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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
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CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

October 2023 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN,

Defendant.

No. 2:23-cr-00599-MCS

I N D I C T M E N T

[26 U.S.C. § 7201: evasion of assessment; 26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to file and pay taxes; 26 U.S.C. § 7206: false or fraudulent tax return]

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Defendant ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN (hereafter "the Defendant") was a Georgetown- and Yale-educated lawyer, lobbyist, consultant, and businessperson and, beginning in April 2018, a resident of Los Angeles, California.
2. At times relevant to this Indictment, the Defendant served on the board of a Ukrainian industrial conglomerate and a Chinese private equity fund. He negotiated and executed contracts and agreements for business and legal services that paid millions of

1 dollars of compensation to him and/or his domestic corporations,
2 Owasco, PC and Owasco, LLC.

3 3. In addition to his business interests, the Defendant was an
4 employee of a multi-national law firm working in an "of counsel"
5 capacity from 2009 through at least 2017.

6 4. The Defendant engaged in a four-year scheme to not pay at
7 least \$1.4 million in self-assessed federal taxes he owed for tax
8 years 2016 through 2019, from in or about January 2017 through in or
9 about October 15, 2020, and to evade the assessment of taxes for tax
10 year 2018 when he filed false returns in or about February 2020. In
11 furtherance of that scheme, the Defendant:

12 a. subverted the payroll and tax withholding process of
13 his own company, Owasco, PC by withdrawing millions from Owasco, PC
14 outside of the payroll and tax withholding process that it was
15 designed to perform;

16 b. spent millions of dollars on an extravagant lifestyle
17 rather than paying his tax bills;

18 c. in 2018, stopped paying his outstanding and overdue
19 taxes for tax year 2015;

20 d. willfully failed to pay his 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019
21 taxes on time, despite having access to funds to pay some or all of
22 these taxes;

23 e. willfully failed to file his 2017 and 2018 tax returns
24 on time; and
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1 f. when he did finally file his 2018 returns, included
2 false business deductions in order to evade assessment of taxes to
3 reduce the substantial tax liabilities he faced as of February 2020.

4 A. The Defendant made millions of dollars in income from 2016-2020.

5 5. Between 2016 and October 15, 2020, the Defendant
6 individually received more than \$7 million in total gross income.
7 This included in excess of \$1.5 million in 2016, \$2.3 million in
8 2017, \$2.1 million in 2018, \$1 million in 2019 and approximately
9 \$188,000 from January through October 15, 2020. In addition, from
10 January through October 15, 2020, the Defendant received
11 approximately \$1.2 million in financial support to fund his
12 extravagant lifestyle.

13 *i. Burisma Holdings Limited*

14 6. In or around April 2014, the Defendant joined the board of
15 directors of Burisma Holdings Limited ("Burisma"), a Ukrainian
16 industrial conglomerate. Burisma agreed to pay the Defendant an
17 annual salary of approximately \$1,000,000, to be paid in monthly
18 disbursements. In March 2017, Burisma reduced his compensation to
19 approximately \$500,000 a year but he continued to serve on the board
20 of directors until in or around April 2019. As a result, he received
21 a total of approximately \$1,002,016 in 2016, \$630,556 in 2017,
22 \$491,939 in 2018, and \$160,207 in 2019.

23 *ii. The Romanian Contract*

24 7. In the fall of 2015, the Defendant entered into an oral
25 agreement with Business Associate 1 purportedly to help a Romanian
26 businessperson, G.P., contest bribery charges he was facing in his
27 home country. G.P. paid an entity associated with Business Associate
28 1, through G.P.'s Romanian business. Between November 2015 and May

1 2017, Business Associate 1's entity received approximately
2 \$3,101,258, which was split roughly into thirds between the
3 Defendant, Business Associate 1, and Business Associate 2.

4 *iii. CEFC China Energy Co Ltd.*

5 8. In the late fall of 2015, the Defendant, Business Associate
6 1, and Business Associate 2 began to investigate potential
7 infrastructure projects with individuals associated with CEFC China
8 Energy Co Ltd. (CEFC), a Chinese energy conglomerate.

9 9. In or around December of that year, the Defendant met in
10 Washington, D.C., with individuals associated with CEFC. During the
11 next two years the Defendant, Business Associate 1, and Business
12 Associate 2 continued to meet with individuals associated with CEFC,
13 including in February 2017, with CEFC's then-Chairman (hereafter "the
14 Chairman").

15 10. On or about March 1, 2017, State Energy HK, a Hong Kong
16 entity associated with CEFC, paid approximately \$3 million to
17 Business Associate 1's entity for sourcing deals and for identifying
18 other potential ventures. The Defendant had an oral agreement with
19 Business Associate 1 to receive one-third of those funds, or a
20 million dollars. The Defendant, in turn, directed a portion of those
21 million dollars to Business Associate 3.

22 11. After the State Energy HK payment, the Defendant, Business
23 Associate 1, and Business Associate 2 began negotiating a joint
24 venture with individuals associated with CEFC, which they called
25 SinoHawk.

26 12. Over the summer of 2017, the Defendant cut out his SinoHawk
27 business partners and separately negotiated a venture with
28 individuals associated with CEFC called Hudson West III ("HWIII").

1 13. On or about August 2, 2017, the Defendant executed, on
2 behalf of Owasco, PC the operating agreement for HWIII. HWIII was
3 funded with an initial \$5,000,000 capital contribution from an entity
4 that was not owned or controlled by the Defendant. The contract
5 further named the Defendant as a "manager" of HWIII and specified
6 that he would receive "compensation" of \$100,000 per month and a one-
7 time retainer fee of \$500,000. Owasco, PC paid no capital
8 contribution for its ownership share of HWIII.

9 14. Shortly after execution of the contract, on or about August
10 8, 2017, HWIII transferred approximately \$400,000 to Owasco, PC.
11 Thereafter, Owasco, PC received monthly transfers of approximately
12 \$165,000. In total, HWIII made seven transfers to Owasco, PC in 2017
13 totaling approximately \$1.445 million. The Defendant then transferred
14 approximately \$555,000 of these funds from Owasco, PC's Wells Fargo
15 Account to Business Associate 3. In 2018, HWIII made another 15
16 transfers to Owasco, PC, totaling approximately \$2.1 million, and the
17 Defendant transferred approximately \$843,999 of these funds to
18 Business Associate 3.

19 *iv. Skaneateles*

20 15. On or about September 21, 2017, the Defendant received a
21 transfer of approximately \$666,572 from Skaneateles, which was a
22 partnership owned 75 percent by the Defendant and 25 percent by
23 Business Associate 4. The Defendant and Business Associate 4 had a
24 variety of business interests and investments.

25 *v. "Global"*

26 16. "Global" was a venture capital firm founded and operated by
27 a "Trial Attorney." The Defendant and Business Associate 4 received
28 equity in Global in exchange for introducing Trial Attorney to their

1 contacts in China and India. On or about March 21, 2019, the
2 Defendant received a distribution of approximately \$619,000 from
3 Global via Skaneateles.

4 *vi. Financial Support from Personal Friend*

5 17. From January through October 15, 2020, an entertainment
6 lawyer (hereafter "Personal Friend") provided the Defendant with
7 substantial financial support including approximately \$200,000 to
8 rent a lavish house on a canal in Venice, California; \$11,000 in
9 payments for his Porsche; and other individual items. In total, the
10 Defendant had Personal Friend pay over \$1.2 million to third parties
11 for the Defendant's benefit from January through October 15, 2020.

12 *vii. Beautiful Things*

13 18. In 2019, the Defendant began writing a non-fiction memoir
14 where he described his substance abuse and addiction issues that was
15 ultimately titled *Beautiful Things*. On November 25, 2019, the
16 Defendant signed a contract with a publishing house. From January
17 through October 15, 2020, the Defendant received approximately
18 \$140,625 paid into his wife's bank account related to the book.

19 B. The Defendant had a legal obligation to file and pay taxes.

20 19. The U.S. income tax system (hereafter "the U.S. system")
21 imposes a tax base on income on individuals and corporations. The
22 tax is taxable income, as defined, times a specified tax rate. The
23 U.S. system allows reduction of taxable income for both business and
24 some nonbusiness expenditures, called deductions. Business
25 deductions must be both necessary and ordinary.

26 20. The U.S. system is based on self-assessment. That means
27 that taxpayers must declare and pay tax without being told the amount
28 that is due by the taxing authority.

1 21. The U.S. system is also pay-as-you-go, meaning that taxes
2 must either be withheld from wages and paid over to the U.S. Treasury
3 in the year in which income is earned, which is the case with most
4 taxpayers, or be paid quarterly to the U.S. Treasury on an estimated
5 basis, again during the year in which the income that is taxed is
6 earned. When taxes are filed in the following year, any withholdings
7 or estimated tax payments are applied against what a taxpayer owes,
8 resulting either in a refund or an amount due to the U.S. Treasury.

9 22. The U.S. system relies on the honesty and integrity of
10 individual taxpayers. While the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS")
11 audits some tax returns each year, as a practical matter it can only
12 audit a tiny fraction of taxpayers.

13 23. Tax returns are typically due on April 15 of the calendar
14 year following the tax year. A taxpayer may request and receive an
15 extension to file his return, which generally makes the due date
16 October 15. Taxpayers are required to pay any taxes owed on April
17 15, regardless of whether they file a return on that date. In other
18 words, an extension to file a return does not entitle a taxpayer to
19 delay paying taxes—those are still due on or about April 15.

20 24. Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, is the
21 standard IRS form that individual taxpayers use to file their annual
22 income tax returns. The form contains sections that require taxpayers
23 to disclose their taxable income for the year to determine whether
24 additional taxes are due and owing or whether the filer will receive
25 a tax refund.

26 25. Form 1120, U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return, is the
27 standard IRS form that domestic corporations, also referred to as "C
28 Corporations," use to file their annual income tax returns. C

1 Corporations report their income, gains, losses, deductions, and
 2 credits on Form 1120 and use it to determine their income tax
 3 liability. Owasco, PC of which the Defendant was the 100 percent
 4 owner, was a C Corporation that had to file a U.S. Corporate Income
 5 Tax Return, on Form 1120, and pay taxes on its income.

6 26. The Defendant had a legal obligation to pay taxes on all
 7 his income, including income earned in Ukraine from his service on
 8 Burisma's Board, fees generated by deal-making with the Chinese
 9 private equity fund, as well as income derived from his work as a
 10 lawyer and other sources.

11 C. The Defendant owed substantial individual income taxes in tax
 12 years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

13 27. The following is a summary of the self-assessed taxes that
 14 the Defendant reported he owed on his Forms 1040 and failed to timely
 15 pay:

TAX YEAR	RETURN DUE DATE	DATE RETURN FILED	GROSS TOTAL INCOME	REPORTED TAXABLE INCOME	SELF-ASSESSED TAX DUE AT TIME OF FILING
2016	10/16/2017	6/12/2020	\$1,580,283	\$1,276,499	\$45,661
2017	10/15/2018	2/18/2020	\$2,376,436	\$1,956,003	\$581,713
2018	10/15/2019	2/18/2020	\$2,187,286	\$1,688,495	\$620,901
2019	10/15/2020	10/15/2020	\$1,045,850	\$843,577	\$197,372

23 D. The Defendant knew he had to file and pay taxes.

24 28. Because of his varied income streams and to facilitate the
 25 withholding and payments of taxes to the IRS, the Defendant formed
 26 Owasco, PC, a C Corporation, in or about 2006. Owasco, PC's sole
 27 purpose was to ensure that there were sufficient withholdings from
 28

1 all the streams of the Defendant's income to pay his taxes. Instead
2 of receiving income directly into his personal bank account, the
3 Defendant directed third parties to pay Owasco, PC, which had its own
4 bank account, any income owed to him. Owasco, PC then used a payroll
5 service to pay the Defendant a salary out of the income it received.
6 The payroll service made tax withholdings on behalf of the Defendant,
7 which it paid over to the IRS, and the Defendant also made quarterly
8 payments and payments with extensions to the IRS, all in anticipation
9 of when the Defendant filed his individual income tax return.

10 Because the Defendant's income varied from year to year, the
11 Defendant, in consultation with his Washington, D.C.-based accountant
12 (hereafter "D.C. Accountant") and Business Associate 4, periodically
13 adjusted his tax withholdings to ensure that he did not generate
14 additional tax liabilities.

15 29. The Defendant and Business Associate 4 also created a
16 standalone bank account that they referred to as a "tax account,"
17 into which the Defendant deposited funds to pay taxes if he owed
18 anything beyond the withholdings made by Owasco, PC.

19 30. This arrangement meant that the Defendant had to file an
20 individual income tax return, on IRS Form 1040, where he reported the
21 income he earned from Owasco, PC and other sources, and could pay
22 taxes on that income using the withholdings Owasco, PC had made, and
23 funds from his tax account. The Defendant also had to file a
24 separate corporate income tax return for Owasco, PC on IRS Form 1120,
25 and could pay any taxes it owed from Owasco, PC's bank account. This
26 structure generally functioned effectively until 2017 when the
27 Defendant, as detailed below, subverted it.

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1 31. Irrespective of the Owasco, PC structure and his standalone
2 "tax account," the Defendant knew he had to file individual and
3 corporate income tax returns and pay tax on the income that he earned
4 in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. He had done so for tax years 2014 and
5 2015, the two years preceding his scheme to not pay taxes.

6 a. The Defendant timely filed, after requesting an
7 extension, his 2014 individual income tax return on IRS Form 1040 on
8 October 9, 2015. The Defendant reported owing \$239,076 in taxes, and
9 having already paid \$246,996 to the IRS, the Defendant claimed he was
10 entitled to a refund of \$7,920. The Defendant did not report his
11 income from Burisma on his 2014 Form 1040. All the money the
12 Defendant received from Burisma in 2014 went to a company, hereafter
13 "ABC", and was deposited into its bank account. ABC and its bank
14 account were owned and controlled by a business partner of the
15 Defendant's, Business Associate 5. Business Associate 5 was also a
16 member of Burisma's Board of Directors. The Defendant received
17 transfers of funds from the ABC bank account and funds from the ABC
18 bank account were used to make investments on the Defendant's behalf.
19 Because he owned ABC, Business Associate 5 paid taxes on income that
20 he and the Defendant received from Burisma. Starting in November
21 2015, the Defendant directed his Burisma Board fees to an Owasco, PC
22 bank account that he controlled.

23 b. The Defendant timely filed, after requesting an
24 extension, his 2015 individual income tax return on IRS Form 1040 on
25 October 17, 2016. The Defendant reported owing \$820,801 in taxes and
26 having withheld \$644,781, he owed the IRS \$176,550. For tax year
27 2015, the Defendant declared income he received from Burisma on his
28 Form 1040.

1 32. From at least January 2017 through April 2017, Business
2 Associate 4 and Personal Assistant 1 provided the Defendant with
3 periodic updates regarding his cashflow and outstanding liabilities,
4 including his various income tax liabilities.

5 33. From April 2017 to September 2017, Personal Assistant 1
6 sent the Defendant, a "weekly bill update" detailing his IRS
7 liabilities and other outstanding bills.

8 34. The Defendant controlled his finances and directed Business
9 Associate 4 and Personal Assistant 1 to pay certain bills and not
10 others. The Defendant routinely chose to pay personal expenses and
11 not pay his outstanding tax liabilities.

12 35. Further, beginning in or around May 2017, the Defendant
13 began to make periodic \$10,000 payments to the IRS towards his
14 outstanding 2015 individual income tax liability. Between May 2017
15 and March 2018, he made seven such payments totaling \$70,000 but made
16 no further payments after March 2018. At that time, he still owed
17 \$106,020 for tax year 2015.

18 36. The Defendant used the services of D.C. Accountant from
19 January 1, 2017, until D.C. Accountant's death in or about June 2019.
20 In November 2019, the Defendant engaged the services of an accounting
21 firm in Los Angeles, California (hereafter the "CA Accountants").

22 E. Rather than pay his taxes, the Defendant spent millions of
23 dollars on an extravagant lifestyle.

24 37. The Defendant spent millions of dollars on an extravagant
25 lifestyle at the same time he chose not to pay his taxes. The
26 Defendant spent approximately \$1 million in 2016, \$1.4 million in
27 2017, \$1.8 million in 2018, and \$600,000 in 2019. From January
28 through October 15, 2020, the Defendant received more than \$1.2

1 million in financial support that was used to pay various personal
2 expenses but not any of his federal individual income tax liabilities
3 for 2016-2019. Between 2016 and October 15, 2020, the Defendant
4 spent this money on drugs, escorts and girlfriends, luxury hotels and
5 rental properties, exotic cars, clothing, and other items of a
6 personal nature, in short, everything but his taxes.

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38. The following is a summary of the approximate expenditures that the Defendant made instead of paying his taxes:

Summary of Approx. Expenses Made from Owasco, PC and the Defendant's Bank Accounts (2016 to 2019)					
Description	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
ATM / Cash Withdrawal	\$200,922	\$503,614	\$772,548	\$186,920	\$1,664,004
Payments - Various Women	\$4,400	\$138,837	\$383,548	\$156,427	\$683,212
Clothing & Accessories	\$78,580	\$113,905	\$151,459	\$53,586	\$397,530
Tuition/ Education/ Extracurricular	\$117,281	\$94,497	\$93,213	\$4,286	\$309,277
Health, Beauty, Pharmacy	\$54,789	\$110,239	\$46,347	\$26,121	\$237,496
Misc. Retail Purchases	\$51,629	\$75,941	\$78,135	\$30,929	\$236,634
Food, Groceries, Restaurants	\$67,281	\$73,219	\$40,590	\$33,833	\$214,923
Insurance	\$41,808	\$47,060	\$90,535	\$24,412	\$203,815
Loan / Mortgage Payments	\$144,396	\$43,647	\$500	\$3,330	\$191,873
Adult Entertainment	\$4,411	\$56,846	\$100,330	\$27,373	\$188,960
Legal & Accounting Fees	\$33,379	\$103,745	\$9,745	\$700	\$147,566
Telephone / Utilities	\$37,319	\$29,623	\$22,977	\$28,521	\$118,440
Rehab (Drug & Alcohol)	\$7,600	\$28,600	\$35,669		\$71,869
Wells Fargo Advisors - Roth IRA	\$53,000				\$53,000
Credit Card Payments	\$7,464	\$18,479	\$12,000	\$20,599	\$58,542
Home Improvement / Maintenance	\$33,168	\$3,574	\$5,763	\$351	\$42,856
Home Help / Cleaning / Childcare	\$22,855	\$16,946			\$39,801
Entertainment	\$8,172	\$6,148	\$7,500	\$2,625	\$24,445
Sports / Recreation	\$22,387	\$8	\$1,172		\$23,567
Grand Total	\$990,841	\$1,464,928	\$1,852,031	\$600,013	\$4,907,813

1 F. The Defendant late filed his taxes when facing contempt charges
2 in two civil lawsuits.

3 39. In 2019 and early 2020, the Defendant became embroiled in
4 two civil lawsuits. As part of the lawsuits, he had to produce
5 financial records, including his tax returns. These lawsuits forced
6 the Defendant to file his outstanding tax returns for 2017 and 2018.

7 40. Beginning in May 2019, Person 1 brought a paternity and
8 child-support action in Arkansas state court against the Defendant.
9 In June 2019, the Defendant's ex-wife brought a motion to enforce a
10 marital separation agreement between herself and the Defendant in the
11 Superior Court of the District of Columbia ("D.C. Superior Court")
12 because the Defendant had stopped making spousal support payments and
13 refused to provide financial records, including his tax returns, that
14 were necessary to calculate the amount of spousal support he owed,
15 per his agreement with his ex-wife.

16 41. In 2019, the Defendant continually stonewalled the
17 production of financial records through which Person 1 and the
18 Defendant's ex-wife and the courts sought to ascertain the
19 Defendant's financial situation and ability to pay.

20 42. The demands for the Defendant's tax returns steadily
21 increased, escalating in November 2019. That month the Defendant
22 hired the CA Accountants to prepare his late and unfiled individual
23 income tax returns and Owasco, PC's corporate returns for the 2017
24 and 2018 tax years.

25 43. Subsequently, an Arkansas court issued an order that the
26 Defendant had until January 16, 2020, to produce his individual
27 income tax returns for 2017 and 2018. The D.C. Superior Court
28 likewise ordered the Defendant to produce the same returns by January

1 17, 2020. The Defendant missed both deadlines, prompting counsel in
2 the Arkansas case and in the D.C. Superior Court case to move for
3 contempt. If the Defendant were found to be in contempt, either
4 court could incarcerate the Defendant for his failure to comply with
5 court orders.

6 44. On January 21, 2020, the Arkansas court issued an order
7 that the Defendant appear and show cause why he should not be held in
8 contempt. After the Defendant entered into a temporary child support
9 agreement with Person 1, the court continued the hearing on the
10 motion for contempt and gave the Defendant until March 1, 2020, to
11 provide the missing records, including his 2017 and 2018 individual
12 income tax returns.

13 45. On or about February 18, 2020, the Defendant late filed his
14 2017 Form 1040. On the 2017 Form 1040, the Defendant reported
15 \$1,956,003 in taxable income and \$581,713 in tax due and owing. The
16 Defendant chose not to pay any of his outstanding 2017 tax liability
17 when he late filed his 2017 Form 1040 in February 2020.

18 46. That same day, the Defendant also late filed his 2018 Form
19 1040. On the 2018 Form 1040, the Defendant reported \$1,688,495 in
20 taxable income for 2018 and \$620,901 in tax due and owing. The
21 Defendant again chose not to pay any of his outstanding 2018 tax
22 liability when he late filed his 2018 Form 1040 in February 2020.

23 47. On June 12, 2020, the Defendant late filed his 2016 Form
24 1040. On the 2016 Form 1040, the Defendant reported \$1,276,499 in
25 taxable income for 2016 and \$45,661 in tax due and owing. The
26 Defendant chose not to pay any of his outstanding 2016 tax liability
27 when he late filed his 2016 Form 1040 in June 2020.

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1 G. The Defendant had the funds to pay his taxes in 2017, 2018,
2 2019, and 2020.

3 48. As described in more detail below, in each year in which he
4 failed to pay his taxes, the Defendant had sufficient funds available
5 to him to pay some or all of his outstanding taxes when they were
6 due. But he chose not to pay them. Notably, in 2020, well after he
7 had regained his sobriety, and when he finally filed his outstanding
8 2016, 2017, and 2018 Forms 1040, the Defendant did not direct any
9 payments toward his tax liabilities for each of those years. At the
10 same time, the Defendant spent large sums to maintain his lifestyle
11 from January through October 15, 2020. In that period, he received
12 financial support from Personal Friend totaling approximately \$1.2
13 million. The financial support included hundreds of thousands of
14 dollars in payments for, among other things, housing, media
15 relations, accountants, lawyers, and his Porsche. For example, the
16 Defendant spent \$17,500 each month, totaling approximately \$200,000
17 from January through October 15, 2020, on a lavish house on a canal
18 in Venice Beach, California. Thus, the Defendant's practice of tax
19 non-compliance in the 2017 and 2018 tax years – where the IRS stood
20 as the last creditor to be paid – persisted into later tax years.

COUNT ONE

[26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to pay 2016 Form 1040]

49. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 of this Indictment here.

A. The Defendant earned a substantial income in 2016.

50. Over the course of 2016, the Defendant earned approximately \$1,580,283 in gross income from the sources identified above.

B. The Defendant had a legal obligation to file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for 2016.

51. For tax year 2016, anyone under 65, filing jointly with their spouse, or individually, and who made more than \$20,700, or \$10,350, respectively, had to file a federal tax return by April 18, 2017, unless granted an extension to October 16, 2017.

C. The Defendant did not timely file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for 2016.

52. The Defendant filed a request for an extension in 2017 which meant that his 2016 Form 1040 was due no later than October 16, 2017. The Defendant did not timely file his 2016 Form 1040 by that date.

D. The Defendant knew he had to file and pay taxes for 2016.

53. On or about April 21, 2016, Defendant made an estimated tax payment of \$30,000 towards his 2016 individual income tax liability.

54. In 2017, Business Associate 4 and Personal Assistant 1 frequently apprised the Defendant that he owed taxes for the 2016 tax year. For example, on April 15, 2017, Business Associate 4 forwarded the Defendant an email from D.C. Accountant, which stated, "Looks like Owasco will owe about \$52,000 and Hunter (individually) will owe about \$26,000." The taxes the Defendant owed individually were in

1 addition to the \$30,000 estimated payment he had made the previous
2 year. On or about April 15, 2017, an extension was filed but no
3 further payment was made.

4 55. In October 2017, D.C. Accountant used information provided
5 by Business Associate 4 and Personal Assistant 1 to prepare a Form
6 1040 for the Defendant and a Form 1120 for Owasco, PC. The Form 1040
7 indicated that the Defendant owed taxes in addition to what he had
8 already paid. Business Associate 4 reviewed the prepared returns and
9 left them for the Defendant at his office. Business Associate 4 then
10 emailed the Defendant advising him as much. The Defendant was
11 responsible for signing and mailing his returns.

12 56. On or about November 27, 2017, the Defendant sent the
13 following email to Business Associate 4 and Personal Assistant 1:

14 Also I just saw last week the unmarked envelope in. The
15 office e (sic) requiring signatures for my taxes. I wish
16 someone had told me- but its my fault for to (sic) thinking
17 of that or for having ignored an email im sure Ione (sic)
18 of you sent saying there is a large envelope in the office
19 sitting b (sic) the door which requires 50 signatures
20 including [ex-wife's] . . .

21 57. The Defendant brought the 2016 Form 1040 to his ex-wife and
22 asked her to sign it. She said she would, after reviewing the return
23 with her accountant. She did so and sent the signed return to the
24 Defendant the next day.

25 58. On March 9, 2018, the Defendant's ex-wife texted him that
26 she had discovered their unfiled 2016 tax returns in the trunk of his
27 car. The Defendant responded telling her, "The taxes are filed those
28 were copies with [Personal Assistant 1]'s notes." The tax returns
had not been filed. The Defendant's ex-wife responded telling him

1 they were not copies because they still had checks attached to them
2 and were originals.

3 59. On or about July 18, 2018, the IRS received a late filed
4 2016 Form 1120 for Owasco, PC. The Defendant did not submit an
5 individual income tax return when he mailed the corporate one.

6 E. The Defendant owed taxes for 2016, which he did not timely pay.

7 60. The Defendant owed individual income taxes for 2016 which
8 were due on or before April 18, 2017.

9 61. The Defendant knew he had to pay taxes for the 2016 tax
10 year in 2017 because on or about April 21, 2016, he made a payment of
11 \$30,000 towards his 2016 tax liability and on or about April 18,
12 2017, the D.C. Accountant told him he owed an additional \$26,000.

13 62. In 2019, as described above, the Defendant retained the CA
14 Accountants. The CA Accountants contacted the IRS on January 22,
15 2020, and learned that the Defendant had not filed an individual
16 income tax return for 2016. They then prepared a Form 1040 for the
17 Defendant, which he reviewed and late filed on June 12, 2020. In that
18 return, the Defendant self-assessed that he owed an additional
19 \$45,661 in taxes. He did not pay the \$45,661 when he filed in June
20 2020.

21 F. The Defendant had the funds available to pay his taxes when they
22 were due.

23 63. When the Defendant finally filed his 2016 Form 1040, on
24 June 12, 2020, he had funds available to pay some or all of his taxes
25 owed for 2016 but chose not to do so.

COUNT TWO

[26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to pay 2017 Form 1040]

66. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 of this Indictment here.

A. The Defendant earned a substantial income in 2017.

67. Over the course of 2017, the Defendant earned approximately \$2,376,436 in gross income from the sources identified above.

B. The Defendant had a legal obligation to file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for 2017.

68. For tax year 2017, anyone under 65, filing jointly with their spouse, or individually, and who made more than \$20,800 or \$10,400, respectively, had to file a federal tax return by April 17, 2018, unless granted an extension to October 15, 2018.

C. The Defendant did not timely file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for 2017.

69. The Defendant did not timely file his 2017 Form 1040 by October 15, 2018, when it was due.

D. The Defendant knew he had to file and pay taxes for 2017.

70. Beginning in early 2017, the Defendant withdrew and transferred funds from Owasco, PC's corporate accounts for his personal benefit. He transferred these funds outside of Owasco, PC's established payroll system, which meant that taxes were not withheld from these transfers. When Business Associate 4 discovered that the Defendant was subverting the established payroll and tax withholding process, Business Associate 4 met with and advised the Defendant that he was not withholding enough money in taxes and that he would have a large tax liability due at the end of the year unless he allocated sufficient withholdings.

1 71. From September 1 to December 31, 2017, at the Defendant's
2 direction, Owasco, PC made approximately \$590,719 in direct payments
3 to the Defendant or indirect payments to third parties for his
4 benefit.

5 72. On or about April 16, 2018, the day before his 2017 taxes
6 were due, D.C. Accountant emailed the Defendant's personal assistant
7 at that time, hereafter "Personal Assistant 2" and advised that the
8 Defendant "owes a lot of money" for the 2017 tax year and inquired if
9 the Defendant had cash available for tax payments as "he really
10 should pay as much as he can." In response, Personal Assistant 2 set
11 up a call between the Defendant and D.C. Accountant for the next day.
12 After that call, D.C. Accountant filed an extension on the
13 Defendant's behalf making his tax filings, although not his tax
14 payments, due on October 15, 2018.

15 73. For the 2017 tax year, D.C. Accountant prepared the
16 Defendant's individual and corporate income tax returns and
17 repeatedly attempted to provide them to the Defendant throughout the
18 fall of 2018.

19 74. On or about October 12, 2018, D.C. Accountant emailed the
20 Defendant advising him that he owed approximately \$600,000 in
21 individual income taxes and an additional \$204,000 in corporate
22 income taxes on behalf of Owasco, PC. D.C. Accountant further
23 reminded the Defendant that the tax returns were due and encouraged
24 him to file.

25 75. On or about October 13, 2018, instead of responding to D.C.
26 Accountant, the Defendant texted his ex-wife that he could not make
27 his alimony payment because "the wire came back due to insufficient
28 funds--/you know tuitions alimony **taxes** rent. Jesus." (emphasis

1 added). The Defendant had not paid his 2017 taxes when he sent that
2 text.

3 76. On or about October 23, 2018, D.C. Accountant emailed the
4 Defendant again advising him that his 2017 Form 1040 and Owasco, PC's
5 2017 Form 1120 were due on October 15 and were late. D.C. Accountant
6 urged the Defendant "to get them filed as soon as possible since late
7 filing and late payment penalties will continue to accrue."

8 77. On or about November 8, 2018, D.C. Accountant emailed the
9 Defendant again advising him that his "2017 tax returns are still
10 unfiled" and requesting an address where he could send the prepared
11 returns for the Defendant to sign and file.

12 78. On or about November 9, 2018, D.C. Accountant emailed the
13 Defendant reminding him again that "You need to get 2017 filed so we
14 can try to work out a payment schedule."

15 79. On or about December 10, 2018, the Defendant texted his ex-
16 wife, "I have no money [ex-wife]. I'm waiting on a few things. When I
17 can **pay the taxes, I will pay the taxes.** I'm (sic) the meantime I'm
18 struggling to pay your alimony and all girls expenses." (emphasis
19 added).

20 80. On or about November 16, 2018, the Defendant texted
21 Personal Assistant 2 and asked her to send him "all auto pay expenses
22 and payroll breakdown please." In response, on or about November 27,
23 Personal Assistant 2 advised the Defendant that D.C. Accountant was
24 "trying to reach you re: taxes" and she then sent him a breakdown
25 detailing that he had approximately \$87,000 in monthly expenses, not
26 including payments for outstanding taxes. The Defendant subsequently
27 directed Personal Assistant 2 to pay some of his personal expenses,
28 including his boat loan payment, but not his taxes.

1 81. On or about November 26, 2018, Personal Assistant 2
2 forwarded him an email from his ex-wife. In the forwarded email, the
3 Defendant's ex-wife told the personal assistant, "[the Defendant]
4 needs to send [D.C. Accountant] an email confirmation that he
5 approves sharing his tax returns with me and my accountant—that's
6 what we agreed to in the divorce settlement."

7 82. On or about December 20, 2018, the Defendant's ex-wife
8 texted him and requested that the Defendant authorize D.C. Accountant
9 to share the Defendant's 2017 tax return with her, as the Defendant
10 was required to provide under the parties' Marital Separation
11 Agreement. In response, the Defendant told her that, "My tax returns
12 aren't completed. [D.C. Accountant] is going off information from
13 [Business Associate 4] that is not accurate at all. I don't
14 understand. I will call him now." He later sent a follow-up text
15 claiming, "I have no prepared tax returns to send you now."

16 83. On or about February 19, 2019, D.C. Accountant emailed the
17 Defendant and the Defendant's attorney and reminded both that the
18 "2017 tax returns are complete and ready to file. Would you like me
19 to have copies sent to you electronically?"

20 E. The Defendant owed taxes for 2017, which he did not pay.

21 84. The Defendant had a duty to pay \$581,713 he owed in self-
22 assessed individual income taxes for 2017 on April 17, 2018, which he
23 chose not to do.

24 85. To avoid being held in contempt of court in two separate
25 civil proceedings, the Defendant late filed his 2017 Form 1040 on
26 February 18, 2020. In his 2017 Form 1040, the Defendant self-
27 assessed owing \$581,713 in taxes. His CA Accountants specifically
28 discussed with him the amounts he owed for his taxes. The Defendant

1 nonetheless chose not to make any payments when he filed on February
2 18, 2020.

3 F. The Defendant had the funds available to pay his individual
4 income taxes when they were due.

5 86. In April 2018, the Defendant had over \$1 million available
6 in his individual and corporate bank accounts. Notwithstanding these
7 available funds, the Defendant chose not to pay his outstanding 2017
8 individual income tax liability of \$581,713 when it was due.

9 G. Rather than pay his taxes, the Defendant spent millions of
10 dollars on an extravagant lifestyle.

11 87. In 2018, the Defendant spent more than \$1.8 million on
12 personal expenses rather than pay his individual income taxes for
13 2017 even though they were due in April 2018.

14 88. In 2019, the year prior to the filing of his 2017 Form 1040
15 in February 2020, the Defendant spent more than approximately
16 \$600,000 on personal expenses rather than pay any of the \$581,713 he
17 owed when he finally filed his 2017 Form 1040.

18 The Charge

19 89. During the calendar year 2017, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER
20 BIDEN had and received taxable income of \$1,956,003, on which taxable
21 income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax
22 of \$581,713. He was required by law to pay, on or before April 17,
23 2018, that income tax to the Internal Revenue Service Center, at San
24 Francisco, California, or to another Internal Revenue Service office
25 permitted by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, including the
26 Internal Revenue Service office in Los Angeles, California. Well
27 knowing all of the foregoing, he did willfully fail on April 17,
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1 2018, and on February 18, 2020, in the Central District of California
2 and elsewhere, to pay the income tax due.

3 In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7203.
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COUNT THREE

[26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to file 2017 Form 1040]

90. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 and 67 through 88 of this Indictment here.

91. During the calendar year 2017, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN had received gross income in excess of \$2.3 million. By reason of such gross income, he was required by law, following the close of the calendar year 2017 and on or before October 15, 2018, to make an income tax return to the Internal Revenue Service, stating specifically the items of his gross income and any deductions and credits to which he was entitled. Knowing and believing all of the foregoing, he did willfully fail, on or about October 15, 2018, in the Central District of California and elsewhere, to make an income tax return.

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7203.

COUNT FOUR

[26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to pay 2018 Form 1040]

92. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 of this Indictment here.

A. The Defendant earned a substantial income in 2018.

93. Over the course of 2018, the Defendant earned approximately \$2,187,286 in gross income from the sources identified above.

B. The Defendant had a legal obligation to file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return in 2018.

94. For tax year 2018, anyone under 65, filing individually, and who made more than \$12,000, had to file a federal tax return by April 15, 2019, unless granted an extension to October 15, 2019.

C. The Defendant did not timely file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for 2018.

95. The Defendant did not timely file his 2018 Form 1040 by October 15, 2019, when it was due.

D. The Defendant knew he had to file and pay taxes for 2018.

96. On January 24, 2019, D.C. Accountant emailed the Defendant and the Defendant's attorney advising, "The 2018 tax return for Owasco, PC is due to be filed on April 15, 2019."

97. Between April 13 and April 15, 2019, the Defendant, D.C. Accountant, and the Defendant's attorney corresponded regarding the need for the Defendant to file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return or tax extension for the 2018 tax year and to pay taxes. Ultimately, an extension was filed making the tax filings, but not the tax payments, due on October 15, 2019.

1 E. The Defendant owed taxes for 2018, which he did not pay.

2 98. The Defendant owed \$620,901 in individual income taxes for
3 2018 due by April 15, 2019, which he chose not to pay.

4 99. To avoid being held in contempt of court in two separate
5 civil proceedings, the Defendant late filed his 2018 Form 1040 on
6 February 18, 2020. In his tax return for 2018, he self-assessed owing
7 \$620,901 in taxes. His CA Accountant specifically discussed with him
8 the amount of taxes that he owed, and he chose not to make any
9 payments when he filed.

10 F. The Defendant had the funds available to pay his individual
11 income taxes when they were due.

12 100. Roughly contemporaneous with the arrest of P.H., an
13 individual associated with CEFC, on or about November 2, 2017, HWIII
14 received a \$1,000,000 deposit. At the Defendant's direction, on or
15 about March 22, 2018, the funds were transferred to Owasco, LLC. The
16 memo line of this transfer indicated it was for "[P.H.]
17 Representation." To justify the transfer, HWIII was provided with a
18 letter stating that the funds were a retainer for the Defendant's
19 representation of P.H., who was under criminal investigation in the
20 United States.

21 101. Separate and apart from this million-dollar payment, around
22 the time that his 2018 individual income tax was required to be paid,
23 the Defendant received substantial amounts of money which could have
24 satisfied his entire tax liability of \$620,901, including:

- 25 a. March 6, 2019: \$50,000 from Trial Attorney;
26 b. March 20, 2019: \$10,000 from Skaneateles;
27 c. March 21, 2019: \$618,681 from Skaneateles (related
28 to Global);

1 d. March 21, 2019: \$40,150 from Burisma; and

2 e. April 24, 2019: \$39,923 from Burisma.

3 102. From January through October 15, 2020, the Defendant
4 received the benefit of Personal Friend paying more than \$1.2 million
5 of the Defendant's personal expenses but the Defendant did not direct
6 any of those funds towards his outstanding 2018 federal individual
7 income taxes.

8 G. Rather than pay his taxes, the Defendant spent millions of
9 dollars on an extravagant lifestyle.

10 103. The Defendant continued to earn handsomely and to spend
11 wildly in 2018. The Defendant's expenditures increased as his income
12 increased. In 2018, the Defendant spent more than \$1.8 million,
13 including approximately \$772,000 in cash withdrawals, approximately
14 \$383,000 in payments to women, approximately \$151,000 in clothing and
15 accessories, approximately \$78,000 in miscellaneous retail purchases
16 and other payments. The Defendant did not use any of these funds to
17 pay his taxes in 2018.

18 104. In 2019, the year when his 2018 taxes were due, the
19 Defendant spent approximately \$600,000 on personal expenses rather
20 than pay any of the \$620,901 he owed when he finally filed his 2018
21 Form 1040.

22 The Charge

23 105. During the calendar year 2018, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER
24 BIDEN, had and received taxable income in excess of \$1.6 million, on
25 which taxable income there was owing to the United States of America
26 an income tax of \$620,901. He was required by law to pay, on or
27 before April 15, 2019, that income tax to the Internal Revenue
28 Service Center, at San Francisco, California, or to another Internal

1 Revenue Service office permitted by the Commissioner of Internal
2 Revenue including the Internal Revenue Service office in Los Angeles,
3 California. Well knowing all of the foregoing, he did willfully fail
4 on April 15, 2019, and on February 18, 2020, in the Central District
5 of California and elsewhere, to pay the income tax due.

6 In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7203.

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COUNT FIVE

[26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to file 2018 Form 1040]

106. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 and 93 through 104 of this Indictment here.

107. During the calendar year 2018, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN, had and received gross income in excess of \$2.1 million. By reason of such gross income, he was required by law, following the close of calendar year 2018, and on or before October 15, 2019, to make an income tax return to the Internal Revenue Service, stating specifically the items of his gross income and any deductions and credits to which he was entitled. Knowing and believing all of the foregoing, he did willfully fail, on or about October 15, 2019, in the Central District of California and elsewhere, to make an income tax return.

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7203.

COUNT SIX

[26 U.S.C. § 7201: evasion of assessment for 2018 Form 1040]

108. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 and 93 through 104 of this Indictment here.

A. The Defendant finally filed his 2018 Form 1040 in 2020 in order to avoid being held in contempt of court in two civil proceedings.

109. As described above, in 2019 and 2020, the Defendant finally prepared and filed his income tax returns for 2018 in order to avoid being held in contempt of court in two civil proceedings.

B. The Defendant hired accountants in California to complete his 2018 returns.

110. In or around November 2019, the Defendant hired the CA Accountants to prepare his individual income tax returns and corporate income tax returns for Owasco, PC for 2017 and 2018.

111. While D.C. Accountant had already created financial and accounting records in connection with the 2017 tax returns, no similar records existed for 2018. Therefore, the CA Accountants used available bank and credit card statements to create various schedules, including schedules for different categories of expenses, and a general ledger for Owasco, PC. A bookkeeper initially classified each expense. The CA Accountants then requested that the Defendant review and confirm the accuracy of the prepared schedules and ledger.

112. The CA Accountants also identified records for the Defendant that they did not have. These included details for wire transfers from Owasco, PC's Wells Fargo account to accounts at JP Morgan Chase that were owned by others and statements for a Wells

1 Fargo business line of credit ending in 7350 (hereafter "business
2 line of credit").

3 113. On or about January 28, 2020, the CA Accountants requested
4 that the Defendant sign a representation letter. The Defendant signed
5 this letter in which he promised that he had made available "all the
6 records and information regarding my income . . . and deductions as
7 necessary for you to prepare the returns." The Defendant further
8 confirmed his understanding that the CA Accountants were "relying on
9 [him] to provide complete and accurate information," and that he was
10 responsible for the final "accuracy and completeness for the tax
11 returns."

12 C. The Defendant claimed extensive business travel in 2018 when he
13 had none.

14 114. In working with the CA Accountants to prepare the returns,
15 the Defendant claimed business expenses, including approximately
16 \$388,810 in business-related travel, despite having done little to no
17 business in that year. At the same time the Defendant was making
18 those representations to the CA Accountants, the Defendant was
19 working on his memoir, which was not published until after he filed
20 his 2018 returns and which he did not share with them. Unbeknownst
21 to the CA Accountants, in his memoir, the Defendant described 2018 as
22 being dominated by crack cocaine use "twenty-four hours a day,
23 smoking every fifteen minutes, seven days a week." In fact, the
24 Defendant never told the CA Accountants about his extensive drug and
25 alcohol abuse in 2018 which might have prompted greater scrutiny of
26 his claims of hundreds of thousands of dollars in business expenses.

27 115. Rather than conducting business, and generating business
28 expenses, the Defendant wrote in his memoir that after he arrived in

1 California in April 2018, for the next "four or five months," he
2 surrounded himself with and paid for an entourage of:

3 . . . thieves, junkies, petty dealers, over-the-hill
4 strippers, con artists, and assorted hangers-on, who then
5 invited their friends and associates and most recent
6 hookups. They latched on to me and didn't let go, all with
my approval. I never slept. There was no clock. Day bled
into night and night into day.

7 116. And the Defendant specifically described his stays in
8 various luxury hotels in California and private rentals, and expenses
9 related to them, in this way:

10 I stayed in one place until I tired of it, or
11 until it tired of me, and then moved on, my
12 merry band of crooks, creeps, and outcasts
13 soon to follow. Availability drove some of the
14 moves; impulsiveness drove others. A sample
15 itinerary: I left the Chateau [Marmont] the
16 first time for an Airbnb in Malibu. When I
17 couldn't reserve it for longer than a week, I
18 returned to West Hollywood and the Jeremy
19 hotel. There were then stays at the Sunset
20 Tower, Sixty Beverly Hills, and the Hollywood
21 Roosevelt. Then another Airbnb in Malibu and
22 an Airbnb in the Hollywood Hills. Then back to
23 the Chateau. Then the NoMad downtown, the
24 Standard on Sunset. A return to the Sixty, a
25 return to Malibu . . .

26 An ant trail of dealers and their sidekicks
27 rolled in and out, day and night. They pulled
28 up in late-series Mercedes-Benzes, decked out
in oversized Raiders or Lakers jerseys and
flashing fake Rolexes. Their stripper
girlfriends invited their girlfriends, who
invited their boyfriends. They'd drink up the
entire minibar, call room service for filet
mignon and a bottle of Dom Pérignon. One of
the women even ordered an additional filet for
her purse-sized dog.

29 Notably, the Defendant did not write that he conducted any business
30 in any of these luxury hotels nor did he describe any of the

1 individuals who visited him there as doing so for any business
2 purpose.

3 D. The Defendant failed to identify all personal expenses paid
4 using corporate funds.

5 117. On January 28, 2020, the Defendant met with the CA
6 Accountants in person at their office for more than three hours.
7 During this meeting the Defendant reviewed the General Ledger and
8 various schedules for Owasco, PC including a purported "Office
9 Expense" schedule and a purported "Professional and Outside Service"
10 schedule to confirm their accuracy.

11 118. The General Ledger that the Defendant reviewed included
12 thousands of dollars of personal expenses at luxury hotels, many of
13 which were specifically identified in the Defendant's memoir, as
14 described above. The Defendant never disclosed to the CA Accountants
15 that his time spent in California in 2018 was not for business
16 purposes. For example, the General Ledger contained:

17 a. \$1,716 for a stay at the Borgata in Atlantic City, New
18 Jersey, in February 2018;

19 b. \$2,996 for flights on Virgin America to Los Angeles
20 for the Defendant in April 2018;

21 c. \$1,727 related to the rental of a Lamborghini that he
22 drove when he first moved to California in April 2018;

23 d. \$43,693 for stays at the Chateau Marmont Hotel in
24 Los Angeles, California, in April and May 2018;

25 e. \$463 so that his then-girlfriend could ship boxes
26 containing clothing to California in April 2018;

27 f. \$7,215 for Airbnb rentals for his then-girlfriend, in
28 Los Angeles, California, in May and June 2018;

1 g. \$2,200 paid to the Nomad Hotel in Los Angeles in July
2 2018; and

3 h. \$8,996 paid to John Hancock for the Defendant's
4 personal life insurance in October 2018.

5 119. The General Ledger the Defendant reviewed also contained
6 \$11,555 in rent payments for his daughter's apartment in New York
7 City that were characterized as "Travel, Trans. & Other." The
8 Defendant failed to inform the CA Accountants that he had used the
9 Owasco, PC account to make these rent payments.

10 120. While he reviewed the schedules for "Office Expenses" and
11 "Professional and Outside Services," the Defendant affirmatively
12 identified, with a yellow highlighter, personal expenses that should
13 not be deducted as business expenses.

14 121. While the Defendant identified personal expenses on the
15 "Office Expense" Schedule, including ones as small as a \$15 payment
16 to a tattoo parlor and a \$35.56 payment to a bookstore, he did not
17 identify the following personal expenses:

18 a. A \$1,500 Venmo payment on August 14, 2018. That
19 payment was to an exotic dancer, at a strip club. The Defendant
20 described the payment in the Venmo transaction as for "artwork." The
21 exotic dancer had not sold him any artwork.

22 b. A \$975 payment to "Crutch Card" on September 21, 2018;
23 this was for the benefit of the Defendant's then-girlfriend and was
24 unrelated to any business activity of the Defendant's.

25 c. A \$438 payment on May 15, 2018, to "Shinola." Shinola
26 was a clothing store where the Defendant purchased personal items.
27
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1 d. Payments totaling \$11,500 for an escort paid by the
2 Defendant to spend two nights with him.

3 e. \$2,312.50 paid to P&P Matters, Inc., and an additional
4 check to P&P Matters, Inc., in the amount of \$3,450, a test prep
5 service for his daughter.

6 f. \$499.61 paid to Sermoneta Gloves for expensive
7 personal items for himself and this then-girlfriend.

8 122. The "Professional and Outside Service" schedule included a
9 \$30,000 payment to Columbia University for the Defendant's daughter's
10 law school tuition. While the Defendant identified other personal
11 expenses on the Professional and Outside Services Schedule as
12 personal expenditures, he did not identify this one, which was, in
13 fact, the largest line item on the Professional and Outside Services
14 schedule.

15 E. The Defendant falsely claimed that money paid to women with whom
16 he had personal relationships was wages, reducing his tax
17 burden.

18 123. During that January 28, 2020 meeting, the Defendant was
19 also shown a Profit and Loss statement for Owasco, PC that included
20 \$86,000 in wages to purported employees of Owasco, PC. The Defendant
21 knew this was a false deduction but failed to inform the CA
22 Accountants. He knew it was false because despite being engaged in
23 little to no business activity, the Defendant directed Personal
24 Assistant 2 in 2018 to place on payroll and provide health care
25 benefits to three women with whom he had romantic or sexual
26 relationships and a fourth woman who was related to one of those
27 women. These payroll expenses were treated as business expenses on
28 Owasco, PC's Form 1120, reducing the amount of income to the

1 Defendant and, as a result, his individual income tax liability. The
2 women that received wages included:

3 a. Person 1, described above as bringing a paternity suit
4 against the Defendant, who had been engaged in a romantic relationship
5 with the Defendant from 2017 to 2018. The Defendant placed Person 1
6 on payroll shortly after she moved to Arkansas while she was pregnant
7 with his child. Person 1 did not perform any work after being formally
8 placed on payroll in spring 2018 and had no work-related communication
9 with the Defendant after she was placed on payroll. Person 1 received
10 \$22,500 in wages which the Defendant falsely claimed as a business
11 deduction reducing the income to him from Owasco, PC and his individual
12 income taxes. Later, in November 2018, the Defendant had the following
13 text exchange with Personal Assistant 2 regarding Person 1:
14

15 THE DEFENDANT: [T]ake [Person 1] off payroll I
16 thought you said she decidedly dint (sic) want
17 to work and didn't need health insurance
18 anyway. Remember that conversation?

19 PERSONAL ASSISTANT 2: No. I do not remember
20 that conversation. I remember a conversation
21 where I was disappointed that you wanted to pay
22 her the same rate as me. But I am over that.
23 Maybe she told you that but I wasn't involved.

24 THE DEFENDANT: regardless [] thats (sic) was if
25 she was working a 40 hour week full time for
26 me. I haven't talked to [Person 1] in 7
27 months???????

28 b. Person 2 is someone with whom the Defendant had a
romantic relationship and who did no work, nor was she expected to do
any work for Owasco, PC. The Defendant placed Person 2 on payroll in
Spring 2018 in order to provide her with health insurance. In addition

1 to health insurance, Person 2 received \$11,000 in wages, which the
2 Defendant falsely claimed as a business deduction reducing the income
3 to him from Owasco, PC and his individual income taxes.

4 c. The Defendant placed Person 3 on payroll in spring 2018.
5 Person 3 was a family member of Person 2's. Person 3 received \$11,000
6 in wages which the Defendant falsely claimed as a business deduction
7 reducing the income to him from Owasco, PC and his individual income
8 taxes. Prior to being placed on payroll, Person 3 had assisted the
9 Defendant with personal errands and some light clerical work. After
10 being placed on payroll, Person 3 did not perform any work-related
11 services.
12

13 d. The Defendant placed Person 4 on payroll in summer 2018.
14 Person 4 had a sexual relationship with the Defendant and acted as a
15 "West Coast" personal assistant, running errands, and performing other
16 personal tasks. Person 4 received \$13,000 in wages which the Defendant
17 falsely claimed as a business deduction reducing the income to him from
18 Owasco, PC and his individual income taxes. By November 2018, although
19 the Defendant continued to pay Person 4 through payroll, he had limited
20 to no contact with her. This prompted Person 4 to email Personal
21 Assistant 2 in January 2019 to inquire about her employment status and
22 to state that the Defendant "has not responded to me or reached out to
23 me for some months now."
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1 F. The Defendant falsely identified personal expenses as business
2 deductions paid out of his individual accounts.

3 124. In the same January 28, 2020 meeting referenced above the
4 CA Accountants also provided the Defendant with copies of bank
5 statements for his individual account at Wells Fargo ending in 4929
6 and an Owasco, LLC account at Wells Fargo ending in 1553 and asked
7 him to identify any corporate expenses to be deducted on Owasco, PC's
8 Form 1120. The Defendant then circled certain expenses by hand.
9 Many of the expenses the Defendant circled were not, as he knew,
10 business expenses. Instead, they were personal expenses generated
11 during what he described in his memoir as a "bacchanal" in 2018. For
12 example,

13 a. The Defendant circled \$1,248 in payments for airline
14 tickets as a business expense for an exotic dancer to fly from Los
15 Angeles to New York in September 2018;

16 b. The Defendant circled \$3,852 as a business expense for
17 the rental of a Lamborghini that he drove when he first moved to
18 California in April 2018 until his Porsche was shipped from the East
19 Coast;

20 c. Similarly, the Defendant circled hotel stays claiming
21 they were business expenses, including approximately:

22 i. \$4,478 paid to the Chateau Marmont in Los
23 Angeles, California, in April and May 2018;

24 ii. \$11,133 paid to the Hollywood Roosevelt in Los
25 Angeles, California, in May 2018;

26 iii. \$11,169 paid to the Sixty Beverly Hills in June
27 and July 2018;

28

1 iv. \$9,494 paid to the Kimpton La Peer Hotel in
2 Beverly Hill, California in July and October 2018;

3 v. \$4,004 paid to the London West Hotel, in
4 Beverly Hills, California in July 2018;

5 vi. \$4,347 paid to Caesars Palace in Las Vegas in
6 August 2018;

7 vii. \$7,761 paid to the Jeremy Hotel in Hollywood in
8 May 2018;

9 viii. \$1,023 paid to the District Hotel in
10 Washington, D.C. in May and June 2018;

11 ix. \$739 paid to 1 Hotel Park in New York City in
12 January 2018; and

13 x. \$2,861 paid to the Roxy Hotel in New York City in
14 June and December 2018.

15 A number of these were the very same hotels that the Defendant
16 identified, by name, in his memoir as the locations of his months-
17 long drug and alcohol binge.

18 125. The Defendant also circled a \$275 dinner he had with his
19 then-girlfriend on April 12, 2018, at Nobu.

20 126. In total, the Defendant identified over 100 supposed travel
21 expenditures, worth nearly \$134,000 from his Wells Fargo individual
22 account ending in 4929 and the Wells Fargo Owasco, LLC account ending
23 in 1553. Approximately 78 of the "travel" expenditures worth \$112,000
24 were made between April and September 2018. The Defendant used these
25 hotels as personal residences since he chose not to have one at the
26 time. Further there was no business purpose to staying at luxury
27 hotels in Atlantic City, New York City and Los Angeles. Rather, as
28

1 he described in his memoir, they were used to meet up with his then-
2 girlfriend and for constant partying.

3 127. The Defendant also circled multiple direct payments to
4 Person 3, totaling \$18,400 from his personal Wells Fargo bank account
5 and \$10,000 from the Wells Fargo Owasco, LLC account, falsely
6 claiming they were business expenses. These payments were in
7 addition to any money paid to Person 3 for any work she performed and
8 in addition to what she received as wages. Based on the Defendant's
9 false representations, the CA Accountants classified the payments as
10 deductions which reduced the income to him from Owasco, PC and his
11 income tax. Further, during his meeting with the CA Accountants on
12 January 28, 2020, the Defendant falsely told the CA Accountants that
13 all payments to Person 3 in 2018 were "100% business related."

14 G. The Defendant wired money to JP Morgan Chase to pay personal
15 expenses and falsely represented to the CA Accountants that
16 these wire transfers were business expenses.

17 128. During the January 28, 2020 meeting the Defendant falsely
18 told the CA Accountants that \$57,000 worth of payments wired from
19 Owasco, PC's bank account to JP Morgan Chase were all business
20 related. On February 6, 2020, the Defendant repeated this
21 misrepresentation and told the CA Accountants that these payments
22 were to a third party for consulting services.

23 129. The CA Accountants did not have access to the details of
24 the wire transfers from Owasco, PC's account to JP Morgan Chase and
25 repeatedly asked the Defendant to provide that detail. He did not.

26 130. In truth, the wire transfers from the Owasco, PC account to
27 JP Morgan Chase were to pay for personal expenses, for example:
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1 a. The Defendant paid Person 5 approximately \$6,000 in
2 July and August 2018. Person 5 "cleaned and [] ran errands, simple
3 things like going to get him some boxers, or get him some food, go
4 grocery shopping, or just grabbing the alcohol. . . that was really
5 just the scope of it."

6 b. In or about July 5, 2018, the Defendant sent a \$18,000
7 wire to Person 4, and the wire details, which the CA Accountants were
8 not shown, said \$10,000 of it was for a "golf member deposit." In fact,
9 at the Defendant's direction, the \$10,000 was used to purchase a
10 membership in a sex club, which he visited with Person 4.

11 c. The Defendant made an additional \$26,500 in payments
12 to Person 4 in June and October, in addition to what she received as
13 wages.

14 131. Based on the Defendant's representations, the CA
15 Accountants classified the approximately \$57,000 in payments from
16 Owasco, PC's Wells Fargo account to JP Morgan Chase as a business
17 expense for consulting. This had the effect of reducing the income
18 paid to the Defendant from Owasco and reduced his individual income
19 taxes.

20 H. The Defendant used the business line of credit to pay personal
21 expenses and falsely represented to the CA Accountants that it
22 was for business expenses.

23 132. Similarly, the Defendant also told CA Accountants that
24 approximately \$119,000 in payments from the Owasco, PC account used
25 to pay off the business line of credit had also been for business
26 expenses, including travel.
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1 133. The CA Accountants did not have access to the statements
2 for the business line of credit and repeatedly asked the Defendant to
3 provide them. He did not.

4 134. In truth, the Defendant had used the business line of
5 credit to pay for luxury hotels, restaurants, high-end clothing, and
6 other personal items in New York and in California during 2018, among
7 others. For example, the Defendant charged the business line of
8 credit:

9 a. \$1,713 paid to the 1 Hotel Park in New York City in
10 December 2017 and January 2018;

11 b. \$567 paid to "Primp in Home," a mobile spa, for his
12 then-girlfriend, in New York City in January 2018;

13 c. \$3,941 paid to Rag & Bone, a high-end clothing store
14 in New York City for items for himself and his then-girlfriend, in
15 January 2018;

16 d. \$469 paid to the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C.
17 in January 2018;

18 e. \$3,947 in payments made to M Street Management, a
19 strip club in Washington, D.C., in January 2018;

20 f. \$3,373 paid to Expedia for a hotel stay in New York
21 City in February 2018;

22 g. \$5,425 paid to the Soho Grand Hotel in New York City
23 in January and March 2018;

24 h. \$2,952 paid to the 6 Columbus Circle hotel in New York
25 City in January 2018;

26 i. \$773 via Venmo on April 1, 2018, to an exotic dancer;
27 and

28

1 j. \$1,219 paid to the District Hotel in Washington, D.C.,
2 in January 2018;

3 135. The Defendant also used the business line of credit to make
4 payments for the benefit of his children and his own benefit because
5 it artificially reduced his income tax liability including:

6 a. \$19,535 in rent payments for one of his daughters in
7 New York City; and

8 b. \$1,509 in payments to another daughter.

9 136. The Defendant also used the business line of credit to make
10 \$27,316 in payments to an online pornography website, which in total
11 accounted for one fifth of all of the business line of credit
12 expenditures. The Defendant also used the Owasco, PC Wells Fargo
13 account to make payments to the same site. The latter category of
14 payments were initially captured in the Office Expense schedule and
15 the Defendant identified them as personal expenses and they were
16 removed. Yet he failed to inform the CA Accountants that he had also
17 used the business line of credit to make payments to the same
18 pornography website and failed to provide them with statements from
19 the business line of credit that would have revealed this to them.

20 137. Based on the Defendant's representation, the CA Accountants
21 categorized the business line of credit payments as travel and meal
22 expenses. Treating payments from Owasco, PC to the business line of
23 credit as business related caused the Owasco, PC Form 1120 to
24 overstate its business expenses, to reduce the Defendant's taxable
25 income and therefore artificially reduced his individual income tax
26 liability.

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1 I. The Defendant knowingly signed false tax returns.

2 138. On or about Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the Defendant
3 emailed the CA Accountants the following:

4 Wanted to know where we stand on filing. I have a deadline
5 to share 16/17/18 returns with my ex-wife by Friday. Even
6 if we have not filed 17/18 I would like to get the 16
7 completed return (she needs to sign anyway) and drafts of
8 17/18 to her. Please Advise. Thanks.

9 139. On or about February 7, 2020, the CA Accountants
10 transmitted draft 2018 Forms 1040 and 1120 to the Defendant's
11 counsel, seeking any "proposed changes, comments, or thoughts." The
12 cover email noted that there was "information still outstanding that
13 [the accountants] would prefer to obtain before filing the returns;
14 however, if you and our client feel it necessary to file these
15 returns on Monday, we will follow your instruction and finalize the
16 returns as is." The CA Accountants then listed the missing
17 information, which included statements supporting the business line
18 of credit for 2017 and 2018. No comments or questions were received,
19 and the CA Accountants did not modify the draft returns.

20 140. On or about February 11, 2020, the Defendant met with the
21 CA Accountants. The Defendant reviewed and discussed his individual
22 and corporate income tax returns for 2017 and 2018 with the CA
23 Accountants. After reviewing them, the Defendant signed the tax
24 returns. The returns were then mailed to the IRS at the Defendant's
25 direction.

26 141. The 2018 Form 1120 contained false information, on line 26
27 and in Statement 3 in the return and elsewhere including but not
28 limited to the following:

1 a. Claiming false "Travel, Transportation and Other"
2 deductions including, but not limited to, luxury vehicle rentals,
3 house rentals for his then-girlfriend, hotel expenses, and New York
4 City apartment rent for his daughter;

5 b. Claiming false "Office and Miscellaneous" deductions,
6 including, but not limited to, the purchase of luxury clothing,
7 payments to escorts and dancers, and payments for his daughter's
8 college advising services;

9 c. Claiming false "Legal Professional and Consulting"
10 deductions, including, but not limited to, payment of his daughter's
11 law school tuition and his personal life insurance policy;

12 d. Claiming false deductions for payments from Owasco,
13 PC's account to pay off the business line of credit, specifically by
14 allocating 80 percent to "Travel Transportation and Other" and 20
15 percent to "Meals," when in truth and in fact most of the business
16 line of credit expenses were personal, including to a website
17 providing pornographic content, payments at a strip club, and
18 additional rent payments for his daughter; and

19 e. Claiming false deductions for payments from Owasco,
20 PC's account to JP Morgan Chase, specifically that these were for
21 "consulting," when in truth and in fact, these transfers included
22 payments to various women who were either romantically involved with
23 or otherwise performing personal services for the Defendant,
24 including a \$10,000 payment for his membership in a sex club.

25 142. The 2018 Form 1120 also contained false information, on
26 line 13, specifically, claiming false payroll deductions, including
27 deductions for "wages" paid to women with whom he had personal
28 relationships including a woman who was then pregnant with his child.

1 c. Claiming personal expenses, paid with personal funds,
2 were business expenses of Owasco, PC and deducting and causing to be
3 deducted, these same personal expenses as corporate expenses on the
4 Owasco, PC tax return on Form 1120; and

5 d. Paying, and causing to be paid, by Owasco, PC certain
6 salary and healthcare benefit expenses of individuals who performed
7 no work on behalf of Owasco, PC while on payroll, and deducting and
8 causing to be deducted, these same expenses as corporate expenses on
9 the Owasco, PC tax return on Form 1120.

10 In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201.

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COUNT SEVEN

[26 U.S.C. § 7206: filing a false and fraudulent 2018 Form 1040]

146. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48, 93 through 104 and 109 through 144 of this Indictment here.

147. On or about February 18, 2020, in the Central District of California, and elsewhere, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN willfully made and subscribed and filed and caused to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service, a false 2018 Form 1040, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and which Defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter. That Form 1040 reported on line 6 total income in the amount of \$2,187,286, whereas, as Defendant knew, his income was greater because he had claimed false business deductions on Owasco, PC's Form 1120 that were in fact additional income to him.

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT EIGHT

[26 U.S.C. § 7206: filing a false and fraudulent 2018 Form 1120]

148. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48, 93 through 104 and 109 through 144 of this Indictment here.

149. On or about February 20, 2020, in the Central District of California, and elsewhere, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN willfully made and subscribed and filed and caused to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service, a false Form 1120, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury and which Defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter. The 2018 Form 1120 contained false information on:

a. line 26 and in Statement 3 in the return and elsewhere including but not limited to the following:

i. Claiming false "Travel, Transportation and Other" deductions including, but not limited to, luxury vehicle rentals, house rentals for his then-girlfriend, hotel expenses, and New York City apartment rent for his daughter;

ii. Claiming false "Office and Miscellaneous" deductions, including, but not limited to, the purchase of luxury clothing, payments to escorts and dancers, and payments for his daughter's college advising services;

iii. Claiming false "Legal Professional and Consulting" deductions, including, but not limited to, payment of his daughter's law school tuition and his personal life insurance policy;

iv. Claiming false deductions for payments from Owasco, PC's account to pay off the business line of credit,

1 specifically by allocating 80 percent to "Travel Transportation and
2 Other" and 20 percent to "Meals," when in truth and in fact most of
3 the business line of credit expenses were personal, including to a
4 website providing pornographic content, payments at a strip club, and
5 additional rent payments for his daughter; and

6 v. Claiming false deductions for payments from
7 Owasco, PC's account to JP Morgan Chase, specifically that these were
8 for "consulting," when in truth and in fact, these transfers included
9 payments to various women who were either romantically involved with
10 or otherwise performing personal services for the Defendant,
11 including a \$10,000 payment for the Defendant's membership in a sex
12 club.

13 b. on line 13, specifically, claiming false payroll
14 deductions, including, deductions for "wages" paid to women with whom
15 he had personal relationships including a woman who was then pregnant
16 with his child.

17 150. Because these false business deductions were in fact
18 payments of the Defendant's personal expenses, they should have been
19 categorized as income to him from Owasco, PC which he, in turn, would
20 have had to report on his 2018 Form 1040 and pay tax on that income.
21 Because these personal expenses were falsely categorized by the
22 Defendant as business expenses, he falsely underreported his income
23 from Owasco, PC, on line 6 of his 2018 Form 1040 and self-assessed a
24 lower amount of tax due and owing than was accurate.

25 In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).
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COUNT NINE

[26 U.S.C. § 7203: failure to pay 2019 Form 1040]

151. The Grand Jury re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 48 of this Indictment here.

A. The Defendant earned a substantial income in 2019.

152. Over the course of 2019, the Defendant earned approximately \$1,045,850 in gross income from the sources identified above.

B. The Defendant had a legal obligation to file a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return and pay taxes in 2019.

153. For tax year 2019, anyone under 65, filing individually, and who made more than \$12,200, had to file a federal tax return.

154. The deadline for filing federal tax returns and paying taxes for 2019 was July 15, 2020, because of an automatic extension provided by the IRS during the COVID-19 pandemic, unless a taxpayer filed for an extension, which made the deadline October 15, 2020.

C. The Defendant knew he had to pay taxes for 2019.

155. From at least January 2019 through September 2019, the Defendant was provided with periodic updates regarding his cashflow and outstanding liabilities, including his various income tax liabilities. The Defendant controlled his finances and directed which bills should be paid, routinely choosing personal expenses over his income tax liabilities.

D. The Defendant owed taxes for 2019, which he chose not to pay.

156. The Defendant filed a 2019 Form 1040 on October 15, 2020, and self-reported that he earned total gross income of \$1,045,850 and

1 taxable income of \$843,577 and self-assessed that he owed \$197,372 for
2 the 2019 tax year.

3 157. The Defendant did not pay any of his outstanding tax debt
4 when he filed his return.

5 E. The Defendant had the funds available to pay his taxes.

6 158. In 2020, prior to when the Defendant filed the 2019 Form
7 1040, the Defendant's agent received multiple payments from the
8 publisher of his memoir and then transferred the following amounts to
9 the Defendant's wife's account in the amounts and on the dates that
10 follow:

11 a. \$93,750 on January 21, 2020; and

12 b. \$46,875 on May 26, 2020.

13 F. Rather than pay his taxes, the Defendant spent millions of dollars
14 on an extravagant lifestyle.

15 159. From January through October 15, 2020, the Defendant spent
16 more than \$600,000 on personal expenses rather than pay any of the
17 \$197,372 he owed for tax year 2019.

18 The Charge

19 160. During the calendar year 2019, the Defendant ROBERT HUNTER
20 BIDEN, had and received taxable income of \$843,577, on which taxable
21 income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax
22 of \$197,372. He was required by law to pay, on or before July 15,
23 2020, that income tax to the Internal Revenue Service Center, at San
24 Francisco, California, or to another Internal Revenue Service office
25 permitted by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, including the
26 Internal Revenue Service office in Los Angeles, California. Well
27 knowing all of the foregoing, he did willfully fail on July 15, 2020,
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