

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

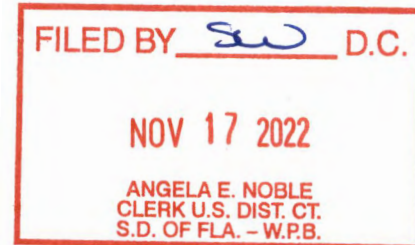
Case No. 22-80118-CR-MIDDLEBROOKS/MATTHEWMAN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOSE RAUL AMARO,

Defendant.



PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida ("this Office") and JOSE RAUL AMARO ("the defendant") enter into the following agreement:

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 6 of the Indictment, which charges the defendant with money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).
2. This Office agrees to seek dismissal of the remaining counts of the Indictment after sentencing.
3. The defendant is aware that the sentence will be imposed by the Court after considering the advisory Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements (hereinafter "Sentencing Guidelines"). The defendant acknowledges and understands that the Court will compute an advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines and that the applicable guidelines will be determined by the Court relying in part on the results of a pre-sentence investigation by the Court's probation office, which investigation will commence after the guilty plea has been entered. The defendant is also aware that, under certain circumstances, the Court may depart from the advisory sentencing guideline

range that it has computed and may raise or lower that advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant is further aware and understands that the Court is required to consider the advisory guideline range determined under the Sentencing Guidelines but is not bound to impose a sentence within that advisory range; the Court is permitted to tailor the ultimate sentence in light of other statutory concerns, and such sentence may be either more severe or less severe than the Sentencing Guidelines' advisory range. Knowing these facts, the defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court has the authority to impose any sentence within and up to the statutory maximum authorized by law for the offense identified in paragraph 1 and that the defendant may not withdraw the plea solely as a result of the sentence imposed.

4. The defendant also understands and acknowledges that with respect to Count 6, the Court may impose a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, followed by a term of supervised release of up to 3 years. In addition to a term of imprisonment and supervised release, the Court may impose a fine of up to \$500,000 or twice the value of the property involved in the transaction, whichever is greater, and shall order restitution.

5. The defendant further understands and acknowledges that, in addition to any sentence imposed under the previous paragraph of this agreement, a special assessment in the amount of \$100 will be imposed. The defendant agrees that any special assessment imposed shall be paid at the time of sentencing. If a defendant is financially unable to pay the special assessment, the defendant agrees to present

evidence to this Office and the Court at the time of sentencing as to the reasons for the defendant's failure to pay.

6. This Office reserves the right to inform the Court and the probation office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses committed, whether charged or not, as well as concerning the defendant and the defendant's background. Subject only to the express terms of any agreed-upon sentencing recommendations contained in this agreement, this Office further reserves the right to make any recommendation as to the quality and quantity of punishment.

7. The United States agrees that it will recommend at sentencing that the Court reduce by two levels the sentencing guideline level applicable to the defendant's offense, pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, based upon the defendant's recognition and affirmative and timely acceptance of personal responsibility. If at the time of sentencing the defendant's offense level is determined to be 16 or greater, the government will move for an additional one level decrease pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) of the Sentencing Guidelines. However, the United States will not be required to comply with this paragraph if the defendant: (1) fails or refuses to make full, accurate, and complete disclosure to the probation office of the circumstances surrounding the relevant offense conduct; (2) is found to have misrepresented facts to the government prior to entering this plea agreement; or (3) commits any misconduct after entering into this plea agreement, including but not limited to committing a state or federal offense, or making false statements or misrepresentations to any governmental entity or official.

8. The defendant agrees that he shall cooperate fully with this Office by: (a) providing truthful and complete information and testimony, and producing documents, records and other evidence, when called upon by this Office, whether in interviews, before a grand jury, or at any trial or other Court proceeding; and (b) appearing at such grand jury proceedings, hearings, trials, and other judicial proceedings, and at meetings, as may be required by this Office. In addition, the defendant agrees that he will not protect any person or entity through false information or omission, that he will not falsely implicate any person or entity, and that he will not commit any further crimes.

9. This Office reserves the right to evaluate the nature and extent of the defendant's cooperation and to make that cooperation, or lack thereof, known to the Court at the time of sentencing. If in the sole and unreviewable judgment of this Office the defendant's cooperation is of such quality and significance to the investigation or prosecution of other criminal matters as to warrant the Court's downward departure from the advisory sentencing range calculated under the Sentencing Guidelines and/or any applicable minimum mandatory sentence, this Office may make a motion prior to sentencing pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines and/or Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(e), or subsequent to sentencing pursuant to Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, informing the Court that the defendant has provided substantial assistance and recommending that the defendant's sentence be reduced. The defendant understands and agrees, however, that nothing in this agreement requires this Office to file any such motions, and that this Office's assessment of the quality and

significance of the defendant's cooperation shall be binding as it relates to the appropriateness of this Office's filing or non-filing of a motion to reduce sentence.

10. The defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court is under no obligation to grant a motion for reduction of sentence filed by the government. In addition, the defendant further understands and acknowledges that the Court is under no obligation of any type to reduce the defendant's sentence because of the defendant's cooperation.

11. This Office and the defendant agree that, although not binding on the probation office or the Court, they will jointly recommend that the Court make the following findings and conclusions as to the sentence to be imposed:

a. *Base Offense Level:* The defendant's base offense level is 7, pursuant to Sections 2S1.1(a)(1) and 2B1.1(a)(1) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

b. *Loss:* Because the relevant amount of actual, probable or intended loss resulting from the offense committed in this case is more than \$550,000 but not more than \$1,500,000, the defendant's offense level should be adjusted upward by 14 under Section 2B1.1(b)(1) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

c. *Specific Offense Characteristic:* Because the defendant will be convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 1956, his offense level should be adjusted upward by 2 levels under Section 2S1.1(b)(2)(B) of the Sentencing Guidelines.

d. *Adjusted Offense Level:* The applicable adjusted offense level (before adjustment for acceptance of responsibility) under all of the circumstances of the offense committed by the defendant is 23.

e. *Role in the Offense:* The defendant reserves the right to argue at sentencing that he should receive a 2-level decrease as a minor participant in the offense, pursuant to Section 3B1.2 of the Sentencing Guidelines.

12. The defendant is aware that the sentence has not yet been determined by the Court. The defendant also is aware that any estimate of the probable sentencing range or sentence that the defendant may receive, whether that estimate comes from the defendant's attorney, the government, or the probation office, is a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on the government, the probation office, or the Court. The defendant understands further that any recommendation that the government makes to the Court as to sentencing, whether pursuant to this agreement or otherwise, is not binding on the Court and the Court may disregard the recommendation in its entirety. The defendant understands and acknowledges, as previously acknowledged in paragraph 3 above, that the defendant may not withdraw his plea based upon the Court's decision not to accept a sentencing recommendation made by the defendant, the government, or a recommendation made jointly by both the defendant and the government.

13. The defendant agrees, in an individual and any other capacity, to forfeit to the United States, voluntarily and immediately, any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and any property traceable to such property, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1). In addition, the defendant agrees to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p). The property subject to forfeiture includes, but is not limited to:

a. a forfeiture money judgment in the sum of at least \$26,425 in U.S. currency, which sum represents the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

14. The defendant further agrees that forfeiture is independent of any assessment, fine, cost, restitution, or penalty that may be imposed by the Court. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to waive all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to the forfeiture, including excessive fines under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. In addition, the defendant agrees to waive: any applicable time limits for administrative or judicial forfeiture proceedings, the requirements of Fed. Rs. Crim. P. 32.2 and 43(a), and any appeal of the forfeiture.

15. The defendant also agrees to fully and truthfully disclose the existence, nature and location of all assets in which the defendant has or had any direct or indirect financial interest or control, and any assets involved in the offense of conviction. The defendant agrees to take all steps requested by the United States for the recovery and forfeiture of all assets identified by the United States as subject to forfeiture. This includes, but is not limited to, the timely delivery upon request of all necessary and appropriate documentation to deliver good and marketable title, consenting to all orders of forfeiture, and not contesting or impeding in any way with any criminal, civil or administrative forfeiture proceeding concerning the forfeiture.

16. 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 defendant is pleading guilty. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the defendant understands that no one, including the defendant's attorney or the Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of the

defendant's conviction on his immigration status. 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.

17. The defendant is aware that Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 and Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291 afford the defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed in this case. Acknowledging this, in exchange for the undertakings made by the United States in this plea agreement, the defendant hereby waives all rights conferred by Sections 3742 and 1291 to appeal any sentence imposed, including any restitution order, or to appeal the manner in which the sentence was imposed, unless the sentence exceeds the maximum permitted by statute, or is the result of an upward departure from the guideline range that the Court establishes at sentencing, or if the sentence results from the Court's calculation of a guideline range higher than that stipulated by the parties, or if the sentence imposed is higher than the agreed upon guidelines. The defendant further understands that nothing in this agreement shall affect the government's right and/or duty to appeal as set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742(b) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291. However, if the United States appeals the defendant's sentence pursuant to Sections 3742(b) and 1291, the defendant shall be released from the above waiver of appellate rights. By signing this agreement, the defendant acknowledges that he has discussed the appeal waiver set forth in this agreement with his attorney. The defendant further agrees, together with the United States, to request that the district court enter a specific finding that the defendant's

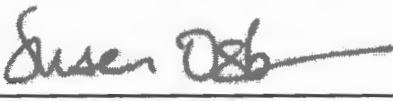
waiver of his right to appeal the sentence to be imposed in this case was knowing and voluntary.

18. This is the entire agreement and understanding between the United States and the defendant. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings.

JUAN ANTONIO GONZALEZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 11-14-2022

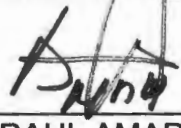
By:


SUSAN OSBORNE
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 17 Nov 22


OMAR JOHANSSON
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

Date: 17 Nov 22


JOSE RAUL AMARO
DEFENDANT