1 2 3 4 5	CHARLES G. LA BELLA Deputy Chief MARY ANN McCARTHY Trial Attorney Fraud Section, Criminal Division U.S. Department of Justice 1400 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530 (202) 598-2240	2012 MY 31 P 3 12
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7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA	
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10	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
12	Plaintiff,	CASE NO. 2:12-CP-113-JCH
13	v.	PLEA MEMORANDUM
14	LISA KIM,	
15	Defendant.))
16	The United States of America, by and through Charles G. La Bella, Deputy Chief, and	
17	Mary Ann McCarthy, Trial Attorneys, U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud	
18	Section, the defendant, LISA KIM, and the defendant's attorney, Charles E. Kelly, submit this Plea	
19	Memorandum. The United States and the defendant have reached the following plea agreement,	
20	which is not binding on the court:	
21	I. GROUP PLEA/PACKAGE PLEA AGREEMENT	
22	This agreement is contingent on a least five (5) of the thirteen (13) co-defendants,	
23	ROSALIO ALCANTAR, PATRICK BERGSRUD, ROBERT BOLTEN, GLENN BROWN,	
24	PAUL CITELLI, MICHELLE DELUCA, CHARLES HAWKINS, SAMI ROBERT	
25	HINDIYEH, BRIAN JONES, MORRIS MATTINGLY, ARNOLD MYERS, ANTHONY	
26	ROY WILSON, and JEANNE WINKLER successfully entering their guilty pleas together with	
27	Defendant LISA KIM, and that all pleas are acce	pted by the Court.
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A. The Plea

1. Defendant will plead guilty to Count One of the Information, charging Defendant with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, and Count Two of the Information, charging Defendant with misprision of felony, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3. Defendant also agrees to pay restitution and to the forfeiture of the property set forth in this Plea Memorandum.

B. Additional Charges

2. The U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section, agrees to bring no additional criminal charges in the District of Nevada against the defendant relating to or arising from the offenses charged in the Information, except for any crime of violence and any crime unknown to the Fraud Section before the time the parties sign this Plea Memorandum.

C. Sentencing Guideline Calculations

3. Defendant understands that the Court is required to consider United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") among other factors in determining the defendant's sentence. Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines, the Court may be free to exercise its discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of conviction.

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4. The parties agree that the following calculations of the United States Sentencing Guidelines (2010) apply:

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Base Offense Level
(U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(a)): 7

Loss Amount of more than $120,000
(U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(b)(1)(F)): 10

Sophisticated Means
(U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(b)(9)(c)): 2

TOTAL 19
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- 5. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3E1.1(a), the United States will recommend that the defendant receive a two (2) level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless Defendant (a) fails to make a complete factual basis for the guilty plea at the time it is entered; (b) is untruthful with the Court or probation officers in any respect, including, without limitation, financial information; (c) denies involvement in the offense or provides conflicting statements regarding Defendant's involvement; (d) attempts to withdraw the guilty plea; (e) engages in criminal conduct; (f) fails to appear in court; or (g) violates the conditions of Defendant's pretrial release conditions.
- 6. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3E1.1(b), the United States will, in its sole discretion, make a motion for an additional one (1) level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility prior to sentencing if the defendant timely notifies the United States of the defendant's intention to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and allowing for the efficient allocation of resources.
- 7. The United States will make a recommendation that the defendant receive a 1-level downward adjustment from the defendant's base offense level for Defendant LISA KIM and at least four (4) other co-defendants' group plea pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(b), on the condition that the co-defendants' change of pleas are entered and conditionally accepted by the Court on or before the defendant's sentencing hearing. If less than five (5)

 defendants enter guilty pleas, the Government will not make any motion for a group plea downward departure.

- 8. The United States will make a recommendation that the defendant receive a 2-level downward adjustment from the defendant's base offense level for Defendant LISA KIM and at least eleven (11) other co-defendants' group plea pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(b), on the condition that the co-defendants' change of pleas are entered and conditionally accepted by the Court on or before the defendant's sentencing hearing.
- 9. The United States will make a recommendation that the defendant receive a 3-level downward adjustment from the defendant's base offense level for Defendant LISA KIM and at least seventeen (17) other co-defendants' group plea pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(b), on the condition that the co-defendants' change of pleas are entered and conditionally accepted by the Court on or before the defendants' sentencing hearing. The defendant acknowledges that no more than a total of 3-levels will be recommended for a group plea reduction.
 - 10. Defendant's Criminal History Category will be determined by the court.

D. Other Sentencing Matters

- 11. The parties agree that the Sentencing Guideline calculations are based on information now known and could change upon investigation by the United States Probation Office. It is possible that factors unknown or unforeseen by the parties to the Plea Memorandum may be considered in determining the offense level, specific offense characteristics, and other related factors. In that event, the defendant will not withdraw her plea of guilty. Both the defendant and the United States are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, and (b) correct any and all factual inaccuracies relating to the calculation of the sentence.
- 12. The stipulations in this agreement do not bind either the United States Probation Office or the Court. Both Defendant and the United States are free to: (a) supplement the facts by

supplying relevant information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, and (b) correct any and all factual inaccuracies relating to the calculation of the sentence.

E. Fines and Special Assessment

- 13. Defendant agrees that the Court may impose a fine due and payable immediately upon sentencing.
- 14. Defendant will pay the special assessment of \$100 per count of conviction at the time of sentencing.

F. Restitution

15. Defendant agrees to make restitution for her offenses, described below in Section IV. At this time, the government estimates that there is no amount of restitution ascribable to Defendant. Defendant understands that any restitution imposed by the Court may not be discharged in whole or in part in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.

G. Forfeiture

- 16. The parties agree that the government will not request that the Court require

 Defendant to pay forfeiture in addition to restitution. In the event of any order by the Court that

 Defendant shall pay forfeiture, the Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to the following:
 - a. to abandon or to forfeit the property to the United States;
 - b. to relinquish all right, title, and interest in the property;
- c. to waive her right to any abandonment proceedings, any civil administrative forfeiture proceedings, any civil judicial forfeiture proceedings, or any criminal forfeiture proceedings ("proceedings") of the property;
- d. to waive service of process of any and all documents filed in this action or any proceedings concerning the property arising from the facts and circumstances of this case;
- e. to waive any further notice to the defendant, the defendant's agents, or the defendant's attorney regarding the abandonment or the forfeiture and disposition of the property;
 - f. not to file any claim, answer, petition, or other documents in any proceedings

1 concerning the property;

- g. to waive the statute of limitations, the CAFRA requirements, Fed. R. Crim. P. 7(c)(2), 32.2(a), and 32.2(b)(3), and the constitutional due process requirements of any abandonment proceeding or any forfeiture proceeding concerning the property;
 - h. to waive the defendant's right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of the property;
- i. to waive (a) all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to, (b) any constitutional or statutory double jeopardy defense or claim concerning, and (c) any claim or defense under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, including, but not limited to, any claim or defense of excessive fine in any proceedings concerning the property; and
 - j. to the entry of an Order of Forfeiture of the property to the United States.
- 17. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees and understands the abandonment, the civil administrative forfeiture, the civil judicial forfeiture, or the criminal forfeiture of the property shall not be treated as satisfaction of any assessment, fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty this Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to the abandonment or the forfeiture.

H. Waiver of Appeal

- 18. In exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this Plea Memorandum, Defendant knowingly and expressly waives the right to appeal any sentence that is imposed within the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as calculated by the Court, further waives the right to appeal the manner in which that sentence was determined on the grounds set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742, and further waives the right to appeal any other aspect of the conviction or sentence, including any order of restitution and forfeiture. Defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an upward departure from the applicable Sentencing Guideline range calculated by the Court.
- 19. Defendant also waives all collateral challenges, including any claims under Title 18, United States Code, Section 2255, to the defendant's conviction, sentence and the procedure

by which the Court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.

I. Additional Promises, Agreements, and Conditions

- 20. In exchange for the United States entering into this memorandum, Defendant agrees that (a) the facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Memorandum shall be admissible against the defendant under Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(A) in the following circumstances: (I) for any purpose at sentencing; and (ii) in any subsequent proceeding, including a trial in the event the defendant does not plead guilty or withdraws the defendant's guilty plea, to impeach or rebut any evidence, argument or representation offered by or on the defendant's behalf; and (b) the defendant expressly waives any and all rights under Fed. R. Criminal P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 with regard to the facts set forth in Section IV of the Plea Memorandum to the extent set forth above.
- 21. The parties agree that no promises, agreements, and conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this plea memorandum, and will not be entered into unless in writing and signed by all parties.

J. Limitations

22. This Plea Memorandum is limited to the Criminal Division of the United States
Department of Justice and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative,
or regulatory authority. But, this Plea Memorandum does not prohibit the United States through
any agency thereof, the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, or any third
party from initiating or prosecuting any civil proceeding directly or indirectly involving the
defendant, including but not limited to, proceedings under the False Claims Act relating to
potential civil monetary liability or by the Internal Revenue Service relating to potential tax
liability.

K. Cooperation

- 23. Defendant agrees, if requested by the United States, to provide complete and truthful information and testimony concerning Defendant's knowledge of all other persons who are committing or have committed offenses against the United States or any state, and agrees to cooperate fully with the United States in the investigation and prosecution of such persons.
- 24. In the event the government decides in its sole discretion that the assistance provided by Defendant amounts to "substantial assistance" pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, the United States will timely file a motion for downward departure from the applicable Guideline calculation. The Court has the sole discretion to grant such a motion.
- 25. Defendant agrees that a motion for downward departure based on substantial assistance shall not be made under any circumstances unless Defendant's cooperation is deemed to be substantial assistance by the government. The United States has made no promise, implied or otherwise, that Defendant will be granted a departure for substantial assistance. Further, no promise has been made that such a motion will be made even if Defendant complies with the terms of this Plea Memorandum in all respects but has been unable to provide substantial assistance as determined in the sole discretion of the government.
- 26. The United States agrees to consider the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the following factors, in determining whether, in the sole discretion of the government, Defendant has provided substantial assistance which would merit a motion by the United States for a downward departure from the applicable Guideline:
- a. The United States' evaluation of the significance and usefulness of Defendant's assistance;
- b. The truthfulness, completeness, and reliability of any information or testimony provided by Defendant;
 - c. The nature and extent of Defendant's assistance;
 - d. The truthfulness and completeness in disclosing and bringing to the attention of

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the Government all crimes which Defendant has committed and all administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings, investigations, and prosecutions in which she has been or is a subject, target, party, or witness;

- e. The truthfulness and completeness in disclosing and providing to the Government,
- upon request, any document, record, or other evidence relating to matters about which the Government or any designated law enforcement agency inquiries, including but not limited to, Defendant's personal finances;
- f. Any injury suffered, or any danger or risk of injury to Defendant or Defendant's family resulting from Defendant's assistance; and,
 - g. The timeliness of Defendant's assistance.
- 27. Defendant agrees that in the event the United States files a downward departure motion based upon Defendant's substantial assistance, the United States reserves the right to make a specific recommendation to the Court regarding the extent of such a departure. Defendant understands and agrees that the final decision as to how much of a departure, if any, is warranted rests solely with the Court.

L. Breach

Defendant agrees that if Defendant, at any time after the signature of this Memorandum and execution of all required certifications by Defendant, Defendant's counsel, and an attorney for the government, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of Defendant's obligations under this Memorandum ("a breach"), the government may declare this Memorandum breached. All of Defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this Memorandum is sufficient for the government to declare a breach, and Defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the government in writing. If the government declares this Memorandum breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if Defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this Memorandum, Defendant will not

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be able to withdraw the guilty plea, and (b) the government will be relieved of all its obligations under this Memorandum.

II. PENALTY

- 29. The maximum penalty for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, is imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) years, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. The maximum penalty for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2, is imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) years, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. Defendant is subject to supervised release for a term of not greater than five (5) years.
- 30. Supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which Defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if Defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, Defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release, which could result in Defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 31. Defendant is required to pay for the costs of imprisonment, probation, and supervised release, unless the defendant establishes that the defendant does not have the ability to pay such costs, in which case the court may impose an alternative sanction such as community service.

III. ELEMENTS

- 32. The essential elements of the offenses are:
- a. For the offense of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, the essential elements are as follows:
- (1) First, from as early as in or about November 2004 through at least in or about February 2009, there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit mail fraud and wire fraud;
 - (2) Second, the defendant was a party to or member of that agreement;
 - (3) Third, the defendant joined the agreement or conspiracy knowing of

at least one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it.

- b. For the offense of misprision of a felony, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 4, the essential elements are as follows:
- (1) First, between in or around October 2008 and in or around July 2009 a federal felony was committed, to wit: conspiracy to commit bank fraud;
 - (2) Second, the Defendant had knowledge of the commission of the felony;
 - (3) Third, the Defendant failed to notify an authority as soon as possible;
 - (4) Fourth, the Defendant did an affirmative act, as charged, to conceal the crime.

IV. FACTS

- 33. Defendant is pleading guilty because Defendant is guilty of the charged offenses.
- 34. Defendant specifically admits and declares under penalty of perjury that all of the facts set forth below are true and correct:
- 35. From as early as in or about November 2004 through at least in or about February 2009, Defendant knowingly participated in a scheme to control various Homeowner Association (HOA) boards of directors so that the HOA boards would award the handling of construction defect lawsuits and remedial construction contracts to a law firm and construction company designated by Defendant's co-conspirators.
- 36. In order to accomplish this scheme, co-conspirators acted as straw purchasers of properties in numerous Nevada HOA communities. The co-conspirators managed and operated the payments associated with maintaining these straw properties by running a so-called "Bill Pay Program," pursuant to which co-conspirators funded the properties through several limited liability companies and at the direction of a co-conspirator. Many of the payments on these straw properties were wired from California to Nevada. Co-conspirators also transferred an interest in some of the units to other co-conspirators to make it appear as if the co-conspirator was a bona fide homeowner.
- 37. The straw purchasers and those who acquired a transferred interest agreed to run for election to the respective HOA boards. These co-conspirators were paid in cash, check, or

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promised things of value for their participation, all of which resulted in a personal financial benefit to the co-conspirators.

- 38. Defendant specifically admits and declares under penalty of perjury that all of the facts set forth below of which the Defendant has knowledge of as a member of the conspiracy are true and correct. The parties agree that some of the facts outlined below were actions taken by 6 Defendant's co-conspirators and without the knowledge or involvement of the Defendant at the time; however, Defendant acknowledges that she knew of the unlawful purpose of the conspiracy and willfully joined it and that she is, therefore, responsible as a member of the conspiracy for those actions that were taken by her co-conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy. Defendant's actions in furtherance of the conspiracy are specifically indicated.
 - 39. In 2004, Defendant owned and operated a property management company in Las Vegas. Defendant knew that co-conspirators controlled the board of directors at the Vistana condominium complex HOA and that a co-conspirator directed their voting, hiring and other official duties as board members. In November 2004, Defendant agreed with the co-conspirator directing the board that her company would assume the role of property manager of Vistana, knowing that her co-conspirator had directed the Vistana HOA to hire her property management company for the job.
 - 40. With respect to a February 2005 recall election for the Vistana HOA board of directors, the co-conspirator who directed the activities of the Vistana HOA board of directors instructed Defendant to make sure that co-conspirator board members were not removed as a result of the recall election. And said co conspirator instructed Defendant how to falsify the ballots. In furtherance of this goal, Defendant and her co-conspirators agreed to falsify ballots to ensure that the co-conspirator board members received enough votes to retain their position on the board, and Defendant instructed a co-conspirator how to falsify the ballots.
 - 41. Another tactic the co-conspirators used to rig certain HOA board elections was to prepare forged ballots for out-of-town homeowners and either cause them to be transported or mailed to California and thereafter to have the ballots mailed back to Las Vegas from various

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locations around California so as to make it appear that the ballots were completed and mailed by bona fide homeowners residing in California. Defendant's co-conspirators utilized this tactic in an April 2008 election for the Park Avenue board of directors. In response to an inquiry from the Ombudsman for the Nevada Real Estate Division relating to the propriety of the election, Defendant, in coordination with the co-conspirator who was handling the construction defect litigation for Park Avenue, failed to disclose her knowledge that the election had been rigged and that her co-conspirators had tampered with the votes.

- 42. Defendant later learned that co-conspirators also attempted to create the appearance that the elections were legitimate by hiring independent attorneys to run the HOA board elections. The homeowners were led to believe that these "special election masters" were supposed to: (i) contact the bona fide homeowners to inform them of the election; (ii) mail the bona fide homeowners election ballots and voting instructions; (iii) collect and secure those election ballots returned by mail until the date of the election; and, (iv) preside over the HOA board election, including supervising the counting of ballots. However, they, too, were paid in cash, check, and promised things of value, by or on behalf of Defendant's co-conspirators for their assistance in rigging the elections.
- 43. Once elected, the co-conspirator board members would meet with other coconspirators in order to manipulate board votes, including the selection of community managers, contractors, and general counsel for the HOA and attorneys to represent the HOA.
- 44. Often the co-conspirators created and submitted fake bids for "competitors" to make the process appear to be legitimate while ensuring co-conspirators were awarded the contract.
- 45. Once hired, the co-conspirator community managers, including Defendant, and general counsel were paid in cash, check, or things of value for using their positions to gain inside information and recommend that the HOA board hire a co-conspirator for remediation and construction defect repairs.
 - 46. This process created the appearance of legitimacy since bona fide homeowners

 believed the elected board members and community managers were, as fiduciaries, acting in their best interest rather than to advance the financial interests of co-conspirators. In fact, Defendant and others were paid or received things of value by or on behalf of their co-conspirators for their assistance in purchasing the properties, obtaining HOA membership status, rigging elections, using their positions to manipulate the HOA's business and to further the goals of the conspiracy, and to enrich the co-conspirators at the expense of the HOA and the bona fide homeowners.

- 47. In addition, the initial contract for emergency remediation repairs contained a "right of first refusal" clause to ensure that a co-conspirator was awarded the construction repair contracts following the construction defect litigation. Defendant was aware that immediately after the settlement of the construction defect litigation, a co-conspirator member of the Park Avenue HOA board of directors lead an effort to secure the board's vote in favor of granting the construction repair contract to the co-conspirator construction company pursuant to the right of first refusal.
- 48. From at least in or about October 2008 through in or about July 2009, Defendant and others together tried to obtain a bank loan for a café of which certain of the other individuals who were involved were principals.
- 49. Defendant knew that in or about October 2008, certain of the other individuals signed a joint venture agreement with S.K. to operate a café for a period of three years without informing the Clark County, Nevada officials who provided the principals of the café with a lease for the commercial space in which it was located, contrary to the requirements of the lease terms.
- 50. Defendant and some of the principals did meet with a loan officer from a bank in the Las Vegas area seeking the refinancing of a loan for the café. It was agreed between the principals and the loan officer that the fact that S.K. operated the café on a day-to-day basis, paid a monthly fee of \$8,000 to the principals of the café, and retained any additional profits from the operation of the café, would be concealed from the bank's loan committee.
- 51. Defendant and the others agreed to and did obtain financial statements for the business entity under which S.K. operated the café with the intent of altering the financial

statements to falsely represent the financial statements to be those of the business entity through which the principals owned the café. At the directive of co-conspirators, Defendant made the changes to the financial statements.

52. Defendant later discovered that certain of the others signed a loan application for submission without informing the bank of the true business arrangement with S.K. and representing the financial statements of the entity through which S.K. operated the café as those of the business entity through which the principals owned the café, knowing that the bank would not issue a loan if the bank knew the true state of affairs.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- 53. Defendant acknowledges by the defendant's signature below that Defendant has read this Plea Memorandum, that Defendant understands the terms and conditions, and the factual basis set forth herein, that Defendant has discussed these matters with Defendant's attorney, and that the matters set forth in this memorandum, including the facts set forth in Part IV above, are true and correct.
- 54. Defendant acknowledges that Defendant has been advised, and understands, that by entering a plea of guilty the defendant is waiving, that is, giving up, certain rights guaranteed to the defendant by law and by the Constitution of the United States. Specifically, Defendant is giving up:
 - a. The right to proceed to trial by jury on the original charges, or to a trial by a judge if Defendant and the United States both agree;
 - b. The right to confront the witnesses against Defendant at such a trial, and to cross-examine them;
 - c. The right to remain silent at such trial, with such silence not to be used against Defendant in any way;
 - d. The right, should Defendant so choose, to testify in Defendant's own behalf at such a trial;
 - e. The right to compel witnesses to appear at such a trial, and to testify in

Defendant's behalf; and, 2 The right to have the assistance of an attorney at all stages of such proceedings. 55. 3 Defendant acknowledges that Defendant is, in all respects, satisfied by the representation provided by Defendant's attorney and that Defendant's attorney has discussed with defendant the burdens and benefits of this Memorandum and the rights that Defendant has waived herein. 7 56. Defendant, Defendant's attorney, and the attorney for the United States acknowledge that this Plea Memorandum contains the entire agreement negotiated and agreed to by and between the parties, and that no other promise has been made or implied by either the Defendant, Defendant's attorney, or the attorney for the United States. 10 11 **DENIS MCINERNEY** Chief 12 United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud 13 Deputy Chief 16 MARY ANN McCARTHY Trial Attorney 17 United States Department of Justice Criminal Division, Fraud Section 18 19 20 21 22 CHARLES E. KED 23 Counsel for Defendant 24 25 26 27