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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PLAINTIFF v. WESTERN DISTRIBUTION, LLC, and CARL BRADLEY JOHANSSON DEFENDANTS	CASE NUMBER 5:21-CR-00170-SSS; 5:24-CV-02552-SSS NOTICE TO COURT OF RELATED CRIMINAL CASE (PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDER 14-03)
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Plaintiff United States of America hereby informs the Court that the above-captioned criminal case was found to be related to United States v. National Distribution Services, Inc., et al., 5:18-CR-00114(B)-VAP, which:

 X was previously assigned to the Honorable Virginia A. Phillips;
 has not been previously assigned.

The above-entitled cases are related for the following reasons:

 X the cases arise out of the same conspiracy, common scheme, transaction, series of transactions or events;
 X the cases involve one or more defendants in common and would entail substantial duplication of labor in pretrial, trial or sentencing proceedings if heard by different judges.

Additional explanation (if any):

The Honorable Virginia A. Phillips, United States District Judge, ruled that the above-captioned criminal case was related to United States v. National Distribution Services, Inc., et al., 5:18-CR-00114(B)-VAP, on July 28, 2021. (See Dkt. No. 26.) Carl Bradley Johansson

(“JOHANSSON”), who is a defendant in both cases, pled guilty in both cases pursuant to a single, consolidated plea agreement. (See Dkt No. 32.)

In November 2024, JOHANSSON filed the same, identical habeas claim in both related cases. On December 10, 2024, the Honorable Jesus G. Bernal, United States District Judge, was re-assigned the low-numbered criminal case (C.D. Cal. Case No. 5:18-CR-00114(B)-JGB) as well as the low-numbered habeas case (C.D. Cal. Case No. 5:24-CV-02550-JGB). The government respectfully submits that it would waste judicial resources and risk inconsistent outcomes for two district judges to adjudicate the same habeas claim.

Dated: February 6, 2025

Matthew O'Brien

MATTHEW W. O'BRIEN
Assistant United States Attorney