

ORIGINAL

Approved: Kimberly J. Ravener  
KIMBERLY J. RAVENER/DANIEL C. RICHENTHAL  
Assistant United States Attorneys

Before: HONORABLE GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of New York

18 MAG 8861

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COMPLAINT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

- v. -

Violations of  
31 U.S.C. § 5322,  
18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 2

NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, :  
a/k/a "Natalie Sours," :  
a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," :  
a/k/a "May Edwards," :

Defendant.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

EMILY P. ECKSTUT, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

(Unauthorized Disclosure of Suspicious Activity Reports)

1. From at least in or about October 2017, up to and including in or about October 2018, NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, an employee of a federal government authority, willfully violated subchapter II of Title 31 and a regulation and order prescribed thereunder, namely Section 1023.320(e)(2) of Title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by disclosing Suspicious Activity Reports ("SARs"), and information that would reveal the existence of a SAR, which disclosure was not necessary to fulfill EDWARDS's official duties, to wit, EDWARDS knowingly disclosed and described SARs, which she obtained by virtue of her position as a Senior Advisor at the United States Department of Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), including by electronically

sending images of such SARs to a member of the news media ("Reporter-1") via an encrypted application.

(Title 31, United States Code, Section 5322(a); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.)

COUNT TWO

(Conspiracy to Make Unauthorized Disclosures  
of Suspicious Activity Reports)

2. From at least in or about October 2017, up to and including in or about October 2018, NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with another to commit an offense against the United States, to wit, to make unauthorized disclosures of SARs and the existence of SARs, in violation of Title 31, United States Code, Section 5322 and Title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1020.320(e)(2).

3. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did knowingly disclose and describe SARs, which EDWARDS obtained by virtue of her position as a Senior Advisor at FinCEN.

OVERT ACTS

4. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal object thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed and caused to be committed:

a. On or about August 2, 2018, NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, exchanged approximately 541 messages with Reporter-1 via a certain encrypted application (the "Encrypted Application").

b. On various occasions between in or about October 2017 and in or about October 2018, EDWARDS transmitted files containing or describing SARs to Reporter-1 via the Encrypted Application.

c. Between on or about August 24, 2018 and October 2, 2018, a co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein ("CC-1") exchanged approximately 301 messages with Reporter-1 via the Encrypted Application.

d. On or about October 16, 2018, in an interview in the Eastern District of Virginia with federal law enforcement agents (the "Interviewing Agents"), EDWARDS initially concealed her relationship with Reporter-1 and denied having any contacts with the news media.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.)

The bases for my knowledge and the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

5. I am a Special Agent with the FBI and have been so employed for approximately four years. Within the FBI, I am assigned to a squad focused on public corruption crimes committed by government officials and others.

6. I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This Affidavit is based upon my personal participation in the investigation, my review of law enforcement records, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents. Because this Affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of demonstrating probable cause, it does not include all the facts I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

*FinCEN, Suspicious Activity Reports, and Relevant Statutes*

7. The mission of FinCEN is to "safeguard the financial system from illicit use and combat money laundering and promote national security through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of financial intelligence and strategic use of financial authorities."<sup>1</sup> Among other things, FinCEN manages the collection and maintenance of suspicious activity reports (more commonly known as "SARs"). Under the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 ("BSA"), United States financial institutions and other parties are required by law to generate SARs in order to report potentially suspicious financial transactions, and to deliver the SARs to FinCEN. FinCEN in turn maintains a centralized

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fincen.gov/about/mission>.

database of the SAR data, which it makes available to law enforcement pursuant to regulations and procedures that protect the confidentiality of the information.

8. Under the BSA and its implementing regulations, disclosure of a SAR or its contents is unlawful. Specifically, 31 C.F.R. § 1020.320(e) provides that “[a] SAR, and any information that would reveal the existence of a SAR, are confidential and shall not be disclosed except as authorized [by law].” Subsection 1020.320(e)(2) prohibits employees or agents of government authorities from “disclos[ing] a SAR, or any information that would reveal the existence of a SAR, except as necessary to fulfill official duties consistent with Title II of the Bank Secrecy Act.” Title 31, United States Code, Section 5322(a) imposes criminal penalties for willful violations of the BSA and its implementing regulations, including the disclosure of a SAR.

Unauthorized SAR Disclosures

9. Together, the FBI and the United States Department of Treasury—Office of Inspector General (“Treasury-OIG”) have been investigating a series of unauthorized disclosures of SARs and SAR information occurring between in or about October 2017 and continuing into at least mid-October 2018.

10. From my participation in the investigation and my conversations with other law enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I have learned the following, in substance and in part:

a. Treasury-OIG agents have identified a pattern of unauthorized disclosures of SAR information appearing in the media starting in or about October 2017 and continuing until in or about the present (collectively, the “SARs Disclosures”). Each of the SARs Disclosures related to matters relevant to investigations being conducted by the Office of the Special Counsel, the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, and/or the National Security Division of the United States Department of Justice, such as suspicious transactions relating to Paul Manafort, Richard W. Gates, Russian diplomatic accounts, and other matters.

b. The SARs Disclosures included the following:

i. Between October 2017 and March 2018, a news organization (the “News Organization”), headquartered in New York,

New York, published approximately twelve news articles containing detailed information that appeared to track the contents of SARs protected by the BSA (collectively, the "SARs Disclosure Articles").

ii. The articles were published on or about October 29, 2017 (the "October 2017 Article"); November 14, 2017 (the "November 2017 Article"); January 17, 2018 (the "January 2018 Article"); February 19, 2018 (the "February 2018 Article"); and March 16, 2018 (the "March 2018 Article"); July 31, 2018 (the "July 2018 Article"); August 10, 2018 (the "First August 2018 Article"); August 29, 2018 (the "Second August 2018 Article"); September 12, 2018 (the "First September 2018 Article"); September 21, 2018 (the "September 21, 2018 Article"); and October 15, 2018 (the "October 2018 Article"). Reporter-1 was listed as an author (though not always the only author) of all of the SARs Disclosure Articles.

iii. The October 2017 Article claimed that the News Organization "has learned specific details about 13 [] wire transfers" related to Paul Manafort "all of which took place between 2012 and 2013," and described that "[t]he transfers were first flagged by US financial institutions, which are required by law to tell an office within the Treasury Department about any transactions they deem suspicious" in the form of "suspicious activity reports."

iv. The November 2017 Article was entitled "Secret Finding: 60 Russian Payments To Finance Election Campaign Of 2016," and also referenced "suspicious activity reports" and their findings.

v. Similarly, the January 2018 Article referred to detailed financial "[r]ecords reviewed exclusively by [the News Organization]" related to financial transactions involving the Russian Embassy, stating that "[t]he Treasury Department turned over the suspicious activity reports to the FBI" after "[e]ach of these transactions sparked a 'suspicious activity report' sent to the US Treasury's financial crimes unit [that is, FinCEN] by Citibank, which handles accounts of the Russian Embassy," and citing to a "US official with knowledge of the inquiry."

vi. The February 2018 Article and March 2018 Article likewise specifically referenced "suspicious activity reports" associated with Paul Manafort in detail, and the March 2018 article specifically discussed actions taken by FinCEN with respect to the reports.

vii. The July 2018 Article was entitled "Russian 'Agent' And a GOP Operator Left a Trail of Cash, Documents Reveal." The July 2018 Article described in extensive detail a series of financial transactions derived from bank records allegedly involving a political consultant and Mariia Butina, who was indicted on or about July 17, 2018 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for acting as an unregistered foreign agent and conspiracy to commit the same. The July 2018 Article described "suspicious transactions cited by the bank and federal investigators," "none of which have been made public." Based upon my training, experience, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I believe that these references indicate that the data in the July 2018 Article was obtained from SARs.

viii. The First August 2018 Article was entitled "GOP Operative Made 'Suspicious' Cash Withdrawals During Pursuit of Clinton Emails." The First August 2018 Article discussed specific financial transactions made by an individual who purportedly launched an independent effort in 2016 to obtain emails belonging to Hillary Clinton from Russian hackers. For example, the First August 2018 Article claimed that "[a]fter scouring nine accounts that [the individual] controlled, Northern Trust turned over documents showing 88 suspicious cash withdrawals totaling about \$140,000 between January 2016 and April 2017, including a \$3,000 withdrawal six days after the election" and noted that "the bank sent a report to Treasury's financial crimes unit, which shared its findings with the FBI, special counsel Robert Mueller, and Senate Intelligence Committee investigators." Based upon my training, experience, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I believe that the data in the First August 2018 Article was obtained from SARs.

ix. The Second August 2018 Article was entitled "Here's Why the FBI and Mueller Are Investigating 'Suspicious' Transactions by Russian Diplomats." The article, which discussed suspicious transactions by, among others, a previous Russian ambassador to the United States, noted that "Citibank sent information that it compiled about [the ambassador's] and the [Russian] embassy's accounts to the US Treasury Department's financial crimes unit [that is, FinCEN] and the FBI in early 2017," and discussed the details of two specific financial transactions - one approximately 10 days after the U.S. presidential election, and another five days after the U.S. presidential inauguration. The article cited "three federal law enforcement sources with direct knowledge of the matter" as its sources. Based upon my training, experience, and my conversations with other law

enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I believe that these references indicate that the data in the Second August 2018 Article was obtained from SARs.

x. The First September 2018 Article was entitled "A Series of Suspicious Money Transfers Followed the Trump Tower Meeting." The article discussed "secret documents reviewed by [the News Organization]," and specifically referenced "two bursts of transactions that bank examiners deemed suspicious" involving a wealthy Russian family—one of whom had allegedly arranged a meeting at Trump Tower between a Russian national and representatives of the Trump campaign during the 2016 presidential campaign (the "Trump Tower Meeting")—and their business associates in the aftermath of the Trump Tower Meeting. The article revealed the dates, amounts, and parties involved in the transactions in extensive detail, specifically stating that the transactions were identified after "bankers filed 'suspicious activity reports' to the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network [that is, FinCEN], which in turn shared them with the FBI, the IRS, congressional committees investigating Russian interference, and members of special counsel Robert Mueller's team." The article cited "four federal law enforcement officials" as its sources. Based upon my training, experience, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I believe that these references indicate that the data in the First September 2018 Article was obtained from SARs.

xi. The September 21, 2018 Article was entitled "The Planners Of The Trump Tower Meeting Moved Millions, And Mueller Is Now Investigating." Referring to "[d]ocuments reviewed by [the News Organization]," the September 21, 2018 Article described "suspicious transactions" of approximately \$3.3 million relating to "a billionaire real estate developer close to both Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump," among others, occurring in or around June 2016, close in time to the Trump Tower Meeting. The September 21, 2018 Article specifically noted "[t]he details unearthed by bankers were compiled in "suspicious activity reports" sent to the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network [that is, FinCEN], which shared them with other law enforcement agencies investigating Russian interference." Based upon my training, experience, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I believe that these references indicate that the data in the September 21, 2018 Article was obtained from SARs.

xii. The October 2018 Article was entitled "Here's How a Major Western Bank Enabled A Suspected Russian Money

Launderer." The October 2018 Article related to Prevezon Alexander ("Prevezon"), an entity charged in a previous civil forfeiture case in the Southern District of New York relating to an alleged Russian money laundering scheme in which an investment company (the "Investment Company") was among the victims, among other things. The October 2018 Article discussed a loan made by a particular banking institution to a Prevezon subsidiary, and noted that "[t]he records of this transaction, which have never been publicly reported, were unearthed by the US Treasury Department's financial crimes unit [that is, FinCEN] during investigations by Congress and special counsel Robert Mueller, both of whom are digging into Russia's interference in the 2016 election." Based upon my training, experience, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents involved in the investigation, I believe that these references indicate that the data in the October 2018 Article was obtained from SARs.

11. Based upon my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed the SARs Disclosure Articles described above, I have learned that several of the SARs Disclosure Articles described various transactions occurring in or through New York, New York, and refer to reports made by financial institutions with offices in New York, New York.

Overview of EDWARDS' Access to and Unlawful Disclosure of SARs

12. As described in more detail below, there is probable cause to believe that NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, without authorization, provided some or all of the SARs Disclosures to Reporter-1 for publication, and was aware that a purpose of at least certain of such SARs Disclosures was for publication by the News Organization. Specifically, for the reasons set forth below, I believe that:

a. EDWARDS began communicating with Reporter-1 in or about July 2017.

b. EDWARDS had access to all of the SARs implicated by the SARs Disclosures. Between in or about October 2017 - the month when the SARs Disclosures began - and January 2018, EDWARDS saved thousands of FinCEN files, including all of the SARs implicated by the SARs Disclosures, to a flash drive provided to her by FinCEN.

c. Throughout the course of 2018, EDWARDS engaged in hundreds of electronic communications with Reporter-1, many via



an encrypted application. A review to date, pursuant to a judicially-authorized search warrant executed today, of EDWARDS's personal cellphone has revealed that that cellphone contains the substance of many of these communications, including, as described in greater detail below, communications in which EDWARDS transmitted or described SARs or other BSA-protected information to Reporter-1.

d. When questioned by law enforcement officials earlier today, EDWARDS confessed that she had provided SARs to Reporter-1 via an encrypted application, though falsely denied knowing that Reporter-1 intended to or did publish that information through the News Organization. At the time she was questioned, EDWARDS was also in possession of a flash drive that appeared to be the same drive on which she saved the SARs related to the SARs Disclosures, among other files.

EDWARDS's Access to SARs

13. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed emails obtained from a government email address assigned to NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant (the "EDWARDS Work Account") and electronic files maintained by FinCEN, I have learned that EDWARDS has access to certain electronic folders maintained on FinCEN's network that contain many, if not all, of the SARs at issue in the SARs Disclosures.

14. Based upon my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have consulted with Treasury analysts who conducted a forensic review of government computer usage by NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, and certain records from Treasury's networks, and Treasury staff regarding the electronic equipment issued by FinCEN to EDWARDS, I have learned the following, among other things:

a. Prior to in or about January 2017, at least one government-issued external flash drive (the "Flash Drive") was provided to EDWARDS for work purposes.

b. Through forensic analysis to date, FinCEN has been able to identify records reflecting that more than 24,000 files were saved to the Flash Drive between approximately January 2017 and approximately January 2018 (the "Flash Drive Files"). The majority of the files were saved to a folder on the Flash Drive

entitled "Debacle - Operation-CF," and subfolders bearing names such as "Debacle\Emails\Asshat." EDWARDS is not known to be involved in any official FinCEN project or task bearing these file titles or code names.

c. Based upon my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have spoken with FinCEN analysts, who have in turn, reviewed the names of the Flash Drive Files, and conducted a comparison of those file names/sizes to records contained on FinCEN's network, the Flash Drive Files appear to contain thousands of SARs, along with other highly sensitive material relating to Russia, Iran, and the terrorist group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (more commonly known as "ISIL" or "ISIS"), among other things. Multiple files also bear labels referencing Paul Manafort and Reporter-1's name.

d. Based upon the same, it appears that the Flash Drive Files include all of the SARs implicated by the SAR Disclosures published by the News Organization. Available data indicates that these SARs were first saved to the Flash Drive by at least on or about October 18, 2017 - approximately 11 days prior to the publication of the first SAR Disclosure, that is, the October 2017 Article. Additional files relating to SARs were saved to the Flash Drive again on or about January 8, 2018.

15. Through my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have spoken with FinCEN staff, I have been informed that there is no known legitimate business purpose for NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, to save the large quantity of Flash Drive Files, and particularly, the SARs related to the SARs Disclosures, to the Flash Drive.

EDWARDS's Communications with Reporter-1

16. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed emails obtained pursuant to a judicially-authorized search warrant on a web-based personal email account believed to be used by NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant (the "EDWARDS Personal

Account"),<sup>2</sup> I have learned that Reporter-1 first contacted EDWARDS in or about July 2017 seeking information regarding an issue that did not implicate the SARs Disclosures.

17. Based upon my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed phone records for a personal cellphone subscribed to by NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant (respectively, the "EDWARDS Phone Records" and the "EDWARDS Cellphone"), I have learned, in part, that:

a. On or about February 14, 2018, approximately five days prior to the publication of the February 2018 Article, the EDWARDS Phone sent approximately four text messages to a cellphone associated with Reporter-1 (the "Reporter-1 Cellphone").

b. On or about July 27, 2018, days before the publication of the July 2018 Article, the EDWARDS Cellphone placed a phone call to the Reporter-1 Cellphone, beginning at approximately 3:43 p.m. and lasting approximately 15 minutes.

c. On or about August 2, 2018, approximately two days after the publication of the July 2018 Article and approximately one week before the publication of the First August 2018 Article, the EDWARDS Cellphone placed a phone call to the Reporter-1 Cellphone, beginning at approximately 9:08 p.m. and lasting more than 23 minutes.

d. On or about August 3, 2018--approximately seven days before the publication of the First August 2018 Article--several short calls, each lasting less than one minute, were exchanged between the EDWARDS Cellphone and the Reporter-1 Cellphone, beginning at approximately 9:54 a.m. At approximately 10:11 a.m., the EDWARDS Cellphone received a phone call lasting more than five minutes from the Reporter-1 Cellphone.

e. On or about August 17, 2018, approximately one week after the publication of the First August 2018 Article and approximately 12 days before the publication of the Second August 2018 Article (discussed further below), the EDWARDS Cellphone

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<sup>2</sup> Among other things, subscriber information relating to the EDWARDS Personal Account identifies the subscriber as "May E," and search warrant results have revealed that the user of the EDWARDS Personal Account routinely introduces herself as "Dr. May Edwards," and describes herself as a FinCEN employee with a professional background matching that of EDWARDS.

placed a phone call to the Reporter-1 Cellphone, which began at approximately 11:43 p.m. and lasted nearly 40 minutes.

f. On or about September 7, 2018, approximately five days prior to the publication of the First September 2018 Article, the EDWARDS Cellphone placed a phone call to the Reporter-1 Cellphone, which began at approximately 1:25 p.m. and lasted for nearly three minutes.

18. Based upon my training, experience, my conversations with other law enforcement agents with training and experience in cyber technology, and my conversations with law enforcement agents who have reviewed records received in response to a judicially-authorized pen register and trap and trace order for the EDWARDS Cellphone (the "EDWARDS Pen"), I have learned, among other things, that:

a. The EDWARDS Cellphone utilized a mobile messaging service that utilizes end-to-end encryption (the "Encrypted Application"), that is, a method of secure communication that prevents third-parties from accessing data, including the companies that host the end-to-end encrypted services, and law enforcement.

b. On or about August 1, 2018, within approximately six hours of the EDWARDS Pen becoming operative--and the day after the July 2018 Article was published--the EDWARDS Cellphone exchanged approximately 70 messages via the Encrypted Application with the Reporter-1 Cellphone during an approximately 20-minute time span between 12:33 a.m. and 12:54 a.m.

c. Between on or about July 31, 2018 and August 2, 2018, the EDWARDS Cellphone and the personal cellphone of CC-1 exchanged dozens of messages via the Encrypted Application.

d. On or about August 2, 2018, approximately one week prior to the publication of the First August 2018 Article, the EDWARDS Cellphone exchanged approximately 541 messages with the Reporter-1 Cellphone via the Encrypted Application.

e. On or about August 10, 2018, the day of the publication of the First August 2018 Article, the EDWARDS Cellphone and the Reporter-1 Cellphone exchanged approximately 11 messages via the Encrypted Application.

f. On or about August 15, 2018, the EDWARDS Cellphone exchanged approximately 14 messages with the Reporter-1 Cellphone via the Encrypted Application.

CC-1's Communications with Reporter-1

19. Based on my participation in the investigation and my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed documents obtained in the investigation to date, I have learned that CC-1 is an Associate Director of FinCEN to whom NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, reports.

20. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed phone records for a cellphone documented in FinCEN records as the personal cellphone number for CC-1 (the "CC-1 Cellphone"), I have learned that in or about October 2017 - i.e., the month of the October 2017 Article containing SARs Disclosures - the CC-1 Cellphone exchanged approximately 325 text messages with the Reporter-1 Cellphone.

21. Based upon my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed records to date in response to a judicially-authorized pen register and trap and trace order for the CC-1 Cellphone, I have learned, in part, that:

a. On or about August 15, 2018, the CC-1 Cellphone exchanged approximately 10 messages with the Reporter-1 Cellphone via the Encrypted Application.

b. Between on or about August 24, 2018 and October 2, 2018, the CC-1 Cellphone exchanged approximately 301 messages with the Reporter-1 Cellphone via the Encrypted Application.

The Interview and Search of EDWARDS

22. Based upon my conversations with the Interviewing Agents, I have learned that today, after the Interviewing Agents identified themselves, and stated, in sum, that they wished to speak with NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, the following conversation took place, in substance and in part:

a. Initially, EDWARDS denied having any contact with any member the news media, but indicated that she was aware that CC-1 and another FinCEN employee ("Employee-1") were in contact with the news media.

b. Upon direct questioning regarding Reporter-1, EDWARDS changed her account, and admitted that, on numerous occasions, she accessed SARs on her computer, photographed them, and sent those photographs to Reporter-1 using the Encrypted Application.

c. EDWARDS further admitted to meeting Reporter-1 in person on at least two occasions.

d. EDWARDS claimed not to have read the SARs Disclosure Articles published by Reporter-1, and claimed no knowledge that the SAR information she disclosed to Reporter-1 was published. As set forth below, information relating to EDWARDS's Internet usage demonstrates that this statement is false.<sup>3</sup>

23. Based upon my conversations with the Interviewing Agents, I have further learned that, in connection with the above-described interview and pursuant to a judicially-authorized search warrant, law enforcement agents conducted a search of NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, and recovered an electronic storage media item believed to be the Flash Drive as well as at least one cellphone, believed to be the EDWARDS Cellphone.

24. Based upon my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed to date results from the judicially-authorized search of the cellphone seized today from NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," the defendant, I have learned the following, among other things:

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<sup>3</sup> During the interview described herein, EDWARDS told the Interviewing Agents, in sum and substance, that she is a "whistleblower" who provided the SARs to Reporter-1 for "record keeping." Based on my participation in this investigation and my conversations with other law enforcement agents, I am aware that, prior to the SARs Disclosures, EDWARDS had previously filed a whistleblower complaint unrelated to the SARs Disclosures, and that EDWARDS had also reached out to congressional staffers regarding, among other things, her unrelated whistleblower complaint.

a. On various occasions between in or about October 2017, up to and including in or about October 2018, EDWARDS transmitted the following items and information, among others, via the Encrypted Application, to Reporter-1:

i. SARs, including but not limited to SARs related to the SARs Disclosures published by the News Organization;

ii. Files and spreadsheets reflecting SAR data, including data relating to the existence of SARs;

iii. The results of searches by EDWARDS for whether SARs had been filed with respect to certain people or entities, in which Reporter-1 appeared interested;

iv. FinCEN internal emails appearing to relate to SARs or other information protected by the BSA; and

v. FinCEN non-public memoranda, including Investigative Memos and Intelligence Assessments published by the FinCEN Intelligence Division, which contained confidential personal, business, and/or security threat assessments, including those marked "Law Enforcement Sensitive" and that contained BSA-protected information.

b. For example, in one exchange, EDWARDS appeared to send Reporter-1 a series of approximately five spreadsheet files, all containing SAR identifying numbers in the file titles. EDWARDS then appeared to send a 465-page file labeled "Paul Manafort [] request from Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.pdf" (the "Manafort File"). As sent by EDWARDS, the Manafort File appeared to display an image of an actual SAR on the face of the message to Reporter-1.

c. As noted above, the October 2018 Article regarded, among other things, Prevezon and the Investment Company. As recently as September 2018, EDWARDS and Reporter-1 engaged in the following conversation, via the Encrypted Application, in relevant part:

EDWARDS: I am not getting any hits on [the CEO of the Investment Company] do you have any idea what the association is if I had more information i could search in different areas  
. . .

Reporter-1: If not on his name it would be [the Investment Company]. That's the only other one [The CEO] is associated with Prevezon Well not associated  
. . .  
His company is [the Investment Company]  
. . .

d. Based upon my training and experience, my participation in the investigation, and my conversations with other law enforcement agents familiar with the investigation, I believe that in the above conversation, EDWARDS was explaining that she had performed searches of FinCEN records relating to Prevezon, at Reporter-1's request, in order to supply SAR information for the October 2018 Article.

e. In addition, in multiple communications, EDWARDS and Reporter-1 referenced CC-1, and Reporter-1 expressed that Reporter-1 was also in contact with CC-1.

25. Subsequent to the interview and search described above, NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, was placed under arrest.

EDWARDS's Personal Email Account

26. Based on my conversations with other law enforcement agents who have reviewed to date the contents and other information of the EDWARDS Personal Account, the data described above, and publicly-available information, I have learned that:



a. On or about August 3, 2018, NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, sent an email from the EDWARDS Personal Account to another web-based email account bearing the name of Reporter-1, stating in the Subject line: "Can you add," followed by, in the text of the email, "The others if there are others to this file . . ." The email attached a document listing the titles and Internet links for the October 2017 Article, the November 2017 Article, and the January 2018 Article, among other things.

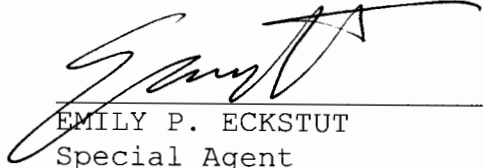
b. Internet search history records relating to the EDWARDS Personal Account reflect, among other things, that:

i. On or about October 30, 2017, approximately one day after the October 2017 Article was published, the user of the EDWARDS Personal Account ran an Internet search for "these 13 wire transfers are a focus of the fbi probe into paul," and seconds later, visited the News Organization website to view the October 2017 Article. The title of the October 2017 Article was "These 13 Wire Transfers Are A Focus of the FBI Probe Into Paul Manafort."

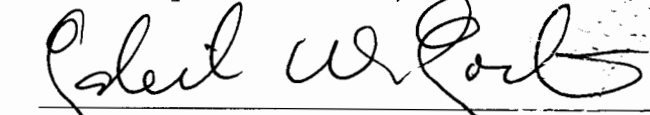
ii. On or about February 20, 2018, approximately one day after the February 2018 Article was published, the user of the EDWARDS Personal Account ran an Internet search for "manafort under scrutiny," and seconds later, visited the News Organization website to view the February 2018 Article. The February 2018 Article was entitled "Manafort Under Scrutiny for \$40 Million in 'Suspicious Transactions.'"

iii. On or about August 31, 2018, approximately two days after the publication of the Second August 2018 Article, the user of the EDWARDS Personal Account ran an Internet search for "[Reporter-1] articles."

WHEREFORE, deponent prays that an arrest warrant for NATALIE MAYFLOWER SOURS EDWARDS, a/k/a "Natalie Sours," a/k/a "Natalie May Edwards," a/k/a "May Edwards," the defendant, be issued and that EDWARDS be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EMILY P. ECKSTUT  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this  
16th day of October, 2018

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HONORABLE GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*pursuant to Fed R Crim P. 4.1*