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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	23-CR-00146-DG-JAM
	:	
-against-	:	United States Courthouse
	:	Brooklyn, New York
	:	
RACHEL CHERWITZ, et al.,	:	Tuesday, April 22, 2025
	:	11:00 a.m.
Defendants.	:	

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TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR PRETRIAL CONFERENCE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOSEPH A. MARUTOLLO
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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Proceedings recorded by computerized stenography. Transcript
produced by Computer-aided Transcription.

1 (In open court.)

2 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Criminal cause for a pretrial
3 conference, Docket No. 23-CR-146, United States versus
4 Cherwitz, et al. Would the parties please state your
5 appearances, starting with the government.

6 MS. BENSING: Good morning, Your Honor. Kayla
7 Bensing, Kaitlin Farrell, Nina Gupta, and Sean Fern, along
8 with paralegal specialists Liam McNett and Marlane Bosler for
9 the government.

10 THE COURT: Good morning.

11 MS. COHEN: Good morning, Your Honor. Celia Cohen
12 and Michael Robotti on behalf of Rachel Cherwitz.

13 THE COURT: Good morning.

14 MS. BONJEAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Jennifer
15 Bonjean, B-O-N-J-E-A-N, on behalf of Ms. Daedone.

16 MS. KILLION: Good morning, Your Honor. Kelsey
17 Killion, K-I-L-L-I-O-N, on behalf of Ms. Daedone, as well.

18 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. Again, I'm the
19 magistrate judge assigned solely for jury selection in this
20 matter. The parties have already consented twice to
21 magistrate judge jurisdiction here for purposes of jury
22 selection.

23 The purpose of today's proceeding is just to go
24 through what that jury selection will look like. I appreciate
25 that we have done this with some of you already, but in light

1 of the change to Ms. Cherwitz's representation, I thought it
2 would make sense to walk through what I'll be doing and we can
3 talk about any issues, and hopefully there are none. So
4 hopefully this should be a pretty brief conference this
5 morning.

6 First, just as logistical information, a reminder,
7 the jury selection will commence at 9:30 a.m. on May 5, 2025,
8 in this courtroom, 4B South. I would just ask that counsel be
9 here early, by about 9:00. I intend to start promptly. In
10 terms of the process itself, I'm just going to go through what
11 I'm going to be saying, frankly, as I said previously. So
12 first, we would call 40 prospective jurors to sit in the jury
13 box and the first row of the gallery area. We'll have enough
14 chairs to ensure that that's possible.

15 I'll then read the names of the prospective jurors,
16 1 through 40. There will be placards set up so that you'll
17 know where each person is sitting. The person sitting in
18 chair one will have a placard saying one, two, three, and so
19 forth. I'll then talk about the importance of jury service,
20 and that only if they have an extraordinary personal hardship
21 that prevents them from serving in the case will that be a
22 reason to raise that with the Court, but that the hardship
23 needs to be extraordinary for the prospective juror to be
24 excused.

25 I will then introduce the case. I would note that

1 Judge Gujarati will preside over the trial, that the trial is
2 likely to begin the next day, that would be on May 6th. The
3 trial is likely to last approximately six weeks, and that my
4 understanding is that the schedule will be from 9:30 a.m. to
5 5:30 p.m., with breaks in the morning and the afternoon.

6 As discussed at the last jury selection conference a
7 few months ago, it will be a jury of 12 persons and 6
8 alternate jurors. I'm going to note that the criminal
9 prosecution is brought on behalf of the government by U.S.
10 Attorney John Durham. I would like to just identify the lead
11 AUSA. Is that Ms. Bensing?

12 MS. BENSING: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: And then, as I discussed at the last
14 conference, I would ask Ms. Bensing to identify the people at
15 counsel table. Then I would note -- and that would be the
16 only communication that the government would have with the
17 prospective jurors in this setting.

18 Then I would note that there are two defendants,
19 Ms. Rachel Cherwitz and Ms. Nicole Daedone. I would say
20 that -- again, I would ask the lead counsel for each side to
21 identify the people at their table. So Ms. Cohen I would ask
22 you to rise and introduce yourself, and introduce those with
23 you at counsel table. And then, Ms. Bonjean, I would ask you
24 to rise and introduce those at counsel table.

25 Again, as with the government, that would be the

1 only communication you have directly in this setting with the
2 prospective jury. I would note a little bit further about the
3 fact that this prosecution is brought in the name of the
4 United States, and that does not entitle the government to any
5 greater or lesser consideration than any party that appears in
6 court.

7 I'll then talk through the voir dire process. And I
8 won't go into all that detail today, but I will explain what
9 that process looks like, what that inquiry involves, and to
10 really emphasize that the prospective jurors need to answer my
11 questions carefully and honestly, and that if at any point
12 they are not comfortable answering in front of others, they
13 can come to sidebar, which will be in this area right over
14 here to my left. Then I would ask my deputy to administer the
15 oath.

16 By the way, while we're talking about sidebar, I
17 think I had asked this the last time. On the defendants'
18 side, Ms. Cherwitz and Ms. Daedone, are you also planning
19 physically to come to sidebar or only counsel?

20 MS. COHEN: Yes, Your Honor.

21 MS. BONJEAN: Yes, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Again, just as a logistical matter, I'll
23 get to this in a few minutes, but when we're at sidebar,
24 again, I would be the only person speaking to the prospective
25 juror. But if there's an issue, I would ask the juror to step

1 aside and talk to the attorneys, and I'll ask follow-up
2 questions as necessary.

3 I will note that the charges in this case, in a
4 criminal case, are set forth in an indictment entitled United
5 States versus Rachel Cherwitz and Nicole Daedone. I would
6 note that an indictment is a document. It's a formal method
7 of accusing a defendant of a crime. It is not evidence of any
8 kind against any defendant. I would then summarize the case
9 as follows.

10 I would say that the defendants in this case are
11 Nicole Daedone and Rachel Cherwitz. Both defendants are
12 charged with one count of forced labor conspiracy in violation
13 of Title 18 U.S.C. Sections 1589(a) through (b), 1594(b), and
14 3551. I would note that the defendants deny the charges, have
15 pleaded not guilty, and are presumed innocent.

16 I would then go through the government's burden that
17 each defendant is presumed to be innocent, and that the
18 defendants have no burden. I would then indicate that the 40
19 people whose names have been called would make up our
20 prospective jury panel at this point, but I would encourage
21 Ms. Bonjean had asked also at the last conference that
22 everyone in the room pay attention, even if they're not in one
23 of the 40 seats because they should be making mental notes if
24 any of the answers to any of my questions would be yes. And
25 I'll be asking -- most of the questions will be yes or no

1 questions.

2 So then I would start asking general questions and,
3 again, if the answer is yes, I would have them raise their
4 hand. And if I have follow-up questions I might ask them to
5 come to sidebar, depending on the nature of the question or
6 the answer.

7 So first I would ask general questions, which would
8 involve knowledge of court participants, whether that means
9 the attorneys, the parties, and whether there's anything about
10 the charges that were described that would make it difficult
11 for the prospective juror to be fair and impartial.

12 I would then go through the ability to serve and to
13 emphasize that only where serving on a jury would be extremely
14 burdensome, either because of an unavoidable conflict or
15 because of a serious difficulty, would that be a factor that
16 would need to be raised. I would have all of those
17 discussions at sidebar. So if people do have issues, they can
18 talk about it at sidebar and we would address that as
19 necessary.

20 I would also ask if anyone has difficulty speaking,
21 reading, or understanding English, as well as whether anyone
22 has a disability or a mental or physical condition that would
23 make it difficult for them to sit as a juror in this case.

24 Next I would talk through principals of law. I
25 would go through the several fundamental legal principles that

1 apply to this and every criminal case. I would talk about the
2 defendants presuming to be -- is presumed to be innocent, and
3 whether anyone is not able to accept and apply this principle
4 of law. Similarly, I talk through the government bearing the
5 burden, the right of the defendant to remain silent and not
6 having to testify, as well as the fact that the role of the
7 jury is to decide the facts, and that also that all persons
8 are entitled to equal treatment under the law regardless of
9 race, national origin, ethnic background, immigration status,
10 sex, or age, and whether anyone would have any difficulty
11 following that instruction.

12 Next I would turn to whether anyone, and when I say
13 anyone I mean the prospective juror, a family member, or a
14 close friend, has taken any courses in the law, attended law
15 school, or worked for a lawyer or a law firm or a judge or a
16 courthouse.

17 After that I would ask about whether the prospective
18 juror or a family member or a close friend ever worked for or
19 had business dealings with any law enforcement agency. I
20 would include, specifically, the United States Department of
21 Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District
22 of New York, the FBI, among other agencies.

23 I would ask if any of them have opinions or beliefs
24 concerning law enforcement officers that would make it
25 difficult for you to be fair and impartial in this case. I

1 would also emphasize that you may hear testimony from or about
2 law enforcement witnesses in this case, and that they would be
3 instructed that their testimony is not entitled to any greater
4 or lesser weight than that of any other witness simply because
5 they're law enforcement officers. I would ask if anyone would
6 not be able to follow that instruction.

7 Next, I would ask if any of the prospective jurors
8 have ever been accused of a crime, charged with a crime, or
9 subject to a criminal investigation. I would ask for any
10 responses I would have them come to sidebar. I would also ask
11 whether they or any of their family members or close friends
12 have ever been a party to any legal action, participated in a
13 lawsuit in any capacity, including a divorce proceeding, a
14 landlord tenant case, car accident. I'd also have them come
15 to sidebar on that end, as well.

16 Next, I would ask if any of them, any of the
17 prospective jurors, their family members or close friends have
18 ever been the victim of or a witness to a crime. Again, I
19 would have them come to sidebar if their answer is in the
20 affirmative. I would also ask whether they, whether the
21 prospective juror, family members, or close friends, have ever
22 been subject to sexual harassment, sexual abuse, or any other
23 kind of sexual misconduct. Again, if they answer by raising
24 their hands, I would have them come to sidebar.

25 Next, I will hand out a sheet that lists the

1 potential witnesses and the individual entities and other
2 locations that will be mentioned at trial. I'll talk about
3 that in a few minutes in more detail. But similar to what I
4 said at the prior jury selection conference, that will
5 basically encompass all the names that will be uttered during
6 the trial, and if anyone knows anyone on those lists, or
7 anything about those terms that might affect their ability to
8 be fair and impartial in this case.

9 And I'll give the parties, obviously, time after my
10 discussion here to raise any issues, so I'll go through the
11 entire proposed script. But next I would go through case
12 specific questions. These are questions that have been
13 amended based on the last conference in this case. It's
14 related to jury selection.

15 So first I would ask, and I would say, that this
16 case deals with a health and wellness organization called
17 OneTaste. I would ask, has anyone ever heard about, watched
18 anything about, or read related to OneTaste or orgasmic
19 meditation, which is a form of meditation typically involving
20 the methodical stroking of a woman's genitals for a period of
21 15 minutes. If so, please come to sidebar.

22 Next, I would ask, have you, any of your family
23 members, or your close friends ever participated in OneTaste
24 or a OneTaste event or orgasmic meditation. If so, please
25 come to sidebar. I would then ask have you, any of your

1 family members, or your close friends ever had any training
2 in, worked in, participated in any of the following areas or
3 subject matters, self help, wellness, substance abuse or
4 addiction counseling, trauma, or sexual abuse counseling,
5 meditation, adult entertainment, or sex work. And then, if
6 so, please come to the sidebar.

7 I would then ask, you may hear or see evidence in
8 this case regarding sexual acts involving bondage, discipline,
9 dominance submission, BBSM, and sex acts in which people are
10 engaging in relationships with multiple sexual partners. Is
11 there anything about receiving or hearing such evidence that
12 would prevent you from being a fair and impartial juror in
13 this case and then if so, please come to sidebar.

14 I would then ask that you may hear or see evidence
15 in this case referring to cults. Is there anything about
16 receiving or hearing such evidence that would prevent you from
17 being a fair and impartial juror in this case. And if so,
18 please come to sidebar.

19 And then lastly in this section on case specific
20 questions, I would ask this case involves allegations of
21 forced labor. Have you, any of your family members, or your
22 close friends ever been a victim or otherwise involved in an
23 incident involving forced labor, unpaid work, unpaid overtime,
24 or litigation involving improper conduct at a place of
25 employment. If so, please come to sidebar.

1 Next, I would ask a more general question. Do any
2 of you hold religious beliefs that would prevent you from
3 passing judgment on another person. I then would have a final
4 question in this portion of the jury selection that I would
5 ask if there's any other reason why you could not sit on this
6 jury and render a fair and impartial verdict based on the
7 evidence presented to you and the judge's instructions of the
8 law. I would then ask the attorneys to come to sidebar to see
9 if they have any additional questions for anyone.

10 I would also ask if the attorneys have any
11 challenges for cause at that point. Next, I would go into the
12 background questions for each person. And similar to what I
13 discussed at the last conference, I will go through about
14 eight questions in which there will be answers provided for
15 each prospective juror. So those questions would involve the
16 following:

17 First, where do you live, do you own or rent, how
18 long have you lived there. Second, what schooling have you
19 had, and if there's college or an advanced degree, where did
20 you receive your degree, what area. Third, are you employed
21 outside of the home. If you're retired or unemployed, where
22 did you last work.

23 Fourth, do you live with anyone and how are they
24 employed. Fifth, what do you do in your free time, any
25 hobbies or special interests or any organizations to which you

1 belong. Sixth, what is your source for news, are there any
2 newspapers, magazines, or TV programs that you regularly read
3 or watch. Seventh, have you ever served on a jury and then I
4 go through how many times; if they say yes, whether it was
5 federal or state, if it was grand jury, how long ago was it,
6 civil or criminal and the like. I would ask, without telling
7 us what the verdict was, whether they were able to reach a
8 verdict.

9 Eighth, I would ask if selected as a juror in this
10 case would you keep an open mind until all the evidence and
11 arguments have been presented and then decide the case fairly
12 and impartially based only on the evidence presented at trial
13 and the law as the Court explains it to you. I'll then ask,
14 again, for a sidebar for the attorneys to raise any additional
15 questions, as necessary. I would ask, again, at sidebar if
16 there are any additional challenges for cause.

17 Then I would take a break. We would then do the
18 peremptory challenges. What I would ask is for the defendants
19 to stay in the courtroom. I would ask the government to come
20 to the jury room. We would have peremptory challenges charts
21 that my deputy will hand out at that point to make the process
22 a little easier.

23 And then eventually I'd have the defendants come
24 into the jury room, as well, with the government attorneys,
25 and we would then go through the peremptory strikes and I

1 confirm whether the jury was acceptable. We'd return here and
2 I'd excuse the names of those who were not selected.

3 And then my understanding is that the trial itself
4 would then start the following day. That may be subject to
5 change, so just plan accordingly, but my understanding is it
6 would be the following day. And that would be the end of it.
7 Obviously I'd gather information from the jurors that we would
8 need. That's my general overview.

9 Before I go and discuss further the parties'
10 submissions concerning the names of individuals, entities, and
11 places, any questions, comments at this point? Let me hear
12 first from the government.

13 MS. BENSING: Thank you, Your Honor. I just have
14 one clarification question. So there will be the 40 jurors
15 who we're trying to get a group that we'll then do strikes on.
16 Will the rest of the group that day be sitting in the back?

17 THE COURT: The plan right now is for as many people
18 as possible to fit in the back, as well. But I appreciate
19 that there may be a large number of people here. So we will
20 at minimum have the 40 in the well area, in this portion of
21 the courtroom, that will be seated and hopefully as many seats
22 as possible from the prospective venire that would be in the
23 back, as well. If there's not room for them though, for the
24 prospective juror members, frankly what I think will end up
25 happening is that I'm just going to have to repeat myself a

1 few times.

2 MS. BENSING: Your Honor, on that point I'm
3 wondering if it would make sense to have an overflow courtroom
4 for spectators just so that we can keep the jury selection
5 moving and we can fit more folks on the venire panel inside
6 the courtroom itself, so the Court isn't having to repeat
7 itself and we can move a little bit faster.

8 THE COURT: At this stage I'm going to deny your
9 request for an overflow courtroom, but I take your point.
10 However, again, I plan to move this as efficiently as possible
11 and to the extent I need to repeat myself, I will. I have
12 obviously allotted time for the full day, but I think given
13 where things are we'll try to move this as efficiently as
14 possible.

15 MS. BENSING: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Let me hear first from Ms. Cohen. Do
17 you need a minute to consult with one another?

18 MS. COHEN: Yes, Your Honor.

19 (Pause.)

20 MS. COHEN: Thank you, Your Honor. So of course we
21 weren't here as counsel the last time, but I've just been
22 reviewing the transcript. We would stand on our same
23 objection regarding the instruction about cult, because right
24 now I think that is an open issue. We object to the use of
25 that at trial at all.

1 And so, if that is precluded, obviously we would not
2 want that instruction to the potential jurors. We think it's
3 prejudicial.

4 THE COURT: Just to be clear, for the record, that
5 was the question that said you may hear or see evidence in
6 this case referring to cults. Is there anything about
7 receiving or hearing such evidence that would prevent you from
8 being a fair and impartial juror in this case?

9 MS. COHEN: Yes, that is the question.

10 THE COURT: Are you proposing a different question
11 or is it at this point you just want that question eliminated?

12 MS. COHEN: Yes. We would say right now that we
13 want it eliminated. Of course it depends on the ruling from
14 Judge Gujarati. If there is going to be evidence of this
15 introduced at trial, which we would object to, then we would
16 want to think about whether we would want the instruction or
17 not, not instruction, I'm sorry. We would want the
18 questioning.

19 THE COURT: I think on that particular issue that
20 may be something where we can address that morning of the jury
21 selection. At that point, if there's rulings made by that
22 point, we can address that as necessary. I think that also
23 emphasizes further the need for everyone to be here at 9:00
24 and then we can figure any last minute issues out.

25 MS. BONJEAN: Your Honor, may I elaborate first, if

1 that's okay, on behalf of Ms. Daedone?

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 MS. BONJEAN: I want to be very clear. We did move
4 to preclude the use of the word cult during the course of this
5 trial on the grounds that there's no accepted definition of
6 the word cult. It is prejudicial. People just bring their
7 own ideas of what a cult is.

8 Judge Gujarati did indicate that she was not going
9 to preclude the government out of -- she wasn't -- at that
10 juncture, she was not going to preclude the government from
11 using the word cult without more context. So she sort of
12 tabled the issue. I don't know if she will revisit it. We
13 may ask her to do so. But I want to be clear, it was not
14 clear at the time that she intended to revisit it before
15 trial.

16 I think it was based on that at our last conference
17 before the Court that it's sort of a mixed bag for us. We
18 want to stand on our objection on the basis that this should
19 not be a word that's introduced at this trial at all. But if
20 it's going to be, then obviously it concerns us that we would
21 want to explore potential jurors' views about it.

22 So I think just where I would like to leave it from
23 Ms. Daedone's perspective is I do think we will attempt to
24 revisit it with the Court, with Judge Gujarati, perhaps, get a
25 clear ruling. If she indicates that she still is not going to

1 make a ruling about the use of the word, I think we would
2 maybe have a tweak to the instruction, something along the
3 lines more of there may be witnesses who use the word cult, or
4 something along the lines that does not give any impression to
5 this jury that this is a cult, that there is some accepted
6 definition of the word cult. So I think I just want the
7 record to be clear on what our perspective is on that.

8 THE COURT: Let me hear from the government.

9 MS. BENSING: Thank you, Your Honor. Yes. This was
10 something that was briefed at length in the parties' motions
11 in limine. There's a clear ruling from the Court that
12 witnesses at the trial can use the word cult in a colloquial
13 sense. And so I think that's where things are left.

14 I do anticipate that there will be witness testimony
15 using the word cult, although the government does not intend
16 to present expert testimony that OneTaste or the defendants'
17 organization was, in fact, a cult. So I appreciate Ms.
18 Bonjean's clarification, because I do think the District Court
19 has ruled on this.

20 I will also note, for the record, that it was Ms.
21 Bonjean's -- the Court added this question at Ms. Bonjean's
22 request. It was actually a defense request to add this
23 question, but the government doesn't object to it.

24 THE COURT: Is there any objection from the
25 government to adding -- to changing the following sentence

1 that says: You may hear or see evidence in this case
2 referring to cults to, there may be witnesses who use the word
3 cult?

4 MS. BENSING: Perhaps the Court could say there may
5 be testimony using the word cult. I think that would be more
6 neutral. I will also note it's not just testimony, because
7 the defendants themselves use the word. And so the government
8 anticipates that there will be exhibits in which the
9 defendants themselves use the word cult.

10 THE COURT: Any response on the defense side?

11 MS. BONJEAN: Again, I want to make the record
12 clear, so that there is no allegation of waiver or forfeiture
13 at some later point if we were to get there, which I don't
14 anticipate we will. But if we were, I want the record to be
15 very clear that we are only requesting and conceding to
16 inquiry about cults because it's premised on the
17 understanding, at least at this juncture, that Judge Gujarati
18 may allow such testimony.

19 We objected to that in our motions in limine. The
20 Court denied the motion in limine, although I don't think she
21 ruled that the word cult could be used. I think she more
22 tabled it. I think Ms. Bensing and I may disagree about how
23 that ruling came out, but that's neither here nor there.

24 I just want the record to be very clear that if the
25 word cult was not being used at trial, we would not be asking,

1 obviously, for this Court to instruct the jury on their belief
2 systems around cults. We would not need to explore that issue
3 if Judge Gujarati was precluding such testimony.

4 So this will be an issue obviously later on because
5 we stand strongly on our view that given the fact that cults
6 do not have clear definitions, this is not a -- and there
7 are -- there is such a great level for potential prejudice
8 because of preconceived views about what cult means. It's
9 intrinsically perceived as pernicious and that there is the
10 probative value of allowing a witness to testify about that is
11 greatly outweighed by the prejudicial fact.

12 Now, I understand this Court isn't here to revisit
13 Judge Gujarati's rulings on that, but I do want the record to
14 be clear that our concession or my request about exploring
15 that is based on a ruling that we disagree with.

16 MS. BENSING: May I propose one alternative
17 formulation for the parties to consider?

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 MS. BENSING: Maybe the Court could say there may be
20 witnesses or exhibits that refer to the word cult.

21 THE COURT: Any objection to that on the defense
22 side, with the caveat that you're maintaining your objections
23 and the record is clear?

24 MS. COHEN: Yes.

25 MS. BONJEAN: No objection to that based on that

1 condition.

2 MS. COHEN: Yes, agreed. No objection with
3 maintaining the objections as we've raised already overall.

4 THE COURT: Unless things change, I would then say,
5 there may be witnesses or exhibits that are referred to the
6 word cult. Is there anything about receiving or hearing such
7 evidence that would prevent you from being a fair and
8 impartial juror? Anything else on the defense side?

9 MS. COHEN: Not at this time, Your Honor.

10 MS. BENSING: Can I just raise one other thing about
11 the gallery? Will there be like a dedicated space for
12 spectators and then a dedicated space for the venire?

13 THE COURT: The goal will be to, again, at minimum
14 have the 40 prospective jurors here past the doors right in
15 the front here. As a practical matter, I will try to do that
16 but I will also be very conscious of the fact that no one
17 should be contacting or communicating with any prospective
18 juror. That goes, obviously, on all sides. There should be
19 no communication with any prospective juror. So we will plan
20 accordingly.

21 MS. BENSING: Your Honor, obviously, if there are
22 both spectators or prospective jurors in the back of the
23 courtroom, the government's concern is that if folks are
24 talking amongst themselves, the prospective jurors could
25 overhear. And so I just want to make sure the Court would

1 address that.

2 THE COURT: Yes, we will address that. Also, I
3 would add for purposes of restroom breaks, and the like, I
4 would have at least the parties here can use the restrooms in
5 the back behind the courtroom as necessary. But we would be
6 very vigilant about that and there should be no note passing
7 or communications with any prospective jurors, of course.

8 MS. BONJEAN: Just one other issue, Your Honor. The
9 witness list and the references to people and places may have
10 modified slightly. I'm not 100 percent sure.

11 THE COURT: Let me actually touch on that now. So
12 in January we had, at that point, the most updated list of
13 names, entities, and places, which we updated on our end.
14 What I'm going to do is I'm going to -- we've updated it on
15 the Court's side. We're going to provide counsel via email
16 after this conference with the current document, which
17 includes not only the edits that were proposed in January but
18 also the new counsel and no references to the prior counsel.

19 I'm going to order the parties by Friday to provide
20 any proposed edits to my chambers by email, so that way we can
21 have these documents printed and ready to go. We've also,
22 just in terms of the logistics on that, we're sensitive to the
23 fact that we don't want just papers lying around. We would
24 have my deputy would hand the papers to each of the
25 prospective jurors and if they were to leave, for instance, if

1 juror number two was excused, or prospective juror number two
2 was excused, we would get that paper back from that person.

3 Now, I also fully appreciate that there may be
4 changes to this list in the days to come. But obviously, to
5 the extent possible, we would want as much advance notice, as
6 I'm sure you would as well, as to what the names are so we can
7 print these out and have them ready to go that morning so
8 there will be no delays.

9 We'll email the attorneys with that document, and if
10 you could just send an updated version to make it as easy as
11 possible. Frankly, if you could put those edits and track
12 changes just so we can see what you've edited or deleted, I
13 don't foresee any controversy for any of the names, absent a
14 potential issue with any witnesses, for motions and things
15 like that. Otherwise, I don't see any issues here.

16 Anything further at this point?

17 MS. BENSING: Not from the government. Thank you,
18 Your Honor.

19 MS. COHEN: Not from the defense or for Ms.
20 Cherwitz.

21 MS. BONJEAN: And not on behalf of Ms. Daedone.
22 Thank you.

23 THE COURT: We'll put a minute entry afterwards.
24 We'll formally set the jury selection for 9:00 a.m. on
25 May 5th. So everyone will come here at 9:00. We'll actually

1 have the prospective jurors coming in at 9:30, but we'll deal
2 with any last minute issues at 9:00. See you on May 5th.

3 MS. BENSING: Thank you, Your Honor.

4

5 (Proceedings concluded at 11:43 a.m.)

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8 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
9 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

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11 /S/ Nicole Sesta, RMR, CRR
12 Court Reporter/Transcriber

13 April 24, 2025
14 Date

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