

EXHIBIT 1

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CR-21-00004-BLF-1
)
PLAINTIFF,) SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA
)
VS.) MAY 3, 2022
)
RILEY,) PAGES 1-45
)
DEFENDANT)
)
_____)

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE BETH LABSON FREEMAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE PLAINTIFF: **BY: MICHAEL G. PITMAN**
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
150 ALMADEN BLVD., SUITE 900
SAN JOSE, CA 95113

FOR THE DEFENDANT: **BY: DEJAN GANTAR**
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
55 S MARKET STREET, SUITE 820
SAN JOSE, CA 95113

PROBATION: BY: MELISSA MOY

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER: SUMMER FISHER, CSR, CRR
CERTIFICATE NUMBER 13185

PROCEEDINGS RECORDED BY MECHANICAL STENOGRAPHY
TRANSCRIPT PRODUCED WITH COMPUTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA MAY 3, 2022

P R O C E E D I N G S

(COURT CONVENED AT 9:50 A.M.)

THE CLERK: CALLING CASE 21-0004. UNITED STATES V.
AMANDA CHRISTINE RILEY.

COUNSEL, PLEASE COME FORWARD AND STATE YOUR APPEARANCES.

MR. PITMAN: GOOD MORNING, YOUR HONOR.
MICHAEL PITMAN FOR THE UNITED STATES.

THE COURT: GOOD MORNING.

MR. GANTAR: GOOD MORNING, YOUR HONOR.

DEJAN GANTAR APPEARING WITH MS. RILEY. SHE IS PRESENT
APPEARING OUT OF CUSTODY.

THE COURT: GOOD MORNING.

PROBATION OFFICER: AND GOOD MORNING AGAIN.

MELISSA MOY WITH U.S. PROBATION.

THE COURT: GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.
ALL RIGHT. THIS IS THE TIME SET FOR SENTENCING OF
MS. RILEY; IS THAT CORRECT?

MR. GANTAR: YES, YOUR HONOR.

MR. PITMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: AND WE ARE READY TO PROCEED?

MR. GANTAR: YES.

THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

HAVE BOTH ATTORNEYS RECEIVED THE PRESENTENCE REPORT,
INCLUDING THE APRIL 29, 2022, REVISION?

1 MR. GANTAR: YES, YOUR HONOR. THE DEFENSE HAS.

2 MR. PITMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR.

3 THE COURT: OKAY. AND ARE THERE ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS
4 TO SUBMIT TO ME THIS MORNING?

5 MR. GANTAR: NOT FROM THE DEFENSE.

6 MR. PITMAN: WE DID RECEIVE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT
7 YESTERDAY. I CIRCULATED IT TO PROBATION AND THE DEFENSE VIA
8 E-MAIL, BUT I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT THE COURT RECEIVED A COPY.

9 THE COURT: IS THIS THE ONE FROM JESSA?

10 MR. PITMAN: IT IS, YOUR HONOR.

11 THE COURT: I DID RECEIVE IT. THANK YOU.

12 AND I HAVE REVIEWED IT. I APPRECIATE THAT.

13 MR. PITMAN: NOTHING FURTHER, YOUR HONOR.

14 THE COURT: OKAY. I HAVE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE
15 PRESENTENCE REPORT AND THE SENTENCING MEMORANDA SUBMITTED BY
16 EACH PARTY.

17 IN THIS MATTER, MR. PITMAN, HAS THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
18 ADVISED ALL VICTIMS THAT THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE
19 PRESENT IN COURT AND MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE COURT?

20 MR. PITMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR.

21 THE COURT: AND I DID READ ALL OF THE IMPACT
22 STATEMENTS THAT YOU DID SUBMIT.

23 I SEE A COURTROOM FULL OF PEOPLE. DO YOU HAVE -- ARE
24 THERE VICTIMS HERE TODAY WHO YOU KNOW WISH TO BE HEARD?

25 MR. PITMAN: YOUR HONOR, THERE ARE FOUR PEOPLE HERE

1 TODAY THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE HEARD. I DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF THEM
2 TECHNICALLY ARE VICTIMS UNDER THE CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS ACT. I
3 DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH MR. GANTAR, BUT THERE ARE FOUR
4 INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TODAY.

5 THE COURT: MR. GANTAR, ARE YOU OBJECTING TO ANY OF
6 THOSE INDIVIDUALS ADDRESSING THE COURT?

7 MR. GANTAR: I DON'T THINK SO, YOUR HONOR.

8 WE LODGED ONE OBJECTION AS PART OF OUR SENTENCING
9 MEMORANDUM. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT THAT
10 PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL WILL NOT BE PRESENTED TO THE COURT TODAY.

11 SO I BELIEVE THAT'S OUR SOLE OBJECTION.

12 THE COURT: OKAY.

13 ALL RIGHT. LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE INFORMATION THAT I
14 NEED BEFORE I HEAR FROM THE VICTIMS SO THAT WE CAN THEN TURN IT
15 OVER TO THEIR PRESENTATION.

16 MR. GANTAR, HAVE YOU AND MS. RILEY READ AND DISCUSSED THE
17 PRESENTENCE REPORT?

18 MR. GANTAR: WE HAVE, YOUR HONOR.

19 THE COURT: ARE THERE ANY REMAINING OBJECTIONS?

20 MR. GANTAR: NO, YOUR HONOR.

21 THE COURT: MS. RILEY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN
22 CONVICTED OF?

23 THE DEFENDANT: YES, MA'AM.

24 THE COURT: YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF COUNT 1,
25 VIOLATION OF 18 U.S. CODE SECTION 1343, WIRE FRAUD.

1 COUNT 1 CARRIES A MAXIMUM PRISON TERM OF 20 YEARS, A
2 MAXIMUM FINE OF \$250,000, MAXIMUM SUPERVISED RELEASE OF THREE
3 YEARS AND A MANDATORY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF \$100 AND
4 RESTITUTION AND FORFEITURE.

5 IN CALCULATING THE OFFENSE LEVEL, PROBATION STATES THAT
6 THERE IS A BASE OFFENSE LEVEL OF 7, WITH AN INCREASE OF PLUS 8
7 BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF FRAUD OF MORE THAN \$95,000, BUT LESS
8 THAN \$150,000; A DECREASE OF NEGATIVE 2 FOR ACCEPTANCE OF
9 RESPONSIBILITY.

10 CRIMINAL HISTORY LEVEL IS ONE. THE ADJUSTED OFFENSE LEVEL
11 IS 13, WITH A RESULTING GUIDELINE OF 12 TO 18 MONTHS.

12 ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THOSE CALCULATIONS?

13 MR. GANTAR: NO, YOUR HONOR.

14 MR. PITMAN: NO, YOUR HONOR.

15 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

16 IN THIS MATTER, MS. RILEY HAS ENTERED A PLEA UNDER RULE 11
17 (C) (1) (A) AND (B), AND THEREFORE SHE MAY NOT WITHDRAW HER PLEA,
18 REGARDLESS OF THE COURT'S SENTENCE.

19 THE GUIDELINE RANGES FOR THIS MATTER, SENTENCING RANGE IS
20 12 TO 18 MONTHS IN PRISON, SUPERVISED RELEASE OF ONE TO
21 THREE YEARS, FINE RANGE IS \$5,500 TO \$55,000, SPECIAL
22 ASSESSMENT OF \$100, RESTITUTION AND FORFEITURE.

23 ALL RIGHT. I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO FIRST HEAR FROM ANY
24 VICTIMS WHO ARE HERE, AND THEN I WILL TURN TO MR. GANTAR AND
25 MS. RILEY FOR THEIR COMMENT.

1 SO MR. PITMAN, DO YOU HAVE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD LIKE TO
2 ADDRESS THE COURT?

3 MR. PITMAN: YES. THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

4 I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN WITH MS. WILDER, IF SHE'S AVAILABLE
5 AND WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK.

6 THE COURT: AND MA'AM, IF YOU COULD STATE YOUR NAME
7 BEFORE I HEAR YOUR COMMENTS.

8 THE WITNESS: I AM FULLY VACCINATED.

9 THE COURT: THANK YOU.

10 THE WITNESS: MY NAME IS LINDSEY WILDER.

11 THE COURT: THANK YOU, MS. WILDER.

12 GO AHEAD.

13 THE WITNESS: AMANDA, I FIRST MET YOU IN A CHURCH, A
14 CHURCH WHERE YOU WERE A BELOVED MEMBER. YOU WERE THE POOR,
15 YOUNG CHRISTIAN WOMAN THAT WAS FIGHTING A BATTLE UNDESERVED.

16 FOR A FRIEND DYING OF CANCER, HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA,
17 TERMINAL, I COULDN'T DO MUCH, BUT I COULD POUR MY BLOOD OUT FOR
18 YOU. I HAVE OVER 30 PICTURES OF ME HOLDING MY PRIZED "TEAM
19 AMANDA" MAGNET.

20 EACH WEEK IN 2015, I WOULD TRAVEL TO THE RED CROSS IN
21 SAN JOSE, HOPING TO DONATE PLATELETS. I MAXED OUT MY DONATIONS
22 BY OCTOBER. EVERY TIME I TOOK A PICTURE, IT WAS FOR YOU. THE
23 RED CROSS KNEW I WAS DOING THIS FOR MY SWEET FRIEND, A
24 BEAUTIFUL, HONEST, TRANSPARENT, KIND SOUL, A MOTHER OF TWO
25 YOUNG BOYS THAT WOULD SOON BE GONE.

1 WE PRAYED FOR YOU EVERY TUESDAY. THERE WERE CANDLELIGHT
2 VIGILS, AUCTIONS, FUNDRAISERS, DONATIONS OF "BUCKET LIST"
3 EXPERIENCES, GIVING YOU AS MUCH LOVE AND CARE AS WE COULD FOR A
4 MOM WHO WOULDN'T GET TO SEE HER CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM HIGH
5 SCHOOL.

6 I TREASURED THE THINGS YOU GAVE ME, THINKING IT WOULD BE
7 SOON, ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOU. I WENT TO BED EACH NIGHT PRAYING
8 FOR YOUR MIRACLE. AS A LIFELONG ATHEIST, THE FIRST TIME I
9 PRAYED TO GOD WAS FOR YOU. YOU STOLE SO MANY TEARS, TEARS FROM
10 PEOPLE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, AND TEARS FROM PEOPLE YOU DID KNOW.

11 IN THE TIMES YOU TOOK THE STAGE AT CHURCH IN FRONT OF YOUR
12 GOD, YOU SAID "MIRACLE," YOU SAID "TERMINAL," YOU SAID
13 "CANCER." MIRACLE, TERMINAL, JESUS, MIRACLE, JESUS, TERMINAL.
14 WE ALL CALLED YOU ANOINTED.

15 I REMEMBER FEELING IN AWE OF YOUR STRENGTH. WHEN YOU SAID
16 THAT THE CHEMO MADE EACH MORNING SO UNBEARABLY PAINFUL, THAT
17 THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD MOVE WAS TO TAKE A HOT SHOWER.

18 WHEN I MET YOU, YOUR HAIR WAS JUST STARTING TO GROW BACK,
19 YET YOU SEEMED SO BRIGHT, SO RESILIENT. OF COURSE THERE WERE
20 THE MONETARY DONATIONS, THE EXPLOITATION OF HUNDREDS OF
21 GENEROUS PEOPLE'S WALLETS AND EMOTIONS. YOUR LAST CHANCE AT
22 LIFE ENDED UP BEING A VACATION TO NEW YORK.

23 I FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS LAWSUIT THROUGH A VICTIM'S
24 NOTIFICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. I STILL BELIEVED
25 YOU. WHEN YOU CALLED TO EXPLAIN THE MIXUP, I STILL BELIEVED

1 YOU. NOT TWO MONTHS EARLIER, I LAID IN MY OWN HOSPITAL BED.
2 ALLEGEDLY, YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL TOO, YOU HAD BEEN
3 TRANSFERRED TO A SPECIAL HOSPITAL WHERE THEY WERE MORE ABLE TO
4 HELP YOU, AFTER ALL, YOU WERE DYING OF CANCER, WITH THE ADDED
5 COMPLICATION OF PULMONARY EMBOLISMS.

6 I PULLED MY STRENGTH FROM YOU. IRONICALLY, PULMONARY
7 EMBOLISMS ALMOST TOOK MY LIFE, AND I WONDERED HOW YOU SURVIVED
8 IT ALL.

9 I ATTENDED THE HEARING WHERE YOU PLED GUILTY. I SPENT
10 LITTLE TIME BEING ANGRY. I SPENT ALMOST NO TIME WISHING FOR MY
11 MONEY BACK. WHAT I DID FEEL WAS A SLIMY DISGUST, A REPULSION
12 THAT CAN ONLY BE FELT FROM THE THOUGHT OF CREATING SUCH AN
13 ELABORATE SCHEME.

14 I SPENT A WEEK WONDERING IF ANYBODY IS WHO THEY SAY WHO
15 THEY ARE. I FEEL SAD. SAD FOR THE PEOPLE I CRIED WITH, SAD
16 FOR THE PEOPLE WHO BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO GIVE YOU A SPECIAL
17 LAST CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR MIRACLE CHILDREN, ONE WHO WAS
18 ALLEGEDLY BORN DURING THE BRUNT OF YOUR CANCER, WE CALLED HIM A
19 MIRACLE. HE STILL IS A MIRACLE.

20 I REMEMBER A CHURCH SERVICE WHERE YOU STOOD ON STAGE AND
21 THE CONGREGATION THREW MONEY AT YOUR FEET. AND I CAN'T HELP
22 BUT THINK THAT IS THE MOST PERFECT METAPHOR. RESTITUTION IS SO
23 LITTLE, I WOULD HAVE Poured BY BLOOD OUT ANYWAYS.

24 I WAS A PLATELET DONOR LONG BEFORE I MET YOU. BUT NOW
25 KNOWING YOUR ENTIRE STORY IS FAKE, THAT THERE WERE NO MEDS, WAS

1 NO LAST CHANCE TRIAL, NO COUPLE MONTHS TO LIVE, I NOW KNOW THE
2 BLOOD WASN'T FOR YOU.

3 AMANDA, I DON'T WISH BAD ON YOU, I IMAGINE YOU ARE
4 SUFFERING ENOUGH. I DON'T WANT MONEY, I WANT MY TEARS BACK, I
5 WANT MY PRAYERS BACK, AND IN THIS, I DO WANT JUSTICE.

6 THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.

7 THE COURT: THANK YOU, MS. WILDER.

8 MR. PITMAN, THE NEXT INDIVIDUAL.

9 MR. PITMAN: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

10 IF MS. SOUZA IS AVAILABLE AND INTERESTED IN SPEAKING, NOW
11 IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

12 THE COURT: YES, BUT I NEED YOU TO COME FORWARD TO
13 THE MICROPHONE. SAY THAT AGAIN.

14 THE WITNESS: MAY MY HUSBAND COME STAND WITH ME?

15 THE COURT: OF COURSE HE CAN. WELCOME. TELL ME YOUR
16 NAME FIRST.

17 THE WITNESS: MY NAME IS ALETTA SOUZA. I'M JESSA
18 RILEY'S MOTHER, AMANDA'S STEPDAUGHTER.

19 THE WITNESS: AND MY NAME IS DAVID.

20 THE COURT: GOOD MORNING.

21 THE WITNESS: I DID NOT WANT TO WRITE THIS AT FIRST
22 DUE TO THE EMOTIONS AND ANGER IT REHASHES.

23 THE TRUTH IS, UNLESS YOU WERE THERE TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT
24 MYSELF AND MY FAMILY WENT THROUGH, IT WILL NEVER BE FULLY
25 UNDERSTOOD.

1 I WILL DO MY BEST TO EXPLAIN THE UNRELENTING HARASSMENT
2 AND MANIPULATION THAT MYSELF AND MY FAMILY SUFFERED THROUGH AS
3 A DIRECT RESULT OF AMANDA RILEY'S LIES.

4 MY DAUGHTER JAYMIE, WHO IS MY DAUGHTER FROM MY FIRST
5 MARRIAGE, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH ACUTE LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA IN
6 SEPTEMBER OF 2002. SHE WAS UNABLE TO BE OUT IN PUBLIC OR
7 ATTEND SCHOOL BECAUSE SHE WAS IMMUNOCOMPROMISED, THEREFORE MY
8 HUSBAND AT THE TIME, CORY RILEY, AND MYSELF, DID OUR BEST TO
9 ACCOMMODATE JAYMIE'S NEEDS FROM HOME.

10 ONE OF THE THINGS WE DID WAS HIRE AMANDA RILEY TO COME
11 INTO OUR HOME AND TEACH JAMIE CHEERLEADING. THIS IS HOW OUR
12 FAMILY MET 17-YEAR-OLD AMANDA RILEY.

13 A FEW YEARS LATER, CORY AND I DIVORCED, WE SHARED OUR
14 DAUGHTER JESSA. AMANDA RILEY REAPPEARED IN OUR LIVES AND
15 MARRIED BY EX-HUSBAND, CORY RILEY. AMANDA WAS A BIG PART OF
16 JESSA'S LIFE BECAUSE WE HAD SHARED CUSTODY. CO-PARENTING CAN
17 BE TRICKY, AND ADDING A STEPMOM TO THE MIX, EVEN MORE
18 DIFFICULT, BUT WE MANAGED FOR A BIT, AND THEN THINGS CHANGED.

19 AMANDA ANNOUNCED SHE WAS TERMINALLY ILL WITH CANCER. I
20 FELT AWFUL FOR WHAT WAS AHEAD. AS SOMEONE THAT CARED FOR A
21 CHILD OF CANCER, I KNEW THE ROAD AHEAD WOULD BE FILLED WITH UPS
22 AND DOWNS FOR THEM, AS WELL AS FOR MY DAUGHTER JESSA, WHO WAS
23 PART OF HER DAD'S AND AMANDA'S LIFE.

24 CANCER CAN BE CRUEL AND EXHAUSTING. AND I KNEW HOW TO TRY
25 TO PUT DIFFERENCES ASIDE, I TRIED REALLY HARD TO KEEP IN MIND

1 WHAT THEY WERE DEALING WITH AND HOW OUR DAUGHTER JESSA WOULD
2 BEAR DURING IT ALL.

3 IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO SEE HOW AMANDA AND CORY USED HER
4 CANCER DIAGNOSIS TO MANIPULATE EVERYONE AROUND THEM FROM VERY
5 EARLY ON. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HER TERMINAL DIAGNOSIS WAS
6 AFFECTING EVERY ASPECT OF US TRYING TO CO-PARENT.

7 THE CLAIMS OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP DUE TO HER MEDICAL
8 EXPENSES WERE CONSTANT, EXCUSES FOR ANYTHING THAT WAS NOT
9 CARRIED OUT WERE BLAMED ON HER CANCER AND HIS NEED TO CARE FOR
10 HER.

11 THIS WAS SO DIFFICULT BECAUSE I BELIEVED AMANDA RILEY WAS
12 DYING OF CANCER, BUT FELT LIKE THEY USED HER DIAGNOSIS TO
13 MANIPULATE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE WHEN IT CAME TO CO-PARENTING AND
14 CORY'S FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AS JESSA'S FATHER.

15 I WAS ALWAYS PRESENTED TO THE COURTS BY CORY'S ATTORNEY,
16 CHARICE FISCHER, AS THE DIFFICULT EX-WIFE, THE UNCARING BITCH
17 THAT WAS TRYING TO MAKE CORY'S LIFE HELL WHILE HIS WIFE WAS
18 DYING OF CANCER.

19 ANY CHANCE TO SHOWCASE AMANDA'S CANCER WAS IN FULL FORCE.
20 SHE WOULD COME TO THE COURT WITH A SHAVED HEAD, THEY WOULD
21 PROVIDE MEDICAL BILLS TO PROVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. THEY WOULD
22 CHANGE COURT DATES DUE TO CANCER TREATMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS,
23 ANYTHING THAT COULD BE MANIPULATED WAS, AND IT COST ME
24 THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OVER THE YEARS.

25 THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS THE COURT ALLOTTED TO MY EX DUE TO

1 AMANDA RILEY'S CANCER EXPENSES, DIMINISHED ANY FINANCIAL
2 SUPPORT MY DAUGHTER RECEIVED, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, RESULTED
3 IN ME HAVING TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT TO HIM.

4 FAMILY COURT JUDGES WERE CONSTANTLY HEARING HOW HIS WIFE
5 WAS DYING FROM CANCER, AND YET THEY WERE PRESENTING THEMSELVES
6 TO THE COURT AS THE PERFECT PARENTS FOR JESSA, AND I WAS THE
7 ONE MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT AND BEING SELFISH.

8 JESSA'S FAMILY COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY, SHEILA PETERSON,
9 WOULD NEVER LISTEN TO MY CONCERNS ABOUT JESSA, SHE WAS ONLY
10 INTERESTED IN MAKING MY EX AND HIS DYING WIFE, MAKING SURE THEY
11 WERE ACCOMMODATED ABOVE AND BEYOND, AGAIN COSTING ME THOUSANDS
12 OF DOLLARS, AND NOT TO MENTION THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TOLL ON
13 MY WELL BEING.

14 THINGS WERE HARD ENOUGH WHEN I WAS UNDER THE ASSUMPTION
15 THAT SHE WAS TRULY SICK WITH TERMINAL CANCER, BUT THEN
16 EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN I LEARNED OF THE INVESTIGATION OF
17 AMANDA RILEY AND HER SICKENING LIE THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE CANCER
18 AT ALL. SHE WAS LYING, AND I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF MY
19 DAUGHTER AND HOW THIS WAS GOING TO AFFECT HER.

20 NOW WE KNOW THE DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO FAMILY COURT
21 REGARDING AMANDA'S CANCER TREATMENT EXPENSES WERE ALL A LIE,
22 AND JUST HOW MUCH MANIPULATION WENT ON AT MY EXPENSE AND MY
23 DAUGHTER'S EXPENSE, AGAIN COSTING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND
24 CHILD SUPPORT AND ATTORNEYS FEES THAT COULD HAVE GONE TOWARDS
25 RAISING MY DAUGHTER.

1 I LET THE COURT, THE ATTORNEYS, JESSA'S COUNSELOR, AND
2 ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN, KNOW ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION INTO
3 AMANDA RILEY, AND WELL, IT GOT WORSE, NO ONE BELIEVED ME, AND
4 SOMEHOW NOW I WAS THE BAD PARENT BECAUSE I WAS NOT GOING ALONG
5 WITH THE NARRATIVE EVERYONE HAD FALLEN PREY TO. I BECAME THE
6 ONE WHO SAID IT OUT LOUD, "THIS WOMAN DOES NOT HAVE CANCER, SHE
7 IS FAKING CANCER."

8 THE COURTS, DOCTORS, TEACHERS, PARENTS OF MY DAUGHTER'S
9 FRIENDS, COACHES, COUNSELORS, ET CETERA, ALL ASSUMED THAT I WAS
10 MAKING THIS UP AND SPREADING HORRIBLE LIES, WHICH ALL HAD A
11 DIRECT EFFECT ON CO-PARENTING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

12 I LOST CUSTODY OF THE JESSA FOR A BRIEF TIME. I HAD TO
13 PAY THOUSANDS IN CHILD SUPPORT AND ATTORNEYS FEES BECAUSE MY
14 EX-HUSBAND'S ATTORNEY, CHARICE FISCHER, NEGLECTED TO CHECK THE
15 AUTHENTICITY OF THE MEDICAL DOCUMENTS SHE SUBMITTED TO FAMILY
16 COURT. NO ONE WOULD CONTACT THE INVESTIGATORS, REGARDLESS OF
17 ME PROVIDING THE INFORMATION TO DO SO.

18 THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM, AND THOSE INVOLVED, FAILED MY
19 ENTIRE FAMILY MISERABLY, BECAUSE EVERYONE BELIEVED AMANDA RILEY
20 WAS TERMINALLY ILL OF CANCER.

21 EVERYTHING MY DAUGHTER DID AS A FAMILY WITH HER FATHER,
22 CENTERED AROUND AMANDA RILEY'S CANCER. FUNDRAISERS, CANCER
23 EVENTS, FREE SPORTING EVENTS, FREE CHILDCARE, FREE MEALS, FREE
24 GIFTS, FREE GYMNASIAC LESSONS, TENNIS LESSONS, AND ON AND ON.

25 MY DAUGHTER HAD BEEN PARTICIPATING IN A WEALTH OF GENEROUS

1 EVENTS AND GIFTS GIVEN BY A COMMUNITY THAT HAD BEEN LIED TO.

2 THIS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS, AND ALL THAT TIME, MY
3 DAUGHTER BELIEVED THAT HER STEPMOM WAS DYING.

4 AMANDA RILEY WOULD TELL MY DAUGHTER SHE HAD A FEW MONTHS
5 TO LIVE, AND THEN A MIRACLE, SHE WAS IN REMISSION, AND THEN
6 AGAIN DYING, AND THEN REMISSION, AND ON AND ON.

7 THE TOLL THAT TAKES ON A CHILD, AND THAT DAMAGE CAUSED, IS
8 IMMEASURABLE. MY DAUGHTER WAS SO DISTRAUGHT OVER THE YEARS,
9 NOT KNOWING WHAT EACH DAY WOULD BRING FOR HER AND HER YOUNGER
10 BROTHERS. ALL I COULD DO WAS ASSURE HER THAT HER STEPDAD,
11 DAVE, AND I WERE ALWAYS GOING TO BE THERE FOR HER.

12 THE DAILY JOYS IN LIFE THAT, AS A MOM, YOU TAKE FOR
13 GRANTED, WERE TAKEN FROM ME. I WAS THE OUTCAST THAT HAD SAID
14 IT OUT LOUD, "AMANDA RILEY DOES NOT HAVE CANCER." THAT IS ALL
15 AMANDA RILEY NEEDED TO HEAR TO CONTINUE TO HAVE ME OSTRACIZED
16 IN ALL SOCIAL EVENTS INVOLVING MY DAUGHTER. I WAS UNABLE TO
17 ENJOY JESSA'S SOCCER GAMES, GYMNASTICS, SCHOOL EVENTS, ANYTHING
18 THAT INTERACTED WITH OTHER PARENTS, BECAUSE OF AMANDA RILEY.

19 AS JESSA GOT OLDER, SHE STARTED TO REALIZE THAT THINGS
20 DIDN'T ADD UP. SHE WOULD SEE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT HIDDEN AROUND
21 THE HOUSE. SHE WOULD ASK HER FATHER WHY HE NEVER WENT TO CHEMO
22 TREATMENTS WITH AMANDA, WHY AMANDA WOULD TELL SOMEONE HOW SICK
23 IN BED SHE WAS, BUT YET JESSA KNEW SHE WASN'T.

24 SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL TRYING TO GET ANSWERS, BUT INSTEAD,
25 SHE WOULD GET IN TROUBLE FOR ASKING QUESTIONS. HOW AMANDA

1 RILEY COULD DO THIS TO A YOUNG GIRL IS BEYOND DISGUSTING, IT'S
2 ABUSIVE. IT WAS TRULY A NIGHTMARE, AND IT HAS NEVER STOPPED.
3 IT WENT ON FROM 2012 UNTIL NOW, EIGHT YEARS, AND IS STILL GOING
4 ON.

5 JESSA IS 19 YEARS OLD, MARRIED, AND LEADING HER OWN LIFE
6 NOW. AND TO THIS DAY, WHEN SHE ASKS AMANDA OR HER FATHER ABOUT
7 THE CHARGES, COURT HEARINGS, OR ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON,
8 SHE IS TOLD BY BOTH OF THEM, "THINGS AREN'T AS THEY SEEM."

9 IT IS SAD AND MY DAUGHTER IS HEARTBROKEN. AMANDA RILEY'S
10 CANCER LIES, CONSTANT NEED FOR ATTENTION AND GREED, WAS ALL
11 THAT MATTERED TO HER. SHE DESPERATELY TRIED TO RUIN MY
12 REPUTATION AND TRIED TO RUIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ME AND MY
13 DAUGHTER. SHE WANTED ME LEFT WITH NOTHING, IT WAS LIKE I WAS A
14 TARGET SHE HAD TO DESTROY.

15 I LOST CRUCIAL YEARS WITH MY DAUGHTER. I CAN'T GET BACK
16 THAT TIME. I CAN'T FIX WHAT AMANDA DID TO MYSELF OR MY
17 DAUGHTER, BUT I CAN LEAVE IT IN THE PAST, AND THAT'S WHAT I'M
18 HOPING TO DO.

19 IT IS MY HOPE YOUR HONOR WILL SENTENCE AMANDA TO
20 SUBSTANTIAL TIME IN PRISON SO THAT SHE CAN REALIZE WHAT SHE DID
21 TO SO MANY PEOPLE AND THAT THERE WILL BE JUSTICE FOR WHAT MY
22 DAUGHTER AND OUR FAMILY HAVE BEEN THROUGH FOR OVER EIGHT YEARS.

23 THIS CANCER SCAM AFFECTED MYSELF, MY HUSBAND, MY PARENTS,
24 AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, ALL THREE OF MY CHILDREN, IN ONE WAY OR
25 ANOTHER.

1 THE CANCER SCAM THAT AMANDA AND MY EX-HUSBAND CARRIED OUT
2 DESTROYED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MY DAUGHTER AND THEM, AND
3 FOR NOW, IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS LEFT UNRESOLVED, AND THAT, IN
4 ITSELF, IS THE WORST PART OF ALL.

5 THANK YOU.

6 THE COURT: THANK YOU.

7 MR. PITMAN, ANOTHER VICTIM WISH TO SPEAK?

8 MR. PITMAN: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

9 IF MS. RILEY IS HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK, NOW IS YOUR
10 OPPORTUNITY.

11 THE WITNESS: HELLO. MY NAME IS JESSA GONZALEZ.

12 THE COURT: GOOD MORNING.

13 THE WITNESS: I WILL HAVE MY MOM COME UP WITH ME.

14 THE COURT: YES, OF COURSE.

15 THE WITNESS: AMANDA RILEY HAS BEEN PART OF MY LIFE
16 SINCE I WAS SIX MONTHS OLD. SHE CAME INTO OUR LIVES WHEN SHE
17 AGREED TO TEACH MY OLDER SISTER, JAYMIE, CHEERLEADING AT HOME
18 WHILE HE WAS SICK WITH LEUKEMIA.

19 WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, SHE BECAME AN EVEN BIGGER PART
20 OF MY LIFE AS MY FATHER'S NEW GIRLFRIEND. I GREW UP EXTREMELY
21 CLOSE WITH HER, AND WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD, MY LIFE AS A
22 FAMILY WAS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN WHEN SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS SICK.
23 SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD CANCER.

24 I REMEMBER BEING TERRIFIED AS SHE AND MY FATHER TOLD ME
25 SHE WOULDN'T BE AROUND MUCH LONGER. SHE BEGAN GOING TO HER

1 TREATMENTS AND SEEMED TO FALL ILL AT THE TIME.

2 ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL, SHE PICKED ME UP AND HAD A BEANIE ON
3 AND TOLD ME HER HAIR BEGAN FALLING OUT, SO SHE SHAVED IT OFF.
4 I REMEMBER VISITING WHEN SHE ASKED ME EXCITEDLY IF I WANTED TO
5 SEE. I REMEMBER BEING TAKEN ABACK, BECAUSE I FIGURED IT WOULD
6 BE A SORE SUBJECT. SHE PULLED OFF HER BEANIE AND GLADLY SHOWED
7 ME HER SHAVED HEAD. AT THIS TIME, I WAS JUST A CHILD, AND
8 BELIEVED SHE WAS SICK.

9 AS YEARS WENT BY, HER SUPPORT GROUP GREW RAPIDLY. SHE
10 CREATED SUPPORTAMANDA.COM. MANY PEOPLE HEARD HER STORY AND
11 WANTED TO HELP. THE DONATIONS BEGAN FLOWING IN ONLINE.

12 AROUND THIS TIME, MY FATHER AND AMANDA GAINED FULL CUSTODY
13 OF ME, AND I WAS FRONT AND CENTER WITH THEM IN THEIR FIGHT FOR
14 AMANDA'S LIFE. OVER THE YEAR-AND-A-HALF THAT THEY HAD FULL
15 CUSTODY OF ME, THINGS BEGAN TO SEEM ODD. AMANDA WAS ALWAYS
16 SICK, NEVER BEING ABLE TO GET OUT OF BED, BUT I WOULD NEVER SEE
17 HER GO TO APPOINTMENTS. SHE HAD ALWAYS LOOKED HEALTHY.

18 I NOTICED SHE WOULD STARVE HERSELF UNTIL SHE WOULD PASS
19 OUT. THE ONE EVENT THAT CHANGED MY WHOLE PERSPECTIVE WAS WHEN
20 I WAS CLEANING UP MY LITTLE BROTHER'S PLAYROOM AND I FOUND AN
21 IV WRAPPED IN SARAN WRAP. I BROUGHT IT TO HER AND ASKED WHY
22 SHE HAD IT AND WHY IT WAS IN MY LITTLE BROTHER'S PLAYROOM.

23 SHE QUICKLY TOOK IT FROM ME AND SAID MY LITTLE BROTHER
24 TOOK IT OUT OF HER NIGHTSTAND. I KNEW BETTER THAN TO QUESTION
25 HER, AS SHE WAS REGULARLY LASH OUT AT ME.

1 SOON AFTER THIS EVENT, I BEGAN HAVING VISITATION WITH MY
2 MOM. I MENTIONED WHAT HAD HAPPENED WITH AMANDA'S IV, AND ALL
3 OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT SEEMED ODD. SHE BROKE DOWN AND TOLD
4 ME THAT THERE WAS AN INVESTIGATION ON AMANDA AND THAT SHE DID
5 IN FACT DID NOT HAVE CANCER.

6 I WAS SHOW SHOCKED AT THIS POINT. I HAD BEEN LIED TO FOR
7 ABOUT THREE YEARS AND HAD BEEN TOLD MULTIPLE TIMES THAT SHE
8 ONLY HAD MONTHS TO LIVE. SO FROM THEN ON, I WAS FORCED TO LIVE
9 WITH KNOWING SHE WAS FAKING CANCER.

10 SEEING ALL OF THE VICTIMS BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BROKE
11 MY HEART. I WAS THERE WITH THEM CREATING HER PERFECT --
12 CREATING HER IMAGE OF A PERFECT FAMILY WITH A SICK MOM. I
13 COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE I WAS HELPING THEM, ACCEPTING
14 DONATIONS, MEALS, MY FREE TENNIS LESSONS, GYMNASTICS LESSONS,
15 CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND SO ON. IT BROKE ME, LOVING AND CARING
16 ABOUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING ROBBED, AND BEING A PART
17 OF IT.

18 AFTER MOVING BACK WITH MY MOM WHEN I WAS 13, I THOUGHT
19 AMANDA COULDN'T GET TO ME ANYMORE. I WAS WRONG. SHE ENDED UP
20 THREATENING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY LITTLE BROTHERS UNLESS I
21 CONTINUED TO BELIEVE SHE HAD CANCER. SHE WOULD TELL ME SHE
22 WASN'T IN ANY TROUBLE AND BLAMED THE WHOLE STORY ON MY MOM.

23 SHE TOLD ME THAT THE PATH WAS GOING DOWN WOULDN'T LEAD ME
24 ANYWHERE, AND WOULD TRY TO MAKE ME FEEL WORTHLESS, ALL BECAUSE
25 I REFUSED TO BELIEVE HER LIES.

1 I COULD GO ON FOR HOURS ABOUT AMANDA AND ALL OF THE
2 HORRIBLE THINGS SHE HAS DONE, BUT WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS
3 THIS, TO THIS DAY, SHE IS STILL THREATENING MY RELATIONSHIP
4 WITH MY BROTHERS. SHE ATTEMPTED TO RUIN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH
5 MY MOTHER, RUIN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY FATHER, AND HAS PAINTED
6 ME AS A LIAR.

7 AMANDA HAS AFFECTED ME IN MORE WAYS THAN ANYBODY KNOWS. I
8 HAVE BEEN DEPRESSED FOR YEARS. I HAVE SEVERE ANXIETY. I HAVE
9 A HARD TIME SLEEPING AT NIGHT. MY HAIR IS FALLING OUT FROM
10 SEVERE STRESS, AND SOME DAYS I CAN'T PHYSICALLY FUNCTION
11 BECAUSE OF HOW BAD SHE HAS SCARRED ME. THIS IS MY LIFE NOW. I
12 HOPE TO HEAL ONE DAY. IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE,
13 BUT THAT IS MY GOAL.

14 AND IT IS MY HOPE, YOUR HONOR, THAT YOU CAN TRULY
15 UNDERSTAND THE PAIN THIS WOMAN HAS CAUSED TO NOT ONLY ME, BUT
16 TO EVERY SINGLE PERSON INVOLVED.

17 THIS CASE RUNS SO MUCH DEEPER THAN MONEY, AND IT'S TIME
18 THAT AMANDA TRULY UNDERSTANDS THAT HERSELF.

19 THE COURT: THANK YOU, MS. GONZALEZ.

20 MR. PITMAN, WAS THERE A FOURTH INDIVIDUAL?

21 MR. PITMAN: ONE MORE, YOUR HONOR.

22 MS. BERRY, IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE AND WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK,
23 NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

24 THE WITNESS: YOUR HONOR, MY NAME IS LISA BERRY. AND
25 I THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS TIME TO HEAR HOW MY FAMILY'S LIFE

1 HAS BEEN IMPACTED BY THE ACTIONS OF AMANDA.

2 THIS CASE IS ABOUT AMANDA FAKING A CANCER DIAGNOSIS SINCE
3 JUNE 2012. JUNE 2012 IS WHEN AMANDA HAD ANNOUNCED TO HER
4 FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND THE WORLD, THAT SHE WAS JUST DIAGNOSED
5 WITH CANCER, AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO HER FIRST CHILD.

6 SHE SHARED AN EXTENSIVE MEDICAL BLOG FOR MANY YEARS
7 DETAILING HER CANCER FIGHT. AMANDA RILEY CAME INTO OUR LIVES
8 IN 2010, A FULL TWO YEARS BEFORE SHE PUBLICLY CLAIMED THAT SHE
9 HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER.

10 THE RELATIONSHIP STARTED THROUGH THE FRIENDSHIP OF MY
11 DAUGHTER AND AMANDA'S STEPDAUGHTER. THE GIRLS WERE IN THE
12 THIRD GRADE, AND AMANDA AND HER HUSBAND, CORY, CHARMED THEIR
13 WAY INTO OUR LIVES VERY QUICKLY. WE BECAME FRIENDS AND SPENT A
14 GREAT DEAL OF TIME TOGETHER FOR A YEAR.

15 DURING OUR TIME AS FRIENDS, WE WERE TOLD MANY THINGS BY
16 AMANDA AND CORY RILEY THAT I BELIEVED TO BE TRUE, UNTIL WE FELT
17 INFORMATION DID NOT ADD UP, AND IT FINALLY LEAD TO THE COMPLETE
18 BREAKDOWN IN OUR FRIENDSHIP WHEN I CONFRONTED AMANDA RILEY
19 ABOUT THE LIES THEY HAD TOLD US.

20 DURING THE TIME OF OUR FRIENDSHIP, AMANDA TOLD US THAT SHE
21 WAS A PHD STUDENT AT STANFORD STUDYING CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY.
22 SHE WAS NOT. SHE TOLD US THAT THEY OWNED THEIR HOME, THEY DID
23 NOT. SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS CHILDHOOD CLASSMATES WITH A FAMOUS
24 ACTRESS AND THEY TOOK DANCE CLASSES TOGETHER, THEY DID NOT.

25 BUT NOTHING COULD PREPARE ME FOR WHAT SHE COULD LIE ABOUT,

1 CANCER. THAT'S RIGHT. TWO YEARS BEFORE SHE PUBLICLY CLAIMED
2 TO FIRST BE DIAGNOSED, SHE TOLD ME AND MY HUSBAND THAT SHE HAD
3 CANCER.

4 A COUPLE MONTHS INTO OUR FRIENDSHIP, AGAIN, THIS WAS 2010,
5 I TOLD AMANDA ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL FUNDRAISER THAT TOOK PLACE
6 FOR A FAMILY AT SCHOOL. THE FATHER HAD BRAIN CANCER, AND I
7 SPOKE ABOUT HOW THE COMMUNITY RAISED OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND
8 DOLLARS FOR THIS FAMILY.

9 THE VERY NEXT MORNING, AMANDA RILEY TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD
10 CANCER, THAT SHE WAS UNDERGOING CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT AND THAT
11 SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN. TO SAY I WAS SHOCKED
12 IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT, AS WE HAD BEEN FRIENDS FOR SEVERAL
13 MONTHS, AND THIS WAS THE FIRST I WAS HEARING OF HER DIAGNOSIS.

14 I FELT TERRIBLE FOR HER, SO YOUNG AND DEALING WITH SO
15 MUCH. I FOUND MYSELF IN TEARS THINKING ABOUT THIS YOUNG WOMAN
16 PLANNING HER WEDDING, GOING TO STANFORD, AND ALL THE WHILE
17 FIGHTING CANCER. I WAS SO SADDENED BY IT.

18 MY HUSBAND WAS ALSO SAD FOR THEM, BECAUSE HE HAD LOST HIS
19 FIRST WIFE TO CANCER, AND WAS DEVASTATED FOR AMANDA AND CORY
20 BECAUSE HE KNEW WHAT FIGHTING CANCER WAS LIKE. AMANDA AND CORY
21 ALSO KNEW ABOUT MY HUSBAND'S FIRST WIFE'S PASSING, AFTER A
22 NINE-YEAR BATTLE WITH CANCER.

23 WE MADE OURSELVES AVAILABLE TO HELP EVERY TIME WE WERE
24 ASKED. MY HUSBAND TALKED TO ME ABOUT HOW HE WOULD NEED TO BE
25 THERE FOR CORY AND HELP HIM THROUGH THE PAIN OF SEEING HIS WIFE

1 SO SICK, AND IT WOULD BE OVERWHELMING AND VERY HARD FOR THEM.
2 MY HUSBAND KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE, AND HE JUST WANTED TO HELP.

3 VERY QUICKLY, WE WERE HELPING AMANDA WITH HER
4 STEPDAUGHTER, PICKING HER UP FROM SCHOOL, BECAUSE AMANDA TOLD
5 US SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL. DRIVING HER TO SCHOOL, BECAUSE
6 AMANDA WAS TOO SICK FROM CHEMOTHERAPY TO GET OUT OF BED,
7 WATCHING JESSA OVERNIGHT BECAUSE AMANDA NEEDED CORY BY HER SIDE
8 AT THE HOSPITAL FOR OVERNIGHT TESTS.

9 THEN SOMETHING CHANGED. ALL OF THE CANCER TALK SEEMED TO
10 FADE A BIT AS AMANDA AND CORY PLANNED THEIR WEDDING. IT SEEMED
11 LIKE SEVERAL MONTHS WENT BY WITH NO NEED FOR HELP WITH HER
12 CANCER SCHEDULE. I FOUND IT ODD, BUT ALSO THOUGHT SHE PROBABLY
13 WANTED TO FOCUS ON THE HAPPINESS AHEAD, AND I COULD UNDERSTAND
14 THAT.

15 WHEN THEY RETURNED FROM THEIR HONEYMOON, THEY STARTED
16 TALKING ABOUT HER CANCER AGAIN. THEN CAME AUGUST 24TH, 2011,
17 MY BIRTHDAY. AMANDA AND CORY CAME TO MY BIRTHDAY PARTY, AND
18 CORY WAS TELLING MY HUSBAND AND ANOTHER FRIEND HOW SICK AMANDA
19 HAD BEEN AND SHE DIDN'T THINK SHE WOULD MAKE IT TO THE PARTY.
20 HE SAID AMANDA HAD BEEN QUITE ILL. HE TOLD THEM SHE NOW HAD
21 STAGE 4 CANCER AND ONLY MONTHS TO LIVE.

22 MY HUSBAND WAS DEVASTATED TO HEAR THIS. HE HAD BEEN
23 THROUGH THIS BEFORE AND HE KNEW HOW EXCRUCIATING AND PAINFUL
24 THIS WOULD BE FOR THEM. IT REALLY BROUGHT BACK SO MUCH PAST
25 PAIN FOR HIM. I WAS EQUALLY DEVASTATED.

1 SHORTLY AFTER MY BIRTHDAY, SHE ASKED ME FOR MONEY FOR
2 BLOOD TESTS SHE NEEDED SO SHE COULD LIVE. WE GAVE HER THE
3 NEEDED MONEY. WITHIN A COUPLE DAYS, SHE POSTED GLAMOROUS
4 PHOTOS OF HERSELF TAKEN BY A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER. I
5 BECAME SUSPICIOUS THAT THE MONEY I HAD GIVEN HER WAS USED TO
6 PAY FOR THIS PHOTO SHOOT.

7 A FEW DAYS LATER SHE SHOWED UP AT OUR HOME TO PICK UP HER
8 STEPDAUGHTER WHO I WAS WATCHING, BECAUSE AMANDA HAD BEEN IN THE
9 HOSPITAL. AFTER TELLING ME SHE HAD FLUID DRAINED FROM HER
10 BRAIN THAT SAME DAY, SHE PROCEEDED TO SWIM IN MY POOL, FULLY
11 UNDER WATER. THIS JUST DIDN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME, AND I STARTED
12 QUESTIONING EVERYTHING.

13 THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT THEIR SITUATION, THE MORE I
14 THOUGHT, WHY ISN'T HER FAMILY HERE? SHE IS TERMINALLY ILL AND
15 HER PARENTS AND SIBLINGS ARE NOT COMING AROUND TO HELP BE WITH
16 HER. I KNEW THEY WERE CLOSE, I MET THEM AT THE WEDDING, AND I
17 COULDN'T IMAGINE THEM NOT BEING THERE FOR AMANDA AND CORY.

18 THINGS WEREN'T SITTING RIGHT WITH ME, SO I DECIDED TO DO
19 SOME RESEARCH ON THINGS SHE HAD TOLD ME THAT WERE EASY TO
20 IDENTIFY. FOR INSTANCE, STANFORD DID NOT HAVE A CLINICAL
21 PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM. I ALSO FOUND THE RECENT CRAIGSLIST
22 LISTING FOR THE RENTAL HOUSE THAT THE RILEY'S HAD JUST MOVED
23 INTO THAT AMANDA TOLD ME THEY HAD PURCHASED WITH THE HELP OF
24 HER PARENTS.

25 I KEPT IGNORING HER CALLS HOPING SHE WOULD TAKE THE HINT

1 AND JUST GO AWAY, UNTIL I REALIZED I WOULD HAVE TO CONFRONT HER
2 WITH THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO GET RID OF THESE PEOPLE.

3 THE NEXT TIME SHE CALLED, I ANSWERED. AMANDA IMMEDIATELY
4 TOLD HE ME SHE WAS PREGNANT. I SAID, I THOUGHT YOU WERE DYING.
5 I THOUGHT YOU WERE DYING. AND SHE ACTUALLY HAD THE NERVE TO
6 TELL ME THE PREGNANCY WAS REVERSING THE DISEASE.

7 I HAD HAD ENOUGH. I DEMANDED TO KNOW THE NAME OF HER
8 ONCOLOGIST, AND THE NAME SHE GAVE ME DIDN'T EXIST. I DEMANDED
9 SHE RETURN THE MONEY WE HAD GIVEN HER, AND I TOLD HER OF THE
10 RESEARCH I HAD DONE THAT EXPOSED ALL THE LIES THEY HAD BEEN
11 TELLING US. I BLOCKED HER AND CORY'S PHONES FROM CALLING ME
12 AND NEVER TALKED WITH EITHER OF THEM AGAIN.

13 WE WERE SO ANGRY THAT SOMEONE WOULD ACTUALLY LIE ABOUT
14 HAVING CANCER. MY HUSBAND WAS HURT AND SPEECHLESS THAT OUR
15 FRIENDS COULD PERPETRATE SUCH A DISGUSTING LIE, THAT THIS
16 COUPLE WITH WHOM WE WERE FRIENDS, A MAN WHO MY HUSBAND STOOD UP
17 FOR AT HIS WEDDING, WERE CAPABLE OF SUCH A CON.

18 THEY KNEW WHAT MY HUSBAND HAD BEEN THROUGH, AND THEY
19 MANIPULATED OUR EMOTIONS TO GET WHAT THEY WANTED; ATTENTION AND
20 MONEY.

21 I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER HEAR ABOUT AMANDA AND CORY RILEY
22 AGAIN, BUT THAT WASN'T THE CASE. YEARS LATER, I LEARNED THAT
23 AMANDA AND CORY WERE AT IT AGAIN, NOW PRETENDING TO BE
24 DIAGNOSED IN 2012, A FULL TWO YEARS AFTER TELLING US THAT SHE
25 WAS TERMINALLY ILL IN 2010.

1 AMANDA RILEY WAS FAKING CANCER AND SCAMMING ON AN EVEN
2 LARGER SCALE. MY HUSBAND AND I WERE REVOLTED TO LEARN THAT
3 THIS WAS HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN.

4 WE WILL BE FOREVER DISGUSTED WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THE
5 MANIPULATION AMANDA AND CORY RILEY PUT US THROUGH, ALONG WITH
6 SO MANY OTHERS.

7 I FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT I SPEAK OUT TODAY ON BEHALF
8 OF MYSELF AND MY HUSBAND, BECAUSE EVEN AFTER BEING CONFRONTED
9 IN 2011 ABOUT FAKING CANCER, AMANDA RILEY DIDN'T FEEL ASHAMED
10 ABOUT WHAT SHE HAD DONE, RATHER SHE HONED HER STORY AND
11 ESCALATED IT TO ANOTHER LEVEL OF GREED, AND I BELIEVE IF SHE IS
12 NOT GIVEN A BIG ENOUGH DETERRENCE, SHE WILL DO IT AGAIN,
13 BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE DID AFTER I CONFRONTED HER.

14 YOUR HONOR, I TRUST YOUR WISDOM, AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL
15 ASSIGN AN EXTENSIVE SENTENCE ON AMANDA RILEY FOR THE CRIME THAT
16 SHE HAS COMMITTED.

17 THE COURT: THANK YOU, MS. BERRY.

18 MR. PITMAN, OTHERS?

19 MR. PITMAN: I DON'T BELIEVE SO, YOUR HONOR.

20 I THINK THAT'S ALL THE VICTIMS THAT WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK
21 TODAY.

22 THE COURT: THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR
23 COMMENTS.

24 MR. GANTAR, I'M GOING TO TURN TO YOU. I FEEL IT'S
25 IMPORTANT TO LET YOU KNOW BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR COMMENTS TO ME,

1 THAT HAVING READ THE VICTIM STATEMENTS AND BEING AMPLIFIED BY
2 THEIR PRESENCE IN COURT, IT IS MY INTENTION TO SENTENCE
3 MS. RILEY TO AN ABOVE-GUIDELINE SENTENCE, AND I WANT YOU TO
4 HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THAT, RATHER THAN HEARING IT
5 AFTERWARDS.

6 MR. GANTAR: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

7 I THINK EVERYONE AGREES THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND
8 CHALLENGING, AND FRANKLY, A STRANGE CASE.

9 AS THE COURT IS WELL AWARE, THE OFFENSE CONDUCT MS. RILEY
10 HAS ADMITTED TO IT IN HER PLEA AGREEMENT, AND IT'S DESCRIBED IN
11 THE PRESENTENCE REPORT, MS. RILEY DOES ACCEPT FULL
12 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT CONDUCT. SHE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE
13 OFFENSE TO WHICH SHE'S PLED GUILTY IS A SERIOUS ONE.

14 AND I THINK IN LINE WITH THAT, DESPITE WHAT YOUR HONOR
15 JUST INFORMED ME OF, THE DEFENSE DID NOT SEEK A DOWNWARD
16 VARIANCE FROM THE GUIDELINES. WE WERE REQUESTING A GUIDELINE
17 SENTENCE IN THIS CASE, AND I THINK THAT IS IN LINE WITH
18 MS. RILEY'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE, AND
19 IN LINE AND IN CONFORMANCE WITH HER ACCEPTANCE OF
20 RESPONSIBILITY.

21 WITH THAT SAID, YOUR HONOR, I WANT TO JUST BRIEFLY ADDRESS
22 SOME OF THE 3553(A) FACTORS HERE, BEGINNING WITH MS. RILEY'S
23 BACKGROUND.

24 THE COURT: YES.

25 MR. GANTAR: AS THE COURT KNOWS, SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS

1 DID WRITE LETTERS FOR MS. RILEY, HER FAMILY, INCLUDING FORMER
2 COLLEAGUES, ALL OF WHOM AWARE OF THE OFFENSE CONDUCT. SHE'S
3 DESCRIBED AS SOMEONE WHO IS CLEARLY CAPABLE OF POSITIVELY
4 CONTRIBUTING TO HER COMMUNITY AND TO HER FAMILY.

5 AGAIN, YOUR HONOR, I THINK THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS CASE
6 STRANGE IN SO MANY WAYS, IS THAT MS. RILEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY,
7 I THINK, TO EMBARK ON WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A PRETTY
8 SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN EDUCATION, THAT'S OF COURSE BEEN DESTROYED
9 AND WON'T BE REJUVENATED, DESPITE HER POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS IN
10 THAT FIELD.

11 SHE'S ALSO THE CARING MOTHER TO TWO YOUNG BOYS, BOTH OF
12 WHOM WILL OBVIOUSLY BE SEVERELY IMPACTED BY TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS
13 FOR SOME TIME TO COME. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THEY VERY MUCH RELY
14 ON MS. RILEY FOR THEIR CARETAKING NEEDS AND FOR THEIR
15 SCHOOLING, AND I THINK THAT'S AN IMPORTANT THING TO ACCOUNT FOR
16 TOO, THE ROLE MS. RILEY PLAYS IN THEIR LIVES.

17 THERE'S OBVIOUSLY MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, YOUR HONOR, THAT
18 RUN QUITE DEEPLY, I THINK IN THIS CASE, AND OTHER HEALTH
19 ISSUES. MS. RILEY OBVIOUSLY DID NOT HAVE CANCER. SHE DOES NOT
20 HAVE CANCER, BUT THERE ARE THESE CONDITIONS.

21 AND I WON'T GO INTO THOSE, BUT THEY ARE REFERENCED IN THE
22 PRESENTENCE REPORT. AND THE REALITY IS I THINK AN EXTENSIVE
23 PRISON TERM IS GOING TO BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS
24 CONDITIONS OF THAT SORT AS OPPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO IS IN
25 EXCELLENT OR OTHERWISE GOOD HEALTH.

1 AND THE GOVERNMENT FILED A RESPONSE IN THIS CASE TO OUR
2 SENTENCING MEMORANDA, AND I WANTED TO CLARIFY ONE THING. OUR
3 POSITION IS NOT THAT THE B.O.P. CANNOT CARE FOR MS. RILEY,
4 THAT'S NOT THE POSITION WE ARE TAKING. AS THE COURT KNOWS, WE
5 ARE ASKING THE COURT TO IMPOSE A PARTIAL B.O.P. TERM TODAY.

6 WITH THAT SAID, YOUR HONOR, I WANTED TO INFORM THE COURT
7 THAT THERE ARE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF B.O.P. FACILITIES THROUGHOUT
8 THE NATION THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED FOR WOMEN. AND SO
9 I WANTED TO JUST BRING THIS TO THE COURT'S ATTENTION THAT
10 MS. RILEY AND HER FAMILY, ALONG WITH HER CHILDREN, CURRENTLY
11 RESIDE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.

12 SHE OBVIOUSLY WISHES TO REMAIN CLOSE TO THEM DURING HER
13 PERIOD OF INCARCERATION TO FACILITATE REGULAR VISITS WITH THEM.
14 AND I HAVE DONE SOME RESEARCH INTO THIS, AND WHAT I FOUND IS
15 THERE REALLY ONLY APPEARS TO BE TWO SUITABLE FACILITIES THAT
16 ARE WITHIN A REASONABLE OR SUITABLE DRIVING DISTANCE FROM
17 AUSTIN, TEXAS. ONE OF THOSE IS FCP BRYAN, WHICH IS LOCATED IN
18 BRYAN, TEXAS. THAT'S ABOUT A TWO-HOUR DRIVE FROM AUSTIN.

19 THE OTHER IS FMC CARSWELL, WHICH IS IN FORTH WORTH.
20 THAT'S ABOUT A THREE AND A HALF HOUR DRIVE FROM AUSTIN. AND WE
21 WOULD BE ASKING TODAY, THE COURT MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THOSE
22 TWO B.O.P. FACILITIES IN IMPOSING SENTENCE.

23 AS THE COURT KNOWS, REGULAR FAMILY VISITS ARE DIFFICULT
24 FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INCARCERATED, BUT THEY ARE IMPORTANT,
25 AND I KNOW MS. RILEY WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH

1 HER FAMILY DURING HER PERIOD OF INCARCERATION. AND I THINK
2 THAT VERY MUCH WOULD FACILITATE REHABILITATION AND HER REENTRY
3 ONCE THAT TERM IS DONE.

4 AND SO FOR THAT REASON, WE WOULD RESPECTFULLY ASK THE
5 COURT MAKE THAT RECOMMENDATION, WHEN IMPOSING SENTENCE, TO
6 THOSE TWO FACILITIES.

7 THAT IS ALL, YOUR HONOR, UNLESS THE COURT HAS ANY FURTHER
8 QUESTIONS.

9 THE COURT: MS. RILEY, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO
10 MAKE A STATEMENT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO THAT?

11 THE DEFENDANT: YES, YOUR HONOR.

12 THE COURT: AND MR. GANTAR, IF YOU WOULD PULL THAT
13 MICROPHONE CLOSER TO MS. RILEY.

14 THE DEFENDANT: YOUR HONOR, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WORDS
15 TO ADEQUATELY EXPRESS HOW HORRIFIC I FEEL AND HOW SORRY I AM
16 THAT THIS HAPPENED.

17 MY HEART ACHES EVERY DAY, THINKING THAT I DID SOMETHING
18 THAT HURT OTHER PEOPLE. THIS IS THE WORST THING I'VE EVER DONE
19 AND THE WORST MISTAKE I COULD HAVE MADE.

20 I DON'T SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT BECAUSE THIS HAUNTS ME DAILY.
21 I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT MYSELF IN THE MIRROR WITHOUT FEELING
22 ASHAMED, AND I'M SO SORRY.

23 LOOKING BACK AND RECOGNIZING THAT I HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE,
24 CRUSHES ME, AND IT HAS FOR A REALLY LONG TIME NOW. I HAVE BEEN
25 DEALING WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THIS FOR YEARS. I THREW AWAY

1 MY DREAM CAREER, LOST ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY. I WENT FROM
2 BEING A NOBODY, TO BEING NEGATIVELY COVERED IN DOZENS OF
3 TABLOIDS AND NEWS ARTICLES.

4 I'M PARANOID I'M BEING FOLLOWED ALL THE TIME, AND I'M TOO
5 SCARED TO OPEN SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES FOR FEAR OF WHAT THEY WILL
6 SAY AND THE HURTFUL THINGS THAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO ME.

7 UNTIL TODAY, I HAVE NEVER PUBLICLY ADDRESSED THIS, AND
8 IT'S TIME I STEP FORWARD AND BE ACCOUNTABLE, TO TRY TO DO -- TO
9 TRY TO RIGHT THIS WRONG.

10 I'M HERE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND HUMBLY ACCEPT MY
11 CONSEQUENCES AS THE FIRST STEP OF SHOWING EVERYONE I WANT TO
12 MAKE THIS RIGHT. I WILL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WORKING
13 TOWARDS THE AMENDS FOR THE HURT THAT I HAVE CAUSED.

14 I WANT TO PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE VICTIMS IN THIS
15 CASE, SPECIFICALLY THE CHURCH AND THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED OR
16 HELPED WITH FUNDRAISING, TO ALL OF THE KIND, LOVING PEOPLE WHO
17 HELPED US. I ASK THAT YOU NOT BE DETERRED FROM YOUR SERVANT'S
18 HEART BECAUSE OF MY MISTAKE. PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP THOSE IN
19 NEED.

20 I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO MY FAMILY. CORY, MY HUSBAND, MY
21 PARENTS, MY BROTHERS, OUR BEST FRIENDS THAT WE CONSIDER FAMILY,
22 AND OUR KIDS. OUR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME BECAUSE OF MY
23 CHOICES, AND I'M SO SORRY FOR THAT.

24 JESSA, MY BONUS DAUGHTER, I HOPE THIS BRINGS YOU THE
25 CLOSURE AND CLARITY YOU HAVE BEEN SEEKING. I'M SO SORRY YOU

1 WERE IN THE DARK FOR WHAT WAS TRULY HAPPENING FOR SO LONG. YOU
2 HAD TO WALK THROUGH THIS, AND IT BREAKS MY HEART TO KNOW I HURT
3 YOU. I DO LOVE YOU AND ALWAYS HAVE LOVED YOU LIKE YOU WERE MY
4 OWN. THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO OR SAY TO MAKE THIS BETTER FOR
5 YOU EXCEPT TO PROMISE, THROUGH MY ACTIONS, THAT I WILL WORK
6 EACH DAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE TO REBUILD OUR RELATIONSHIP
7 FROM THE HURT I HAVE CAUSED YOU, AND I HOPE ONE DAY WE CAN GET
8 THERE.

9 OUR TWO YOUNG BOYS WERE BABIES WHEN THIS STARTED, SO THEY
10 WERE TOO LITTLE TO BE AFFECTED BY MY BAD CHOICES. AND CORY AND
11 I HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO PROTECT AND SHELTER THEM FROM THIS SO
12 THEY COULD LIVE NORMAL LIVES.

13 NOW TO SEE THEM AS BIG BOYS WHO ARE GOING TO SEE THEIR MOM
14 GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS, IS GOING TO FLIP THEIR WORLD UPSIDE
15 DOWN.

16 BEING A GOOD MOM IS WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED MOST IN THIS
17 WORLD, AND IT'S MY JOB TO LOVE AND PROTECT THEM, SO IT BREAKS
18 MY HEART MOST OF ALL THAT THE REASON THEY ARE GOING TO BE HURT
19 AND NOT SEE THEIR MOM EVERY DAY, IS BECAUSE OF ME.

20 I HUMBLY WRITE THIS TO YOU AS A WAY OF ACCOUNTABILITY, A
21 FIRST STEP TO TRY TO RIGHT A TERRIBLE WRONG, AND I PROMISE TO
22 SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WORKING TO BETTER MYSELF. I PROMISE
23 I WILL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE SPENT HELPING OTHERS AND NOT
24 HURTING THEM.

25 THANK YOU FOR HEARING MY STATEMENT.

1 THE COURT: THANK YOU.

2 MR. PITMAN, COMMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES?

3 MR. PITMAN: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD,
4 YOUR HONOR.

5 I APPRECIATE THE COURT'S INDULGENCE IN LISTENING TO THE
6 VICTIMS' STATEMENTS AND REVIEWING THE SUBMISSIONS -- THE
7 STATEMENTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PSR.

8 THE COURT: COMMENTS FROM PROBATION?

9 PROBATION OFFICER: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD,
10 YOUR HONOR.

11 THANK YOU.

12 THE COURT: I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE VICTIMS AND
13 YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR COMING TODAY. I RECOGNIZE HOW VERY
14 DIFFICULT IT IS TO COME INTO A COURTROOM AND TO HAVE TO SAY THE
15 THINGS YOU ARE SAYING AND FEEL WHAT YOU ARE FEELING BY BEING
16 HERE. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

17 IT IS MY OBLIGATION, UNDER THE LAW, TO CONSIDER THE
18 FACTORS IN SENTENCING UNDER SECTION 3553(A), IN ORDER TO ENSURE
19 A SENTENCE THAT IS SUFFICIENT, BUT NOT GREATER THAN NECESSARY,
20 TO COMPLY WITH THE PURPOSES OF SENTENCING.

21 IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN HERE. IN CONSIDERING
22 THIS CRIME, BASED UPON ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED THROUGH
23 THE PLEA AGREEMENT AND PROBATION, IT IS CLEAR, MS. RILEY, THAT
24 YOU PREYED ON THE KINDNESS AND GOOD WILL OF INNOCENT, LOVING
25 PEOPLE FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS.

1 YOU INVADED SANCTITY OF COMMUNITIES AND GRIEVING MEMBERS
2 OF SUPPORT GROUPS. YOU BETRAYED FOR FAMILY. YOU EITHER DUPED
3 OR CAUSED YOUR HUSBAND TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH YOUR SCHEME, SO
4 THAT HE RUINED THE LIFE OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER FOR YOUR FAKERY.
5 YOU DEFRAUDED PEOPLE OF THEIR MONEY, OF THEIR GOOD WILL, OF
6 THEIR BELIEFS.

7 I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT, OVER EIGHT YEARS, YOU WERE AS
8 SINCERE TO THOSE PEOPLE AS YOU APPEARED TO ME TODAY. AND I
9 HAVE TO SAY THAT IN LISTENING TO YOU TODAY, I COULD ONLY
10 IMAGINE WHAT A GOOD ACT YOU HAD FOR EIGHT YEARS IN FRONT OF
11 CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AND IN YOUR BLOG AND ONLINE AND
12 WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

13 IN CONSIDERING MR. GANTAR'S COMMENT ABOUT YOUR OWN
14 CHILDREN, IT BREAKS MY HEART TO THINK THAT YOUR BOYS WILL
15 HAVE -- WILL NOT HAVE THEIR MOTHER WITH THEM. BUT IT WAS YOUR
16 RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE YOU COMMITTED THESE FRAUDS, TO THINK
17 ABOUT YOUR PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS. IT IS NOT THE COURT'S JOB TO
18 CLEAN THAT UP FOR YOU.

19 YOU ARE HERE TODAY FOR ME TO CONSIDER PUNISHMENT, AND
20 THEREFORE IN CONSIDERING THE NATURE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF A
21 CRIME, INCLUDING THE SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD OF THE FAKED CANCER,
22 PUBLICIZED IN THE COMMUNITY AND ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA, YOU
23 SOLICITED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR
24 NONEXISTENT MEDICAL TREATMENT. YOU SOUGHT GOOD WILL AND
25 ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS, FROM THE CHURCH, FROM CANCER

1 SUPPORT GROUPS, ALL AS A RUSE TO SUPPORT YOUR OWN LIFESTYLE.

2 THIS INCLUDED DECEPTION AND THEFT, FORGED MEDICAL RECORDS,
3 PREYING ON THE GOOD WILL OF STRANGERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND
4 THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON VICTIMS.

5 YOU HAVE VIRTUALLY SHATTERED THE LIFE OF YOUR
6 STEPDAUGHTER, AND YOU CLAIM YOU LOVE HER. I DON'T THINK THAT'S
7 ENOUGH TO MAKE AMENDS.

8 IT APPEARS THAT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS MAY BE IN EXCESS OF
9 350 PEOPLE, AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT YOU SCAMMED FROM THESE
10 INNOCENT PEOPLE APPEARS TO BE OVER \$105,000.

11 IN CONSIDERING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRIME, THERE IS NO
12 DOUBT THAT THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS CRIME. I HAVE TO FURTHER
13 CONSIDER PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE NEED FOR DETERRENCE.

14 I DO FIND THE PUBLIC TO BE AT SIGNIFICANT RISK FROM YOU.
15 I DO BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN AGAIN. MS. BERRY'S COMMENTS
16 TO THE COURT MAKE THAT CLEAR, THAT BEING CONFRONTED WITH YOUR
17 LIES SEEMED TO BE NO DETERRENT WHATSOEVER, AND THEREFORE I FIND
18 THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE TO BE AT RISK FROM YOUR CONTINUED FRAUD.

19 I ALSO BELIEVE THAT BY IMPOSING A SENTENCE THAT IS
20 REASONABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT THERE WILL BE A
21 DETERRENT EFFECT FOR OTHERS.

22 I HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED YOUR PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS. I
23 RECOGNIZE THAT YOU GREW UP IN A STABLE HOME, AND ALTHOUGH YOUR
24 PARENTS HAD MARITAL PROBLEMS, YOU WERE WELL EDUCATED, YOU
25 EARNED A MASTER'S DEGREE, YOU HAD GOOD EMPLOYMENT IN EDUCATION

1 FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. YOU ARE THE MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG
2 CHILDREN.

3 I RECOGNIZE THAT YOU SUFFER FROM A NUMBER OF HEALTH
4 AILMENTS THAT REQUIRE MEDICAL ATTENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH
5 ISSUES, I'VE TAKEN ALL OF THAT INTO ACCOUNT. I RECOGNIZE THAT
6 YOU HAVE NO PRIOR ARREST RECORD, AND I HAVE CONSIDERED ALL OF
7 THAT AS WELL. AND I WILL CONSIDER THAT FOR A SENTENCE THAT IS
8 SUFFICIENT, BUT NOT GREATER THAN NECESSARY, TO COMPLY WITH THE
9 PURPOSES OF SECTION 3553(A).

10 PROBATION AND THE GOVERNMENT RECOMMEND A HIGH GUIDELINE OF
11 18 MONTHS.

12 YOU ARE RECOMMENDING SIX MONTHS IN PRISON FOLLOWED BY SIX
13 MONTHS OF HOME DETENTION; IS THAT CORRECT, MR. GANTAR?

14 MR. GANTAR: YES, YOUR HONOR.

15 THE COURT: I DON'T ACTUALLY CONSIDER THAT IN THE
16 GUIDELINE. BUT IN MY VIEW, THE GUIDELINE SENTENCE IS NOT
17 SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO PUNISH FOR THIS CRIME, EVEN TAKING ALL OF
18 YOUR OWN PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS INTO ACCOUNT.

19 I WILL IMPOSE AN UPWARD VARIANCE OF THE GUIDELINE
20 SENTENCE, AND I WILL SENTENCE YOU TO 60 MONTHS IN PRISON.

21 THIS CRIME CARRIES A MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE OF 20 YEARS.
22 I CONSIDER THIS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION FROM THE MAXIMUM,
23 ALTHOUGH IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE WHO WOULD BE MORE DESERVING OF A
24 MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR MAIL FRAUD THAN YOU.

25 IT IS OUR UNITED STATES CONGRESS THAT SET THAT 20-YEAR

1 MAXIMUM, AND IT IS MY VIEW THAT 60 MONTHS IS FAIR AND
2 REASONABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3 WITH THAT IN MIND, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE? I ASSUME THAT
4 RESTITUTION WILL BE DONE SEPARATELY, THE PARTIES MAY WISH TO
5 TALK ABOUT WHETHER THERE WILL BE A HEARING FOR THAT OR NOT.

6 MR. PITMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR.

7 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. THERE IS NO FORFEITURE,
8 MR. PITMAN?

9 MR. PITMAN: THAT'S CORRECT, YOUR HONOR.

10 THE COURT: OKAY.

11 MR. GANTAR: YOUR HONOR, IF I MAY INTERRUPT?

12 THE COURT: YES.

13 MR. GANTAR: I'M SORRY.

14 MY UNDERSTANDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS THAT THEY ARE
15 REQUESTING A SET AMOUNT OF RESTITUTION.

16 THE COURT: YES, BUT IF YOU HAVEN'T AGREED TO IT, WE
17 WILL SET A SEPARATE HEARING FOR IT AND GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY
18 TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.

19 MR. GANTAR: WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S
20 REQUEST OF THAT RESTITUTION ORDER.

21 MR. PITMAN: I CAN PREPARE AN ORDER FOR YOUR HONOR.

22 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. GOOD. THEN WE DON'T NEED
23 THAT.

24 AND I'M NOT GOING TO IMPOSE A FINE.

25 MR. GANTAR: YOUR HONOR, I APOLOGIZE, ONE MORE THING.

1 WE WOULD MAKE A REQUEST THE COURT WAIVE INTEREST ON
2 RESTITUTION. MS. RILEY IS, AS NOTED IN THE PRESENTENCE REPORT,
3 UNABLE TO AFFORD PAYMENT OF A FINE. WE WOULD REQUEST THE COURT
4 EXERCISE IT'S DISCRETION AS WELL TO WAIVE INTEREST ON
5 RESTITUTION AS WELL.

6 THE COURT: SO IT WOULD BE PRINCIPLE ONLY AND NO
7 INTEREST, IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE ASKING FOR?

8 MR. GANTAR: CORRECT.

9 THE COURT: IS THERE ANY OBJECTION TO THAT?

10 MR. PITMAN: YOUR HONOR, JUST FOR REFERENCE, THE
11 INDIVIDUAL RESTITUTION AMOUNTS ARE NOT LARGE AMOUNTS, AND SO
12 THE INTEREST ACCUMULATING ON THOSE INDIVIDUAL RESTITUTION
13 AMOUNTS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL VICTIMS WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE.

14 THE COURT: SO YOU ARE OBJECTING TO WAIVING IT.

15 MR. PITMAN: I DO OBJECT TO WAIVING IT, HOWEVER I
16 DON'T BELIEVE IT'S A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR.

17 THE COURT: OKAY.

18 PURSUANT TO THE SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 1984, IT IS THE
19 JUDGMENT OF THE COURT THAT AMANDA RILEY IS HEREBY COMMITTED TO
20 THE CUSTODY OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS FOR A PERIOD OF 60 MONTHS.

21 UPON RELEASE FROM IMPRISONMENT, THE DEFENDANT SHALL BE
22 PLACED ON SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

23 WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RELEASE FROM CUSTODY OF THE BUREAU OF
24 PRISONS, THE DEFENDANT SHALL REPORT IN PERSON TO THE PROBATION
25 OFFICE IN THE DISTRICT TO WHICH SHE IS RELEASED.

1 WHILE ON SUPERVISED RELEASE, THE DEFENDANT SHALL NOT
2 COMMIT ANOTHER FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL CRIME, SHALL COMPLY WITH
3 THE STANDARD CONDITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THIS COURT,
4 EXCEPT THAT THE MANDATORY DRUG TESTING PROVISION IS SUSPENDED,
5 AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

6 AND I WILL NOTE THAT I DO ADOPT THE JUSTIFICATION SET
7 FORTH IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

8 YOU MUST PAY ANY RESTITUTION AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT THAT
9 IS IMPOSED BY THIS JUDGMENT AND THAT REMAINS UNPAID AT THE
10 COMMENCEMENT OF THE TERM OF SUPERVISED RELEASE.

11 YOU MUST NOT OPEN ANY NEW LINES OF CREDIT, AND/OR INCUR
12 NEW DEBT WITHOUT THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE PROBATION OFFICER.

13 YOU MUST PROVIDE THE PROBATION OFFICER WITH ACCESS TO ANY
14 FINANCIAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING TAX RETURNS, AND MUST
15 AUTHORIZE THE PROBATION OFFICER TO CONDUCT CREDIT CHECKS AND
16 OBTAIN COPIES OF INCOME TAX RETURNS.

17 YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN A MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM
18 AS DIRECTED BY THE PROBATION OFFICER. YOU ARE TO PAY PART OR
19 ALL OF THE COST OF THIS TREATMENT AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
20 THE COST OF TREATMENT, AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE PROBATION
21 OFFICER.

22 PAYMENTS MUST NEVER EXCEED THE TOTAL COST OF MENTAL HEALTH
23 COUNSELING. THE ACTUAL COPAYMENT SCHEDULE MUST BE DETERMINED
24 BY THE PROBATION OFFICER.

25 YOU MUST COOPERATE IN THE COLLECTION OF DNA AS DIRECTED BY

1 THE PROBATION OFFICER.

2 YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR PERSON, RESIDENCE, OFFICE, VEHICLE,
3 ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND THEIR DATA, INCLUDING CELL PHONES,
4 COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONIC STORAGE MEDIA, OR ANY PROPERTY UNDER
5 YOUR CONTROL TO A SEARCH. SUCH A SEARCH MUST BE CONDUCTED BY A
6 UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICER, OR ANY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL
7 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT SUSPICION.

8 FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO SUCH A SEARCH MAY BE GROUNDS FOR
9 REVOCATION. YOU MUST WARN ANY RESIDENCE THAT THE PREMISES MAY
10 BE SUBJECT TO SEARCHES.

11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE DEFENDANT SHALL PAY TO THE
12 UNITED STATES A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF \$100.

13 PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE TO:

14 THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

15 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36060

16 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

17 DURING IMPRISONMENT, PAYMENT OF CRIMINAL MONETARY
18 PENALTIES ARE DUE AT A RATE OF NOT LESS THAN \$25 PER QUARTER,
19 AND PAYMENT SHALL BE THROUGH THE BUREAU OF PRISONS INMATE
20 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM.

21 THE COURT FINDS THAT THE DEFENDANT DOES NOT HAVE THE
22 ABILITY TO PAY THE FINE AND ORDERS IT TO BE WAIVED.

23 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE DEFENDANT SHALL PAY
24 RESTITUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF -- MR. PITMAN, WHAT IS THAT
25 AMOUNT?

1 MR. PITMAN: \$105,513.

2 THE COURT: YOU WILL BE ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION IN
3 THE AMOUNT OF \$105,513.

4 THAT'S TO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT VICTIMS; IS THAT CORRECT?

5 MR. PITMAN: OVER 300, YOUR HONOR.

6 THE COURT: AND THAT LIST NEEDED TO BE PROVIDED AS
7 PART OF THE JUDGMENT, I BELIEVE, WILL YOU SUBMIT THAT?

8 MR. PITMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR.

9 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. AND THAT WILL BE TO THE
10 VARIOUS VICTIMS, AS SET FORTH BY THE GOVERNMENT, IN A
11 SUBMISSION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT.

12 DURING IMPRISONMENT, PAYMENT OF RESTITUTION IS DUE AT THE
13 RATE OF NOT LESS THAN \$25 PER QUARTER, AND PAYMENT SHALL BE
14 THROUGH THE BUREAU OF PRISONS INMATE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
15 PROGRAM.

16 ONCE THE DEFENDANT IS ON SUPERVISED RELEASE, RESTITUTION
17 MUST BE PAID IN MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED
18 DOLLARS, OR AT LEAST TEN PERCENT OF EARNINGS, WHICHEVER IS
19 GREATER, TO COMMENCE NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS FROM PLACEMENT ON
20 SUPERVISION.

21 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PAYMENT SCHEDULE SET BY THE COURT, THE
22 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MAY PURSUE COLLECTION THROUGH
23 ALL AVAILABLE MEANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 18 U.S. CODE
24 SECTION 3613 AND 3664 (M) .

25 THE RESTITUTION PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE TO:

1 THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT:
2 ATTENTION FINANCIAL UNIT.

3 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36060.
4 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

5 MS. RILEY, YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR CONVICTION CONSISTENT WITH
6 THE WAIVERS IN YOUR PLEA, AND IF YOU FEEL THAT YOUR PLEA WAS
7 SOMEHOW UNLAWFUL OR INVOLUNTARY OR THERE WAS SOME OTHER
8 FUNDAMENTAL DEFECT IN THE PROCEEDING THAT WAS NOT WAIVED BY
9 YOUR GUILTY PLEA.

10 ANY NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF ENTRY
11 OF JUDGMENT OR WITHIN 14 DAYS OF FILING OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL
12 BY THE GOVERNMENT.

13 IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY THE COST OF AN APPEAL OR FOR
14 AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU ON APPEAL, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
15 APPLY FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL IN FORMA PAUPERIS, WHICH MEANS THAT
16 YOU CAN ASK THE COURT TO WAIVE THE FILING FEE. ON APPEAL, YOU
17 MAY APPLY FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL.

18 MR. PITMAN, IS THE GOVERNMENT OBJECTING TO VOLUNTARY
19 SURRENDER?

20 MR. PITMAN: NO, YOUR HONOR.

21 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. THEN I WILL ORDER YOUR
22 SURRENDER ON -- LET'S GET A DATE FOR THAT.

23 THE CLERK: HOW FAR OUT ARE WE LOOKING, YOUR HONOR?

24 DESIGNATION, I BELIEVE, USUALLY TAKES ANYWHERE FROM THREE
25 TO SIX WEEKS.

1 THE COURT: THEN LET'S MAKE IT EIGHT WEEKS FROM NOW.

2 THE CLERK: THAT WOULD PUT US AT AUGUST 2ND,
3 YOUR HONOR.

4 THE COURT: AUGUST 2ND OF 2022.

5 MS. RILEY, YOU ARE TO REPORT TO THE FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL
6 FACILITY THAT YOU ARE NOTIFIED TO REPORT TO. IT WILL BE YOUR
7 OBLIGATION TO PRESENT YOURSELF AT THAT LOCATION BY 2:00 P.M. ON
8 AUGUST 2ND OF 2022.

9 IF YOU ARE NOT NOTIFIED OF A PLACE TO REPORT, THEN THE
10 FIRST -- WITHIN A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE YOUR REPORT DATE, I
11 RECOMMEND YOU CONTACT MR. GANTAR SO HE CAN ASSIST YOU. IF
12 YOU'VE HEARD NOTHING, YOU ARE TO REPORT TO THIS COURTHOUSE TO
13 THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL, NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M. ON THAT DAY.

14 SINCE YOU DON'T LIVE HERE, IT WOULD BE MUCH TO YOUR
15 ADVANTAGE TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE TO REPORT. IF
16 THE BUREAU OF PRISONS HASN'T MADE A DETERMINATION, THEN YOU
17 WILL BE -- THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL WILL PROBABLY TAKE YOU TO
18 SANTA RITA JAIL TO WAIT FOR YOUR TRANSFER TO A FEDERAL
19 FACILITY.

20 I WILL RECOMMEND TO THE BUREAU OF PRISONS YOUR PLACEMENT
21 IN EITHER FPC BRYAN OR CARSWELL, BUT THAT IS TO BE CONSISTENT
22 WITH THE BUREAU OF PRISONS'S DETERMINATION OF THE PROPER
23 CLASSIFICATION, AND I IN NO WAY INTEND TO OVERRULE THE
24 CLASSIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.

25 ARE THERE ANY OTHER MATTERS TO CONSIDER THIS MORNING?

1 MR. PITMAN: I HAVE TWO, YOUR HONOR.

2 THE FIRST IS JUST TO CLARIFY, IS IT THE COURT'S INTENTION
3 THAT THE DEFENDANT REMAIN UNDER THE SAME TERMS OF RELEASE THAT
4 SHE'S BEEN UNDER DURING THE DURATION OF THE CASE?

5 THE COURT: YES, THAT IS MY ORDER.

6 MS. RILEY, YOU ARE AWARE OF THE CONDITIONS OF YOUR
7 PRETRIAL RELEASE, THEY ALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
8 UNTIL YOUR SURRENDER. ANY VIOLATION OF THOSE CONDITIONS CAN
9 CARRY SEPARATE AND SEVERE PENALTIES; DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

10 THE DEFENDANT: YES, YOUR HONOR.

11 MR. PITMAN: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

12 AND THEN THE SECOND ISSUE IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD
13 MAKE A MOTION TO DISMISS COUNT TWO OF THE PENDING INFORMATION.

14 THE COURT: AND I WILL GRANT THAT REQUEST.

15 MR. GANTAR, ANYTHING ELSE?

16 MR. GANTAR: JUST TO -- THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR, I MAY
17 HAVE MISSED IT, BUT IS THE COURT WAIVING INTEREST ON THE
18 RESTITUTION ORDER?

19 THE COURT: NO, I AM NOT, THAT INTEREST GOES TO
20 INDIVIDUALS AND I AM NOT GOING TO WAIVE IT.

21 MR. GANTAR: AND JUST FOR PURPOSES, YOUR HONOR, I DO
22 WANT TO LODGE AN OBJECTION TO THE COURT'S SENTENCE.

23 THE COURT: I UNDERSTAND.

24 AND OF COURSE THAT CAN BE -- YOU ALWAYS RESERVE THE RIGHT
25 TO APPEAL AN ILLEGAL SENTENCE, AND I'VE GIVEN MS. RILEY HER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEAL RIGHT NOTIFICATION. I BELIEVE THAT'S EVERYTHING.

MR. PITMAN: NOTHING FURTHER FROM THE GOVERNMENT,
YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.

MR. GANTAR: THANK YOU.

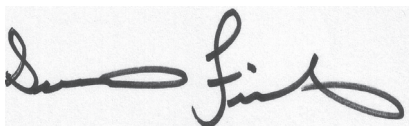
(THE PROCEEDINGS WERE CONCLUDED AT 10:52 A.M.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICIAL COURT
REPORTER OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, 280 SOUTH
FIRST STREET, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY
CERTIFY:

THAT THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT,
CERTIFICATE INCLUSIVE, CONSTITUTES A TRUE, FULL AND
CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF MY SHORTHAND NOTES TAKEN AS
SUCH OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER OF THE PROCEEDINGS
HEREINBEFORE ENTITLED AND REDUCED BY COMPUTER-AIDED
TRANSCRIPTION TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.



SUMMER A. FISHER, CSR, CRR
CERTIFICATE NUMBER 13185

DATED: 5/4/22