

ORIGINAL

GUILTY PLEA and PLEA AGREEMENT

United States Attorney
Northern District of Georgia

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

CRIMINAL NO. 1:20-CR-228-2-MHC-JKL (SECOND SUPERSEDING)

The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia ("the Government") and Defendant Daniel Eric Jay, enter into this plea agreement as set forth below in Part IV pursuant to Rules 11(c)(1)(A) & (B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Daniel Eric Jay, having received a copy of the above-numbered Indictment and having been arraigned, hereby pleads GUILTY to Counts 1 and 5.

I. ADMISSION OF GUILT

1. The Defendant admits that he is pleading guilty because he is in fact guilty of the crimes charged in Counts 1 and 5.

II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WAIVER OF RIGHTS

2. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he is giving up the right to plead not guilty and the right to be tried by a jury. At a trial, the Defendant would have the right to an attorney, and if the Defendant could not afford an attorney, the Court would appoint one to represent the Defendant at trial and at every stage of the proceedings. During the trial, the Defendant would be presumed innocent and the Government would have the burden of proving him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The

FILED IN OPEN COURT
U.S.D.C ATLANTA

Date: 03/15/2023

KEVIN P. WEIMER, Clerk

By: Lisa Enix

Deputy Clerk

Defendant would have the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him. If the Defendant wished, he could testify on his own behalf and present evidence in his defense, and he could subpoena witnesses to testify on his behalf. If, however, the Defendant did not wish to testify, that fact could not be used against him, and the Government could not compel him to incriminate himself. If the Defendant were found guilty after a trial, he would have the right to appeal the conviction.

3. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he is giving up all of these rights and there will not be a trial of any kind.
4. By pleading guilty, the Defendant also gives up his right to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could have been filed.
5. The Defendant also understands that he ordinarily would have the right to appeal his sentence and, under some circumstances, to attack the conviction and sentence in post-conviction proceedings. By entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant may be waiving some or all of those rights to appeal and to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence, as specified below.
6. Finally, the Defendant understands that, to plead guilty, he may have to answer, under oath, questions posed to him by the Court concerning the rights that he is giving up and the facts of this case, and the Defendant's answers, if untruthful, may later be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or false statements.

III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PENALTIES

7. The Defendant understands that, based on his plea of guilty, he will be subject to the following maximum and mandatory minimum penalties as to *each count* to which he is pleading guilty, that is, Counts 1 and 5:
 - a. Maximum term of imprisonment: 30 years.
 - b. Mandatory minimum term of imprisonment: None.
 - c. Term of supervised release: 0 years to 5 years.
 - d. Maximum fine: \$1,000,000, or twice the gain or twice the loss, whichever is greatest, due and payable immediately.
 - e. Full restitution, due and payable immediately, to all victims of the offense(s) and relevant conduct.
 - f. Mandatory special assessment: \$100, due and payable immediately.
 - g. Forfeiture of any and all proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, from the commission of the offense(s).
8. The Defendant understands that, before imposing sentence in this case, the Court will be required to consider, among other factors, the provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and that, under certain circumstances, the Court has the discretion to depart from those Guidelines. The Defendant further understands that the Court may impose a sentence up to and including the statutory maximum as set forth in the above paragraph and that no one can predict his exact sentence at this time.

9. REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES: The Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. Indeed, because the Defendant is pleading guilty to this offense, removal is presumptively mandatory. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the District Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. The Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is his automatic removal from the United States.

IV. PLEA AGREEMENT

10. The Defendant, his counsel, and the Government, subject to approval by the Court, have agreed upon a negotiated plea in this case, the terms of which are as follows:

No Additional Charges

11. The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia agrees not to bring further criminal charges against the Defendant related to the charges to which he is pleading guilty. The Defendant understands that this provision does not bar prosecution by any other federal, state, or local jurisdiction.

Dismissal of Counts

12. The Government agrees that, upon the entry of the Judgment and Commitment Order, any and all remaining counts in the above-styled case still pending against the Defendant shall be dismissed pursuant to Standing Order No. 07-04 of this Court and to Rule 48(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Defendant understands that the Probation Office and the Court may still consider the conduct underlying such dismissed counts in determining relevant conduct under the Sentencing Guidelines and a reasonable sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a).

Sentencing Guidelines Recommendations

13. The Government and the Defendant hereby stipulate and agree that:
 - a. The applicable offense guideline is § 2B1.1(a)(1), which establishes a Base Offense Level of 7.
 - b. The amount of loss resulting from the offenses of conviction and all relevant conduct is more than \$3,500,000 but less than \$9,500,000, which results in an 18-level upward adjustment under § 2B1.1(b)(1)(f).
 - c. The offense involved 10 or more victims; and the offense resulted in substantial financial hardship to one or more victims, which results in a 2-level upward adjustment under § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A).
 - d. The Defendant willfully obstructed or impeded, or attempted to obstruct or impede, the administration of justice with respect to the investigation of the instant offenses of conviction, and the obstructive conduct related to the Defendant's offenses of conviction and any relevant conduct, or a closely related offense, which results in a 2-level upward adjustment under § 3C1.1.
14. The Government will recommend that the Defendant receive the 3-level upward adjustment under § 3B1.1(b) because the Defendant was a manager or supervisor (but not an organizer or leader) of the criminal activity, which involved five or more participants or was otherwise extensive. The Defendant will argue that he should receive a 2-level

upward adjustment under § 3B1.1(c) rather than a 3-level upward adjustment under § 3B1.1(b).

15. The Government will recommend that the Defendant not receive the 2-level increase under § 2B1.1(b)(10), which would apply if the defendant relocated, or participated in relocating, a fraudulent scheme to another jurisdiction to evade law enforcement or regulatory officials, or if the offense involved sophisticated means and the Defendant intentionally engaged in or caused the conduct constituting sophisticated means.

Acceptance of Responsibility

16. The Government will recommend that the Defendant receive the 2-level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility under § 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines. However, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility if, after entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant engages in conduct inconsistent with accepting responsibility. Thus, by way of example only, should the Defendant falsely deny or falsely attempt to minimize the Defendant's involvement in relevant offense conduct, give conflicting statements about the Defendant's involvement, fail to pay the special assessment, fail to meet any of the obligations set forth in the Financial Cooperation Provisions set forth below, or participate in additional criminal conduct, including unlawful personal use of a controlled substance, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility.

**Right to Answer Questions, Correct Misstatements,
and Make Recommendations**

17. The parties reserve the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts and circumstances regarding the Defendant and this case, and to respond to any questions from the Court and the Probation Office and to any misstatements of fact or law. Except as expressly stated elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the parties also reserve the right to make recommendations regarding application of the Sentencing Guidelines. The parties understand, acknowledge, and agree that there are no agreements between the parties with respect to any Sentencing Guidelines issues other than those specifically listed.

Right to Modify Recommendations

18. With regard to the Government's recommendation as to any specific application of the Sentencing Guidelines as set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the Defendant understands and agrees that, should the Government obtain or receive additional evidence concerning the facts underlying any such recommendation, the Government will bring that evidence to the attention of the Court and the Probation Office. In addition, if the additional evidence is sufficient to support a finding of a different application of the Guidelines, the Government will not be bound to make the recommendation set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, and the failure to do so will not constitute a violation of this Plea Agreement.

Restitution and Forfeiture

Restitution

19. The Defendant agrees to pay \$4,465,865.55 as restitution to the Clerk of Court for distribution to the victim(s) of the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty and all relevant conduct, to be distributed as follows:

United Community Bank
125 Highway 515 East
Blairsville, Georgia 30512
Amount: \$2,045,300.00

U.S. Small Business Administrative/DFC
721 19th Street, Third Floor, Room 301
Denver, Colorado, 80202
Amount: \$20,453.00

Jimia Cain
87101 N. Herrington Road
West Richland, WA 99353
Amount: \$221,000.00

Sean Frank
6160 Warren Parkway, #100
Frisco, TX 75094
Amount: \$231,862.00

Laura Wolf
7252 Mediterranean Drive
Piano, TX 75093
Amount: \$163,811.19

Robert Tuscana
P.O. Box 542285
Grand Prairie, TX 75054
Amount: \$52,635.00

Amanda Napier
1351 County Road 1473
Quitman, TX 75783
Amount: \$150,000.00

Maria Newman
3617 Stonington Drive
Piano, TX 75093
Amount: \$174,400.00

Jeanne Johnston
15113 King of Spain Court
Dallas, TX 75248
Amount: \$156,350.00

Mike Rubial
607 May Road
Seagoville, TX 75159
Amount: \$102,338.47

Linda Appleby
8105 Toltec Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116
Amount: \$45,000.00

Alejandro Davila
10513 Wild Oak Drive
Ft Worth, TX 76140
Amount: \$22,000.00

Edie Lenaburg
3917 Huaco Lane
Waco, TX 76710
Amount: \$128,900.00

Ruben Azrak
222 Maplewood Avenue
Oakhurst, New Jersey 07755-1618
Amount: \$130,000

Terrance Miller
8755 The Espanade
Apartment 131
Orlando, Florida 32836
Amount: \$50,000.00

Ken Pritchett
2202 Somerset
Midlothian, TX 76065
Amount: \$544,565.89

Elizabeth Baun
107 Meadow Lane
Sewickley, PA 15143
Amount: \$100,000.00

John Baun
101 Bradford Road
Suite 200
Wexford, PA 15090
Amount: \$30,000.00

Tameika Price
11816 Indood Road, #3079
Dallas, TX 75244
Amount: \$9,600.00

Jamar Rucker
1805 Millside Terrace
Dacula, GA 30019
Amount: \$59,000.00

Sherrie Odom
1309 W. Main Street
Waxahachie, TX 75165
Amount: \$28,650.00

20. The Defendant understands that the full restitution amount is due and payable immediately. If the Defendant cannot pay the full amount immediately and is placed in custody or under the supervision of the Probation Office at any time, he agrees that the custodial agency and the Probation Office will have the authority to establish a restitution payment schedule – which would represent his minimum obligation – and that the Government would be entitled to pursue other sources of recovery. The Defendant agrees to cooperate with the Government's efforts to collect the restitution by any legal means the Government deems appropriate. The Defendant and his counsel agree that the Government may contact the Defendant regarding the collection of restitution without notifying counsel and outside the presence of counsel.

Forfeiture

21. The Defendant acknowledges that each asset listed below is subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461, and hereby agrees to the forfeiture of the following property:

- a. A personal forfeiture money judgment against the Defendant in the amount of \$250,000.00, which represents the proceeds that the Defendant obtained as a result of the offenses in Counts One and Five of the Second Superseding Indictment.
22. The Defendant waives and abandons his interest in any property that may have been seized in connection with this case. The Defendant agrees to the administrative or judicial forfeiture or the abandonment of any seized property.
23. The Defendant agrees to hold the United States and its agents and employees harmless from any claims made in connection with the seizure, forfeiture, or disposal of property connected to this case. The Defendant acknowledges that the United States will dispose of any seized property, and that such disposal may include, but is not limited to, the sale, release, or destruction of the seized property. The Defendant agrees to waive any and all constitutional, statutory, and equitable challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, a Section 2255 petition, habeas corpus, or any other means) to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposal of any property seized in this case on any grounds.
24. The Defendant acknowledges that he is not entitled to use forfeited assets, to satisfy any fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, tax obligations, or any other penalty the Court may impose upon the Defendant in addition to forfeiture.

25. The Defendant consents to the Court's entry of a personal forfeiture money judgment, which will be final as to him, as a part of his sentence, and incorporated into the judgment against him.

Financial Cooperation Provisions

Special Assessment

26. The Defendant agrees that he will pay a special assessment in the amount of \$200 by money order or certified check made payable to the Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court, 2211 U.S. Courthouse, 75 Ted Turner Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, by the day of sentencing. The Defendant agrees to provide proof of such payment to the undersigned Assistant United States Attorneys upon payment thereof.

Fine/Restitution - Terms of Payment

27. The Defendant agrees to pay any fine and/or restitution, plus applicable interest, imposed by the Court to the Clerk of Court for eventual disbursement to the appropriate account and/or victim(s). The Defendant also agrees that the full fine and/or restitution amount shall be considered due and payable immediately. If the Defendant cannot pay the full amount immediately and is placed in custody or under the supervision of the Probation Office at any time, he agrees that the custodial agency and the Probation Office will have the authority to establish payment schedules to ensure payment of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant understands that this payment schedule represents a minimum obligation and that, should the Defendant's financial situation establish that he is able to pay

more toward the fine and/or restitution, the Government is entitled to pursue other sources of recovery of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully in efforts to collect the fine and/or restitution obligation by any legal means the Government deems appropriate. Finally, the Defendant and his counsel agree that the Government may contact the Defendant regarding the collection of any fine and/or restitution without notifying and outside the presence of his counsel.

Financial Disclosure

28. The Defendant agrees that the Defendant will not sell, hide, waste, encumber, destroy, or otherwise devalue any such asset worth more than \$500 before sentencing, without the prior approval of the Government. The Defendant understands and agrees that the Defendant's failure to comply with this provision of the Plea Agreement should result in the Defendant receiving no credit for acceptance of responsibility.
29. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation of the amount of forfeiture, restitution, and fine; the identification of funds and assets in which he has any legal or equitable interest to be applied toward forfeiture, restitution, and/or fine; and the prompt payment of restitution or a fine.
30. The Defendant's cooperation obligations include: (A) fully and truthfully completing the Department of Justice's Financial Statement of Debtor form, and any addenda to said form deemed necessary by the

Government, within ten days of the change of plea hearing; (B) submitting to a financial deposition or interview (should the Government deem it necessary) prior to sentencing regarding the subject matter of said form; (C) providing any documentation within his possession or control requested by the Government regarding his financial condition and that of his household; (D) fully and truthfully answering all questions regarding his past and present financial condition and that of his household in such interview(s); and (E) providing a waiver of his privacy protections to permit the Government to access his credit report and tax information held by the Internal Revenue Service.

31. So long as the Defendant is completely truthful, the Government agrees that anything related by the Defendant during his financial interview or deposition or in the financial forms described above cannot and will not be used against him in the Government's criminal prosecution. However, the Government may use the Defendant's statements to identify and to execute upon assets to be applied to the fine and/or restitution in this case. Further, the Government is completely free to pursue any and all investigative leads derived in any way from the interview(s)/deposition(s)/financial forms, which could result in the acquisition of evidence admissible against the Defendant in subsequent proceedings. If the Defendant subsequently takes a position in any legal proceeding that is inconsistent with the interview(s)/deposition(s)/financial forms—whether in pleadings, oral

argument, witness testimony, documentary evidence, questioning of witnesses, or any other manner—the Government may use the Defendant’s interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms, and all evidence obtained directly or indirectly therefrom, in any responsive pleading and argument and for cross-examination, impeachment, or rebuttal evidence. Further, the Government may also use the Defendant’s interview(s)/ deposition(s)/ financial forms to respond to arguments made or issues raised sua sponte by the Magistrate or District Court.

Recommendations/Stipulations Non-binding

32. The Defendant understands and agrees that the recommendations of the Government incorporated within this Plea Agreement, as well as any stipulations of fact or guideline computations incorporated within this Plea Agreement or otherwise discussed between the parties, are not binding on the Court and that the Court’s failure to accept one or more of the recommendations, stipulations, and/or guideline computations will not constitute grounds to withdraw his guilty plea or to claim a breach of this Plea Agreement.

Limited Waiver of Appeal

33. LIMITED WAIVER OF APPEAL: To the maximum extent permitted by federal law, the Defendant voluntarily and expressly waives the right to appeal his conviction and sentence and the right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding (including, but

not limited to, motions filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255) on any ground, except that the Defendant may file a direct appeal of an upward departure or upward variance above the sentencing guideline range as calculated by the District Court. Claims that the Defendant's counsel rendered constitutionally ineffective assistance are excepted from this waiver. The Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement does not limit the Government's right to appeal, but if the Government initiates a direct appeal of the sentence imposed, the Defendant may file a cross-appeal of that same sentence.

Miscellaneous Waivers

FOIA/Privacy Act Waiver

34. The Defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including, without limitation, any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a.

No Other Agreements

35. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings between the Defendant and the Government.

In Open Court this 15th day of March, 2023.

L. Burt Finlayson
SIGNATURE (Defendant's Attorney)
L. Burton Finlayson

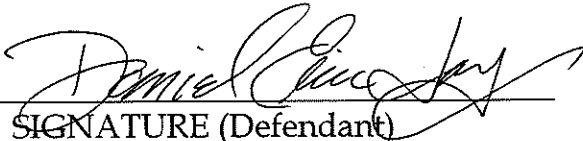
Daniel Eric Jay
SIGNATURE (Defendant)
Daniel Eric Jay

John Russell Phillips
SIGNATURE (Assistant U.S. Attorney)
John Russell Phillips

Bernita Malloy
SIGNATURE (Assistant U.S. Attorney)
Bernita B. Malloy

Stephen H. McClain
SIGNATURE (Approving Official)
Stephen H. McClain

I have read the Information against me and have discussed it with my attorney. I understand the charges and the elements of each charge that the Government would have to prove to convict me at a trial. I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms and conditions contained in the Plea Agreement, and I voluntarily agree to them. I also have discussed with my attorney the rights I may have to appeal or challenge my conviction and sentence, and I understand that the appeal waiver contained in the Plea Agreement will prevent me, with the narrow exceptions stated, from appealing my conviction and sentence or challenging my conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. No one has threatened or forced me to plead guilty, and no promises or inducements have been made to me other than those discussed in the Plea Agreement. The discussions between my attorney and the Government toward reaching a negotiated plea in this case took place with my permission. I am fully satisfied with the representation provided to me by my attorney in this case.


SIGNATURE (Defendant)

Daniel Eric Jay

3/15/23
DATE

I am Daniel Eric Jay's lawyer. I have carefully reviewed the charges and the Plea Agreement with my client. To my knowledge, my client is making an informed and voluntary decision to plead guilty and to enter into the Plea Agreement.

L. Burton Finlayson

SIGNATURE (Defendant's Attorney)

L. Burton Finlayson

State Bar Number 261460

3/15/2023

DATE

931 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE

Atlanta, GA 30306

(404) 872-0560

lbfcourts@aol.com

Filed in Open Court

This ____ day of _____, 202__

By _____

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Statement of Special Assessment Account

This statement reflects your special assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
CRIMINAL ACTION NO.:	1:20-CR-228-2-MHC-JKL (Second Superseding)
DEFENDANT'S NAME:	Daniel Eric Jay
PAY THIS AMOUNT:	\$200

Instructions:

1. Payment must be made by **certified check** or **money order** payable to:
Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court
personal checks will not be accepted
2. Payment must be made to the clerk's office by the day of sentencing.
3. Payment should be sent or hand delivered to:
Clerk, U.S. District Court
2211 U.S. Courthouse
75 Ted Turner Drive SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(Do Not Send Cash)
4. Include the defendant's name on **certified check** or **money order**.
5. Enclose this coupon to insure proper and prompt application of payment.
6. Provide proof of payment to the above-signed AUSA within 30 days of the guilty plea.