

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENN.

MAR 14 2018

BY SJO
DEPUTY CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

v.)

CASON MORELAND)

NO. 3:17-00066

) 18 U.S.C. § 2
) 18 U.S.C. § 371
) 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A)
) 18 U.S.C. § 1510(a)
) 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(1)
) 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(3)
) 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2)
) 18 U.S.C. § 1513(e)
) 18 U.S.C. § 1519
) 18 U.S.C. § 3147(1)

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. **CASON MORELAND** (“**MORELAND**”) was a judge on the General Sessions Court of Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County, Tennessee. **MORELAND** presided over Division X of the General Sessions Court and heard civil, criminal, and traffic cases. Tennessee law required judges, including **MORELAND**, to “administer justice without respect of persons, and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent on a judge or chancellor, to the best of [his] skill and ability.” T.C.A. § 17-1-104.

2. **MORELAND** also presided over the General Sessions Drug Treatment Court (the “Drug Treatment Court”), which was a specialized court program designed to provide alternatives to incarceration for certain defendants. Cases in the Drug Treatment Court were handled by a team of people that included representatives from the office of the District Attorney General, the office

of the Public Defender, the Probation Office, and certain treatment centers and transitional living facilities.

3. The work of the Drug Treatment Court was supported by the Davidson County Drug Court Foundation (the “Drug Court Foundation”), which was a nonprofit entity founded in 2009 and organized under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3). Although **MORELAND** did not have an official position with the Drug Court Foundation, he exercised de facto authority over the Drug Court Foundation’s operations. From on or about December 22, 2016 to on or about December 21, 2017, the Drug Court Foundation received more than \$10,000 in federal benefits from the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

4. The Court Foundation Center was an outpatient treatment facility created by, controlled by, and operated under the aegis of the Drug Court Foundation.

5. “J.P.” was a neighbor of **MORELAND**’s sister who had known **MORELAND** for more than twenty years.

6. “Person 1,” a female, was an acquaintance of **MORELAND**.

7. “Person 2,” a female, was an acquaintance of Person 1.

8. “Person 3,” a female, was an acquaintance of both Person 1 and J.P.

9. “N.C.” was a friend of **MORELAND**’s who worked as a member of the Drug Treatment Court team beginning in 2003 and who served as director of the Court Foundation Center from 2012 to 2018.

**THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF MORELAND AND
PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING INVOLVING PERSON 1**

10. On or about January 25, 2017, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) opened a federal criminal investigation into whether **MORELAND** had unlawfully used his official position as a judge to provide favorable treatment to Person 1 and Person 2.

11. The next day, on or about January 26, 2017, and on multiple occasions thereafter, the FBI interviewed Person 1 about her relationship with **MORELAND**.

12. On or about January 31, 2017, *The Nashville Scene*, a Nashville newsweekly, published an article alleging that **MORELAND** carried on sexual relationships with Person 1 and Person 2, and that **MORELAND** had intervened on their behalf in General Sessions Court cases. **MORELAND** gave a statement to the newsweekly, in which he generally denied the allegations and claimed:

a. “I fully reject and deny any personal relationship with [Person 2] whatsoever.”

b. “I never had an inappropriate relationship with [Person 1].”

c. “At no time did I intervene on [Person 1 or Person 2’s] behalf during or after judgments were rendered by the appropriate courts.”

d. “Because I had even a minimal acquaintance with both [Person 2 and Person 1], when their cases were assigned to my court—as a result of a process that is entirely random—I took the proper step of recusal to ensure the matters were handled in other General Sessions Courts.”

13. On or about February 1, 2017, WSMV-TV, a Nashville television station, broadcast an interview with Person 1. According to her account in the interview, Person 1 was introduced to **MORELAND** by Person 2 at a meeting at a local restaurant, during which time Person 1 told

MORELAND that she owed fees and fines stemming from prior charges for Driving Under the Influence (“DUI”). Sometime after the meeting, **MORELAND** sent Person 1 a text message stating, “Your fees; fines and court cost are taken care of! You now officially owe me !! Haha.” Person 1 alleged that she later began a sexual relationship with **MORELAND**.

14. On or about February 1, 2017, the FBI attempted to interview **MORELAND** at his office.

15. In or about February 2017, a Federal grand jury in the Middle District of Tennessee began issuing subpoenas relating to its investigation into, among other things, whether **MORELAND** had unlawfully used his official position as a judge to provide favorable treatment to Person 1 and Person 2.

16. On or about February 7, 2017, media in and around Nashville publicly reported that the FBI was investigating, among other things, whether **MORELAND** had used his official position as a judge to provide favorable treatment to Person 1 and Person 2.

17. On or about February 9, 2017, WSMV-TV broadcast another report about the relationship between **MORELAND** and Person 1. The report alleged that **MORELAND** intervened during a traffic stop of Person 1 to help her get out of a ticket. The report showed an exchange of text messages, in which Person 1 thanked **MORELAND** for his assistance and **MORELAND** replied: “Just used my super powers!!” and “My desk still has butt marks on it!!” The report alleged that the latter text message referred to a sexual encounter between **MORELAND** and Person 1 at **MORELAND**’s office after Person 1 was released from the traffic stop.

18. On or about February 23, 2017, **MORELAND**’s attorney met with prosecutors to discuss the status of the federal criminal investigation.

**MORELAND'S OBSTRUCTION OF
THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION RELATING TO PERSON 1**

19. On or about March 1, 2017—less than a week after **MORELAND's** attorney had met with the U.S. Attorney's Office to discuss the status of the federal criminal investigation—**MORELAND** arranged to meet with J.P. **MORELAND** told J.P. that he was under investigation and that he could lose his job as a judge and face criminal charges. **MORELAND** told J.P. that he needed J.P.'s help to persuade Person 1 to sign an affidavit taking back her public allegations about their relationship. **MORELAND** told J.P. that he was prepared to pay thousands of dollars if Person 1 would sign the affidavit. J.P. agreed to help **MORELAND** do this.

20. On or about March 1, 2017, during the meeting, **MORELAND** and J.P. determined that Person 3 was a mutual acquaintance of Person 1 and J.P. **MORELAND** instructed J.P. to use Person 3 as a go-between to persuade Person 1 to sign the affidavit. **MORELAND** told J.P. that he could give Person 3 several thousand dollars, which Person 3 could use to pay Person 1 to sign the affidavit, while keeping some for herself.

21. On about March 1, 2017, during the meeting, **MORELAND** also told J.P. that he wanted to destroy Person 1's credibility by getting her arrested on drug charges. **MORELAND** asked J.P. if he could help arrange for Person 1 to be stopped in her car by a police officer and for drugs to be found there. J.P. agreed to help **MORELAND** do this.

22. On or about March 2, 2017, **MORELAND** told J.P. that he was worried that his phone calls were being monitored. **MORELAND** instructed J.P. to buy him a "burner" phone registered to a fake name so that he could talk to J.P. without being recorded.

23. On or about March 3, 2017, J.P. went to a Verizon store and bought a "burner" phone for **MORELAND**. J.P. registered the phone in the name of "Raul Rodriguez."

24. On or about March 3, 2017, **MORELAND** met J.P., who gave him the “Raul Rodriguez” burner phone.

25. On or about March 3, 2017, during the same meeting, **MORELAND** instructed J.P. to call Person 1’s phone to make sure that **MORELAND** still had a good phone number for her. J.P., using his phone, called Person 1 on speakerphone, with **MORELAND** listening. Person 1 answered the call, **MORELAND** confirmed that it was her, and J.P. attempted to make it seem that he had dialed the wrong number.

26. On or about March 5, 2017, **MORELAND** told J.P. to get in touch with Person 3 to ask for her help in getting Person 1 to sign the affidavit. J.P. spoke to Person 3 that evening and told her that he could give her thousands of dollars, which she could share with Person 1 if Person 1 would sign an affidavit recanting her allegations about **MORELAND**.

27. On or about March 6, 2017, Person 3 spoke to Person 1 and told her about the proposal from J.P. Person 1 called the FBI and reported the information.

28. On or about March 9, 2017, **MORELAND** sent a text message to J.P. with a photograph of a large pile of cash. **MORELAND** told J.P. that he could send the picture to Person 3 to prove that the money was ready and available.

29. On or about March 9, 2017, Person 3 was approached by the FBI and agreed to cooperate in its criminal investigation. Person 3 consented to the FBI recording her conversations with J.P.

30. On or about March 9, 2017, Person 3, acting at the direction of the FBI, called J.P. J.P. was meeting with **MORELAND** at the time, and **MORELAND** listened on speakerphone to the conversation between Person 3 and J.P. J.P. told Person 3 that he had “a bunch of hundred

dollar bills” for her. Person 3 responded that Person 1 did not want to sign the affidavit. Person 3 also told J.P. that she had given Person 1 J.P.’s full name.

31. Immediately after this phone conversation, on or about March 9, 2017, **MORELAND** told J.P. that they needed to create a false cover story to explain why **MORELAND** had sent J.P. a photograph of a pile of cash. **MORELAND** then sent J.P. a text message falsely implying that he had sent the photograph to show the proceeds of **MORELAND**’s recent sale of his motorcycle.

32. On or about March 10, 2017, J.P. was approached by the FBI and agreed to cooperate in its criminal investigation. J.P. consented to the FBI recording his conversations with **MORELAND**.

33. On or about March 10, 2017, **MORELAND** used the “Raul Rodriguez” burner phone to call J.P. At the FBI’s direction, J.P. told **MORELAND** that he had spoken to Person 3 again and that Person 1 might be willing to sign the affidavit. **MORELAND** responded that “it might be a setup” and told J.P. to go out for drinks with Person 1 and Person 3 to “feel it out.” **MORELAND** told J.P. to tell Person 1 and Person 3 “that I [**MORELAND**] don’t know anything about it.”

34. Before ending that same phone call, on or about March 10, 2017, **MORELAND** told J.P. that he would call him back with “some numbers.” Shortly thereafter, **MORELAND** used the “Raul Rodriguez” burner phone to call J.P. and give him three letters, which **MORELAND** said were the last three letters of Person 1’s license plate number.

35. On or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** met with J.P. At the FBI’s direction, J.P. told **MORELAND** that he had met with Person 3 the night before and that he believed that

Person 1 would be willing to sign an affidavit. J.P. told **MORELAND** that he could meet with Person 1 and Person 3 that evening.

36. Upon hearing this information, on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** gave J.P. an affidavit that was written as though it was from Person 1. **MORELAND** did so by instructing J.P. to remove the affidavit from an envelope **MORELAND** was holding, so that **MORELAND** did not get his fingerprints on the affidavit.

37. At that same meeting, on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** also gave J.P. \$5,100 in cash, to use to get Person 1 to sign the affidavit. **MORELAND** instructed J.P. that the money should not be given to Person 1 directly. Instead, **MORELAND** directed J.P. to pass the money to Person 1 by giving it to Person 3.

38. The affidavit that **MORELAND** wanted Person 1 to sign contained false and misleading statements, including:

- a. that Person 1 “was further tricked, coerced, and paid \$2,500.00 to give an interview to [WSMV-TV]”;
- b. that the reporter “had knowledge that [Person 1] was paid for the interview and that [Person 1] was tricked into giving it”;
- c. that Person 1 and **MORELAND** “did not have sex in his office,” and that Person 1 had “jokingly [sat] on [**MORELAND**’s] desk and left a butt print, thus the origin of the text message”;
- d. that “Judge **MORELAND** loaned [Person 1] \$800.00 to pay traffic fines in other counties” and that when **MORELAND** “discovered that [Person 1] had spent the money on something other than fines, [their] relationship ended”; and

e. that “several of the text messages on [Person 1’s] phone were put on there by way of the SPOFF [sic] phone application and not by Judge **MORELAND**.”

39. After he gave the affidavit to J.P. during the meeting on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** told J.P. that “this right here gets me out of trouble.” **MORELAND** also gave several instructions to J.P. about the affidavit and how he should deal with Person 1 and Person 3, including:

a. that “the only thing in there that might not possibly be true is the spoof stuff. So if [Person 1] wants to mark it out, mark it out. I’d really rather she not”;

b. that “I got to have in there” that Person 1 was paid for the interview, explaining “[t]hat gets me out of trouble”;

c. that J.P. should not tell Person 1 that he is working for **MORELAND**, explaining: “You’re like a private investigator. We’re taking a statement from her. But you don’t work for me”;

d. that J.P. should speak carefully, as if he were being recorded, when speaking with Person 1 and Person 3;

e. that J.P. should “never mention a word about money” in front of Person 1 and should instruct Person 3 not to do so either;

f. that J.P. should leave the affidavit and money in his car when he meets with Person 1, until Person 1 agrees to sign it; and

g. that J.P. should get Person 1 “liquored up real good before you bring [the signing of the affidavit] up.”

40. Later that night, at approximately 8:00 p.m. on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** used the “Raul Rodriguez” burner phone to call J.P. in response to a message from

J.P. At the FBI's direction, J.P. told **MORELAND** that he had met with Person 1 and Person 3, that he had gone over the affidavit with Person 1, and that there were statements Person 1 wanted to cross out because they were untrue, including:

- a. that Person 1 had been paid \$2,500 for the WSMV interview;
- b. that Person 1 and **MORELAND** never had sex in his office; and
- c. that text messages on Person 1's phone had been placed there by spoofing.

41. Upon hearing this information, on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** said that he wanted Person 1 to continue to claim that she was paid for the WSMV-TV interview, but could cross out the amount of \$2,500. **MORELAND** told J.P. that the affidavit has "got to be the truth," but added that "it's got to help me. If she's marking everything out and it's not helping me—." **MORELAND** also told J.P. what other changes would be acceptable or not.

42. During the same phone conversation, on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** asked J.P. how much money Person 1 wanted for herself to sign the affidavit. At the FBI's direction, J.P. responded that Person 1 wanted "half," meaning approximately \$2,500. **MORELAND** responded: "Well, but she's going to have to do something to help me for it." **MORELAND** told J.P. that he did not "care what [Person 1] keeps." **MORELAND** further suggested that he would be willing to pay more money if necessary, stating, "[W]e'll take care of whoever on the back end, too" and "if we have to have a little more, we'll have a little more."

43. Less than one hour later, on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** used the "Raul Rodriguez" burner phone to call J.P. At the FBI's direction, J.P. told **MORELAND** that Person 1 would sign the affidavit "as-is" for an extra \$1,000. J.P. explained that he would need to take that money from the cut to which he had agreed with Person 3, so **MORELAND** would need to come up with another \$1,000 to cover it. **MORELAND** agreed, telling J.P.: "If you need to come

by here tonight, I'll give it to you tonight.” **MORELAND** instructed J.P. to try and take a video of Person 1 reading the affidavit out loud.

44. Later that night, on or about March 11, 2017, **MORELAND** met with J.P. **MORELAND** gave J.P. the extra \$1,000, and J.P. gave **MORELAND** the false affidavit, which **MORELAND** believed to have been signed by Person 1, but which had in fact been signed by an FBI agent. **MORELAND** asked J.P. if he would notarize the affidavit. J.P. replied that he would look for his notary stamp when he got home.

45. The next day, on or about March 12, 2017, **MORELAND** called J.P. and again asked J.P. to notarize the false affidavit.

46. On or about March 14, 2017, **MORELAND** met with J.P. to get the false affidavit notarized.

47. On or about March 16, 2017, **MORELAND** met with J.P. At the FBI's direction, J.P. told **MORELAND** that he had spoken to a law enforcement officer about planting drugs in Person 1's car. J.P. told **MORELAND** that the officer agreed that it “wouldn't look good [for Person 1] at all.” **MORELAND** asked J.P., “What's he want?”, referring to what the officer wanted to help plant the drugs. **MORELAND** also asked whether the officer would “be the one to pull her over” and whether he had “a dog,” referring to a drug-sniffing dog. **MORELAND** asked whether J.P. had found Person 1's car—J.P. replied that he had not—and stated that the tag number he had given J.P. several days before should be enough to find it.

THE THEFT AND EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE DRUG COURT FOUNDATION

48. Although **MORELAND** lacked an official position with the Drug Court Foundation, he used his de facto authority to cause Drug Court Foundation funds to be expended

to reimburse him for purely personal expenses unrelated to the Drug Court Foundation's operations. For example,

a. On or about May 6, 2016, **MORELAND**, using the Drug Court Foundation's account with a florist, ordered flowers for his mother.

b. On or about July 20, 2016, **MORELAND**, using the Drug Court Foundation's account with a florist, ordered flowers for a relative of a friend.

c. On or about August 18, 2016, **MORELAND**, using the Drug Court Foundation's account with a florist, ordered flowers for his mother.

d. On or about September 2, 2016, **MORELAND**, using the Drug Court Foundation's account with a florist, ordered flowers for members of the media to show his personal appreciation.

e. On or about February 1, 2017, at **MORELAND**'s direction, **MORELAND**'s judicial assistant caused to the Drug Court Foundation to pay approximately \$464.32 to a florist for personal purchases made by **MORELAND**.

49. As noted above, the Court Foundation Center was an outpatient treatment facility that provided substance abuse services. Most of the individuals who received treatment at the Court Foundation Center were participants in the Drug Treatment Court program. For these individuals, N.C.—as the director of the Court Foundation Center—would document their treatment and submit billing records to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (“TDMHSAS”), who would make payments directly to the Drug Court Foundation.

50. In addition, there were other individuals who received treatment at the Court Foundation Center who were not Drug Treatment Court participants. This included individuals

who sought outpatient treatment for reasons that included efforts to reduce their jail time for DUI or other offenses. These individuals typically paid for treatment out of their own pockets, via cash or money order, and were known as “self-pay clients.” Initially, these self-pay clients were required to pay \$500 to participate in a six-month counseling program; later, the self-pay clients were required to pay \$750 to participate in the program. N.C. collected payments from the self-pay clients, and would document those payments in a receipt book. N.C. also kept an attendance log for all individuals who attended the Court Foundation Center, with annotations showing whether they were self-pay clients or participants in the Drug Treatment Court program.

51. N.C. discussed the terms of her compensation as director of the Court Foundation Center with **MORELAND**, whom N.C. saw as her boss and as the ultimate decision maker for the Drug Court Foundation. **MORELAND** told N.C. that she should submit a monthly invoice to the Drug Court Foundation for her time, but that the total amount of all Court Foundation Center invoices together should not exceed 50% of the total amount that the Drug Court Foundation received that month from TDMHSAS. **MORELAND** acknowledged that this billing arrangement would result in N.C. being underpaid for the time she spent working at the Court Foundation Center, as N.C. would need to underreport her hours worked in order to keep Court Foundation Center invoices below the limit. **MORELAND** therefore told N.C. that she could keep for herself all of the money she collected from the self-pay clients, and N.C. agreed to do so.

52. By early 2016, the number of self-pay clients who received counseling at the Court Foundation Center had increased, as a result of a change in state law that made more DUI defendants eligible to reduce their jail sentences by completing outpatient substance abuse treatment. As such, the amount of money that N.C. was collecting each month from self-pay clients increased. N.C. began feeling uneasy about the amount of money that she was collecting

every month, in part because she was no longer conducting all of the group counseling sessions herself, as she had in the beginning.

53. In Spring 2016, N.C. approached **MORELAND** and told him that she felt uneasy about keeping all of the money she was collecting from self-pay clients. She further told him that she would prefer to deposit all of the money from self-pay clients into the Drug Court Foundation's bank account, while at the same time either becoming a salaried employee or being allowed to bill the Drug Court Foundation for the entirety of her work at the Court Foundation Center. In response, **MORELAND** told N.C. that if she felt uneasy about the money she was keeping, she should start giving him half of it, and **MORELAND** stated he would begin working on increasing her compensation.

54. N.C. agreed to do so, and, at **MORELAND**'s direction, began taking an envelope full of cash—containing half of the money she had collected from self-pay clients that month—to **MORELAND**'s office once a month. N.C. typically would place the envelope on **MORELAND**'s desk while he was elsewhere.

55. This arrangement continued until approximately Fall 2016, when N.C. reiterated to **MORELAND** that she still felt uneasy about keeping the money from self-pay clients. At that point, **MORELAND** told N.C. that she should start giving him all of the money that she collected from self-pay clients each month, and, in return, she could begin billing the Drug Court Foundation for all of her work at the Court Foundation Center.

56. N.C. agreed to do so, and thereafter began providing **MORELAND** with a monthly envelope containing all of the money she had collected that month from self-pay clients. This arrangement continued from late 2016 through January 2017. In total, between Spring 2016 and January 2017, N.C. collected from self-pay clients, and either retained for herself or provided to

MORELAND, over \$15,000 in funds that were stolen, embezzled, and without authority knowingly converted from the Drug Court Foundation.

57. In mid-February 2017, after having been visited by the FBI, **MORELAND** asked N.C. to meet with him in the judges' area of the parking garage at the courthouse. There, **MORELAND** gave N.C. an envelope full of cash and directed her to purchase a lockbox in which to store the cash. N.C. agreed to do so and purchased a lockbox, and sent a photo of it to **MORELAND** for his approval.

58. On or about March 3, 2017, **MORELAND** called N.C. from his phone and told her that he would call her back shortly from another phone. **MORELAND** then called N.C. from the "Raul Rodriguez" burner phone and asked her to bring the money that she was storing in the lockbox out to his sister's house, where he was staying at the time.

59. N.C. agreed to do so and brought the money to **MORELAND** at his sister's house. After he received it, **MORELAND** counted the money out on the counter, and it totaled approximately \$6,000. **MORELAND** made a comment to N.C. that she understood to mean that he would use that money to bribe Person 1 to recant her allegations.

**MORELAND'S OBSTRUCTION OF THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
RELATED TO THEFT AND EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS
FROM THE DRUG COURT FOUNDATION**

60. As noted above, the FBI attempted to interview **MORELAND** at his office on or about February 1, 2017. N.C. was also present at **MORELAND**'s office when the FBI arrived.

61. In mid-February 2017, after having been visited by the FBI, **MORELAND** directed N.C. to destroy records and documents that could show the amount of cash being collected from self-pay clients. N.C. agreed to do so, and destroyed the receipt book and attendance log from the Court Foundation Center.

62. Between in or about March 2017 and in or about January 2018, **MORELAND** and N.C. continued to stay in contact with one another, including on occasion by meeting in person for lunch. These contacts included a lunch meeting between the two of them on or about December 22, 2017, and a series of text messages regarding a potential future lunch meeting between the two of them on or about January 22, 2018.

63. On or about January 29, 2018, N.C. met with the FBI and, shortly thereafter, agreed to cooperate in its criminal investigation. N.C. consented to the FBI recording her conversations with **MORELAND**.

64. On or about February 9, 2018, N.C. met **MORELAND** for lunch, and advised him that she had been contacted by the FBI and had been subpoenaed to produce documents and testify to a Federal grand jury on or about February 14, 2018. N.C. expressed concern to **MORELAND** that the FBI and grand jury would find out about the money she had given him and about the records and documents he had directed her to destroy.

65. Also on or about February 9, 2018, following their lunch meeting, **MORELAND** corresponded further with N.C. via phone call and text message.

66. On or about February 13, 2018, **MORELAND** had an additional phone conversation with N.C.

67. During these conversations between on or about February 9, 2018 and February 13, 2018, **MORELAND** tampered with N.C. by attempting to corruptly persuade her to provide false or materially misleading information when she appeared before the Federal grand jury on February 14, 2018. Among other things, **MORELAND**:

a. presented N.C. with numerous false cover stories about what had happened to the money collected at the Court Foundation Center from self-pay clients;

b. presented N.C. with numerous false cover stories about what had happened to the receipt books that N.C. had destroyed at **MORELAND's** direction; and

c. assured N.C. that no one else knew about the money she had given him, and that the only way the information would come to light, and thus the only way that she could potentially get in trouble was if she disclosed it.

68. At the time of these conversations between on or about February 9, 2018 and February 13, 2018, **MORELAND** was under indictment and had been released on pretrial release under 18 U.S.C. § 3142, pursuant to an order dated March 31, 2017. That order notified **MORELAND**, among other things, that “[i]t is a crime” to “obstruct a criminal investigation” or “tamper with a witness, victim, or informant,” and further notified him of the potential effect of such violations.

COUNT ONE
(Tampering with a Witness by Corrupt Persuasion)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

69. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

70. Between on or about March 1, 2017, and on or about March 16, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did knowingly and corruptly persuade and attempt to persuade Person 1 with the intent to hinder, delay, and prevent the communication to a law enforcement officer of information relating to the commission and possible commission of a Federal offense, including conspiracy, honest services fraud, and extortion under color of official right, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(b)(3) and 2.

COUNT TWO
(Obstruction of an Official Proceeding)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

71. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

72. Between on or about March 1, 2017, and on or about March 16, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did corruptly obstruct, influence, and impede, and attempt to obstruct, influence, and impede, an official proceeding, that is, a Federal grand jury investigation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(c)(2) and 2.

COUNT THREE
(Obstruction of a Criminal Investigation by Bribery)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

73. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

74. Between on or about March 1, 2017, and on or about March 16, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did willfully endeavor by means of bribery to obstruct, delay, and prevent the communication of information relating to a violation of a criminal statute of the United States by any person to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1510(a) and 2.

COUNT FOUR
(Retaliation Against a Witness, Victim, or Informant)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

75. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

76. Between on or about March 1, 2017, and on or about March 16, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did knowingly, with the intent to retaliate, take an action harmful to Person 1, and did conspire to take an action harmful to Person 1, for providing to a law enforcement officer any truthful information relating to the commission and possible commission of a Federal offense, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1513(e) and 1513(f).

COUNT FIVE
(Destroying, Altering, or Falsifying Records or Documents)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

77. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

78. Between on or about March 1, 2017, and on or about March 16, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did knowingly falsify and make, and cause to be falsified and made, a false entry in a record and document, specifically, an affidavit, with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of a matter, and in relation to and in contemplation of such matter, which was within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a department and agency of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1519 and 2.

COUNT SIX
(Conspiracy to Commit Federal Program Theft)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

79. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

80. Between on or about March 1, 2016, and on or about January 28, 2018, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND**;, N.C., an agent of an organization receiving in the one year period beginning December 22, 2016, benefits in excess of \$10,000 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and others known and unknown, did knowingly and unlawfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other to embezzle, steal, obtain by fraud, and without authority knowingly convert property worth at least \$5,000 and owned by, and under the care, custody, and control of such an organization, that is, cash and other funds collected from people receiving substance abuse treatment at the Court Foundation Center, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

Objects of the Conspiracy

81. It was an object and purpose of the conspiracy for the defendant and other members of the conspiracy: (a) to enrich themselves by embezzling, misappropriating, and converting to their personal use money intended for the Davidson County Drug Court Foundation; (b) to enrich themselves by obtaining and retaining money and property to which they were not entitled; and (c) to conceal the nature and purpose of the scheme to embezzle, steal, obtain by fraud, and without authority knowingly convert property, and to conceal the true identities of the members of the conspiracy.

Overt Acts

82. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects thereof, the overt acts described in paragraphs 53 through 61 were committed in the Middle District of Tennessee.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNT SEVEN
(Federal Program Theft)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

83. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

84. Between on or about December 22, 2016, and on or about December 21, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND**, aiding, abetting, counseling, commanding, and inducing N.C., an agent of the Davidson County Drug Court Foundation, an organization receiving in the one year period beginning December 22, 2016, benefits in excess of \$10,000 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, and without authority knowingly converted property worth at least \$5,000 and owned by, and under the care, custody, and control of, such organization, that is, cash and other funds collected from people receiving substance abuse treatment at the Court Foundation Center, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666(a)(1)(A) and 2.

COUNT EIGHT
(Destroying, Altering, or Falsifying Records or Documents)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

85. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

86. Between on or about February 1, 2017, and on or about February 28, 2017, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did knowingly destroy, mutilate, and conceal, and cause to be destroyed, mutilated, and concealed, records and documents, specifically, receipt books and attendance logs from the Court Foundation Center, with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of a matter, and in relation to and in contemplation of such matter, which was within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a department and agency of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1519 and 2.

COUNT NINE
(Tampering with a Witness by Corrupt Persuasion)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

87. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

88. Between on or about February 9, 2018, and on or about February 13, 2018, in the Middle District of Tennessee and elsewhere, defendant **CASON MORELAND** did knowingly and corruptly persuade and attempt to persuade N.C. with the intent to influence, delay, and prevent the testimony of N.C. in an official proceeding, that is, a Federal grand jury investigation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(b)(1).

COUNT TEN
(Committing an Offense While on Release)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

89. Paragraphs 1 through 68 are incorporated herein.

90. Between on or about February 9, 2018 and February 13, 2018, defendant **CASON MORELAND**, while on release pursuant to an order dated March 31, 2017, from the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Case No. 3:17-cr-00066, which order notified said defendant of the potential effect of committing an offense while on pretrial release, did commit the offense of tampering with a witness by corrupt persuasion in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(b)(1), and of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3147(1).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

1. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2, notice is hereby given to the defendant that the United States will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(3) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), in the event of the defendant's conviction on Counts Six or Seven in this indictment.

2. Upon conviction of either of the offenses set forth in Counts Six and Seven of this Indictment, the defendant, **CASON MORELAND**, shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(3), any property, real or personal, which represents or is traceable to the gross receipts obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of such violation.

3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided

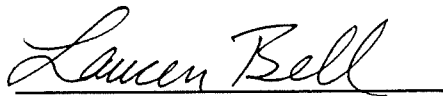
without difficulty,

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

All pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(3) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

ANNALOU TIROL
Acting Chief, Public Integrity Section
Criminal Division
United States Department of Justice

DONALD Q. COCHRAN
United States Attorney
Middle District of Tennessee



LAUREN BELL
ANDREW LAING
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CECIL W. VANDEVENDER
Assistant United States Attorney
Middle District of Tennessee

Date: March 14, 2018



FOREPERSON