DISCIPLINARY BOARD

# BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

Proceeding No. 12#00045

### GEORGE J. Atwater III,

Lawyer (Bar No. 17824).

STIPULATION TO DISBARMENT

13

14

15

16

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Under Rule 9.1 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the following Stipulation to Disbarment is entered into by the Washington State Bar Association (Association), through disciplinary counsel Scott G. Busby, and by Respondent George J. Atwater III.

17

18

Respondent understands that he is entitled under the ELC to a hearing, to present

19

exhibits and witnesses on his behalf, and to have a hearing officer determine the facts, misconduct and sanction in this case. Respondent further understands that he is entitled under

2021

the ELC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Disciplinary Board, and, in certain cases, to

22

the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that a hearing and appeal could result in an

23

outcome more favorable or less favorable to him. Respondent chooses to resolve this

24

proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct, and sanction to

Stipulation to Disbarment Page 1

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600 Seattle, WA 98101-2539 (206) 727-8207

investor, P.R. As part of the due diligence relating to this investment, P.R. requested to see bank statements that documented MCube's production of oil and gas from earlier fields in order to ensure that those revenues would be available to repay P.R.'s loan.

- 7. Miracle instructed Respondent to create altered copies of bank statements for MCube's account at Bank Niaga in Indonesia that falsely showed that MCube had incurred drilling expenses that it had not in fact incurred, and had received oil and/or gas revenues that it had not in fact received. Respondent knew that these statements would be shown to P.R. to obtain the loan from P.R. Respondent created altered statements for the first several months of 2006 that included fictitious deposits totaling \$6,780,052 from the supposed sale of oil and/or gas, and fictitious payments of \$3,325,000 for supposed drilling expenses.
- 8. Miracle subsequently showed these statements to P.R. and signed a certification stating that the altered bank statements were true and correct. Based upon Miracle's misrepresentations, and the altered bank statements, P.R. agreed to loan \$10,000,000 to MCube. On April 20, 2006, P.R. sent \$10,000,000 by wire transfer from P.R.'s bank account in the State of California to MCube's bank account in the State of Washington.
- 9. On May 1, 2012, a Superseding Information was filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington charging Respondent with one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 (18 U.S.C. § 371). A copy of the Superseding Information is attached as Appendix A.
- 10. Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, as charged in the Superseding Information, is a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to five years.
- 11. On May 1, 2012, Respondent entered a plea of guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, as charged in the Superseding Information, before United States Magistrate Judge James

I

P.	Donohue.	A	copy of the	Plea	A	greement is	atta	iched	as	Appendix	B.
----	----------	---	-------------	------	---	-------------	------	-------	----	----------	----

- 12. The elements of Conspiracy, as charged in the Superseding Information, are: (a) between in or about April 2006 and in or about May 2006 there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit a crime, in this case wire fraud; (b) Respondent became a member of the conspiracy knowing of its object and intending to help accomplish it; and (c) one of the members of the conspiracy performed at least one overt act for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy.
- 13. The elements of Wire Fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1343, are: (1) the defendant knowingly devised or participated in a scheme or plan to defraud, or a scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises; (2) the statements made as part of the scheme were material, that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a person to part with money or property; (3) the defendant acted with the intent to defraud, that is, the intent to deceive or cheat; and (4) the defendant used, or caused to be used, an interstate wire communication to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.
- 14. Respondent admitted that he was guilty of the offense charged in the Superseding Information, and he agreed to the facts set forth in paragraphs 3-8 above.
  - 15. Respondent entered his guilty plea knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.
- 16. On May 21, 2012, United States District Judge Marsha J. Pechman accepted Respondent's guilty plea and adjudged Respondent guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, as charged in the Superseding Information.
- 17. On August 3, 2012, Respondent was sentenced to imprisonment for one year and a day. A copy of the transcript of the sentencing hearing is attached as Appendix C. A copy of the

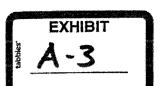
1	Judgment in a Criminal Case is attached as Appendix D.				
2	III. STIPULATION TO MISCONDUCT				
3	18. By committing the crime of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, as charged in the				
4	Superseding Information, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(b), RPC 8.4(c), and RPC 8.4(i). See In				
5	re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Smith, 170 Wn.2d 721, 734, 246 P.3d 1224 (2011).				
6	IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE				
7	19. Respondent has no prior discipline.				
8	V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS				
9	20. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions				
1.0	(ABA Standards) apply to this case:				
11	5.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when:				
12	(a) a lawyer engages in serious criminal conduct, a necessary element of which includes intentional interference with the				
13	administration of justice, false swearing, misrepresentation, fraud, extortion, misappropriation, or theft; or the sale, distribution or importation of controlled				
14	substances; or the intentional killing of another; or an attempt or conspiracy or solicitation of another to commit				
15	any of these offenses; or  (b) a lawyer engages in any other intentional conduct				
16	involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to				
17	practice.  5.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly				
18	engages in criminal conduct which does not contain the elements listed in Standard 5.11 and that seriously adversely reflects on the				
19	lawyer's fitness to practice.				
20	5.13 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in any other conduct that involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation and that adversely reflects on the				
21	lawyer's fitness to practice law.				
22	5.14 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer engages in any other conduct that reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness to practice law.				
23	21. The presumptive sanction for Respondent's misconduct is disbarment under ABA				
24					

	1
	Standards std. 5.11(a). See Smith, 170 Wn.2d at 734-736.
2	22. The following aggravating factors apply under ABA Standards std. 9.22:
3	(b) dishonest or selfish motive; (i) substantial experience in the practice of law.
4	23. The following mitigating factors apply under ABA Standards std. 9.32:
5	(a) absence of a prior disciplinary record; (l) remorse.
7	VI. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE
8	24. The parties stipulate that Respondent shall be disbarred for his misconduct.
9	VII. COSTS AND EXPENSES
10	25. In light of Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter by stipulation at an early
11	stage of the proceedings, Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$300 in
12	accordance with ELC 13.9(i). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l)
13	if these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this stipulation. Reinstatement from
14	disbarment is conditioned on payment of costs.
15	VIII. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT
16	26. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation, he had an opportunity to
17	consult independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, he is entering into this Stipulation
18	voluntarily, and no promises or threats have been made by the Association, or by any
19	representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this Stipulation except as provided
20	herein.
21	IX. LIMITATIONS
22	27. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in
23	accordance with the purposes of lawyer discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the
24	expenditure of additional resources by Respondent and the Association. Both Respondent and

i	proceeding, or in any civil or criminal action.
2	WHEREFORE the undersigned being fully advised, adopt and agree to this Stipulation
3	to Discipline as set forth above.
4	Leage Lituater Dated: 31 Och 2013
5	George J. Atwater III, Bar No. 17824 Respondent
6	Acceptation
7	Scott G. Busby, Bar No. 17522  Dated: 10-21-13
8	Senior Disciplinary Counsel
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

# **APPENDIX A**

1	A) C	Chief Judge Pechman		
2	OniuL			
3				
4		FILEOENTEREDECEIVED		
5		MAY -1 2012		
6		AT SMATTLE		
7 8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN BIRTINGT OF WASHINGTON DEFUNDED AT SEATTLE			
9	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)		
10	Plaintiff,	) NO. CR12-0051MJP		
11	<b>V.</b> ,	SUPERSEDING INFORMATION		
12	GEORGE ATWATER,	(Felony)		
13	Defendant.			
14				
15	The United States Attorney charges that:	12-CR-00051-INFO		
16	COUNT 1			
17	(Conspiracy)			
18	Between in or about April 2006 and in or about May 2006, at Seattle, within the			
19	Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, GEORGE ATWATER and Robert			
20	Miracle knowingly and willfully combined, conspired, and agreed to commit an offense			
21	against the United States, to wit: wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code,			
22	Section 1343.			
23	Background			
24	1. During 2005 and early 2006, Robert Miracle established and operated a			
25	series of companies that supposedly either provided oil-field services, or developed oil			
26	and gas fields, in Southeast Asia, including, among others, Laramie Petroleum, Inc.			
27	("Laramie"), and MCube Petroleum, Inc. ("MCube"). GEORGE ATWATER was Vice			
28				



President - General Counsel of Laramie. GEORGE ATWATER also functioned as General Counsel of MCube.

- 2. During early 2006, Robert Miracle represented to investors that these companies were successful and were producing revenue and profit. In fact, neither Laramie nor MCube was successful or produced any significant revenue, either from the sale of oil services or from the production of oil or gas, either in early 2006 or at any time thereafter.
- 3. In March 2006, Robert Miracle established another company, Halmahera-Rembang Limited Liability Company ("Hal-Rem LLC"). Miracle caused MCube to enter into agreements to purchase all of the shares of two British Virgin Island corporations that held the rights to develop the Halmahera and the Rembang energy fields in Indonesia, for a total price of \$10,000,000, and caused MCube to assign the revenues from the production of these two fields to Hal-Rem LLC.

## Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

- 4. It was a part of the conspiracy that Robert Miracle sought to borrow \$10,000,000 from an investor, P.R., in order to fund the purchase of the companies that held the rights to develop the Halmahera and Rembang fields. As part of the due diligence relating to this investment, P.R. requested to see bank statements that documented MCube's receipt of revenues from the production of oil and gas from earlier fields in order to ensure that those revenues would be available to repay P.R.'s loan.
- 5. It was a part of the conspiracy that Robert Miracle and GEORGE ATWATER combined to create and present to P.R. altered bank statements that showed that MCube had received revenues from the production of oil and gas from earlier fields that MCube had not in fact received for such production. It was further a part of the conspiracy that, based upon Miracle's misrepresentations, and the altered bank statements, P.R. agreed to loan \$10,000,000 to MCube.
- 6. It was further a part of the conspiracy that Robert Miracle and GEORGE ATWATER caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate

commerce, a \$10,000,000 wire transfer from P.R.'s bank account in the State of California to MCube's bank account in the State of Washington.

#### Overt Acts

- 7. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects of the conspiracy, Robert Miracle and GEORGE ATWATER committed the following overt acts, among others, at Seattle, within the Western District of Washington, and elswehere:
  - a. Robert Miracle instructed GEORGE ATWATER to create altered copies of bank statements for MCube's account at Bank Niaga in Indonesia that falsely showed that MCube had incurred drilling expenses that it had not, in fact, incurred, and had received oil and/or gas revenues that it had not, in fact, received.
  - b. GEORGE ATWATER created altered statements for the first several months of 2006 that included fictitious deposits totaling \$6,780,052 from the supposed sale of oil and/or gas and fictitious payments of \$3,325,000 for supposed drilling expenses.
  - c. Robert Miracle showed these statements to P.R. and represented, and signed a certification, that the altered bank statements were true and correct.

d. Robert Miracle and GEORGE ATWATER caused P.R. to transmit a \$10,000,000 wire transfer from P.R.'s bank account in the State of California to MCube's bank account in the State of Washington. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. DATED this 17th day of April, 2012. Munited States Attorney CARL BLACKSTONE Assistant United States Attorney ANDREW C. FRIEDMAN Assistant United States Attorney 

# **APPENDIX B**

	•
1	Chief Judge Pechman
2	
3	12-CR-00051-PLAGR
5	MAY -1 2012
6	AT SEATTLE  CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  VEGTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON OF PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON
7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE
9	
10	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, No. CR12-0051MJP
11	Plaintiff, ) PLEA AGREEMENT
12	v. }
13	GEORGE ATWATER,
14	Defendant. )
15	The United States of America, by and through Jenny A. Durkan, United States Attorney
16	for the Western District of Washington, and Carl Blackstone and Andrew C. Friedman, Assistant
17	United States Attorneys for said District, Defendant, George Atwater, and his attorney, Jesse
18	Cantor, enter into the following Agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure
19	11(c):
20	1. Waiver of Indictment. Defendant, having been advised of the right to be charged
21	by Indictment, agrees to waive that right and enter a plea of guilty to the charge brought by the
22	United States Attorney in a Superseding Information.
23	2. Waiver of Statute of Limitations. Defendant, having been advised of the right to
24	assert a defense based upon the statute of limitations, hereby voluntarily and knowingly waives

3. The Charges. Defendant, having been advised of the right to have this matter tried before a jury, agrees to waive that right and enters his plea of guilty to the charge of

any defense based upon the statute of limitations with respect to the charge to which he is



25

26

27

pleading guilty.

conspiracy, as charged in Count 1 of the Superseding Information, in violation of Title 18,
United States Code, Section 371. By entering his plea of guilty, Defendant hereby waives all
objections to the form of the charging document. Defendant further understands that, before
entering his plea, he will be placed under oath. Any statement given by Defendant under oath
may be used by the United States in a prosecution for perjury or false statement.

4. Elements of the Offense. The elements of the offense of conspiracy, as charged in Count 1, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, are as follows:

First, between in or about April 2006 and in or about May 2006 there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit a crime, in this case wire fraud;

Second, Defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of its object and intending to help accomplish it; and

Third, one of the members of the conspiracy performed at least one overt act for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy.

The elements of the offense of wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, are as follows:

First, Defendant knowingly devised or participated in a scheme or plan to defraud, or a scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises;

Second, the statements made as part of the scheme were material, that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a person to part with money or property;

Third, Defendant acted with the intend to defrau, that is, the intent to deceive or cheat; and

Fourth, Defendant used, or caused to be used, an interstate wire communication to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

5. The Penalties. Defendant understands that the statutory penalties for the offense of conspiracy, as charged in Count 1, are imprisonment for up to five (5) years, a fine of up to two hundred fifty thousand and no/100 dollars (\$250,000.00), a period of supervision following

release from prison of up to three (3) years, and a special assessment of one hundred and no/100 dollars (\$100.00). If Defendant receives a sentence of probation, the probationary period could be up to five (5) years. Defendant agrees that the special assessment shall be paid at or before the time of sentencing.

Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which he will be subject to certain restrictions and requirements. Defendant further understands that, if supervised release is imposed and he violates one or more of its conditions, Defendant could be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release that was originally imposed. This could result in Defendant's serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

Defendant understands that, in addition to any term of imprisonment and/or fine that is imposed, the Court may order him to pay restitution to any victim of the offense, as required by law. Defendant further understands that the consequences of pleading guilty may include the forfeiture of certain property either as a part of the sentence imposed by the Court, or as a result of civil judicial or administrative process.

Defendant agrees that any monetary penalty the Court imposes, including any special assessment, fine, costs, or restitution, is due and payable immediately and further agrees to submit a completed Financial Statement of Debtor form as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

- 6. Rights Waived by Pleading Guilty. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, he knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:
  - a. The right to plead not guilty and to persist in a plea of not guilty;
  - b. The right to a speedy and public trial before a jury of his peers;
- c. The right to the effective assistance of counsel at trial, including, if Defendant could not afford an attorney, the right to have the Court appoint one for him;
- d. The right to be presumed innocent until guilt has been established beyond a reasonable doubt at trial;

- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against Defendant at trial;
  - f. The right to compel or subpoena witnesses to appear on his behalf at trial;
- g. The right to testify or to remain silent at trial, at which trial such silence could not be used against Defendant; and
  - h. The right to appeal a finding of guilt or any pretrial rulings.
- Tunited States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands and acknowledges that, at sentencing, the Court must consider the sentencing range calculated under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, together with the other factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a), including: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense; (2) the history and characteristics of the defendant; (3) the need for the sentence to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment for the offense; (4) the need for the sentence to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct; (5) the need for the sentence to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; (6) the need to provide the defendant with educational and vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (7) the kinds of sentences available; (8) the need to provide restitution to victims; and (9) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparity among defendants involved in similar conduct who have similar records. Accordingly, Defendant understands and acknowledges that:
- a. The Court will determine his applicable Sentencing Guidelines range at the time of sentencing;
- b. After consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and the factors in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a), the Court may impose any sentence authorized by law, up to the maximum term authorized by law;
- c. The Court is not bound by any recommendation regarding the sentence to be imposed, or by any calculation or estimation of the Sentencing Guidelines range offered by the parties or the United States Probation Department, or by any stipulations or agreements between the parties in this Plea Agreement; and

12

15 16

17

18 19

20 21

23 24

22

26 27

28

25

đ. Defendant may not withdraw a guilty plea solely because of the sentence imposed by the Court.

8. Sentencing Recommendation. The parties agree that they each will recommend that the Court apply Section 2B1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines to determine Defendant's offense level. They further agree that they each will recommend that the Court find that Defendant's base offense level is 6, pursuant to Section 2B1.1(a)(2), and that Defendant's offense level should be increased by 20, based upon a loss amount of greater than \$7,000,000.00, pursuant to Section 2B1.1(b)(1)(K).

The parties further agree that Defendant's offense level should be reduced by 2 levels, based upon the fact that Defendant had played a minor role in the offense, pursuant to Section 3B1.1(b). Assuming Defendant continues to qualify for an adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, Defendant's offense level should be reduced an additional 3 levels, pursuant to Section 3E1.1. Thus, assuming that Defendant continues to qualify for an adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, Defendant's total offense level should be 21. Based upon an offense level of 21, and a criminal history category of I, Defendant's sentencing range under the Sentencing Guidelines will be 37-46 months.

The parties further agree that they each will recommend that the Court impose a sentence that includes a term of imprisonment of twelve (12) months and one (1) day. Defendant acknowledges that no one has promised or guaranteed what sentence the Court actually will impose.

- 9. Restitution. Defendant shall make restitution to any victims of his offense as required by law, with credit for any amounts already paid. Said restitution shall be due and payable immediately and shall be paid in accordance with a schedule of payments as proposed by the United States Probation Office and ordered by the Court.
- Statement of Facts. The parties agree on the following facts. Defendant admits he is guilty of the charged offense.

During 2005 and early 2006, Robert Miracle established and operated a series of companies that supposedly either provided oil-

field services, or developed oil and gas fields, in Southeast Asia, including, among others, Laramie Petroleum, Inc. ("Laramie"), and MCube Petroleum, Inc. ("MCube"). Defendant, George Atwater, was Vice President - General Counsel of Laramie. Defendant also functioned as General Counsel of MCube.

During early 2006, Robert Miracle represented to investors that these companies were successful and were producing revenue and profit. In fact, neither Laramie nor MCube was successful or produced any significant revenue, either from the sale of oil services or from the production of oil or gas, either in early 2006 or at any time thereafter.

In March 2006, Miracle established another company, Halmahera-Rembang Limited Liability Company ("Hal-Rem LLC"). Miracle caused MCube to enter into agreements to purchase all of the shares of two British Virgin Island corporations that held the rights to develop the Halmahera and the Rembang energy fields in Indonesia, for a total price of \$10,000,000.00, and caused MCube to assign the revenues from the production of these two fields to Hal-Rem LLC.

In order to finance this transaction, Miracle sought to borrow \$10,000,000.00 from an investor, P.R. As part of the due diligence relating to this investment, P.R. requested to see bank statements that documented MCube's production of oil and gas from earlier fields in order to ensure that those revenues would be available to repay P.R.'s loan.

Miracle instructed Defendant to create altered copies of bank statements for MCube's account at Bank Niaga in Indonesia that falsely showed that MCube had incurred drilling expenses that it had not, in fact, incurred, and had received oil and/or gas revenues that it had not, in fact, received. Defendant knew that these statements would be shown to P.R. to obtain the loan from P.R. Defendant created altered statements for the first several months of 2006 that included fictitious deposits totaling \$6,780,052.00 from the supposed sale of oil and/or gas, and fictitious payments of \$3,325,000.00 for supposed drilling expenses.

Miracle subsequently showed these statements to P.R., and signed a certification stating that the altered bank statements were true and correct. Based upon Miracle's misrepresentations, and the altered bank statements, P.R. agreed to loan \$10,000,000.00 to MCube. On April 20, 2006, P.R. sent \$10,000,000.00 by wire transfer from P.R.'s bank account in the State of California to MCube's bank account in the State of Washington.

11. Non-Prosecution of Additional Offenses. As part of this Plea Agreement, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington agrees to dismiss the charge of wire fraud contained in the Information at the time of sentencing and agrees not to prosecute Defendant for any additional offenses known to it as of the time of this Agreement

that are based upon evidence in its possession at this time, and that arise out of the conduct giving rise to this investigation. In this regard, Defendant recognizes the United States has agreed not to prosecute all of the criminal charges the evidence establishes were committed by Defendant solely because of the promises made by Defendant in this Plea Agreement.

Defendant agrees, however, that for purposes of preparing the Presentence Report, the United States Attorney's Office will provide the United States Probation Office with evidence of all conduct committed by Defendant. Defendant agrees that any charges the United States has agreed to dismiss and any charges on which the United States has agreed not to prosecute him were substantially justified in light of the evidence available to the United States, were not vexatious, frivolous or taken in bad faith, and do not provide Defendant with a basis for any future claims under the "Hyde Amendment," Pub. L. No. 105-119 (1997).

- 12. Acceptance of Responsibility. The United States acknowledges that, if Defendant qualifies for an acceptance of responsibility adjustment pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(a), and if the offense level is sixteen (16) or greater, his total offense level should be decreased by three (3) levels pursuant to USSG §§ 3E1.1(a) and (b), because he has assisted the United States by timely notifying the authorities of Defendant's intention to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently.
- 13. Breach, Waiver, and Post-Plea Conduct. Defendant agrees that, if Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement, the United States may withdraw from this Plea Agreement and Defendant may be prosecuted for all offenses for which the United States has evidence. Defendant agrees not to oppose any steps taken by the United States to nullify this Plea Agreement, including the filing of a motion to withdraw from the Plea Agreement. Defendant also agrees that if Defendant is in breach of this Plea Agreement, Defendant has waived any objection to the re-institution of any charges that had not been prosecuted.

Defendant further understands that if, after the date of this Plea Agreement, Defendant should engage in illegal conduct, or conduct that is in violation of his conditions of release (examples of which include, but are not limited to: obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a

 court proceeding, criminal conduct while pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Pretrial Services Officer, Probation Officer, or Court), the United States is free under this Agreement to file additional charges against Defendant or to seek a sentence that takes such conduct into consideration by requesting the Court to apply additional adjustments or enhancements in its Sentencing Guidelines calculations in order to increase the applicable advisory Guidelines range, and/or by seeking an upward departure or variance from the calculated advisory Guidelines range. Under these circumstances, the United States is free to seek such adjustments, enhancements, departures, and/or variances even if otherwise precluded by the terms of the plea agreement.

- 14. Waiver of Appeal. As part of this Plea Agreement, and on the condition that the Court imposes a custodial sentence that is within or below the Sentencing Guidelines range (or the statutory mandatory minimum, if greater than the Guidelines range) that is determined by the Court at the time of sentencing, Defendant waives to the full extent of the law:
  - a. any right conferred by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 to appeal the sentence, including any restitution order imposed; and
  - b. any right to bring a collateral attack against the conviction and sentence, including any restitution order imposed, except as it may relate to the effectiveness of legal representation.

Furthermore, this waiver does not preclude Defendant from bringing an appropriate motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2241, to address the conditions of his confinement or the decisions of the Bureau of Prisons regarding the execution of his sentence.

If Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement at any time by appealing or collaterally attacking (except as to effectiveness of legal representation) the conviction or sentence in any way, the United States may prosecute Defendant for any counts, including those with mandatory minimum sentences, that were dismissed or not charged pursuant to this Plea Agreement.

15. Voluntariness of Plea. Defendant agrees that Defendant has entered into this Plea Agreement freely and voluntarily and that no threats or promises, other than the promises contained in this Plea Agreement, were made to induce Defendant to enter this plea of guilty.

- 16. Statute of Limitations. In the event this Agreement is not accepted by the Court for any reason, or Defendant has breached any of the terms of this Plea Agreement, the statute of limitations for any and all criminal charges against Defendant arising out of the United States' investigation into an investment fraud involving Robert L. Miracle, MCube Petroleum, Inc., and related companies, including, without limitation, the charge to which Defendant is pleading guilty under this Plea Agreement, shall be deemed to have been tolled from the date of the Plea Agreement to: (1) thirty (30) days following the date of non-acceptance of the Plea Agreement by the Court; or (2) thirty (30) days following the date on which a breach of the Plea Agreement by Defendant is discovered by the United States Attorney's Office.
- 17. Completeness of Agreement. The United States and Defendant acknowledge that these terms constitute the entire Plea Agreement between the parties. This Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington. It does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office or any other office or agency of the United States, or any state or local prosecutor.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ tay of April, 2012.

JESSE CANTOR Attorney for Defendant

CARL BLACKSTONE
Assistant United States Attorney

ANDREW C. FRIEDMAN Assistant United States Attorney

1						
2	INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS PRIOR TO SENTENCING					
3	Special Assessments paid prior to sentencing must be paid to the Clerk, United     States District Court.					
5	2. Special Assessments must be paid by a first party, certified, or cashiers check, or a money order. No second party checks will be accepted. No post-dated checks will be accepted.					
6	3. All checks must be made out in U.S. dollars to "Clerk, U.S. District Court.					
7 8 9	4. All checks or money orders must be accompanied by the attached form entitled, "Plea Agreement Special Assessment Payments." The entire form must be filled out or the Clerk, United States District Court, will not accept the payment.					
10 11	PLEA AGREEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PAYMENT					
12	DATE:					
10	FROM:					
13 14	TO: CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT ATTN: INTAKE TEAM					
15 16	CASE NAME: UNITED STATES v. GEORGE ATWATER					
17	CASE DOCKET NUMBER: CR12-0051MIP.					
18	DEFENDANT'S NAME:					
19	SINGLE OR MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS: SINGLE					
20	TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PER DEFENDANT AS SET FORTH IN					
21	THE PLEA AGREEMENT: \$100.00					
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						

# APPENDIX C

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)
Plaintiff,	) CASE NO. CR12-0051
v. GEORGE ATWATER,	) SEATTLE, WASHINGTON ) August 3, 2012 )
Defendant.	) SENTENCING ) )

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARSHA J. PECHMAN UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

### APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff: ANDREW FRIEDMAN

For the Defendant:

JESSE CANTOR

Reported by:

NANCY L. BAUER, CCR, RPR

Federal Court Reporter

700 Stewart Street, Suite 17205

Seattle, WA 98101

(206) 370-8506

nancy\_bauer@wawd.uscourts.gov

1:30 p.m. 1 August 3, 2012 **PROCEEDINGS** 2 THE CLERK: This is the matter of United States of 3 America v. George Atwater, Cause No. CR12-51MJP. Counsel, 4 please make your appearances for the record. 5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Andrew 6 Friedman for the United States, and Special Agent Joseph 7 Lopez from the IRS is with me at counsel table. 8 MR. CANTOR: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Jesse 9 Cantor here, and I'm here for Mr. Atwater. 10 THE COURT: Good afternoon. 11 THE PROBATION OFFICER: Sarah Johnson on behalf of 12 U.S. Probation. 13 THE COURT: I would like to review with you what it 14 is that I have looked at in order to be prepared for the 15 hearing today. First of all, I've reviewed the plea 16 agreement, I've looked at the government's sentencing 17 memorandum, I've looked at the defendant's sentencing 18 memorandum, and I have reviewed the presentence report that 19 was prepared by probation and pretrial. Is this anything 20 else I should have reviewed in order to be prepared to hear 21 22 you today? MR. FRIEDMAN: Not from the government, Your Honor. 23

MR. CANTOR: We did attach some letters.

THE COURT: Yes, as part of the defense's materials,

24

there is Attachment 1 and Attachment 2, and I have reviewed 1 both of those attachments. 2 MR. CANTOR: Thank you. 3 THE COURT: Mr. Atwater, have you had an opportunity 4 to review the presentence report that was written about you? 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 6 THE COURT: And has your lawyer been able to answer 7 your questions both about the report and about the sentencing 8 process? 9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 1.0 THE COURT: Are you ready to go forward with the 11 sentencing today? 12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. 14 The government's position, please. 15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Your Honor, I don't believe there's 16 any dispute concerning the guidelines that apply in this 17 case, and so we would ask the court to find that the total 18 offense level is 21, criminal history category of one, and a 19 sentencing range of 37 to 41 months. 20 As the court knows, the government and, actually, defense 21 and probation are all recommending that the court impose a 22 sentence of 12 months and one day as imprisonment. There are 2.3 a number of factors that led us to that recommendation. 24

25

First and the most important, this is an extremely serious

crime. Mr. Atwater altered or faked bank documents that were used to convince someone to invest \$10 million in a company being operated by Robert Miracle, MCube, and he did so knowing the purpose for which those documents would be used.

Based in part upon those documents, the person did loan \$10 million. And although that person was repaid that money, the repayment did not come from the source of money that the document suggested existed, that is, revenues from existing oil wells. Rather, it came from money from other investors, and some of those people lost much or all of the money that they invested.

THE COURT: One of my first questions is, why don't I see any victims here? In other words, you make much of the person who loaned the money and how they actually got a good return on their funds, but the point was, this whole scheme came down and people lost money. So why is Mr. Atwater not responsible for those folks?

MR. FRIEDMAN: We looked very, very closely at the evidence in the case and what people's roles were, and Mr. Atwater -- the one misrepresentation that he seems to be linked to is the misrepresentation, basically the faked bank documents on this loan.

Mr. Miracle, who was really running a very large Ponzi scheme, was a very persuasive person. He did very well at keeping people in separate rooms and lying to them and

manipulating them. And so these three people charged in this case, that is himself, Mr. Fisal and Mr. Kechik, were the three people who really knew what was going on. And when you look at the email trail, what you see is a very closed email circle between them in which they consistently, over the course of months, are creating false financial statements that show revenue for oil and gas that were not produced.

Mr. Atwater was not included in that. He's really linked to this one loan. The proceeds from this loan were used to -- or all \$10 million was spent to buy two companies that had the rights to these two oil fields. So he's really at a distance, I think, from the overall Ponzi scheme, and that's why he was charged with and he has been linked to the conduct for which we thought he was most responsible. Does that answer the court's question?

THE COURT: That answers the question. You know, I might as well get to the heart of it. I'll lay out my next question to you.

The standard range is 37 to 46 months, and you're coming in and recommending not even a third of that.

MR. FRIEDMAN: Yes.

THE COURT: And given that the public is very outraged about white collar crime, where is your justification for going so low?

MR. FRIEDMAN: I think there are really three

1.2

justifications. The first is Mr. Atwater's history. He's been a practicing lawyer for 20, 20-plus years. There's no evidence of him ever doing anything like this. So this seems to be conduct that was not -- there's no reason to believe he's ever done anything like this before.

Second, I think a lot of it depends upon our assessment of Mr. Miracle and who is really responsible for it, and what was driving -- what went on here. The presentence report doesn't reflect -- doesn't have a precise number. It does say that since this happened, Mr. Atwater has a small legal practice making 30-something thousand dollars a year. My understanding is that from 1990 until 2005, he was making very little money operating his own legal practice, probably because he seems to have devoted a lot of his work that wasn't necessarily profitable but that he thought was helpful or pro bono.

He was then hired for this job, and I think it's a fair thing to say, both in Mr. Atwater's case and in other people who were hired, almost all of the people that Mr. Miracle hired to work at MCube were people that he thought he could take advantage of, that they were not inherently dishonest people but people who were weak or would be dependent on him, and Mr. Atwater fits that pattern. We saw it in CFOs and we saw it in numerous people who were hired to work there.

So when you look at it and say who is most morally

1.0

culpable as to what happened here, I think it is Mr. Miracle. And, yes, Mr. Atwater made a decision he shouldn't have made and made a decision that is a serious criminal decision, that's why we believed it was appropriate to file charges. But I think a lot of it was -- if Mr. Miracle was running a Ponzi scheme and sort of intending to defraud people, and Mr. Atwater was more -- someone who was brought in because Mr. Miracle thought he could pressure him and who made that decision because he had a job that he thought he would lose if he didn't do this, and he wasn't strong enough to say no. So that's the second reason.

And the third would be -- this one really only gets us halfway there. Since this came to light, we learned very, very late in the process that Mr. Atwater was the person who had created these fake documents. We didn't have any reason to believe that or think that. When we learned that, we conducted as much investigation as we could to try and find corroborating evidence. We were really not able to come up with any, so ultimately Special Agent Lopez visited Mr. Atwater and asked him, and although he did not affirmatively come forward before to say what he'd done, basically within a space, I think he thought for a second, and immediately confessed and has been truthful since then.

So Mr. Atwater -- I think the way he's dealt with the situation is as someone who is not a threat and regrets what

he did, and I'm sure if he could do it differently, he would, and I'm sure it goes for the same in the future.

So these were the things that we came up with our recommendation for.

THE COURT: Okay.

1.0

MR. FRIEDMAN: And the court has, I think, said many of the things I was going to say in response to those two questions. I have the sense the court understands and agrees this is a serious crime that warrants a serious sanction to both punish the conduct and to reflect how serious the crime is and to deter other people from doing the same thing in the future.

I would note one thing for the court, which is, I think Mr. Atwater has -- I think coming to terms with what he's done is a difficult process probably at the time of what was going on in his mind at the time that he created these statements, or how he lived with that I think is something with which he's still coming to terms and trying to figure it out.

In the letter sent to the court, he has a detailed account of what happened, and he explains how Mr. Miracle came to him and asked him to do that, and he created a month or two of false statements and reflected revenue on them that had been earned but had not yet been paid. In some ways, that fits a lot with what everyone else in the interview during the

course of the investigation said, and Mr. Miracle did consistently make those representations to people. Some people looked the other way, some people may have believed it.

In Mr. Atwater's case, I think the way he phrases it is -or it suggests that he's still struggling to comes to terms
with that. It was three months, January through March, not
just one month, and the items he added were not just revenues
coming into the bank accounts, but also expenditures for the
supposed drilling. And the excuse that Mr. Miracle tells me,
that his monies had been earned but not paid, that explains
one but wouldn't explain why the outgoing money isn't on
there.

And the other reason we're recommending our sentence of a year and a day of imprisonment is -- I think it would help bring home to Mr. Atwater the seriousness of what he's done, at least in terms of deterring him from similar conduct in the future.

THE COURT: The next question is, why did it take so long? This conduct occurred between 2004 and 2006. We're halfway through 2012.

MR. FRIEDMAN: The -- we had no reason to believe or think that Mr. Atwater was the person responsible for creating these fake statements. Nothing pointed in that direction. Mr. Miracle, late in his prosecution, was the

person who provided that information. Once he provided that information, we attempted to do forensic analysis of computers to find other evidence that would corroborate or would show that that was what had happened because

Mr. Miracle word alone would have been of questionable value in any prosecution, and we were not able to do that. When we thought of those possibilities is when Special Agent Lopez

went and spoke to Mr. Atwater. That was last summer.

9.

So since we concluded, we had no other options but to interview him and see if he would admit what he'd done. It's been a number of months. And a lot of that is a complicated case, and getting counsel appointed and explaining what happened has taken this long. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Cantor?

MR. CANTOR: I want to continue to answer the court's last question as well in that had it not been for Mr. Atwater's honesty with the government, I think it's clear that there would have never been a prosecution against him. Looking for the missing corroboration came from Mr. Atwater, and it's something that he struggled with for quite some time, but he was never in a position where he exercised any Fifth Amendment right to remain silent. He was very forthcoming with the government. He was very open with them in their investigation, and I believe, and I think Mr. Friedman would agree, that had Agent Lopez approached

Mr. Atwater and Mr. Atwater exercised his Fifth Amendment privileges, there would be a statute of limitations violation. There would be no prosecution against him, and that is something that the government expressed as being an important factor in their decision to resolve the case the way they did.

I submit that if there is any example of aberrant conduct, it's this: Mr. Atwater has been a practicing lawyer for 24 years, and out of those 24 years, we have essentially three, four months of this conduct, and it's something that has weighed on his conscience for quite some time. It's weighed on his conscience to the extent where he has been very forthcoming with the government.

So for these reasons, Your Honor, it's also clear that Mr. Atwater and Mr. Friedman have been meeting with one another and been in discussions with one another long before I got on board, and that is another reason why I believe the government has made the decision to offer this sort of resolution in the sense that they believe that this is fair and just for an outcome for this type of conduct.

THE COURT: Mr. Cantor, I spent a great deal of time yesterday reading through all the materials, and usually, after so long of doing this, I can kind of see what motivates people and why these things happen. I am mystified by Mr. Atwater. There seems to be a big disconnect, and I don't

know whether it's a mental health issue or some other issue. He obviously is a very intelligent man. He's collected degrees left and right. He's been financially very unsuccessful and does not -- when you read what his wife had to say about him and what he talks about, there's a huge 5 schism in his family, and I don't quite know how to account for that. I don't get a sense of why this really happened. 7 I don't see the motivation, because it doesn't seem to be that there was any money exchanged for it.

MR. CANTOR: Right. And to some extent, that's why I still say that if there is some definition or example of aberrant conduct, it's this. You look at the aberrant conduct, the departure guideline statement, and this conduct fits that definition. Mr. Atwater has never been a type, at least looking at his career, and I've only known him since I was appointed on this case, which has been less than a year, but looking at what he has done in the community and the services that he's provided as exemplified by some of his clients, he's never been the type to be motivated by money. He's never been the type to overcharge clients or deceive clients with overinflated bills. He really is doing this profession or has done this profession because he believes in it and he's enjoyed it. He's been the type of attorney that really wants to fight for the little guy.

And how it came about where he made this very significant

25

1

2

3

4

6

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

land him in prison, there is no explanation. He's having trouble explaining why that happened. It's almost like a situation where you have this temporary insanity that makes you do something foolish, and we see that with attorneys sometimes. We see these scandals with attorneys that may have sexual affairs with their clients when they're representing them in a first degree murder case. Why does that happen? Sometimes you just lose it, and I think Mr. Atwater at the time engaged in this because of the personal pressures that he was facing at home.

1.6

Maybe, as I mentioned in my memorandum, he's been fighting off some personal demons for years, for several years. And we're talking about four months of his life, of his career that got him into some serious trouble, and it weighed on his conscience and he did something about it. He could have exercised his right to remain silent when Agent Lopez came about, and he probably wouldn't be sitting here today.

So he, to some extent, handed the government his own prosecution to them on a silver platter. And, you know, Mr. Friedman and his office are not out there to destroy Mr. Atwater's life. I mean, Mr. Friedman's presentation to the court, he'd make a fantastic defense lawyer after hearing that. He said everything -- he essentially stole my thunder as to why or how he came to this resolution.

4 5

So everybody is on the same page with 12 months and a day. On its face it does seem light compared to the amount of money that was involved in this transaction. But as we all know, you have to go beyond what's on paper, and you have to dig deep behind who this person is we're sentencing here, and he did a lot to help the government in his own prosecution.

So Mr. Atwater, at his age, spending 12 months and a day is going to be some significant punishment. It's not going to be pleasant. And he won't repeat the same mistakes. It's that simple. It's that simple.

So clearly the government is not out to ruin Mr. Atwater's life, and based on everything that he has done, this sentence is probably consistent with a lot of the 5K motions that the government seeks for cooperating witnesses, who seeks successful indictments. But in terms of explaining why he did it, there is no explanation. He'd be the best one to explain that to the court.

THE COURT: Thank you. What would probation like to say?

THE PROBATION OFFICER: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

I spoke with Ms. Porter about this case and we talked about her recommendation of 12 months and a day, and it was precisely the question Your Honor asked. There was no reason why he did this that we could come up with, and we believe that probably some mental health treatment to help him figure

out why, and the fact that he is in financial ruin, essentially, and putting him in custody for much longer than that would only exacerbate the problem.

THE COURT: Mr. Atwater, what would you like to say, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, several things. The first thing is that I had come to know -- actually, Agent Lopez and Mr. Friedman, when Mr. Miracle -- when the company came down and everything, and I cooperated with them and everything, and I'd known about this, what I had done, and I knew that there was only one witness against me and probably nothing else, but I felt that I needed to -- it had been bothering me, one big mistake I made, and I felt that I needed to face up to it and get it done and over with. And so when Agent Lopez came we talked about that, I admitted. So I have always recognized the problem -- or the crime that I committed.

The why, even in my own mind, it's a bit difficult. I've had -- everybody has told you the absolute truth. I've been extraordinarily -- I've been a good lawyer and an extraordinarily poor business person, and the problem I have with being a business person is, because of my languages and because of other things, I often get very good cases. I take a lot of time, but it's for very poor people or people who have a lot of problems. Especially on the civil side, you

don't get lawyers, so it's very difficult for them to do that, and sometimes I don't get paid, or I get paid a little bit, but most of the time it's a \$250 hourly fee was the total illusory point.

2.5

And MCube initially -- I had known Mr. Miracle in a case for one of my clients. He had been a witness in the case. And then when he came to me to set up the documents for the corporations and everything else, I had done that, and had -- and I set it up. And then one -- one day -- and I worked with the investors and his attorney in doing the papers. I had worked, as I said in my statement about -- knew that what we were purchasing was actually existing and had value to it. And I don't know why I exactly did it. I knew that, as I said, there were investors who put their money in already. There were -- and then this was an opportunity for me that I had never had before, and my parents and my family had suffered so much because I hadn't been able to earn so much money and everything else.

But those are partial explanations. I don't think I can stand here today and give you the final explanation. I'm not sure I can. I don't know if I ever will be able to.

But I can tell you that I've been remorseful, and not just before Agent Lopez, but just internal. And when I finally had the chance to do that, I chose to do it, and I was -- in the sense I knew that I was confessing to a rather large

crime and everything, but I also felt this was something that people just might understand a little bit about what had happened to me, and in my mental state and what I had done and everything. And that has been the case.

1.3

I mean, the government -- I gave them everything, and the government has been very fair to me. I can't complain at all. I think this is more than -- I don't have any reason to be upset. But I feel that there are reasons to support it. I just can't answer your ultimate question, not right now.

THE COURT: Well, Mr. Atwater, one of the problems is when I see people who have otherwise their whole life been able to operate sorting out right from wrong engage in behavior that seems out of character. Mr. Cantor argues this is aberrant behavior. That worries me, because if we don't understand why it happened the first time, how do we ensure it doesn't happen again?

THE DEFENDANT: Well, I think you can look at it in several ways. There are no more investors. That was one of my motivations, current investors into the company. Second, the fact that I've seen what such things do to my family, to my practice, to my profession, and to my colleagues and friends. Thirdly, I do believe that I've always had these problems of focusing sometimes, of being able to -- worrying about my family, my son, my daughter, everybody, and I've never had much money to afford any kind of counseling, and I

believe that I can do that.

I don't think I will ever do this again. I could almost assure the court. I mean, one never knows absolutely, but I will say that this is -- this was something that happened in very special circumstances, circumstances that will never repeat themselves again.

And I will always try to work in support of the people.

I've never made any false statements to any court. I made a mistake. I admitted it, and in every case cooperated, as I have with this court.

THE COURT: Mr. Atwater, I read the presentence report with a certain sense of sadness, because the description of your family's situation tells me that you and your wife really aren't in sync on a lot of things.

THE DEFENDANT: Well, that's true. She's here.

THE COURT: And you've got two adult children who are beyond the years of launching.

THE DEFENDANT: All right. The launch for my daughter has already happened. She had to come back because of situations -- she graduated from Columbia University about two years ago, and then she was laid off -- she had been working there, too, and she was laid off and she couldn't find a job. She came back here, and she was able -- she now works for one of the associate deans at the School of Education at Seattle University.

I think that my

1.2

1.6

wife and I would agree that he was a very wonderful child and very open, somewhat chatty, but he was open and he traveled with us and everything. And then in junior high school in Mercer Island, I think he was the victim of some sort of bullying because he had -- once his arm was broken in two places, and the doctor said it was impossible that that was an accident. But he never talked to us. He never was able to do anything. Basically, he's been withdrawn since. So he has not launched, and that's something we're going to have to work to do.

My son is a totally different situation.

THE COURT: Well, the reason I bring this up is not to probe deeply into your family, but to say is this something that you need to do for you? In other words, was this motivated because you felt that you had to do something for your family, you felt, alone? And unless you get a grip on figuring some of those issues out, there's going to be more pressures.

THE DEFENDANT: I agree with you, and that is one thing I'm going to have to do by getting some mental counseling, because I think it's a double -- it's a situation that I have to face. I haven't had the money to do it. This will give me an opportunity to do it here, and I will certainly hope that after I serve my time, I would be able to address that on a continuing basis.

I do have, by the way, have a project that I would love -I've talked to Mr. Friedman about it, but one thing I feel
close about is, after I've taken care of the sentence, one of
the things I'd like to do -- I don't know if I'm going to be
disbarred, certainly suspended for sure, and the same things
you're talking to me about today are exactly the same things
that the bar association has talked to me about, because
they're as baffled as you. And that's the one thing. I've
got them. They are talking about mental counseling and
everything else. That's all in that line.

I think that -- but the one thing I hope to do as a project to sort of focus myself on in time is trying to get the restitution of civil rights to federal felons, like we have in Washington. I've helped many clients of mine get theirs restored, and that's one thing I'd like to do.

But for me, it will be a time where this one year and 12 months [sic] will be a fine time for refocusing and to get my head back together and to, just as you've stated, get me focused in a way that I would be able to do something better.

THE COURT: Anything else you'd like me to know?

THE DEFENDANT: Well, is there any further questions you have, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Not any questions. I have to say, if you're going to decide you're going to change Congress's about restoration of civil rights for felons, more power to

you. It's going to be a difficult road.

THE DEFENDANT: But some -- it's started, and people just have to talk, and I can talk, and I can -- once I'm past that -- and I might have a little more credibility in the sense that I admitted my crime and am not squawking about it or anything else.

THE COURT: In many ways I think you would be a perfect spokesperson for it.

THE DEFENDANT: And so that's something that I want to do.

But, Your Honor, the only thing I can say is that my family needs me. Good, bad or indifferent, they do need me, and having me away for a year and a day is hard enough, I think, and will be very hard mostly for my wife and my son. My daughter is far more independent now and that sort of thing.

But I think that I  $\rightarrow$  for me it's  $\rightarrow$  it's paying the debt first and then going forward.

THE COURT: Well, one of the things that I would pose to you, how long is it going to take before you forgive yourself?

THE DEFENDANT: Well, after -- after the punishment. I don't think I can forgive myself before I can get through the punishment. But the whole idea, even if really -- getting back your civil rights, a debt paid is a debt paid.

1.3

1

THE COURT: Okay.

2

THE DEFENDANT: Thank you very much.

3

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

4

5

6

7

8

9

1.0

11 12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Based upon the documents that I've reviewed and the arguments made, it's first my obligation to compute the guidelines and then use all of the sentencing statutes, particularly Section 3553, to fashion a sentence that's most appropriate for Mr. Atwater, who is here before me today.

This crime has a total offense level of 21. It has a criminal history category of one. It has an imprisonment range of 37 to 46 months, a supervised release range of one to three years, and a fine range of \$7,500 to \$75,000.

Mr. Atwater, everyone has convinced me that 12 months and a day is appropriate. I have to say when I first opened the file and started to take a look at it and saw what the loss was, I said to myself, "Mr. Friedman's going soft." morning I sentenced people to two, three times that amount for dragging a single hockey bag across the border. So there are many crimes that pale in comparison and magnitude that get much, much worse.

> THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: So you are going to spend three years on supervised release. I anticipate that you'll be able to go to the probation department and ask for early discharge, because I don't expect you're going to have difficulty

following what the rules are.

I'm much more concerned about your mental health issues and what prompted this, how it is you're going to live with yourself as a result of this, and what is it about this situation that caused you to set aside years of otherwise decent judgment. I am also going to tell you that you need some help with some financial management.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: If you're allowed to practice law again,

I know that the bar can help in assisting you in how it is

you keep track of the funds you make.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And I'm looking at your finances, and somebody who is very bright and very talented is living hand to mouth. You probably will make more money doing something else if you actually work for a wage.

THE DEFENDANT: No doubt, Your Honor, no doubt.

THE COURT: So I am going to allow you to voluntarily surrender. Let me explain why that is important. The Bureau of Prisons scores each person coming into the system. You get a better score if the court can trust that you'll show up when you're told to show up. That means more freedoms, more programming, more ability to not have the same effect as being in lockup. So they figure if the judge can trust you, they can trust you. So do I have your word that you'll

1.

1.8

report at the date and time and where they tell you to go?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. So when you come out, you're going to be on supervision, and there are certain rules for supervision, some of which I think you won't have any difficulty dealing with, and at least one that I think maybe you're going to have to dig deep, and that's mental health counseling. You're going to have to look at those issues. That might be painful, but it's something that I, as a court, expect that you'll be up to the task for.

THE DEFENDANT: You have my word, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. So let me review with you the other requirements. First, you have to cooperate with the collection of a DNA sample. You are prohibited from having any sort of firearm. You can't have it in your home, in your car, you can't touch them and you can't use them for recreational purposes. You have to submit to a search of your property that's done in a reasonable time in a reasonable manner. I'm a little confused here, because I thought there was no restitution.

MR. FRIEDMAN: There is not, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. There is no restitution obligation. You need to, however, provide the probation department with access to any requested financial information. You have to use a single checking account in

your own name, and everything you make and everything you spend has to go through that account. Same is true if you form a business: One checking account, simple accounting so the probation department can see what you have. You have to disclose all your assets and liabilities. You're not to incur any new credit charges without advising the probation department and seeking their approval of what it is you've done. There's also a \$100 special assessment that is due and owing and that I cannot waive. 

Now, Mr. Atwater, I'm going to make a recommendation that you go to the camp in Sheridan. When you go into federal prisons, there will be many opportunities for you to do good works, including those for the court, because I get the impression the appellate reviews that are written might be more understandable if they came from someone like you.

Okay?

1.8

THE DEFENDANT: I understand, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You speak many languages. I understand you're fluent in Spanish. There are going to be many people who will look to you for guidance and will view you as a father figure. You're much older than the population of the Bureau of Prisons, and you're going to run into many, many people who are frightened and scared because they don't speak the language well, and you're going to have a great opportunity to talk with them about their experience and

2,3

explain what the process is. So I hope you'll take that opportunity to view this as positive.

THE DEFENDANT: I intend to. It will be just like I always do anyway. Otherwise I'd just be sitting there reading a book or two. I'd rather be doing something like that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Very well. Is there anything else that I need to take care of?

MR. FRIEDMAN: I don't believe so, Your Honor. May I show the judgment to defense counsel?

THE COURT: Please. Mr. Friedman, was there a waiver of appellate rights?

MR. FRIEDMAN: Yes, there was.

THE COURT: Mr. Atwater, I've signed the judgment.

As part of your plea negotiations with the government, you waived many of your appellate rights.

THE DEFENDANT: That's correct.

THE COURT: There are, however, some rights that remain with you always; for example, the right to have a good lawyer at your side throughout all these proceedings. If you want to appeal the sentence that I've just given you, it's very important you tell Mr. Cantor that that's what you want to do. He can review with you what issues might remain and also talk with you about the appellate process. He has 14 days in order to perfect an appeal on your behalf. If you

want to appeal the sentence I've given you but you can't afford the filing fee for the Court of Appeals, you can ask me to waive or do away with that fee. Do you understand what I've told you? THE DEFENDANT: I understand, and I can tell you right now I have no intention of appealing. THE COURT: Well, that's not something you have to tell me now. I simply want to make sure you understand that you have that right in certain circumstances. THE DEFENDANT: Thank you. I do understand. THE COURT: All right. Is there anything else we need to take care of? MR. FRIEDMAN: No, Your Honor. Thank you. MR. CANTOR: No, Your Honor. Thank you. THE COURT: All right. Then we will be at recess. THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, Your Honor. (THE PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.) 

#### CERTIFICATE

I, Nancy L. Bauer, CCR, RPR, Court Reporter for the United States District Court in the Western District of Washington at Seattle, do hereby certify that I was present in court during the foregoing matter and reported said proceedings stenographically.

I further certify that thereafter, I have caused said stenographic notes to be transcribed under my direction and that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription to the best of my ability.

Dated this 6th day of September 2012.

/S/ Nancy L. Bauer

Nancy L. Bauer, CCR, RPR Official Court Reporter

# **APPENDIX D**

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Western District of Washington

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V.		JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE		
		Case Number:	2:12CR00051MJP-0	01
GEORGE ATWATER		USM Number:	42077-086	
		Jesse Guerrero Canton		
THE DEFENDANT:		Defendant's Attorney		,
□ pleaded guilty to count(s) 1	-u +n	ENTERED		
☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s)	LODGED -	RECEIVED		
which was accepted by the court.	AUG -	3 2012		
was found guilty on count(s) after a plea of not guilty.				
The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these of	CLERK U.S. DI WESTERN DISTRIC	ATTLE STRICT COURT STRICT COURT OF WASHINGTON DEPUTY		
Title & Section Nature of Off			Offense Ended	Count
			•	
18 U.S.C. § 371 Conspiracy to	Commit Wire Fraud		5/31/2006	1
The defendant is sentenced as provide the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.   The defendant has been found not guilty on contract the sentence of		6 of this judg	gment. The sentence is impose	ed pursuant to
☐ Count(s)	☐ is ☐ are	e dismissed on the motio	on of the United States.	**************************************
It is ordered that the defendant must or mailing address until all fines, restitution, or the defendant must notify the court and Unite		attorney for this district we then the imposed by this judge terial changes in economic terial changes	FREMMAN A CAR	
)		N. 6 - 3	2013	
12-CR-00051-JGM		August 3, 2012 Date of Imposition of Judgment		
	4.	Marsh	Olen	
•		Signature of Judge	7 1000	
•		The Honorable Marsha J	J. Pechman	
		August 3	30/L	

AO 245B	(Rev. 06/05) Judgment in Criminal Carolo51-MJP Document 23 Filed 08/03/12 Page 2 of 6
DEFENI CASE N	Judgment — Page 2 of 6
	IMPRISONMENT
total ter	The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a m of:    Toelde (1) Mounts And One (1) Day
₫	The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
	The defendant be incorporated of FCI - Shirdan por
旦	The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
旦	The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:
	□ at <u>□ a.m.</u> □ p.m. on
	□ as notified by the United States Marshal.
<u> </u>	The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:
	□ before 2 p.m. on
	□ as notified by the United States Marshal.
	as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.
	RETURN
I have ex	xecuted this judgment as follows:
	Defendant delivered on to
at	, with a certified copy of this judgment.
	UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEFENDANT:

GEORGE ATWATER

CASE NUMBER:

2:12CR00051MJP-001

#### SUPERVISED RELEASE

Judgment-Page 3

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of: THREE (3) years

The defendant must report to the probation office in the district to which the defendant is released within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state or local crime.

The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug and/or alcohol test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, not to exceed eight valid tests per month, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3563(a)(5) and 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d).

- The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse. (Check, if applicable.)
- The defendant shall not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon. (Check, if applicable.)
- The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. (Check, if applicable.)
- The defendant shall register with the state sex offender registration agency in the state where the defendant resides, works, or is a student, as directed by the probation officer. (Check, if applicable.)
- ☐ The defendant shall participate in an approved program for domestic violence. (Check, if applicable.)

If this judgment imposes a fine or restitution, it is a condition of supervised release that the defendant pay in accordance with the Schedule of Payments sheet of this judgment.

The defendant must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any additional conditions on the attached page.

#### STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1) the defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation officer;
- 2) the defendant shall report to the probation officer in a manner and frequency directed by the court or probation officer;
- the defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer;
- 4) the defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities;
- the defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation, unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons;
- the defendant shall notify the probation officer at least ten days prior to any change in residence or employment;
- 7) the defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician;
- 8) the defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
- 9) the defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony, unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer;
- the defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view of the probation officer;
- 11) the defendant shall notify the probation officer within seventy-two hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
- 12) the defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court; and
- as directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to confirm the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement.

AO 245B	(Rev. 06/05) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 3C — Sure Street Release P-00051-MJP	Document 23	Filed 08/03/12	Page 4 of 6
	Miles II Milestricket Compactant Communication	m		

DEFENDANT: CASE NUMBER: GEORGE ATWATER 2:12CR00051MJP-001

#### SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

The defendant shall submit his/her person, residence, office, safety deposit box, storage unit, property, or vehicle to a search, conducted by a U.S. Probation Officer or any other law enforcement officer, at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner, based upon reasonable suspicion of contraband or evidence of a violation of a condition of supervision. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation; the defendant shall notify any other residents that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

The defendant shall participate as directed in a mental health program approved by the United States Probation Office. The defendant must contribute towards the cost of any programs, to the extent the defendant is financially able to do so, as determined by the U.S. Probation Officer.

The defendant shall provide his or her probation officer with access to any requested financial information including authorization to conduct credit checks and obtain copies of the defendant's Federal Income Tax Returns.

The defendant shall maintain a single checking account in his or her name. The defendant shall deposit into this account all income, monetary gains, or other pecuniary proceeds, and make use of this account for payment of all personal expenses. This account, and all other bank accounts, must be disclosed to the probation office.

If the defendant maintains interest in any business or enterprise, the defendant shall, upon request, surrender and/or make available, for review, any and all documents and records of said business or enterprise to the probation office.

The defendant shall disclose all assets and liabilities to the probation office. The defendant shall not transfer, sell, give away, or otherwise convey any asset, without first consulting with the probation office.

The defendant shall be prohibited from incurring new credit charges, opening additional lines of credit, or obtaining a loan without approval of the defendant's U.S. Probation Officer.

Restitution in an amount to be determined is due immediately. Any unpaid amount is to be paid during the period of supervision in menthly installments of not less than 10% of his or her gross monthly household income. Interest on the restitution shall be waived:

	Rev. 06/05) Judgment in a Criminal Case of the Criminal Monetary Penalties		Judgment —	Page 5 of <u>6</u>
DEFENDA CASE NUI				
	CRI	MINAL MONETARY PE	NALTIES	
	Assessment	<u>Fine</u>	Res	titution oes
ГОТАŁ	<b>S</b> \$ 100	<b>\$ Waived</b>	3	MIST W.
	etermination of restitution is deferred	d until An Amended Jud	lgment in a Crimina	d Case (AO 245C) will be
The d	lefendant must make restitution (inch	uding community restitution) to the f	ollowing payees in the	amount listed below.
If the the pr befor	defendant makes a partial payment, e iority order or percentage payment c e the United States is paid.	each payee shall receive an approxima column below. However, pursuant to	ately proportioned pay 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i),	ment, unless specified otherwise all nonfederal victims must be pa
Name of P	ayee Tota	ul Loss* Restituti	on Ordered	Priority or Percentage
TOTALS	\$	\$	on Ordered	Priority or Percentage
TOTALS		\$	on Ordered	Priority or Percentage
TOTALS  Resti	\$	ea agreement \$  ution and a fine of more than \$2,500, at, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f).	unless the restitution	or fine is paid in full before the
TOTALS  Resti	tution amount ordered pursuant to ple defendant must pay interest on restitu nth day after the date of the judgmen	ea agreement \$  ation and a fine of more than \$2,500, at, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). Foursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).	unless the restitution of	or fine is paid in full before the ions on Sheet 6 may be subject
□ Resti □ The confiftee to pe	tution amount ordered pursuant to ple defendant must pay interest on restitu inth day after the date of the judgmen nalties for delinquency and default, p	ea agreement \$  intion and a fine of more than \$2,500, int, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). Foursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).  loes not have the ability to pay interest the   fine  restitution	unless the restitution of the payment optest and it is ordered the	or fine is paid in full before the ions on Sheet 6 may be subject
TOTALS  Resti The confiftee to pe	tution amount ordered pursuant to ple defendant must pay interest on restitu inth day after the date of the judgmen nalties for delinquency and default, p	ea agreement \$  Ition and a fine of more than \$2,500, at, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).  It is a substitute of the su	unless the restitution of the payment optest and it is ordered the	or fine is paid in full before th ions on Sheet 6 may be subjec

<sup>\*</sup> Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

(Rev. 06/05) Judgment in a Criminal Case Sheet 6 — Scheling St. Pavinients CI - 00051-MJP	Document 23	Filed 08/03/12	Page 6 of 6
Chart S CohedinG activations CI "COCC _ IVICI	COCCULTICATION OF THE PROPERTY	1 114201 10 101 10 101	

DEFENDANT: CASE NUMBER:

AO 245B

GEORGE ATWATER 2:12CR00051MJP-001

### SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties are due as follows:

- PAYMENT IS DUE IMMEDIATELY. Any unpaid amount shall be paid to Clerk's Office, United States District Court, 700 Stewart Street, Seattle, WA 98101.
  - During the period of imprisonment, no less than 25% of their inmate gross monthly income or \$25.00 per quarter, whichever is greater, to be collected and disbursed in accordance with the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.
  - During the period of supervised release, in monthly installments amounting to not less than 10% of the defendant's gross monthly household income, to commence 30 days after release from imprisonment.
  - During the period of probation, in monthly installments amounting to not less than 10% of the defendant's gross monthly household income, to commence 30 days after the date of this judgment.

The payment schedule above is the minimum amount that the defendant is expected to pay towards the monetary penalties imposed by the Court. The defendant shall pay more than the amount established whenever possible. The defendant must notify the Court, the United States Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office of any material change in the defendant's financial circumstances that might affect the ability to pay restitution.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program are made to the United States District Court, Western District of Washington. For restitution payments, the Clerk of the Court is to forward money received to the party(ies) designated to receive restitution specified on the Criminal Monetaries (Sheet 5) page.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

Joint and Several

Defendant and Co-Defendant Names and Case Numbers (including defendant number), Total Amount, Joint and Several and corresponding payee, if appropriate.

- $\Box$  The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the following court
- ☐ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine principal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) penalties, and (8) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.