

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Criminal No. 24-267 (KMW)

v.

SCHEDULING ORDER

ERIC RIVERA and JAMES
WESSELS

This matter having come before the Court for a final pretrial conference; and the United States (by Daniel A. Friedman and Jason M. Richardson, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, appearing), and defendants Eric Rivera (Jay Strongwater, Esq., appearing), and James Wessels (Mark Catanzaro, Esq., appearing); and the Court having determined that this matter should be scheduled for trial; and for good cause shown,

It is on this 5th day of December, 2025, ORDERED that:

1. On or before February 1, 2026, counsel for defendant Eric Rivera shall notify the Court and parties if he has identified any pretrial motions that he seeks to file.

2. The Government shall provide its pre-marked exhibits on or before May 22, 2026.

a. The authenticity and chain of custody of the Government's pre-marked exhibits shall be deemed to have been accepted unless an objection is asserted in accordance with paragraph 1(c).

b. If the Government discloses the scientific analysis of an exhibit that it proposes to introduce at trial and that analysis has been determined by an expert in the field of science involved, the scientific analysis of the exhibit shall be deemed to have been accepted unless an objection is asserted in the form set forth in paragraph 1(c).

c. If the defendant wishes to contest the authenticity, chain of custody, or scientific analysis of an exhibit, counsel for the defendant shall file, on or before May 29, 2026, a notice that the authenticity, chain of custody, and/or scientific analysis of the exhibit will be contested at trial together with a statement delineating why the authenticity, chain of custody, and/or scientific analysis of the exhibit is being challenged and a certification that the challenge is being made in good faith.

3. The Defendant shall provide its pre-marked exhibits on or before June 5, 2026.

a. The authenticity and chain of custody of the Defendant's pre-marked exhibits shall be deemed to have been accepted unless an objection is asserted in accordance with paragraph 2(c).

b. If the Defendant discloses the scientific analysis of an exhibit that the Defendant proposes to introduce at trial and that analysis has been determined by an expert in the field of science involved, the scientific analysis of the exhibit shall be deemed to have

been accepted unless an objection is asserted in the form set forth in paragraph 2(c).

c. If the Government wishes to contest the authenticity, chain of custody, or scientific analysis of an exhibit, counsel for the Government shall file, on or before June 12, 2026, a notice that the authenticity, chain of custody, and/or scientific analysis of the exhibit will be contested at trial together with a statement delineating why the authenticity, chain of custody, and/or scientific analysis of the exhibit is being challenged and a certification that the challenge is being made in good faith.

4. The Government shall provide all material to be disclosed under Giglio v. United States, 405 U.S. 150 (1972), and its progeny, on or before May 22, 2026 and shall, if it agrees to do so, provide any material to be provided under the Jencks Act, 18 U.S.C. §3500, on or before the same date.

5. The Defendant, if he/she agrees to do so, shall produce all “reverse Jencks” that is required to be disclosed under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 26.2 on or before June 5, 2026.

6. If the Government intends to offer any Rule 404(b) evidence, the Government shall provide notice of this evidence in the form delineated in Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b)(2)(A) on or before May 22, 2026.

7. If the defendant intends to offer any “reverse Rule 404(b)” evidence, the defendant shall provide notice of this evidence in the form delineated in Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b)(2)(A) on or before May 29, 2026.

8. The parties shall file any in limine motions, addressed to the admissibility of evidence, on or before May 22, 2026; responses to such motions may be filed on or before June 5, 2026; and oral argument on such motions shall be held on a DATE TO BE SET BY THE COURT.

9. The parties shall file any *voir dire* requests on or before June 8, 2026.

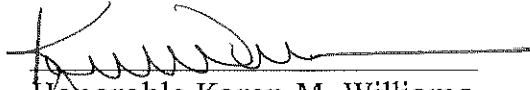
10. The Government shall file any requests to charge addressed to (a) preliminary instructions to the jury, and (b) the elements of the offenses at issue, on or before June 8, 2026.

11. The Defendant shall file any requests to charge addressed to (a) preliminary instructions to the jury, and (b) the elements of the offenses at issue, on or before June 8, 2026.

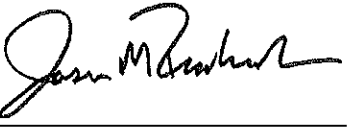
12. The parties shall file all other requests to charge on or before June 15, 2026.

13. Jury selection shall commence on June 22, 2026, at 9:30 a.m..

14. Trial shall commence immediately after the jury is selected.


Honorable Karen M. Williams
United States District Judge

Consented to as to form and entry:


DANIEL A. FRIEDMAN.
JASON M. RICHARDSON
Assistant U.S. Attorneys

s/Jay Strongwater
JAY STRONGWATER, ESQUIRE
Counsel for defendant Eric Rivera

s/Mark Catanzaro
MARK CATANZARO, ESQUIRE
Counsel for defendant James Wessels