

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * **CRIMINAL NO. 19-192**
v. * **SECTION: "F"**
CHRISTIE LYNN BROWNING *
* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter have gone to trial, the government would have proved through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible tangible exhibits, including documentary evidence, the following to support the allegations charged by the government in Count 1 of the information now pending against the defendant, **CHRISTIE LYNN BROWNING**, charging her with a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 843(a)(3), 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(C) namely, conspiracy to acquire or obtain possession of oxycodone by fraud and to possess with the intent to distribute, and to distribute oxycodone.

1. The Controlled Substances Act ("CSA"), Title 21, United States Code, Section 801, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations set forth which drugs and other substances are defined by law as "controlled substances." Those controlled substances are then assigned to one of five schedules – Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V – depending on their potential for abuse, likelihood of physical or psychological dependency, accepted medical use, and accepted safety for use under medical supervision. A substance listed on Schedule I has a higher abuse potential than a substance on Schedule II. The abuse potential decreases as the Schedule numbers increase. Schedule II drugs or substances have some accepted medical use, but with severe restrictions, and

DOJ Trial Attorney JH
Defendant CB
Defense Counsel TDX

have a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence. These drugs are also considered dangerous, and abuse can lead to addiction, overdose, and sometimes death.

2. Oxycodone is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance. Oxycodone is the generic name for a highly addictive prescription analgesic. The use of oxycodone in any form can lead to physical and/or psychological dependence, and abuse of the drug may result in addiction. Oxycodone is sold generically or under a variety of brand names, including OxyContin and Roxicodone.

3. In or around May 2017, the defendant, a resident of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, was informed by Vicki Skeldon that another individual, Danielle Lesslie, could create fictitious prescriptions for oxycodone using a prescription template that had been stolen from an area physician ("Physician 1"). Between May 2017 and October 2017, the defendant provided her personal identifying information (name, date of birth, telephone number) ("PII") to Skeldon and Lesslie for the purpose of having Lesslie create fictitious prescriptions in the defendant's name. Between May 2017 and October 2017, the defendant filled five fictitious prescriptions for oxycodone that Lesslie created for her. After filling these prescriptions, the defendant provided a portion of the oxycodone pills that she received to Skeldon.

4. In or around October 2017, Skeldon provided the defendant with the stolen prescription template that Lesslie had used to create the fictitious prescriptions. The defendant then started using this stolen prescription template to create fictitious prescriptions for oxycodone.

5. Beginning in or around November 2017, and continuing through in or around January 2019, the defendant created fictitious prescriptions for 20 of co-conspirators who provided

the defendant with their PII. None of the co-conspirators were patients of, were ever examined by Physician 1. After the defendant's co-conspirators filled the fictitious prescriptions, they provided the defendant with a portion of the oxycodone pills that they obtained using the fictitious prescriptions to the defendant. In turn, the defendant would either sell the oxycodone pills on the black market or keep the pills for her own use.

6. Specifically, on or about February 3, 2018, March 10, 2018, May 26, 2019, July 28, 2018, August 27, 2018, September 25, 2018, October 23, 2018, November 21, 2018, December 20, 2018, January 18, 2019, Co-Conspirator 1 filled fictitious prescriptions for oxycodone that the defendant created for Co-Conspirator 1 using the stolen template from Physician 1. Co-Conspirator 1 provided a portion of the oxycodone pills that Co-Conspirator 1 obtained from using these prescriptions to the defendant, who in turn, sold a portion of those oxycodone pills on the black market.

7. In total, between November 2017 and January 2019, the defendant conspired and was aided and abetted by her co-conspirators in acquiring and obtaining possession of approximately 23,040 milligrams of oxycodone by fraud and distributing and reselling the same on the back market.

8. In sum, the Government's evidence would prove the defendant, **CHRISTIE LYNN BROWNING**, conspired to acquire and obtain possession of oxycodone by fraud, and to possess with the intent to distribute, and distribute oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance.

Limited Nature of Factual Basis

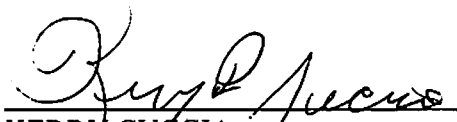
This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **BROWNING**, and/or the government, and it is not a complete statement of all facts

described by **BROWNING** to the government. Rather, it is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for her guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal basis for the plea of guilty to the charged offense by **BROWNING**.

The above facts come from an investigation conducted by, and would be proven at trial by credible testimony from, *inter alia*, Special Agents and forensic examiners from Drug Enforcement Administration, and admissible tangible exhibits in the custody of the DEA.

READ AND APPROVED:


CHRISTIE LYNN BROWNING
Defendant


KERRY CUCCIA
Counsel for Defendant


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Trial Attorney