

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
RENETTA GOLDEN-LARIMORE,)
DON A. BAKER,)
STEPHAN BOOTH,)
CAMERON P. HENDERSON,)
CANDACE E. HILL-WILLIAMS,)
REISJON LARIMORE,)
ROGER LARIMORE,)
TEIARA M. MERCER,)
PADGIT L. SMITH,)
JOSEPH VALDIVIA III,)
SALVADOR VALDIVIA, and)
MONE'Y C. WOODS,)
)
Defendants.)

Case No. 23-00098-01/12-CR-W-BCW

ORDER

On June 21, 2023, defendant Reisjon Larimore filed a Motion to Declare Case Extended and/or Complex and Set Deadline for Case Budgets (Doc. #97).¹ The motion provided the following as support for a finding that the case be declared extended and complex:

1. The thirteen (13) count indictment (Doc. 1) charges [twelve] defendants with the following:

a) [12] Defendants charged with Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud (Count 1);

b) Each Defendant is charged with one count of Wire Fraud in a separate count (Counts 2-13);

¹While a designation that a case is extended and complex is only consequential for those defendants represented by CJA counsel, the Court is extending its ruling to all defendants in this case. During the course of a criminal action, representation sometimes changes. To the extent that defendants currently represented by retained counsel are represented by CJA counsel in the future, the Court will not need to revisit this issue as to those defendants.

2. Additionally, there are two forfeiture allegations. One allegation is against Defendant number one and the remaining allegation is against Defendants two through [twelve].

3. The case grows out of an investigation and charged conspiracy timeline of approximately 16 months. Discovery has been made available by the government and contains more than 21,500 pages of bates stamped reports, documents, and photographs. Additionally, there are 116 audio files, 570 excel files, and multiple video files. There may be additional discovery from the Government but the assigned AUSA has stated he does not believe any additional discovery provided to Defendants in the future would be substantial.

4. Due to the volume of discovery, number of defendants, and length/complexity of the investigation in this case, defense counsel will be required to devote an unusually large amount of time to discovery review. Without spending this significant amount of time, defense counsel will be unable to reasonably calculate the guidelines for his or her client in an effort to provide effective assistance of counsel. This time expenditure, by itself, will significantly exceed the ordinary CJA cap. Together with other case obligations, such as client meetings, legal research, investigation, plea negotiations, and possible trial preparation, there is no way that defense counsel can competently handle this matter within the ordinary CJA budget. For this reason, counsel would respectfully ask the Court to set the deadline for submission of proposed case budgets to August 4, 2023. This date is necessary to allow counsel to assess the total volume and complexity of the discovery and, based on that review, prepare reasonably informed budget estimates.

(Doc. #97 at 1-2.)

The Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Guidelines provide the following with respect to a determination as to whether a case is extended or complex:

- If the legal or factual issues in a case are unusual, thus requiring the expenditure of more time, skill, and effort by the lawyer than would normally be required in an average case, the case is “complex.”
- If more time is reasonably required for total processing than the average case, including pre-trial and post-trial hearings, the case is “extended.”

Chapter 2, § 230.23.40(b) of the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume 7A.

Based on the information set out above, the Court finds that this case should be determined to be both extended and complex. Therefore, it is

ORDERED that defendant Reisjon Larimore's Motion to Declare Case Extended and/or Complex and Set Deadline for Case Budgets (Doc. #97) is granted. This case is declared extended and complex pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(d)(3). It is further

ORDERED that CJA counsel are authorized to submit interim vouchers for their representation of the defendants. It is further

ORDERED that CJA counsel shall submit proposed case budgets on or before September 11, 2023.

/s/ Lajuana M. Counts

Lajuana M. Counts
United States Magistrate Judge