

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 1:25-CR-76-JMC
	)	
CORTNEY MERRITTS,	)	
Defendant.	)	

**CONSENTED MOTION FOR 5-DAY EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR PARTIES
TO SUBMIT CERTAIN PRETRIAL FILINGS**

Defendant Cortney Merritts (“Merritts”), by and through undersigned counsel Justin K. Gelfand and the law firm Margulis, Gelfand, DiRuzzo & Lambson, respectfully submits this Consented Motion for a 5-day extension of the deadline for the parties to submit certain pretrial filings.

On March 20, 2025, Merritts was charged in an indictment with two counts of wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. (ECF No. 1) The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation. Merritts has pled not guilty to each count and has denied the forfeiture allegation.

On June 27, 2025, the Court issued a Pretrial Order setting deadlines relating to the January 12, 2026, trial. (ECF No. 14.) Pursuant to that Order, on November 7, 2025, the parties each filed multiple motions in limine. Oppositions to the motions in limine, as well as the parties’ Joint Pretrial Statement, were initially due November 14, 2025. As part of the Joint Pretrial Statement, the parties are required to submit a joint proposed statement of the case, proposed voir dire questions, proposed jury instructions, a proposed verdict form, exhibit lists, and written objections regarding any disputed material.

In anticipation of the November 14, 2025, deadline for the parties to file oppositions to the motions in limine and their Joint Pretrial Statement, the parties determined they needed additional time to meet and confer and finalize their submissions. Accordingly, on November 13, 2025, the

parties jointly requested a one-week extension of the deadline for these filings. (ECF No. 27.) The Court granted the Motion in a Minute Order, extending the deadline for filing oppositions to the motions in limine and the Joint Pretrial Statement by 1 week from November 14, 2025, to November 21, 2025.

On November 18, 2025, the undersigned counsel for Defendant Merritts was scheduled to begin a jury trial in Saint Louis, Missouri, but that trial was unexpectedly delayed due to an inmate transportation issue, requiring the undersigned counsel to appear in both Missouri state court and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in order to resolve. As a result, undersigned counsel faced unexpected conflicts that have prevented finalization of Defendant Merritts' opposition to the pending motions in limine and have impeded Merritts' counsel from being able to meet and confer with Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly regarding the Joint Pretrial Statement in advance of the November 21, 2025, deadline.

Due to the unforeseen scheduling issues that arose this week for Defendant Merritts' counsel, Defendant Merritts respectfully requests an additional five-day extension, up to and including November 26, 2025, for the parties to file (1) oppositions to the motions in limine, and (2) the Joint Pretrial Statement. All other deadlines in the Pretrial Order would remain unchanged. This request for a 5-day extension of the filing deadline is not intended for the purposes of delay or to prejudice any party. Undersigned counsel has conferred with Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly, who consents to the requested extension. The parties have been working together in good faith to limit the Court's intervention in pretrial disputes when possible and will continue to do so.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Cortney Merritts respectfully requests that this Court grant his consented motion for a five-day extension of time, up to and including November 26, 2025, for the parties to file oppositions to the motions in limine and the Joint Pretrial Statement, with all other deadlines remaining unchanged.

Respectfully submitted,

Margulis Gelfand DiRuzzo & Lambson, LLC

/s/ Justin K. Gelfand

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that the foregoing was filed electronically with the Clerk of the Court to be served by operation of the Court's electronic filing system upon the Office of the United States Attorney and all other counsel in this case.

/s/ Justin K. Gelfand

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