conducted business in multiple industries, including engineering, construction, infrastructure, energy, chemicals, utilities, and real estate. Odebrecht had its headquarters in Salvador, state of Bahia, Brazil, and operated in at least 27 other countries, including Ecuador.

6. Co-Conspirator 1, an individual whose identity is known to the Grand Jury, was a senior manager at Odebrecht from approximately 2010 to 2016, whose regional responsibility included Ecuador during the relevant time period.

7. Seguros Sucre S.A. and Rocaforte Seguros S.A. (together, "Seguros Sucre") were state-owned insurance companies of Ecuador controlled by the government of Ecuador.

8. Juan Ribas Domenich ("Juan Ribas") was the Chairman of Seguros Sucre during part of the relevant time period.

9. Co-Conspirator 2, an individual whose identity is known to the Grand Jury, was an Ecuadorian businessperson who was an insurance broker on certain contracts with Seguros Sucre.

10. Jose Gomez Aviles ("Jose Gomez"), an Ecuadorian citizen and U.S. lawful permanent resident residing in the Southern District of Florida, was an insurance broker on certain contracts with Seguros Sucre.

11. Co-Conspirator 3, an individual whose identity is known to the Grand Jury, was a Spanish businessperson who operated a business in Ecuador.

COUNT 1
Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering
(18 U.S.C. § 1956(h))

1. Paragraphs 1 through 11 of the General Allegations Section are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

2. From in or around January 2010, continuing until at least December 2018, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant,

JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,

did knowingly and voluntarily combine, conspire, confederate and agree with Carlos Polit, Co-Conspirator 1, Co-Conspirator 2, Co-Conspirator 3, Juan Ribas, Jose Gomez, and others, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956 and 1957, as follows:

a. to knowingly conduct a financial transaction which involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, knowing that the property involved in the financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, and knowing that the transaction was designed, in whole and in part, to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the proceeds of said specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i);

b. to knowingly transport, transmit, and transfer a monetary instrument and funds from a place in the United States to and through a place outside the United States, and to a place in the United States from and through a place outside the United States, with the intent to promote

the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A); and

c. to knowingly engage in a monetary transaction, affecting interstate commerce, by, through, and to a financial institution, in criminally derived property of a value greater than $10,000 that is derived from specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957.

It is further alleged that the specified unlawful activity is an offense against a foreign nation, specifically Ecuador, involving bribery of a public official, and the misappropriation, theft, and embezzlement of public funds by and for the benefit of a public official, as provided by Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(c)(7)(B)(iv).

PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY

3. It was the purpose of the conspiracy for **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Carlos Polit to unlawfully enrich themselves by laundering bribes that Carlos Polit, in his capacity as Comptroller General of Ecuador, solicited and received from Co-Conspirators 1, 2 and 3, among others, into and through bank accounts controlled by **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, as well as through the purchase of real estate and other assets in South Florida and elsewhere.

MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

The manner and means by which **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, Carlos Polit, and their co-conspirators sought to accomplish the purpose of the conspiracy included, among other things, the following conduct in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere:

The Overall Scheme

4. From in or around 2010, and continuing until at least December 2018, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** caused the proceeds of Carlos Polit's bribery schemes to "disappear" by (a) registering the Florida Companies in Florida in the names of associates; (b) using funds received from Carlos Polit's bribery schemes to purchase and renovate real estate in South Florida and elsewhere and to purchase restaurants, a dry cleaner, and other businesses; and (c) causing these real estate assets and other businesses to be held in the name of the Florida Companies to conceal that these assets were for the benefit of Carlos Polit, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, and their relatives.

Laundering of Odebrecht Bribes

5. Beginning in or around 2010, and continuing until at least 2014, Carlos Polit solicited and received bribe payments from Co-Conspirator 1 in exchange for using Carlos Polit's official position and influence as comptroller of Ecuador to remove and prevent the imposition of large fines on Odebrecht by the comptroller's office relating to Odebrecht's construction projects in Ecuador.

6. From in or around 2010 to 2014, Co-Conspirator 1 paid approximately $11 million in cash bribes to Carlos Polit in exchange for Carlos Polit using his official position as comptroller to influence official actions by the Ecuador comptroller's office in order to benefit Odebrecht and its business in Ecuador. In furtherance of the scheme, Carlos Polit told Co-Conspirator 1 that **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** made the money "disappear."

7. In or around 2013 and 2014, Carlos Polit provided cash to Co-Conspirator 2 in Ecuador. At the direction of **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Carlos Polit, Co-Conspirator 2 used some of the cash to fund wire transfers to accounts in South Florida controlled by **JOHN**

CHRISTOPHER POLIT. At the direction of Carlos Polit, Co-Conspirator 2 also used the cash to purchase an apartment in Ecuador under the name of a Panamanian shell company for use by Carlos Polit ("Ecuador Apartment").

8. In or around 2014, Co-Conspirator 1 requested that Carlos Polit accept bribe payments from Odebrecht through bank wire transfers rather than in cash and requested that Carlos Polit provide bank account wiring instructions to facilitate making bribe payments.

9. In or around 2014, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** provided Carlos Polit with bank account wiring information for accounts of Intermediary Companies 1, 2, and 3 in Panama to receive the Odebrecht bribe payments.

10. From in or around April to November 2014, Carlos Polit caused Odebrecht to make at least three million dollars in bribe payments for the benefit of Carlos Polit by wire transfer to accounts in Panama of Intermediary Companies 1, 2 and 3. By causing these international wire transfers, for which payment cleared through U.S. correspondent banks, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, Odebrecht, Carlos Polit, and others promoted the unlawful scheme to bribe Carlos Polit to influence official actions of the Ecuadorian comptroller's office.

11. From in or around June 2014 through March 2016, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Intermediary Companies 1, 2 and 3 wire transferred millions of dollars in funds from accounts in Panama to an account of Florida Company 1 at a bank in South Florida and subsequently to other accounts, including accounts of other Florida Companies, for the purchase of assets in South Florida and elsewhere for the benefit of Carlos Polit, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, and their relatives.

12. From in or around 2014 through in or around 2015, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Carlos Polit caused funds derived from the bribes Carlos Polit received from

Odebrecht and Co-Conspirator 2 to be used to upgrade a luxury residence in Coral Gables held in the name of Florida Company 4.

13. In or around May 2016, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Carlos Polit caused funds derived from bribes Carlos Polit received from Odebrecht to be used to purchase an office building in Coral Gables for $2.6 million, held in the name of Florida Company 5 for the benefit of Carlos Polit, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, and their relatives.

Laundering of Bribes Related to Seguro Sucre Contracts & Other Matters

14. In or around 2015, Carlos Polit solicited and agreed to receive a bribe of approximately $500,000 from Co-Conspirator 2 in exchange for using Carlos Polit's official position and influence as comptroller to assist Co-Conspirator 2 in obtaining contracts from Seguros Sucre that benefitted Co-Conspirator 2's company.

15. In or around 2015, Carlos Polit caused Juan Ribas (then head of Seguros Sucre) to award Seguros Sucre contracts in a manner that benefitted Co-Conspirator 2's company.

16. In or around December 2015, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Carlos Polit caused Co-Conspirator 2 to wire transfer the bribe payment of approximately $510,000 to an account of Florida Company 2 in South Florida on or about December 2, 2015, for the benefit of Carlos Polit, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, and their relatives. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** referred to Carlos Polit as the "amigo" or "friend" when discussing the matter with Co-Conspirator 2. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** created and caused to be sent to Co-Conspirator 2 a false and fraudulent invoice for purported "technical advice" in connection with this payment.

17. In or around 2015, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** e-mailed Co-Conspirator 3 to request the payment of a bribe for the "amigo."

18. In or around 2015, Carlos Polit e-mailed and communicated by phone with **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** with regard to Carlos Polit providing assistance with a tax matter involving Co-Conspirator 3's company by seeking to influence the President's office in Ecuador.

19. In or around late 2015, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Jose Gomez met at **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT's** residence in Coral Gables. At this meeting, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** explained how his father, Carlos Polit, could influence the award of a Seguros Sucre contract for a particular project (the "Coca Codo Sinclair project") to benefit Jose Gomez's company. During that meeting, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Jose Gomez agreed that, in exchange for Carlos Polit influencing the award of the Coca Codo Sinclair policy to benefit Jose Gomez's company, Jose Gomez would use the approximately $2 million commission to pay an approximately $1 million bribe for the benefit of **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** and Carlos Polit.

20. In or around June 2016, Carlos Polit met with Juan Ribas at the comptroller's office in Ecuador. At this meeting, Carlos Polit told Juan Ribas to award the contract for the Coca Codo Sinclair project for Seguros Sucre through the company that would benefit Jose Gomez and his business partner.

21. Later in 2016, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** met with Juan Ribas at a restaurant in Coral Gables and told Juan Ribas to inform him, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,** when Seguros Sucre made payments on the Coca Codo Sinclair policy because he, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT**, was helping his father collect "commissions."

22. On or about April 28, 2017, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** sold a luxury residence in Coral Gables, upgraded with proceeds derived from the Odebrecht and Seguros Sucre bribery schemes, for approximately $4.1 million. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** transferred

the proceeds from the sale to accounts controlled by him and used proceeds from the sale for his and his family's personal benefit.

23. In or around December 2018, Carlos Polit and Co-Conspirator 2 met in downtown Miami. At this meeting, Carlos Polit offered Co-Conspirator 2 to keep the Ecuador Apartment to repay a real estate investment made by Co-Conspirator 2 with **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT** in South Florida. Co-Conspirator 2 agreed.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

COUNTS 2 - 4
Money Laundering
(18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i))

1. Paragraphs 1 through 9 of the General Allegations Section and paragraphs 2 through 23 of Count 1 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

2. On or about the dates set forth in each count below, in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, the defendant,

JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,

conducted, and aided and abetted, and caused to be conducted, and attempted to conduct, a financial transaction involving the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, knowing that the property involved represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, and knowing that the transaction was designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of the specified unlawful activity, that is, an offense against a foreign nation, specifically Ecuador, involving bribery of a public official, and the misappropriation, theft, and embezzlement of public funds by and for the benefit of a public official, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(c)(7)(B)(iv):

Count	Approximate Date	Description of Transaction
2	December 2, 2015	Check of approximately $300,000 from an account of Florida Company 2 in the Southern District of Florida to an account of Florida Company 3 in the Southern District of Florida
3	March 22, 2016	Transfer of approximately $3,453,184 from an account of Intermediary Company 3 in Panama to an account of Florida Company 1 in the Southern District of Florida
4	October 7, 2016	Transfer of approximately $34,300 from an account of Intermediary Company 1 in Panama to an account of Florida Company 1 in the Southern District of Florida

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and 2.

COUNTS 5-6
Engaging in Transactions in Criminally Derived Property
(18 U.S.C. § 1957)

1. Paragraphs 1 through 9 of the General Allegations Section and paragraphs 2 through 23 of Count 1 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

2. On or about the dates set forth in each count below, in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, the defendant,

JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,

did knowingly engage in, and aid, abet, and cause others to engage in, and attempt to engage in, a monetary transaction affecting interstate commerce, by, through, and to a financial institution, in criminally derived property of a value greater than $10,000, such property having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, and knowing that the property involved in the financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, that is, an offense against a foreign nation, specifically Ecuador, involving bribery of a public official, and the misappropriation, theft, and embezzlement of public funds by and for the benefit of a public official, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(c)(7)(B)(iv):

Count	Approximate Date	Description of Transaction
5	May 27, 2016	Transfer of approximately $1,375,450 from Florida Company 1's account in South Florida to an escrow account for the purchase of an office building located at 1902 SW 22 Street in Miami, Florida
6	April 28, 2017	Transfer of approximately $3,664,583.61 from an attorney escrow account in South Florida to the account of Florida Company 4 in South Florida for the sale of the property located at 7233 Los Pinos Boulevard in Coral Gables, Florida

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1957 and 2.

FORFEITURE
(18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1))

1. The allegations of this Indictment are re-alleged and by this reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America of certain property in which the defendant, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,** has an interest.

2. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956 or 1957, as alleged this Indictment, the defendant, **JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,** shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, or any property traceable to such property, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1).

3. The property subject to forfeiture as a result of the alleged offenses includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. Real property located at 301 Altara Avenue, Unit 702, Coral Gables, FL 33146.

4. If any of the property described above as being subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;

d. has been substantially diminished in value; or

e. has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty;

the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property, under the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), and the procedures set forth in Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, 982(b)(1).

A TRUE BILL

Kawannah Griffin

FOREPERSON

MARKENZY LAPOINTE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

GLENN S. LEON
CHIEF, FRAUD SECTION
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Michael N. Berger
Senior Litigation Counsel

Jil Simon
Trial Attorney

Alexander Kramer
Assistant Chief

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT,

_____/
Defendant.

CASE NO.: 24-20390-CR-BECERRA/TORRES

CERTIFICATE OF TRIAL ATTORNEY

Superseding Case Information:
New Defendant(s) (Yes or No) ____
Number of New Defendants ____
Total number of new counts ____

Court Division (select one)
☒ Miami ☐ Key West ☐ FTP
☐ FTL ☐ WPB

I do hereby certify that:

1. I have carefully considered the allegations of the indictment, the number of defendants, the number of probable witnesses and the legal complexities of the Indictment/Information attached hereto.
2. I am aware that the information supplied on this statement will be relied upon by the Judges of this Court in setting their calendars and scheduling criminal trials under the mandate of the Speedy Trial Act, Title 28 U.S.C. §3161.
3. Interpreter: (Yes or No) No
   List language and/or dialect: _____
4. This case will take 10 days for the parties to try.
5. Please check appropriate category and type of offense listed below:

(Check only one)		(Check only one)
I	☐ 0 to 5 days	☐ Petty
II	☒ 6 to 10 days	☐ Minor
III	☐ 11 to 20 days	☐ Misdemeanor
IV	☐ 21 to 60 days	☒ Felony
V	☐ 61 days and over	

6. Has this case been previously filed in this District Court? (Yes or No) No
   If yes, Judge _____ Case No. _____
7. Has a complaint been filed in this matter? (Yes or No) No
   If yes, Magistrate Case No. _____
8. Does this case relate to a previously filed matter in this District Court? (Yes or No) Yes
   If yes, Judge Williams Case No. 22-CR-20114
9. Defendant(s) in federal custody as of _____
10. Defendant(s) in state custody as of _____
11. Rule 20 from the _____ District of _____
12. Is this a potential death penalty case? (Yes or No) No
13. Does this case originate from a matter pending in the Northern Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to August 8, 2014 (Mag. Judge Shaniek Maynard? (Yes or No) No
14. Does this case originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to October 3, 2019 (Mag. Judge Jared Strauss? (Yes or No) No
15. Did this matter involve the participation of or consultation with Magistrate Judge Eduardo I. Sanchez during his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, which concluded on January 22, 2023? No
16. Did this matter involve the participation of or consultation with now Magistrate Judge Marta Fulgueira Elfenbein during her tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, which concluded on March 5, 2024? No

By: _____
MICHAEL N. BERGER
Assistant United States Attorney
Court ID No. A5501557

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

PENALTY SHEET

Defendant's Name: JOHN CHRISTOPHER POLIT

Case No:

Count #: 1

Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h)
* **Max. Term of Imprisonment:** Twenty (20) years imprisonment
* **Mandatory Min. Term of Imprisonment (if applicable):** N/A
* **Max. Supervised Release:** Three (3) Years
* **Max. Fine:** $500,000 or the value of the property involved in the transaction

Counts #: 2-4

Money Laundering

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)
* **Max. Term of Imprisonment:** Twenty (20) years imprisonment as to each count
* **Mandatory Min. Term of Imprisonment (if applicable):** N/A
* **Max. Supervised Release:** Three (3) Years
* **Max. Fine:** $500,000 or the value of the property involved in the transaction

Counts #: 5-6

Engaging in Transactions in Criminally Derived Property

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957
* **Max. Term of Imprisonment:** Ten (10) Years imprisonment as to each count
* **Mandatory Min. Term of Imprisonment (if applicable):** N/A
* **Max. Supervised Release:** Three (3) Years
* **Max. Fine:** $250,000 or twice the amount of criminally derived property involved in the transaction

***Refers only to possible term of incarceration, supervised release and fines. It does not include restitution, special assessments, parole terms, or forfeitures that may be applicable.**