



U.S. Department of Justice

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November 8, 2016

Attorney Cody N. Guarnieri
Brown Paindiris & Scott, LLP
100 Pearl Street
Hartford, CT 06103

United States District Court
District of Connecticut
FILED AT NEW HAVEN

11-8 20 16
Roberta D. Jabor, Clerk
By J. Jabor
Deputy Clerk

Re: United States v. Christian Meissenn
Case No. 3:16CR 201 (JAM)

Dear Attorney Guarnieri:

This letter confirms the plea agreement between your client, Christian Meissenn (the “defendant”), and the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut (the “Government”) concerning the referenced criminal matter.

THE PLEAS AND OFFENSES

The defendant agrees to waive his right to be indicted and to plead guilty to both counts of a two-count information charging him in Count One with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, and in Count Two with tax evasion, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7201.

The defendant understands that, to be guilty of the offense of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, as charged in Count One of the Information, the following essential elements of the offense must be satisfied:

1. A conspiracy, or unlawful agreement, existed between two or more persons to commit wire and mail fraud, as described in the Information; and
2. The defendant knowingly, willfully, and voluntarily became a member of, or a participant in, the conspiracy.

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The defendant further understands that, to be guilty of the offense of tax evasion, as charged in Count Two of the information, the following essential elements of the offense must be satisfied:

1. For tax year 2013, the defendant had a substantial tax due and owing to the United States;
2. The defendant engaged in one or more of the affirmative acts described in the Information with the intent to defeat or evade the calculation or payment of that tax; and
3. The defendant acted willfully, that is, with the intent to defeat a known legal duty.

THE PENALTIES

Count One

The offense of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud carries a maximum penalty of 20 years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. In addition, under 18 U.S.C. § 3583, the Court may impose a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years to begin after imprisonment. The defendant understands that, should he violate any condition of supervised release, he may be required to serve a further term of imprisonment of up to 2 years per violation pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 with no credit for time already spent on supervised release.

Count Two

The offense of tax evasion carries a maximum penalty of 5 years of imprisonment, a \$100,000 fine, and costs of prosecution. In addition, under 18 U.S.C. § 3583, the Court may impose a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years to begin after imprisonment. The defendant understands that, should he violate any condition of supervised release, he may be required to serve a further term of imprisonment of up to 2 years per violation pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 with no credit for time already spent on supervised release.

* * *

With respect to each count of conviction, the defendant is also subject to the alternative fine provision of 18 U.S.C. § 3571. Under this section, the maximum fine that may be imposed on the defendant is the greatest of the following amounts: (1) twice the gross gain to the defendant resulting from the offense; (2) twice the gross loss resulting from the offense; or (3) \$250,000.

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In addition, the defendant is obligated by 18 U.S.C. § 3013 to pay a special assessment of \$100 on each count of conviction, for a total of \$200. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment to the Clerk of the Court on the day the guilty pleas are accepted.

The defendant is also subject to restitution on each count of conviction, as discussed below. Unless otherwise ordered, should the Court impose a fine or restitution of more than \$2,500 as part of the sentence, interest will be charged on the unpaid balance of the fine or restitution not paid within 15 days after the judgment date. 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). Other penalties and fines may be assessed on the unpaid balance of a fine or restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3572 (h), (i) and § 3612(g).

Restitution Concerning Count One

In addition to the other penalties provided by law, the Court must also order that the defendant make restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3663A, and the Government reserves its right to seek restitution on behalf of victims consistent with the provisions of § 3663A. The scope and effect of the order of restitution are set forth in the attached Rider Concerning Restitution. Restitution is payable immediately unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Restitution Concerning Count Two

The defendant agrees to file amended federal income tax returns and to make restitution to the IRS for any tax due and owing plus penalties and interest for tax years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3). The defendant understands that the Court may order restitution as a condition of probation or supervised release. The order of restitution has the effect of a civil judgment against the defendant. Failure to make restitution as ordered may result in a revocation of probation, or a modification of the conditions of supervised release, or in the defendant being held in contempt under 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e). Failure to pay restitution may also result in the defendant's re-sentencing to any sentence which might originally have been imposed by the Court. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3613A and 3614.

The defendant agrees to make restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$1,527,834 for tax years 2011 through 2015 as set forth in the chart below, plus applicable statutory penalties and interest, which will continue to accrue. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3).

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Tax Year	Unreported Income	Correct Taxable Income	Additional Tax Due and Owing
2011	\$1,242,654.63	\$1,233,155.63	\$416,540.00
2012	\$700,734.76	\$690,985.00	\$226,415.00
2013	\$1,236,940.08	\$1,230,840.00	\$461,236.00
2014	\$523,257.83	\$517,058.00	\$178,131.00
2015	\$694,586.50	\$688,269.00	\$245,512.00
TOTAL	\$4,398,155.80	\$4,360,307.63	\$1,527,834.00

The defendant agrees that he will sign the IRS forms deemed necessary by the IRS to enable it to make assessment of the agreed-upon restitution, including agreeing to sign the Revenue Agent's Report (Form 4549). The defendant further agrees to allow the contents of his IRS criminal file to be given to civil attorneys and support staff of the United States Attorney's Office and the IRS to enable them to investigate any taxes owed by the defendant, including, but not limited to, any civil penalties and interest. With respect to disclosure of the criminal file to the above-listed individuals and entities, the defendant waives any rights the defendant might hold under 26 U.S.C. §§ 6103 and 7213, and Fed. R. Crim. P. 6(e). The defendant further waives any other rights he might have to non-disclosure of tax-related information. The defendant agrees as a special condition of probation or supervised release that he will cooperate with the IRS to pay all outstanding taxes, interest, and penalties.

The defendant further agrees to pay the IRS his taxes due and owing, plus penalties and interest no later than the sentencing date in this case or at a time agreeable to the IRS. The defendant understands that interest as fixed by statute will continue to accrue until his civil liabilities are fully paid. In the event that the defendant fails to comply with this provision of the agreement, the Government may void this agreement in whole or in part. Nothing in this agreement shall limit the authority of the IRS to collect the defendant's tax liabilities in any manner authorized by law.

Should the Court order the defendant to pay restitution to the IRS for the failure to pay tax, either directly as part of the sentence or as a condition of probation or supervised release, the IRS will use the restitution order as the basis for a civil assessment. *See* 26 U.S.C. § 6201(a)(4). The defendant does not have the right to challenge the amount of this assessment. 26 U.S.C. § 6201(a)(4)(C). Neither the existence of a restitution payment schedule nor the defendant's timely payment of restitution according to that schedule will preclude the IRS from administrative collection of the restitution-based assessment, including levy and distraint under 26 U.S.C. § 6331.

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The defendant agrees not to file thereafter any claims for a refund of taxes, penalties, or interest for amounts attributable to the returns filed incident to his plea.

THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES

Applicability

The defendant understands that the Court is required to consider any applicable Sentencing Guidelines as well as other factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to tailor an appropriate sentence in this case and is not bound by this plea agreement. The defendant agrees that the Sentencing Guideline determinations will be made by the Court, by a preponderance of the evidence, based upon input from the defendant, the Government, and the United States Probation Office. The defendant further understands that he has no right to withdraw his guilty pleas if his sentence or the Guideline application is other than he anticipated, including if the sentence is outside any of the ranges set forth in this agreement.

Acceptance of Responsibility

At this time, the Government agrees to recommend that the Court reduce by two levels the defendant's adjusted offense level under § 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines, based on the defendant's prompt recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the offenses. Moreover, should the defendant qualify for a decrease under § 3E1.1(a) and his offense level determined prior to the operation of subsection (a) is level 16 or greater, the Government will file a motion with the Court pursuant to § 3E1.1(b) which recommends that the Court reduce the defendant's Adjusted Offense Level by one additional level based on his prompt notification of his intention to enter pleas of guilty. The defendant understands that the Court is not obligated to accept the Government's recommendations on the reductions.

The above-listed recommendations are conditioned upon the defendant's affirmative demonstration of acceptance of responsibility, by (1) truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense(s) of conviction and truthfully admitting or not falsely denying any additional relevant conduct for which the defendant is accountable under § 1B1.3 of the Sentencing Guidelines, and (2) truthfully disclosing to the United States Attorney's Office and the United States Probation Office personal information requested, including the submission of a complete and truthful financial statement detailing the defendant's financial condition.

In addition, the Government expressly reserves the right to seek denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if the defendant engages in any acts,

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unknown to the Government at the time of the signing of this agreement, which (1) indicate that the defendant has not terminated or withdrawn from criminal conduct or associations (§ 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines); (2) could provide a basis for an adjustment for obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (§ 3C1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines); or (3) constitute a violation of any condition of release. Moreover, the Government reserves the right to seek denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if the defendant seeks to withdraw his guilty pleas or takes a position at sentencing, or otherwise, which, in the Government's assessment, is inconsistent with affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility. The defendant understands that he may not withdraw his pleas of guilty if, for the reasons explained above, the Government does not make one or both of the recommendations or seeks denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility.

Waiver of Right to Appeal or Collaterally Attack Conviction and Sentence

The defendant acknowledges that under certain circumstances he is entitled to challenge his conviction and sentence. The defendant agrees not to appeal or collaterally attack his conviction in any proceeding, including but not limited to a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and/or § 2241. Nor will he pursue such an appeal or collateral attack to challenge the sentence imposed by the Court if that sentence does not exceed 20 years of imprisonment, a 3-year term of supervised release, a \$200 special assessment, a fine of \$250,000, and restitution in any amount ordered by the Court, even if the Court imposes such a sentence based on an analysis different from that specified above. The Government and the defendant agree that this waiver applies regardless of whether the term of imprisonment is imposed to run consecutively to or concurrently with, in whole or in part, the undischarged portion of any other sentence that has been imposed on the defendant at the time of sentencing in this case. The defendant acknowledges that he is knowingly and intelligently waiving these rights. Furthermore, the parties agree that any challenge to the defendant's sentence that is not foreclosed by this provision will be limited to that portion of the sentence that is inconsistent with (or not addressed by) this waiver. Nothing in the foregoing waiver of appellate and collateral review rights shall preclude the defendant from raising a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in an appropriate forum.

Information to the Court

The Government reserves its right to address the Court with respect to an appropriate sentence to be imposed in this case. Moreover, the Government will discuss the facts of this case, including information regarding the defendant's background and character, 18 U.S.C. § 3661, with the United States Probation Office and will provide the Probation Officer with access to material in its file, with the exception of grand jury material.

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WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Waiver of Right to Indictment

The defendant understands that he has the right to have the facts of this case presented to a federal grand jury, consisting of between sixteen and twenty-three citizens, twelve of whom would have to find probable cause to believe that he committed the offenses set forth in the information before an indictment could be returned. The defendant acknowledges that he is knowingly and intelligently waiving his right to be indicted.

Waiver of Trial Rights and Consequences of Guilty Pleas

The defendant understands that he has the right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding and, if necessary, one will be appointed to represent him.

The defendant understands that he has the right to plead not guilty or to persist in that plea if it has already been made, the right to a public trial, the right to be tried by a jury with the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him, the right not to be compelled to incriminate himself, the right to testify and present evidence, and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify in his defense. The defendant understands that by pleading guilty he waives those rights and that, if the pleas of guilty are accepted by the Court, there will not be a further trial of any kind.

The defendant understands that, if he pleads guilty, the Court may ask him questions about each offense to which he pleads guilty, and if he answers those questions falsely under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, his answers may later be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or making false statements.

Waiver of Statute of Limitations

The defendant agrees that, should the convictions following defendant's guilty pleas be vacated for any reason, then any prosecution that is not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this plea agreement (including any indictment or counts the Government has agreed to dismiss at sentencing pursuant to this plea agreement) may be commenced or reinstated against the defendant, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this plea agreement and the commencement or reinstatement of such prosecution. The defendant agrees to waive all defenses based on the statute of limitations with respect to any prosecution that is not time-barred on the date the plea agreement is signed.

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Waiver of Challenge to Pleas Based on Immigration Consequences

The defendant understands that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. The defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his pleas may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

The defendant understands that he is bound by his guilty pleas regardless of the immigration consequences of the pleas and regardless of any advice the defendant has received from his counsel or others regarding those consequences. Accordingly, the defendant waives any and all challenges to his guilty pleas and to his sentence based on those consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty pleas, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty pleas, conviction or sentence, based on the immigration consequences of his guilty pleas, conviction and sentence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUILT AND VOLUNTARINESS OF PLEAS

The defendant acknowledges that he is entering into this agreement and is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because he is guilty. The defendant further acknowledges that he is entering into this agreement without reliance upon any discussions between the Government and him (other than those described in the plea agreement letter), without promise of benefit of any kind (other than the concessions contained in the plea agreement letter), and without threats, force, intimidation, or coercion of any kind. The defendant further acknowledges his understanding of the nature of the offenses to which he is pleading guilty, including the penalties provided by law. The defendant also acknowledges his complete satisfaction with the representation and advice received from his undersigned attorney. The defendant and his undersigned counsel are unaware of any conflict of interest concerning counsel's representation of the defendant in the case.

SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

The defendant acknowledges that this agreement is limited to the undersigned parties and cannot bind any other federal authority, or any state or local authority. The defendant acknowledges that no representations have been made to him with respect to any civil or administrative consequences that may

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result from his pleas of guilty because such matters are solely within the province and discretion of the specific administrative or governmental entity involved. Finally, the defendant acknowledges that this agreement has been reached without regard to any civil tax matters that may be pending or which may arise involving him.

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

The defendant understands that he will be adjudicated guilty of each offense to which he has pleaded guilty and will be deprived of certain rights, such as the right to hold public office, to serve on a jury, to possess firearms and ammunition, and in some states, the right to vote. Further, the defendant understands that if he is not a citizen of the United States, a plea of guilty may result in removal from the United States, denial of citizenship, and denial of admission to the United States in the future. The defendant understands that pursuant to section 203(b) of the Justice For All Act, the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Probation Office will collect a DNA sample from the defendant for analysis and indexing. Finally, the defendant understands that the Government reserves the right to notify any state or federal agency by which he is licensed, or with which he does business, as well as any current or future employer of the fact of his conviction.

SATISFACTION OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL LIABILITY; BREACH

The defendant's guilty pleas, if accepted by the Court, will satisfy the federal criminal liability of the defendant in the District of Connecticut as a result of his participation in the conduct which forms the basis of the information in this case.

The defendant understands that if, before sentencing, he violates any term or condition of this agreement, engages in any criminal activity, or fails to appear for sentencing, the Government may void all or part of this agreement. If the agreement is voided in whole or in part, defendant will not be permitted to withdraw his guilty pleas.

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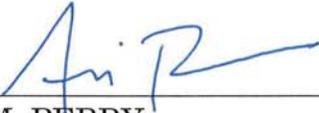
NO OTHER PROMISES

The defendant acknowledges that no other promises, agreements, or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this plea agreement, and none will be entered into unless set forth in writing, signed by all the parties.

This letter shall be presented to the Court, in open court, and filed in this case.

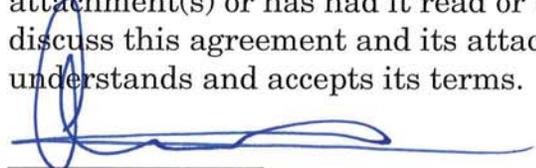
Very truly yours,

DEIRDRE M. DALY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



AVI M. PERRY
PETER JONGBLOED
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The defendant certifies that he has read this plea agreement letter and its attachment(s) or has had it read or translated to him, that he has had ample time to discuss this agreement and its attachment(s) with counsel and that he fully understands and accepts its terms.



CHRISTIAN MEISSENN
The Defendant

11/8/16
Date

I have thoroughly read, reviewed and explained this plea agreement and its attachment(s) to my client who advises me that he understands and accepts its terms.



CODY N. GUARNIERI, ESQ.
Attorney for the Defendant

11/8/16
Date

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RIDER CONCERNING RESTITUTION

The Court shall order that the defendant make restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3663A. The order of restitution may include:

1. If the offense resulted in damage to or loss or destruction of property of a victim of the offense, the order of restitution shall require the defendant to:
 - A. Return the property to the owner of the property or someone designated by the owner; or
 - B. If return of the property is impossible, impracticable, or inadequate, pay an amount equal to:

The greater of -

- (I) the value of the property on the date of the damage, loss, or destruction; or
- (II) the value of the property on the date of sentencing, less the value as of the date the property is returned.

2. In any case, reimburse the victim for lost income and necessary child care, transportation, and other expenses incurred during participation in the investigation or prosecution of the offense or attendance at proceedings related to the offense.

The order of restitution has the effect of a civil judgment against the defendant. In addition to the court-ordered restitution, the court may order that the conditions of its order of restitution be made a condition of probation or supervised release. Failure to make restitution as ordered may result in a revocation of probation, or a modification of the conditions of supervised release, or in the defendant being held in contempt under 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e). Failure to pay restitution may also result in the defendant's re-sentencing to any sentence which might originally have been imposed by the Court. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3614, 3613A. The Court may also order that the defendant give notice to any victim(s) of his offense under 18 U.S.C. § 3555.