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12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
13 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 NIELS TROOST; PARAMOUNT
15 ENERGY & COMMODITIES SA, in
16 liquidation; PARAMOUNT ENERGY
17 AND COMMODITIES DMCC;
18 PARAMOUNT ENERGY &
19 COMMODITIES, INC.; and EZI-DIAROC
20 HOLDING SA,

21 Plaintiffs,

22 vs.

23 GAURAV SRIVASTAVA a/k/a "G";
24 SHARON SRIVASTAVA; NICOLAS
25 BRAVARD; CEDAR WEST VENTURES,
26 LLC; UNITY RESOURCES GROUP,
27 INC.; ORBIMO CORPORATION;
28 UNICOM WORLDWIDE, INC.; 1234
HOLDING SA; BIRDSONG CENTRAL
LLC; AURORA POINT LLC; THE
GAURAV SRIVASTAVA
FOUNDATION, f/k/a The Gaurav and
Sharon Srivastava Family Foundation;
GLOBAL ENERGY LAW GROUP PC;
OWEN ONOUE; THOMAS
GIORDANO-LASCARI; and JOHN
MAGUIRE,

Defendants.

Case No.:

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL FOR:

1. VIOLATION OF RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(C);

2. VIOLATION OF RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(D);

3. FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION;

4. CONVERSION; AND

5. VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 ET SEQ.

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1 Plaintiffs Niels Troost, Paramount Energy & Commodities SA, in liquidation
2 (“PECSA”), Paramount Energy and Commodities DMCC (“PDMCC”), Paramount Energy
3 & Commodities, Inc. (“Paramount Inc.” and together with PECSA and PDMCC,
4 “Paramount”), and EZI-Diaroc Holding SA (“EZI”), by undersigned counsel, hereby allege
5 against Defendants Gaurav Srivastava, Sharon Srivastava, Nicolas Bravard, Cedar West
6 Ventures, LLC, Unity Resources Group Inc., Orbimo Corporation, Unicom Worldwide,
7 Inc., 1234 Holding SA, Birdsong Central, LLC, Aurora Point LLC, The Gaurav Srivastava
8 Foundation, formerly known as The Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava Family Foundation,
9 Global Energy Law Group PC, Owen Onouye, Thomas Giordano-Lascari, and John
10 Maguire (collectively, the “RICO Defendants” and members of the “Srivastava
11 Enterprise”), upon knowledge as to themselves and their own acts and upon information
12 and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

13 **I. INTRODUCTION**

14 1. For more than five years, defendant Gaurav Srivastava led a criminal
15 enterprise that stole and extorted tens of millions of dollars from plaintiffs and other victims
16 based upon the false over-arching narrative that Srivastava was a high-level non-official
17 cover (“NOC”) operative for the CIA. Srivastava and the other members of the enterprise
18 (the “Srivastava Enterprise” or the “Enterprise”) defrauded victims by convincing them that
19 Srivastava controlled the might of the United States Government and could provide
20 invaluable assistance to his allies and destroy those that dared to cross him. That was all a
21 complete fiction. Srivastava is not a CIA operative—or an agent of any other U.S. federal
22 agency—and never has been. He’s not even a U.S. citizen. He’s simply a fraud.

23 2. Starting in 2022, Srivastava, who had no prior experience in commodity
24 trading, particularly oil, teamed up with other Enterprise members to deploy the false CIA
25 operative scheme against Plaintiff Niels Troost, a Dutch oil trader living in Switzerland.
26 Troost had been a successful marketer of oil, including Russian-origin crude, to Chinese
27 refineries. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and worldwide public pressure
28 began mounting against the Russian oil economy over the following months, and as Troost



1 was under pressure from a previous business associate, Srivastava and the Enterprise
 2 persuaded Troost to work with Srivastava to continue marketing Russian-origin oil as part
 3 of a special CIA “Program” operated by Srivastava and approved at the highest levels of
 4 the U.S. Government, with the support of Western governments (notably Switzerland and
 5 Europe). That was all false. Srivastava and the Enterprise ultimately stole tens of millions
 6 of dollars from Troost and Plaintiffs.

7 3. After defrauding Troost, Plaintiffs, and others with the fake CIA fraud
 8 scheme, Srivastava’s attorneys and agents have been forced to admit that Srivastava “does
 9 not work for the CIA” and “Srivastava did not work for the CIA.”¹ Instead, Srivastava’s
 10 attorneys and agents now incredibly claim that Srivastava “*never claimed that he worked*
 11 *for the CIA*” to Troost or anyone else.

12 4. But that claim is frivolous. Srivastava repeated similar false CIA claims to
 13 multiple witnesses and victims other than Troost. Further, in May 2023, when Troost began
 14 to fear Srivastava was defrauding him, Troost bluntly confronted Srivastava regarding
 15 whether he was truly a CIA operative and whether the “Program” was real in a series of
 16 international calls over Signal, an app for secure internet-based communications. To obtain
 17 advice about Srivastava’s suspected (at the time) fraud and extortion and document it,
 18 Troost recorded the calls (the “Srivastava Recordings”). Srivastava repeatedly claimed that
 19 he was “NOC” for the CIA, that he was regularly in direct contact with the Director of the
 20 CIA (“DCI”), and that he had the ability to control Democratic politicians at the highest
 21 level of the United States Government. Srivastava’s recorded lies—criminal wire fraud
 22 violations—included, but were not limited to, the following:

- 23 • “Because **I am part of a program**. I told this to you before, in which
 24 **there’s only 30 people part of that program that has been opened**
 25 **and shut over the years by the American government**. It was shut
 26 off for some time. We opened it up again and we open it when we want
 27 to open it. I am part of the program so I can call anybody. I can reach
 out to any state, any agency, anybody. **But, it is called ‘non-official**

28 ¹ *Troost v. The Arkin Group DE LLC d/b/a The Arkin Group et al.*, 1:25-cv-06487 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 17, 2025), Dkt. No. 26, at 8 (case voluntarily withdrawn and re-filed in state court).



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cover,’ ‘NOC.’ But you’re not supposed to know all this. You’re not supposed to even be privy to this information.”

- **“I have had the DCI calling me.** I have had the DO [Director of Operations] calling me. I had the CDI [sic] with the clandestine—**DCI is the head of operations. Bill Burns. He’s the head of the CIA.** It’s been crazy. . . .”
- “I had one of the most powerful people in the United States, [Senator] Mark Warner, sit across me for basically an hour and a half, and then they’ve been calling me every day. . . He’s the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee. He’s the most powerful, number four in the whole [Biden] administration. . . .”
- “I am under, **I have so many obligations where I cannot say stuff to you because of my clearances and stuff I hold.** But you have to understand this by now. The fact that I can reach all these people. I can call, it’s not a joke man, call eight Senators in a day and the President in the White House and the ambassador of this country.”
- **“When you are an asset, you have to be able to morph into anything you want to be at any given time. And you don’t want a footprint.** You don’t want an asset print unless you want to create an asset print, finally. **I have created many different asset prints different places in the world. . . .”**²

5. Besides seeking to lull Troost into inaction, Srivastava also actively attempted to extort Troost (another federal crime), threatening that he would convince U.S. government intelligence and law enforcement agents that Troost was a Russian spy (false) and cause him and companies related to him to be sanctioned if he failed to comply. In fact, Srivastava promised Troost it would be **“fucking pandemonium in your life”** if Troost did not complete the transfer of his companies giving the Enterprise total control over and access to all of Paramount’s assets.

6. In the face of this indisputable proof of Srivastava and the Enterprise’s fraud and attempted extortion from Srivastava himself, Srivastava and his agents publicly have made the unsupported claim that the Srivastava Recordings are doctored. That is ridiculous.

² Audio of the [Srivastava Recordings](#) and their transcripts were filed in *Troost v. The Arkin Group DE LLC d/b/a The Arkin Group et al.*, Index No. 150236/2026 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Jan. 6, 2026) (“*Troost v. Arkin*”) and are available on the public docket, [available here](#), along with sworn witness statements.



1 Indeed, the Srivastava Recordings have been authenticated by a renowned audio forensics
 2 expert, formerly with the FBI, who has examined thousands of separate audio and video
 3 recordings and digital still images in over a thousand criminal and other matters in 49 states
 4 and 20 countries.³ They are Srivastava’s words—his *lies*—and they are admissible evidence
 5 against him in this case, having been recorded consistent with applicable U.S. federal law.⁴

6 7. Moreover, they are corroborated by a dozen or so victims and witnesses,
 7 many of whom have provided sworn declarations regarding Srivastava’s fake CIA operative
 8 claims.⁵ Srivastava claimed to victims and witnesses that he had been recruited by the CIA
 9 at age sixteen, that he had trained at “the Farm,” had carried out dangerous international
 10 operations, could grant special government permissions, and had unparalleled official
 11 access to United States Government officials all the way up to then-President Biden due to
 12 his CIA status. None of it was true.

13 8. These fabrications were strikingly convincing for at least four reasons. First,
 14 Srivastava is a brazen con man of remarkable skill—a truly gifted mimic and charlatan who
 15 has fooled sophisticated world leaders, think tanks, ex-military officials, politicians, and the
 16 Plaintiffs alike with his fraud scheme. Second, the Enterprise included individuals who
 17 appeared highly credible, including former U.S. military and intelligence officers, an ex-
 18 banker, and U.S. lawyers, all of whom repeated or reinforced the lie that Srivastava was a
 19 high-level CIA operative. Third, Srivastava and the Enterprise secretly and unbeknownst to
 20 Plaintiffs used funds stolen by the fraud scheme to contribute at least \$1.6 million to
 21 Democratic U.S. politicians, securing photo-ops with then-President Biden and then-
 22 Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and official videos from then-Senate Majority Leader
 23 Chuck Schumer and other high-level members of Congress supporting Srivastava’s
 24 “foundation,” burnishing Srivastava’s claims to having official high-level U.S. Government

25 _____
 26 ³ The expert concluded that each of the Srivastava Recordings “is consistent with being an original,
 27 continuous, and unaltered recording produced using the ‘Voice Memos’ audio recording
 application on an Apple device running iOS 16.3.1” on the date of each recording, made between
 May 1 and 8, 2023, and that each evidentiary excerpt is “consistent with containing original,
 continuous, and unaltered content.”

28 ⁴ See, e.g., *Feldman v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 322 F.3d 660, 666 (9th Cir. 2003); 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(d).

⁵ See [Troost v. Arkin](#), Dkt. Nos. 1, 23-31, and 36-37.



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1 access and control by virtue of his purported association with the CIA. Fourth, Srivastava
2 and the Enterprise used respected national security leaders who were also duped as part of
3 the fraud scheme, like retired General Wesley Clark, the former NATO Supreme Allied
4 Commander, to unwittingly vouch for Srivastava’s supposed status as a secret CIA
5 operative.

6 9. In fact, in order to deceive Troost, upon meeting him in 2022 the Srivastava
7 Enterprise put Troost through the paces, subjecting him to multiple rounds of interviews so
8 that Troost could be “vetted” and approved for participation in the so-called Program. And
9 Srivastava continuously reinforced the fraud. He introduced Troost to General Wesley
10 Clark and others to vouch for Srivastava’s fake CIA pedigree. Srivastava took clandestine
11 phone calls and claimed to conduct official U.S. Government business on behalf of the CIA
12 in meetings with foreign government officials and others. Srivastava claimed to have
13 official access to top-level Democratic U.S. politicians, including then-U.S. Senate
14 Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and U.S. Representative Pat Ryan,
15 a former U.S. Army intelligence officer. Srivastava also falsely claimed that he and
16 Democratic Senator Mark Warner, then chair of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee,
17 spoke with then-CIA Director Bill Burns about Troost and his participation in the Program.
18 Troost was convinced.

19 10. The Srivastava Enterprise took full financial advantage of their successful
20 deception. They fooled Troost into transferring half of the interests in his then-profitable
21 companies—worth hundreds of millions of dollars—to Srivastava so they could operate in
22 the purported “Program.” The Enterprise also succeeded in fraudulently taking tens of
23 millions of dollars from Paramount while trying to take hundreds of millions more.
24 Unbeknownst to Troost and Plaintiffs, the Enterprise laundered the funds, concealing their
25 source, lining Srivastava’s pockets (including the purchase of a \$24.5 million Pacific
26 Palisades mansion for his family to live in), and investing them into furthering the
27 Enterprise and its crimes.

28 11. Troost ultimately expelled Srivastava from Paramount on May 10, 2023. True



1 to his word for once, Srivastava unleashed the “pandemonium” he had promised. Srivastava
 2 and his co-conspirators illegally attempted to extort Troost—including via an anonymous
 3 Signal message demanding \$10 million in cryptocurrency—and, when that didn’t work,
 4 targeted him and his family with a negative reputation campaign on anonymous websites,
 5 in disturbing anonymous emails to his daughter’s employer, and in Internet publications to
 6 discredit and destroy Troost and his entire family.

7 12. In furtherance of this false narrative, after Troost expelled Srivastava, the
 8 Srivastava Enterprise filed various false criminal complaints around the world against
 9 Troost and others. However, seeing the Srivastava Enterprise’s false narrative for what it
 10 was, prosecutors uniformly rejected these criminal complaints, one even finding they had
 11 submitted doctored evidence.⁶

12 13. As a direct result of Srivastava and the Enterprise’s pattern of criminal
 13 activity, including wire fraud, extortion, money laundering, and other criminal violations,
 14 conceived of and largely orchestrated from inside the United States and heavily dependent
 15 on international wire communications from and to the United States, Troost and Paramount
 16 suffered tens of millions of dollars in losses. Worse still, and at the Srivastava Enterprise’s
 17 urging, Plaintiffs became the targets (directly or indirectly) of financially damaging
 18 sanctions imposed first by the United Kingdom, and later by the European Union and
 19 Switzerland.

20 14. Accordingly, this action seeks to dismantle Srivastava’s criminal enterprise,

21 _____
 22 ⁶ In August 2023, the Srivastava Enterprise filed a criminal complaint in Dubai falsely alleging that
 23 an audit had revealed that Troost and others at Paramount had stolen \$47 million from Paramount
 24 related to a Turkish oil terminal, along with over \$4 billion more in cash. But, in March 2025, the
 25 Chief Prosecutor for Dubai, Sultan Saif Mohammed bin Touq, rejected the complaint, his
 26 investigation finding that the Srivastava Enterprise had prepared and submitted doctored evidence:
 27 The “accounting statements relied upon by [the Srivastava Enterprise in their complaint] **had been**
 28 **modified by deleting key credit entries**, which led to portraying payments as if they were made
 without consideration, while the company’s original records prove otherwise” (emphasis added).
 The Chief Prosecutor’s investigation “verified the accuracy of the [original] accounting entries
 related to the transactions, transfers, and amounts [claimed stolen], as well as the validity of the
 approvals and signatures on those entries. . . [and] did not find evidence of misappropriation of
 those funds by any of the accused.” In fact, the investigation did not “find any reports issued by the
 external auditor or any regulatory or banking authorities indicating the existence of suspicious
 activities related to the company’s accounts.” Accordingly, the Chief Prosecutor concluded, “there
 are no grounds for filing a criminal case.” *Troost v. Arkin*, Dkt. No. 44.



1 recover the stolen money, repair the financial and reputational damage the Enterprise caused
2 Plaintiffs, hold Srivastava and the Enterprise members accountable for stealing and
3 extorting tens of millions of dollars from Troost and the other plaintiffs, and make a public
4 record so that Srivastava, Nicolas Bravard, John Maguire, and the others can never defraud
5 anyone else. Plaintiffs bring claims against defendants for: (1) violations of the Racketeer
6 Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (“RICO”), 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c); (2) violation of
7 the RICO conspiracy statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d); (3) fraudulent misrepresentation; (4)
8 conversion; and (5) violations of California Business & Professional Code § 17200, *et seq.*
9 Plaintiffs seek compensatory, punitive, and treble damages; return of all funds wrongfully
10 obtained by Defendants; costs, attorney’s fees, and interest; and any other and further relief
11 as the Court deems proper.

12 **II. THE PARTIES**

13 **A. Plaintiffs**

14 15. Plaintiff Niels Troost (“Troost”) is an individual. At all times relevant to the
15 Complaint, he was a Dutch citizen residing in Geneva, Switzerland.

16 16. Plaintiff Paramount Energy & Commodities SA, in liquidation (“PECSA”),
17 founded by Troost, is a Swiss company based in Geneva. It is currently in liquidation
18 proceedings in Switzerland, largely as a consequence of Defendants’ fraudulent conduct.

19 17. Plaintiff EZI-DIAROC Holding SA (“EZI”), is a Swiss holding company
20 owned 100% by Troost. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Troost held his shares of
21 PECSA through EZI.

22 18. Plaintiff Paramount Energy and Commodities DMCC (“PDMCC”), a wholly
23 owned subsidiary of PECSA, is a UAE company based in the Dubai Multi Commodities
24 Centre, a Free Trade Zone located in the Jumeirah Lake Towers district of Dubai. PDMCC
25 was established in December 2020.

26 19. Plaintiff Paramount Energy & Commodities, Inc. (“Paramount Inc.”) is a
27 Wyoming corporation formed in November 2022 and is a 100% subsidiary of PECSA.
28



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1 **B. RICO Defendants**

2 20. Defendant Gaurav Srivastava (“Srivastava”) is an Indian citizen with lawful
3 permanent resident status in the United States. As last reported, he lives in Los Angeles,
4 California. Srivastava is a serial fraudster and the leader of the Srivastava Enterprise, which
5 he ran from California.⁷ Srivastava routinely attempts to evade service of civil lawsuits
6 against him; multiple courts have granted other plaintiffs’ applications to serve him by
7 publication.

8 21. Defendant Sharon Srivastava (“Sharon”), on information and belief, was born
9 in Indonesia in 1978, received a U.S. social security number in or about 2001, and publicly
10 claims to be a U.S. citizen. Sharon Srivastava was formerly known as Pandita Johnson. At
11 all times relevant to this Complaint, Sharon was the president, treasurer and secretary of
12 Unity Accipiter Corporation, a Wyoming company established in February 2021 and owned
13 by the Srivastavas. That company engaged in two deals involving aircraft maintenance for
14 the Indonesian Ministry of Defense, which collapsed before services were provided. Sharon
15 is a self-proclaimed philanthropist and took a high-profile role promoting the Enterprise’s
16 reputation through the Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava Family Foundation, appearing
17 prominently on its website and speaking publicly at the November 2022 Atlantic Council’s
18 food security conference in Indonesia. Sharon was personally present when Gaurav
19 Srivastava made false statements to others, and she personally benefitted financially from
20 her association with the Enterprise.

21 22. Defendant Nicolas Régis Christian Bravard (“Bravard”) is a Swiss and French
22 citizen residing in Switzerland. Srivastava introduced Bravard to Troost as the FBI’s “inside
23

24 ⁷ Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava have a history of civil frauds documented in California Court
25 filings. For example, in February 2019, Gaurav and Sharon signed a publicly filed settlement
26 agreement admitting they had made “intentional misrepresentations” to a woman “in order to obtain
27 [her] money” in the amount of \$100,000. The remaining California filings reflect similar patterns
28 of deception and theft: (1) a 2021 suit alleging that the Srivastavas formed a shell company (Unity
Resources Group) through a convicted felon and used it to lease a luxury home and then stole over
\$100,000 in wine and damaged property; (2) a 2019 suit for more than \$100,000 in unpaid rent; (3)
a separate 2019 collection action for stopped-payment checks totaling over \$80,000 for hospital
bills; and (4) a 2017 fraud suit that Srivastava agreed to settle for \$30,000 but never paid, resulting
in a judgment against him.



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1 man” in Swiss banking. Bravard helped pressure Troost to convey assets to the Srivastava
2 Enterprise and held assets belonging to the Enterprise in various corporate structures as a
3 proxy for Srivastava. Bravard also told various Paramount/EZI-affiliated people in Geneva
4 that Srivastava was with the CIA and showed them photos of Srivastava and then-President
5 Biden. Bravard expected to receive at least \$3 million for his participation in the Enterprise
6 through one of his Swiss companies, Dorsay Services, Sàrl.

7 23. Defendant Cedar West Ventures LLC (“Cedar West”) is a Delaware limited
8 liability company formed as Lothian Road Ventures, LLC on May 25, 2022. On December
9 8, 2022, Defendant Thomas Giordano-Lascari changed its name to Cedar West. Cedar West
10 was one of the Srivastava Enterprise’s shell companies into which its illegally obtained
11 assets were held for the benefit of the Enterprise and to conceal Srivastava’s connection to
12 the assets. The Enterprise also used Cedar West to file a false criminal complaint in Dubai
13 against Plaintiffs attempting to take all of Paramount’s assets, which relied on doctored
14 evidence and was ultimately rejected by the Chief Prosecutor. The Enterprise also used
15 Cedar West to pay other organizations to assist the Enterprise, such as The Arkin Group
16 and law firms.

17 24. Defendant Unity Resources Group Inc. (“Unity Resources Group”) was a
18 Wyoming corporation formed by Srivastava on August 18, 2020. Its listed address was 1609
19 Cravens Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501. Srivastava was its President/Director, Treasurer and
20 Secretary. Srivastava claimed to various people, including Troost, that Unity Resources
21 Group was a front company he used to carry out CIA operations as part of his involvement
22 in the NOC program.

23 25. Defendant Orbimo Corporation (“Orbimo”) was a Wyoming corporation
24 formed by Defendant Owen Onouye on December 22, 2020 and beneficially owned by
25 Srivastava. Its listed address was 1609 Cravens Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501. Srivastava
26 was its President/Director, Treasurer and Secretary. Orbimo was used by the Srivastava
27 Enterprise to steal money from Paramount Inc. and to secretly make massive political
28 contributions to Democratic causes to enhance the Enterprise’s reputation and to gain access



1 to important Democratic U.S. politicians, thereby making Srivastava’s claims that he was a
 2 powerful covert CIA operative appear legitimate. Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava both
 3 operated a late model luxury SUV registered to Orbimo Corporation.

4 26. Defendant Unicom Worldwide, Inc. (“Unicom”) is a Delaware corporation
 5 formed by Defendant Thomas Giordano-Lascari on February 28, 2023 and beneficially
 6 owned by Srivastava. The Srivastava Enterprise tried to situate Unicom, a U.S.-based
 7 vehicle, as Paramount’s parent company to gain total control over Paramount’s assets. On
 8 or about May 4, 2023, Defendants tried to force Troost to sign a purchase agreement with
 9 Unicom on behalf of EZI for the purpose of the Srivastava Enterprise taking over all of
 10 Paramount’s assets.

11 27. Defendant 1234 Holding SA (“1234 Holding”) is a Switzerland-based entity,
 12 incorporated by Bravard as a strawman for Srivastava in or about August 2022. The
 13 Srivastava Enterprise used 1234 Holding to obtain 50% of PECSA’s shares from EZI for a
 14 nominal payment of 50,000 Swiss francs, which was not remotely reflective of PECSA’s
 15 true economic value.⁸ Bravard formally held 1234 Holding through his Swiss company,
 16 Waterfall Holding Suisse SA, but Srivastava is 1234 Holding’s ultimate beneficial owner.

17 28. Defendant Birdsong Central LLC (“Birdsong”) is a Delaware limited liability
 18 company formed by Defendant Thomas Giordano-Lascari on October 17, 2022 and
 19 beneficially owned by Srivastava. The Srivastava Enterprise used Birdsong to funnel
 20 fraudulently obtained money from PDMCC through Indonesia into the United States and
 21 ultimately to fund the purchase of Srivastava’s \$24.5 million mansion and conceal
 22 Srivastava’s involvement.

23
 24 ⁸ In March 2025, the Dubai Chief Prosecutor’s investigation found that the Enterprise’s
 25 “completing the acquisition of half of [PECSA]’s shares for [that] amount does not comply with
 26 accounting standards or customary commercial practices in ownership transfer operations,”
 27 particularly as its subsidiary PDMCC’s “total recent transactions according to the documents
 28 reviewed during the examination period exceed 56.7 billion UAE dirhams [US \$15.4 billion].”
[Troost v. Arkin](https://laralogan.com/episode/reputation-warfare-part-1-one-on-one-with-gaurav-srivastava-episode-20/), Dkt. No. 44. In June 2025, Srivastava falsely claimed he invested millions in
 Paramount. Lara Logan, *Going Rogue with Lara Logan, One on One with Gaurav Srivastava*,
 Episode 20 (Lara Logan TV June 7, 2025) (“Logan Podcast”), available at
<https://laralogan.com/episode/reputation-warfare-part-1-one-on-one-with-gaurav-srivastava-episode-20/>
 (42:00-42:11).



1 29. Defendant Aurora Point LLC (“Aurora Point”) is a Delaware limited liability
2 company formed by Defendant Thomas Giordano-Lascari on October 12, 2022 and
3 beneficially owned by Srivastava. Aurora Point owns all the shares of Birdsong. In
4 November 2023, ownership of Srivastava’s \$24.5 million mansion was transferred from
5 Birdsong to Aurora Point. Aurora Point was later used to extract almost \$5 million from the
6 illegally purchased mansion through a private mortgage loan.

7 30. Defendant The Gaurav Srivastava Foundation (the “Foundation”) is a
8 Delaware nonprofit corporation incorporated as “The Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava Family
9 Foundation,” on October 12, 2022, which was its name at all times relevant to the
10 Complaint. On information and belief, the Foundation was controlled by Srivastava and his
11 wife, Sharon Srivastava. Around the time Sharon Srivastava filed for divorce against
12 Srivastava in June 2025, the Foundation changed its name to exclude hers. The Srivastava
13 Enterprise used the Foundation to engage in financial transactions and to bolster
14 Srivastava’s public standing by conspicuously sponsoring fancy events and hosting a
15 website, all in furtherance of the Enterprise’s goals.

16 31. Defendant Owen Onouye (“Onouye”) is an attorney licensed in California
17 (SBN# 174580) who served two and a half years in a Nebraska penitentiary after a drug
18 trafficking conviction, before being suspended from legal practice for a period of time. At
19 times relevant to the Complaint, Onouye served as counsel to the Srivastava Enterprise and
20 provided assistance to various affiliated corporations, including by forming Orbimo and
21 serving as its Vice President.

22 32. Defendant Global Energy Law Group PC (“Global Energy Law Group”) is a
23 California professional corporation formed on April 18, 2019 and located at 5901 W.
24 Century Blvd., Suite 750, Los Angeles, CA. At all times relevant to the Complaint, it was
25 owned and operated by Owen Onouye. The Srivastava Enterprise used a U.S. bank account
26 held by Global Energy Law Group to attempt to facilitate the transfer of funds from
27 PDMCC and PECSA to the United States, citing sham engagement letters with Global
28 Energy Law Group for exorbitantly high legal fees. Global Energy Law Group purported



1 to have lawyers charging \$5,000 an hour, and at one point sought a \$6 million retainer as
2 part of the Enterprise.

3 33. Defendant Thomas Giordano-Lascari (“Lascari”) is an attorney licensed in
4 California (SBN# 244485). At various times relevant to the Complaint, Lascari assisted
5 Srivastava and the Enterprise, applying his expertise in setting up opaque corporate
6 structures and serving as director to knowingly facilitate international money laundering
7 transactions and conceal the Enterprise’s illegally obtained assets, including by forming
8 Defendants Birdsong, Aurora Point, the Foundation, and Unicom. At various times, Lascari
9 also held director, officer, and/or manager positions at these companies.

10 34. Defendant John Maguire (“Maguire”) is a former Deputy Station Chief in Iraq
11 for the CIA who, after he left government service, provided private consulting services for
12 money. In the past, he has been associated with vouching falsely for the alleged U.S.
13 intelligence bona fides of an individual, Matthew Marshall, who was convicted of
14 defrauding an ultra-high net worth individual in the United States of over \$2 million by
15 fraudulently claiming to be a CIA operative.⁹ Maguire, who is in the business of making
16 money by vouching for fake CIA operatives was, at various times, employed by the
17 Srivastava Enterprise to help maintain Srivastava’s false pretenses that he was working for
18 the CIA and to use his connections in the media and in law enforcement to wage a vicious
19 disinformation campaign targeting Troost and Troost’s family. Maguire received money
20 from the Enterprise via his Williamsburg, Virginia-based company, Xenophon Group.
21 Maguire and Srivastava continue to work together in Iraq, Turkey, and other places,
22 attempting to carry out the Enterprise’s fraud schemes. Maguire and Srivastava attempted
23 to conduct Russian-origin oil business with Murtaza Lakhani, who has been sanctioned by
24 the UK and the European Union after Srivastava was separated from Paramount.

25
26
27 ⁹ See, e.g., Ken Silverstein, [Seed Money](#), New York Magazine (Nov. 22, 2022); [Press Release](#), U.S.
28 Attorney’s Office for the District of Montana (Mar. 3, 2022). Marshall admitted to defrauding his
victim out of \$255,000, \$132,000 of which he sent to John Maguire. *U.S. v. Marshall*, No. Cr. 20-
32-M-DWM (D. Mont. Jul. 22, 2020) (“*U.S. v. Marshall*”), Dkt. No. 185 at 9-10.



1 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 35. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c),
3 which gives federal district courts jurisdiction over civil RICO actions. This Court also has
4 subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as this action arises under federal
5 law, and has supplemental jurisdiction over state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

6 36. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because: (i) a
7 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred
8 in this District; and (ii) one or more of the Defendants reside here. Venue is also proper
9 under 18 U.S.C. § 1965.

10 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11 **A. The Origins of Srivastava’s Fake CIA Playbook**

12 37. Srivastava’s CIA-operative scheme was already well-developed before he
13 targeted Troost. For years, he had perfected the same elaborate ruse: present himself as a
14 covert CIA officer, fabricate intelligence missions, and use those staged “operations” to
15 extract money, access, and influence.

16 38. One of Srivastava’s many early targets was Alhaj Habib Kagimu, a Ugandan
17 businessman and Honorary Consul for Malaysia. In or about 2020, a business associate
18 introduced Kagimu to Srivastava as someone who worked for the CIA and wielded
19 substantial influence. Srivastava told Kagimu that he had been recruited by the CIA at age
20 16 after responding to a roadside advertisement and that he later received military and
21 special operations training to conduct missions in Afghanistan. Srivastava further claimed
22 he had saved former Herat governor Abdul Quayom Rahimi during a CIA operation and
23 arranged a phone call in which the person purporting to be Governor Rahimi described
24 Srivastava as his “savior” who had extracted him from danger. Srivastava also showed him
25 abdominal scars he claimed were wounds from CIA missions.

26 39. Around the same time, Srivastava told Kagimu he was working with the CIA
27 to help the U.S. government secure the release of Paul Rusesabagina, a human-rights
28 activist detained in Rwanda. Rusesabagina, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of

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1 Freedom by President George W. Bush, had been kidnapped in August 2020. Srivastava
2 asked Kagimu to contact Rwandan President Paul Kagame—whom Kagimu knew
3 personally—to request Rusesabagina’s release. When Kagimu raised the issue, Rwandan
4 officials expressed confusion about why such a communication would come through a
5 private citizen rather than through the U.S. Embassy. Srivastava then told Kagimu that the
6 matter fell under his authority within the CIA’s “special operations division,” not ordinary
7 diplomatic channels. The Rwandan government declined to assist.

8 40. In or about August 2021, Srivastava falsely told public officials of Sudan that
9 he was a U.S. CIA operative with experience carrying out special operations. He falsely
10 claimed that he could prevent the Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”) of the U.S.
11 Department of Treasury from sanctioning Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (also known as
12 “Hemedti”), commander of the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan (a group that the U.S.
13 government has publicly alleged committed war crimes). Srivastava also falsely claimed
14 that through his work on behalf of the CIA, he had been able to remove Prabowo Subianto,
15 the former Defense Minister and current President of Indonesia from a U.S. travel ban.
16 Srivastava falsely claimed to have a personal relationship with then- President Harris,
17 saying his now-estranged wife, Sharon Srivastava, was the financial controller of Vice
18 President Harris’s campaign funds. Srivastava also falsely claimed he was in frequent
19 official contact with then-President Biden and was able to make demands of the President
20 to help U.S. security because Srivastava was with the CIA.

21 41. Srivastava falsely represented to Sudanese officials that OFAC issued a
22 license to his company, Unity Resources Group, through which he could arrange for
23 approximately 10 former U.S. intelligence operatives to provide security and intelligence
24 training to members of the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan. On information and belief,
25 neither Unity Resources Group, nor any company operated by Srivastava carried out
26 business under an OFAC license nor under any other authority of the U.S. government as
27 he misrepresented.

28 42. After the supposed “operation” to rescue Rusesabagina failed, Srivastava

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1 began contacting Kagimu at all hours, repeatedly asking for introductions to high-level
2 African officials and access to Kagimu’s network, claiming he needed this access to conduct
3 further CIA “operations” and intelligence missions for the U.S. government across Africa.
4 To bolster his false intelligence narrative, Srivastava told Kagimu—and showed him
5 purported documentation—that his alleged CIA front company, Unity Resources Group,
6 had provided training and support to the Sudanese Rapid Support Forces.

7 43. Srivastava also claimed to Kagimu that he had obtained authorization from
8 the Indonesian government on behalf of the CIA that allowed him to use a fishing company
9 to deploy hundreds of fishing vessels into the South China Sea. He told Kagimu these boats
10 were outfitted with special equipment to spy on China for the CIA. Kagimu also personally
11 heard Srivastava describe this alleged operation to the leader of another country, whom he
12 asked to financially invest in the “operation.”

13 44. As part of his ongoing effort to convince Kagimu that he was a high-level
14 CIA asset with direct access to senior U.S. officials, Srivastava claimed to have a close
15 relationship with then-National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, said that President Biden
16 had to listen to him on national-security matters, and even went so far as to claim to speak
17 with Sullivan in Kagimu’s presence.

18 45. In or about May 2022, Srivastava told Kagimu that he had previously worked
19 in Libya to sell inferior-quality weapons to General Khalifa Haftar with the U.S.
20 government’s permission as part of a CIA effort to get close to the Wagner Group. He
21 showed Kagimu photographs of himself with individuals he said were General Haftar’s
22 relatives. Srivastava then gave Kagimu a phone number for an associate of Libyan officials
23 and instructed him to arrange a meeting. Kagimu met that associate at the Four Seasons
24 Hotel in Dubai, where they discussed contracts for crude oil and oil-product exports from
25 Libya. Srivastava asked Kagimu to listen for any other needs Libyan officials might have
26 and to report back to him, which Kagimu did by international communications.

27 46. In or about 2022, Srivastava told Kagimu that someone owed money to Unity
28 Resources Group and that he wanted to receive a gold-mining concession as payment. He

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1 claimed Unity Resources Group had the resources and an affiliated mining company
2 capable of extracting large quantities of gold and that he would sell this gold to “Fort Knox,”
3 again invoking purported U.S. government ties. To give this plan an air of legitimacy,
4 Srivastava arranged for Kagimu to meet retired General Wesley Clark and used his
5 collaboration to reinforce the impression that Srivastava was operating as a U.S. intelligence
6 contractor.

7 47. On or about June 7, 2022, Srivastava also transmitted by international wire to
8 Kagimu a letter he had written to Sudanese General Dagalo on Unity Resources Group
9 stationary about a monetary dispute relating to having provided the Rapid Support Forces
10 with training; Srivastava said they had received \$1.2 million of the \$3 million they were
11 owed:



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48. Srivastava also sent Kagimu texts revealing that Srivastava was using bank transfers to commit his fraud (“No money. Just checked, no incoming wires.”), and outlined his collection strategy of writing to General Dagalo:



49. Having successfully convinced Kagimu that he was a CIA operative and that Unity Resources Group was a CIA front, Srivastava later leveraged this relationship in support of the fraud targeting Plaintiffs. As alleged elsewhere in the Complaint, Srivastava used his prior “CIA” operations with Kagimu in Africa and Libya, and Unity Resources Group’s supposed government work, to bolster his claims to Troost that he was a CIA “NOC” and to make his fabricated intelligence persona appear credible.

B. The Troost Con Begins: Srivastava Falsely Claims to Work for the CIA and That He Can Use His Influence to Help Troost

50. In early 2022, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine disrupted global commodity markets and complicated financing for any firm touching Russian-origin crude. Troost’s business PECSA had historically lawfully marketed Russian-origin ESPO crude in Asia, and PDMCC lawfully operated under applicable UAE law even after the G7 price cap took shape in December 2022. Nonetheless, financing pressure and the threat of a smear campaign by a debtor falsely tying Troost to Russian intelligence created potential vulnerability.



1 51. Concerned about the debtor’s threats to spread these false claims, particularly
 2 during a very negative public climate for marketing Russian oil even though entirely lawful,
 3 Troost confided in his close business partner, African businessman Ibrahima Camara.
 4 Camara believed that their mutual associate, Kagimu, could connect Troost with an
 5 individual referred to as “Mr. G,” who was purported to work for the CIA and might be able
 6 to help protect Troost. Srivastava’s supposed links to the CIA made him appear potentially
 7 helpful in the situation, given that the debtor had made claims of association with the CIA
 8 when entangling himself with Paramount.¹⁰

9 **1. The Fake FBI Investigation and the “Vetting” of Troost for the**
 10 **“Program”**

11 52. In around May 2022, Troost was introduced to Srivastava (“Mr. G”) through
 12 Kagimu. From the outset, Srivastava deployed his intelligence-operative script. And, at
 13 Srivastava’s request, Troost prepared a written history of his interactions with the debtor
 14 and the debtor’s claims of CIA affiliation. Srivastava claimed the FBI had compiled a
 15 lengthy report on Troost but assured him that “the Agency” (the CIA) would clear it. He
 16 said he ran a CIA “Program” involving monitoring Russian oil flows for U.S. national
 17 security and promised Troost that OFAC (and its European counterparts, including
 18 Switzerland’s Secrétariat d’État à l’économie (“SECO”)) would allow his businesses to
 19 continue trading Russian-origin oil even if Western sanctions were imposed restricting the
 20 oil trade. He also claimed that without Srivastava’s help, Troost and his companies ran the
 21 risk of being sanctioned by OFAC.

22 53. Troost, for his part, was convinced that Srivastava’s plan of continuing to

23
 24 ¹⁰ In mid-May 2022, at the beginning of Troost’s interactions with Srivastava, Troost texted
 25 Srivastava a detailed multi-page memo outlining Troost’s dealings with the debtor who, himself,
 26 claimed CIA affiliation. This memo instantly became Srivastava’s blueprint for how to customize
 27 his fraud for Troost. Srivastava replicated the debtor’s core deceptions—false CIA claims, name-
 28 drops (Biden/Gen. Clark), and OFAC licenses—to create the fake Program idea described below.
 The memo also revealed Troost’s critical weak spot—his lingering tolerance for dubious claims.
 Srivastava saw the opportunity and weaponized this against Troost through psychological pressure
 and incremental cons. In 2023, Srivastava later sent this memo to journalists and others using a
 pseudonymized email address (HaydenFischer@proton.me) to attempt discredit Troost by
 portraying him as someone who fabricates tales about fake CIA spies, but Srivastava fortunately
 was caught on recordings doing exactly what he claims Troost fabricated.



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1 market Russian-origin oil purportedly in partnership with U.S. intelligence was in the U.S.
2 and Western security interests even despite the invasion, because (1) such business
3 supported the U.S. Dollar, which otherwise might be weakened by the mass migration of
4 Russian-origin oil trading to Chinese or other currency, and (2) bad actors affiliated with
5 Putin and his cronies would take over Paramount’s business and funnel the profits into the
6 Russian war machine, whereas Troost intended for Paramount to use profits to fund food
7 security initiatives in Africa and to support Ukraine. Unfortunately, as is the case with many
8 successful frauds, Srivastava took advantage of his victim by serving up generous portions
9 of lies Troost wanted to hear while facing intense pressure.

10 54. Before joining the Program, however, Srivastava insisted Troost needed to be
11 “vetted.” He then staged a sham “assessment” by Nicolas Bravard—presented as “the FBI’s
12 man in Swiss banking.” The objective was simple: create fear, then offer immunity—at a
13 price.

14 55. In early June 2022, at Srivastava’s direction, Bravard flew to Switzerland to
15 interrogate Troost about Russia, sanctioned oligarchs, terrorism, and Ukraine, presenting
16 himself as a U.S. government risk assessor and suggesting they meet in a “quiet place.” He
17 warned Troost that “they”— Troost understood that meant the U.S. government and
18 Srivastava—needed honesty before taking him into the Program.¹¹ When they met again
19 the next day, Bravard accused Troost of lying about Russian connections and threatened to
20 send a damaging report directly to the FBI Director.

21 56. Troost confided in his colleague Camara immediately afterward that he was
22 terrified. He believed he had just been interviewed by actual U.S. intelligence officers and
23 feared the consequences of a negative FBI report. Srivastava then called Troost to
24

25 ¹¹ Srivastava later admitted that he told Troost that Bravard was a “hard-nosed guy,” “I trust him
26 completely and he’s going to meet you,” and “He’s going to ask you some really tough questions
27 and please be honest with him. Don’t give stories.” Srivastava said, “I do it all the time in other
28 businesses. I say, you’ve got to vet.” Srivastava admitted that he called Bravard in Spain and asked
him to meet Troost. Srivastava said he thought Troost rented a plane to pick up Bravard and “I
wanted to see how far he was going to go,” “Will he put his money where his mouth is.” Srivastava
said, “That showed commitment to me.” In other words—Srivastava was sizing up his mark to
determine how big of a fraud Troost would be susceptible to. Logan Podcast (31:43 to 33:44).



1 “reassure” him—claiming he had spoken to the FBI Director and that the Bureau had
2 “cleared” Troost to work with the U.S. government.

3 **2. The Bali Interrogations**

4 57. Srivastava next invited Troost to Bali, where he claimed to lead special
5 operations and to be preparing for the U.S. delegation ahead of the G20 Summit. Believing
6 this was part of a legitimate intelligence process, Troost traveled to Indonesia three times
7 during the summer of 2022, staying with Srivastava. Camara accompanied Troost on a trip
8 in late July 2022 and heard Srivastava imply he was a CIA operative, stating: “If I tell you
9 I am, then I can’t be; but if I don’t tell you, then you’ll know that I am.”

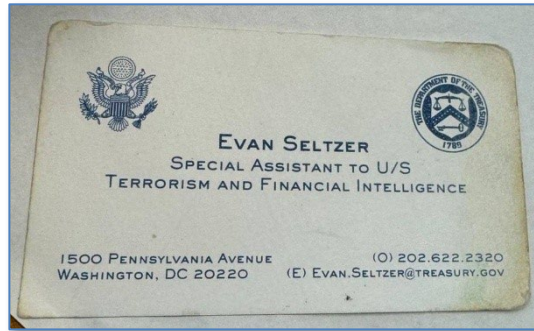
10 58. Over multiple days and nights, Srivastava interrogated Troost at length,
11 repeatedly invoking “Homeland Security,” “the Agency,” “the Bureau,” and his supposed
12 CIA training at “the Farm,” referring to the CIA training camp in Virginia. Troost, believing
13 he was speaking to a senior U.S. intelligence officer, disclosed details about his business,
14 his dispute with a debtor who himself claimed to be with the CIA, and his fears about false
15 allegations tying him to Russia. While swimming, Srivastava claimed scars on his torso
16 were wounds from special missions he carried out for the U.S. Government.

17 59. In turn, Srivastava confirmed that he could help Troost and Paramount in this
18 area through his privileged contacts with U.S. government agencies. Srivastava claimed that
19 he could not only ensure that the debtor stopped bothering Troost and “take care” of the
20 purported FBI file and avoid OFAC targeting, but also explained how he could help Troost
21 with Paramount’s trading activities, which were then under attack by the media, particularly
22 with respect to African commodities that Srivastava said he was being paid in.

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1 60. He claimed the CIA and other U.S. government agencies had approved the
2 Program and that OFAC would issue special licenses to participants. To reinforce the
3 deception, he handed Troost the business card of Evan Seltzer, “Special Assistant to U.S.
4 Terrorism and Financial Intelligence” with the U.S. Treasury Department, claiming Seltzer
5 was working with him:



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12 61. Sharon Srivastava at various times was present when Gaurav Srivastava made
13 false claims about his background. For example, in or about July or August 2022, in the
14 lobby of the Raffles Hotel Bali, Gaurav Srivastava, in front of Sharon, explained to Troost,
15 his wife, and owners of the hotel that he owned two companies with over two thousand
16 employees (false) that took government helicopters and refitted them for special missions.
17 Gaurav Srivastava also showed Mrs. Troost a video of a person on a moving motorcycle
18 climbing onto a flying helicopter, suggesting this was one such special mission.

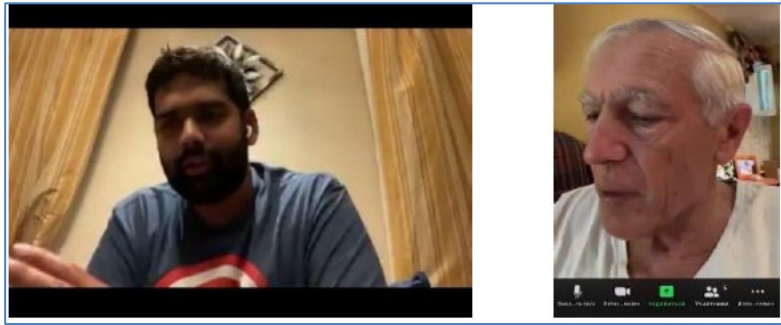
19 **3. Troost is “Accepted” into the Program**

20 62. After Srivastava finished interrogating Troost, he told Troost that he had
21 “great news.” Srivastava claimed he had spoken with then-CIA Director William Burns,
22 who had personally given the “go-ahead” for the CIA to partner with Troost and
23 Paramount.¹² He warned Troost not to speak about his CIA-affiliation and the Program with
24 anyone but him.

25
26
27
28 ¹² Srivastava was recorded on May 6, 2023, again falsely claiming he was speaking with Director
Burns. [Troost v. Arkin](#), Dkt. No. 14 at [2:21-3:8](#).



1 63. Srivastava then arranged a Zoom call with retired General Wesley Clark,
2 whom he presented as a senior Program participant¹³:



9 Srivastava introduced Troost to General Clark as his “latest recruit.” They discussed
10 Troost’s potential ability to trade sugar that Clark said he was getting from a Latin-
11 American country. Before the call, Srivastava told Troost that he and Clark had carried out
12 a special operation and were getting paid in sugar. Troost was impressed with General
13 Clark. And it reinforced the impression that Troost was entering a real intergovernmental
14 operation.

15 64. On another of Troost’s trips to Indonesia, Srivastava took Troost by
16 motorcade to the estate of Indonesia’s then-Defense Minister, Prabowo Subianto, and his
17 brother, Hashim Djojohadikusumo (“Hashim”). Srivastava claimed he had lived on the
18 compound while conducting a covert CIA mission. Their apparent familiarity with
19 Srivastava deepened the illusion that he was operating with official sanction.

20 65. Camara also believed Srivastava’s false claims that he was with the CIA.
21 Srivastava falsely claimed that he was overseeing efforts to catch people in African
22 countries with substantial mineral and energy resources who were wanted by the U.S.
23 government and that he needed assistance from local governments to carry out the
24 operation. He claimed that, in exchange, he could secure U.S. government support for those
25 countries’ presidents. Srivastava instructed Camara to set up a call between Srivastava and
26 the president of a particular African country. Camara was physically present with the
27

28 ¹³ Screenshots from a *later*, similar zoom call led by Srivastava (left in Captain America t-shirt)
and General Clark (right) conducted with Troost’s agribusiness partner.



1 president when the call occurred and translated for Srivastava, who spoke over
 2 speakerphone. During the call, Camara heard Srivastava tell the president that he was with
 3 the CIA and that he could help the president and his country on behalf of the U.S.
 4 government. He falsely claimed he could provide U.S. security assistance to the country,
 5 and that he would personally bring then-President Biden and a U.S. Senator to meet with
 6 the president. Later, Camara learned that Srivastava had dispatched a so-called “security
 7 advisory team” to the country—one that included a retired four-star U.S. general—further
 8 lending credibility to Srivastava’s fabricated intelligence persona and strengthening the
 9 deception he had constructed around his purported CIA ties.

10 **4. Srivastava’s Fraudulent Efforts to Obtain Liberian Oil and** 11 **Mineral Concessions**

12 66. Srivastava invited Troost to the Atlantic Council’s 2022 Global Citizen
 13 Awards Gala on September 19, 2022—a high-profile event in New York City led by
 14 Frederick Kempe at a prestigious American think tank focused on international security and
 15 global economic prosperity. Srivastava served as co-chair of the gala, and an advertisement
 16 for his Foundation appeared in the program touting its sponsorship of the gala, even though
 17 it did not yet exist as a legal entity.

18 67. At the gala, Srivastava arranged for Troost to sit with him, General Clark, and
 19 Mary Beth Long, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense and former CIA operations
 20 officer. Srivastava described Long as a “former black-ops CIA operative who is not actually
 21 retired” and told Troost she would be “vetting” him. Long asked a series of innocuous
 22 questions about Troost’s background and business, but after roughly 90 minutes abruptly
 23 left the table and did not return. When Troost asked why she had departed, Srivastava
 24 claimed she had been called away for a “CIA emergency.”¹⁴ Srivastava also used the event
 25 to introduce Troost to various major business leaders and re-connect with various
 26

27 ¹⁴ Unbeknownst to Troost at the time, Long had been involved in *U.S. v. Marshall*, where Matthew
 28 Marshall posed as a CIA officer to defraud a Montana businessman. Long, working with Srivastava
 Enterprise member, John Maguire, falsely vouched for Marshall’s bona fides, and Marshall was
 ultimately convicted of crimes and sentenced to prison. *See, infra* ¶ 149 & nn. 24-25.



1 Indonesian officials—further burnishing the illusion that Troost had entered a U.S.
2 intelligence-sanctioned circle.

3 68. While in New York City with Troost to attend the gala, Srivastava continued
4 presenting himself to Troost as a CIA officer and asked Troost to arrange an in-person
5 meeting with Ousmane Bamba, a friend of then-President George Weah of Liberia. Troost
6 coordinated the meeting with Bamba via WhatsApp, and the three met for breakfast at the
7 Southgate Restaurant in the Marriot Essex Hotel on Central Park South in Manhattan.
8 During that meeting, Srivastava falsely told Bamba that he worked for the CIA and claimed
9 that the U.S. Government could help President Weah win re-election. Srivastava stated that
10 he could damage Weah’s political opponents by arranging to plant drugs and weapons in
11 their homes, provide voting machines capable of manipulation, and ensure that U.S. election
12 observers would validate the election’s results. In exchange, Srivastava said the U.S.
13 government wanted a petroleum block and assistance locating terrorists in Liberia. To
14 bolster the deception, Srivastava lifted his shirt to display scarring he falsely claimed came
15 from combat.¹⁵ Bamba rejected Srivastava’s proposal.

16 69. In November 2022, Srivastava resumed the scheme. By international
17 telephone call, he asked Bamba to introduce him to the Liberian National Security Agency.
18 Relying on Srivastava’s representations, Bamba connected him with the NSA’s Deputy
19 Director, Gerald Smith.

20 70. Srivastava and Smith subsequently spoke several times by interstate and
21 international wire communications. In those conversations, Srivastava again pretended to
22 be a CIA operative and claimed he could help President Weah secure re-election. He further
23 asserted that the CIA and the Liberian NSA could work together through him to form a joint
24 intelligence team, that he had access to CIA-level intelligence which he would share with
25 Liberia, and that he could arrange for CIA training for Liberian intelligence personnel.
26 Srivastava also claimed he could obtain CIA funding to track terrorists he would identify.

27 _____
28 ¹⁵ Srivastava claimed on the Logan Podcast that he had a serious kidney operation when he was a
child and “I had tubes hanging out of me.” On information and belief, that was the cause of
Srivastava’s scars, not any CIA mission or battle action, as he told multiple people during his frauds.



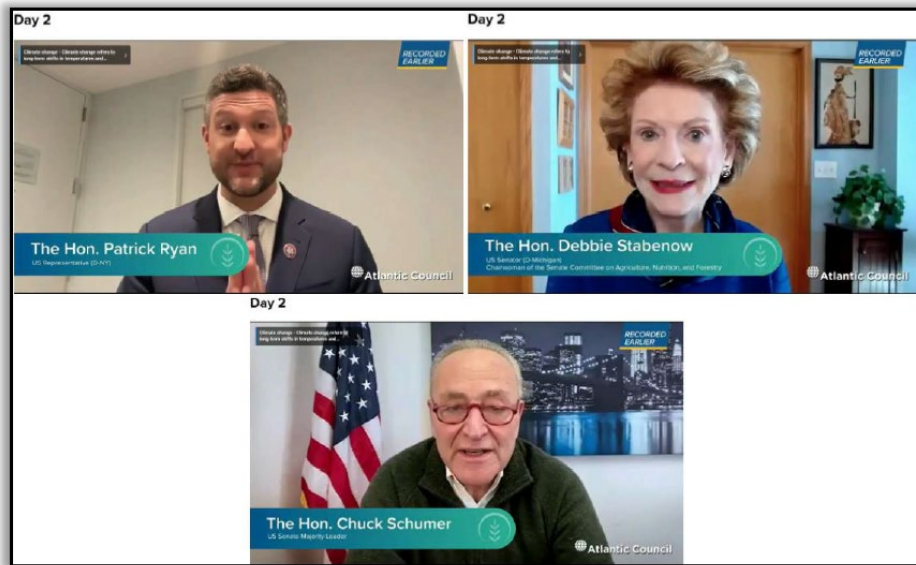
1 Based on these representations, Smith agreed to meet Srivastava in the United States.

2 71. Between December 2022 and January 2023, Srivastava and Smith exchanged
3 messages on WhatsApp and Signal to coordinate their communications and the anticipated
4 meeting. The meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2023, in Washington, D.C. However,
5 after Smith traveled to the United States, Srivastava abruptly canceled the meeting. The
6 meeting never occurred. Troost was unaware of these communications at the time.

7 **5. Srivastava Uses Stolen Funds To Buy Political Access to Create**
8 **the Illusion of U.S. Government Support**

9 72. To elevate his profile and cement the impression of U.S. government backing,
10 Srivastava’s Foundation co-hosted the Atlantic Council’s Global Food Security Forum in
11 Bali in November 2022. Invitations to world leaders—including the Prime Ministers of the
12 UK and Japan—listed the Foundation as a sponsor.

13 73. The event opened with remarks by the Atlantic Council’s President and CEO
14 and Srivastava. The second day featured video messages from then-Senate Majority Leader
15 Chuck Schumer, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Representative Pat Ryan, who publicly
16 thanked Srivastava and the Foundation “for hosting and convening such a timely and
17 important conversation.”



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74. Srivastava told Troost that this access to U.S. political leaders flowed from his CIA role and their support for the Program. In reality, Srivastava was buying access: in the months preceding the forum, he and his company, Orbimo, secretly contributed more than \$1.6 million to political organizations and campaigns, including those of officials whose names he used to bolster his fabricated intelligence credentials. Troost had no knowledge of these contributions. On information and belief, the Enterprise obtained a significant amount of the money used to fund the donations through Owen Onouye’s firm Global Energy Law Group, to which the Enterprise defrauded the Plaintiffs into sending money under the false pretenses that the firm was approved by Speaker Pelosi to receive money to fund official Program-related operations by Homeland Security, as alleged below.

Date	Recipient	Amount
October 4, 2022	Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC)	\$36,500
October 4, 2022	DCCC	\$109,500
October 4, 2022	DCCC	\$104,000
October 22, 2022	Stabenow Victory Fund	\$20,800
October 23, 2022	Pat Ryan Victory Fund	\$12,900
October 24, 2022	Pat Ryan for Congress	\$2,900
Oct. – Nov. 2022	VoteVets	\$800,000 (aggregate)
November 2, 2022	Stabenow for US Senate	\$2,900
November 2, 2022	Stabenow for US Senate	\$2,900
November 2, 2022	Great Lakes PAC	\$5,000
November 7, 2022	Senate Majority PAC (“SMP”)	\$500,000
November 8, 2022	Sean Patrick Maloney for Congress	\$2,900 (aggregate)
Total:		\$1,600,300

C. The Fake Program’s Actual Goal: Control Over Paramount and Troost’s Assets

75. Once Troost believed he had been “accepted” into the Program and was dealing with a legitimate covert U.S. intelligence operative, the Srivastava Enterprise shifted from manipulation to execution. Srivastava immediately launched three parallel tracks, each designed to secure control over Paramount and its assets: (1) seizing beneficial ownership of PECSA, (2) siphoning tens of millions of dollars into accounts and companies Srivastava and the Enterprise controlled under the phony guise of “Program” operations, and (3) executing a corporate “inversion” that would redomicile the business under a U.S.



1 parent the Srivastava Enterprise controlled.

2 **1. The Srivastava Enterprise Fraudulently Obtains Beneficial**
3 **Ownership of 50% of PECSA**

4 76. When Troost first encountered Srivastava, the ownership structure of his
5 companies was simple and secure: Troost personally owned 100% of EZI; EZI owned 100%
6 of PECSA; and PECSA owned 100% of PDMCC. PECSA and PDMCC were highly
7 profitable businesses at the time.

8 77. Srivastava quickly set out to dismantle that structure and fraudulently obtain
9 control over these extremely valuable companies. He convinced Troost that the U.S.
10 government could not license Paramount to continue trading Russian oil so long as it
11 remained 100% foreign owned. According to Srivastava, U.S. policy required him—acting
12 as a CIA asset—to hold meaningful control of Paramount from within the United States.

13 78. Srivastava told Troost that, to satisfy these purported U.S. requirements,
14 PECSA needed to be restructured so that: (1) Srivastava—as a purported U.S. citizen, as he
15 claimed—would own 50% of PECSA through a Swiss front company held by Bravard; and
16 later (2) PECSA would ultimately be redomiciled in the United States under a new U.S.
17 parent entity that, unbeknownst to Troost at the time, Srivastava and the Enterprise intended
18 to assume total control of. Srivastava repeatedly emphasized that Paramount’s “acceptance”
19 into the secret Program—and with it, the OFAC licenses necessary to demonstrate
20 PDMCC’s bona fides to be exempted from Western sanctions—depended on his becoming
21 a 50% shareholder and, later, total restructuring.

22 79. Srivastava also represented that PECSA would function as a CIA front
23 company and that its operations, transactions, and tax payments had to appear free from
24 U.S. government involvement to preserve his “non-official cover.” He claimed the
25 arrangement would benefit Troost personally and commercially: Troost would be helping
26 Western and African strategic interests, avoiding the risk of sanctions, and partnering with
27 the U.S. government to expand his business opportunities. Srivastava further asserted that
28 the U.S. Treasury would invest \$2 billion into the project once the restructuring was



1 complete, a claim he repeated to others such as Kagimu.

2 80. Srivastava’s deception was so convincing, and the time-pressure he exerted
3 was such, that in late July 2022, Troost wrote to PECSA personnel that “the survival and
4 future of the company depends” on transferring 50% of PECSA, describing the matter as
5 “extremely important and urgent.”

6 81. In July 2022, while Troost was in Indonesia meeting with Srivastava, Troost
7 called Robin Luisier, the director of EZI. Troost explained he was selling 50% of his
8 corporate assets to an unnamed buyer for a nominal value. Alarmed, Luisier questioned why
9 Troost would give away half of a highly profitable company for essentially nothing. Troost
10 responded that his new business partner was “active CIA” and that the transfer was
11 necessary to avoid U.S. sanctions and ensure government support for continued Russian oil
12 trading. Luisier relayed this conversation at the time to another tax advisor, Jean-Marc
13 Wasem.

14 82. That same month, Bravard—who, as an essential participant in the Enterprise,
15 would hold Srivastava’s interest as a proxy—pressed Troost to act quickly. On July 14,
16 2022, he texted Troost: “Let’s talk when u have 5 mn. **I am under Pressure to deliver a**
17 **deal.** [...] Let’s work under the assumption I will through a newco or directly acquire 50
18 pct of your shares... We need to move fast.” (emphasis added). Troost responded that “I
19 know G likes to put pressure.” Bravard replied, “we need to move to the next step tomorrow.
20 Sorry, but we can’t wait at this point”:



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1 83. On July 18, 2022, in reliance on Srivastava’s false representations and in
2 response to the Enterprise’s pressure, Troost emailed the directors of EZI and PECSA, as
3 well as Bravard (at his Gmail address), to initiate the transfer of control. He introduced
4 Bravard as his “new partner” with whom he would equally split ownership, while omitting
5 Srivastava’s role to preserve Srivastava’s purported CIA anonymity; Srivastava had
6 instructed Troost not to talk about the Program or Srivastava’s CIA connection.

7 84. That same day, Wasem and Luisier exchanged messages expressing grave
8 concerns. Luisier speculated that Bravard might be connected to the threatening Paramount
9 debtor. Both men noted that the situation appeared “crazy.” When they flagged potential
10 Swiss tax consequences, Troost reassured them that his partner was connected with OFAC,
11 the Swiss Secret Service, and SECO, and that “there would be no Swiss tax issue.”

12 85. On July 20, 2022, distressed by the pressure campaign, Troost told Bravard
13 via Signal: “I kindly ask you to stop putting pressure and try to rush things... This is a long-
14 term strategic partnership... it’s best to do everything right instead of in a rush.” But
15 Srivastava and Bravard intensified their push.¹⁶

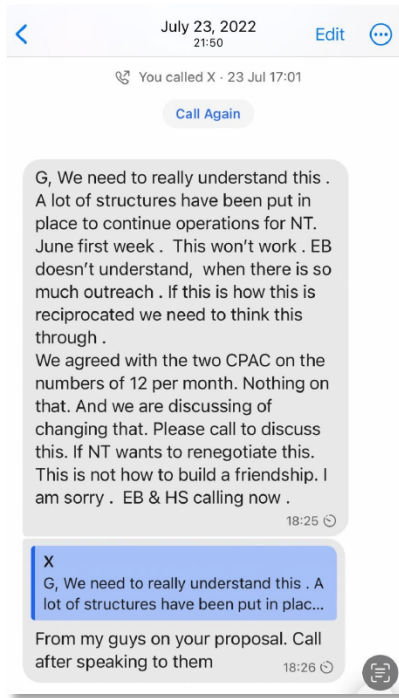
16 86. A few days later, on July 23, 2022, Srivastava and Bravard coordinated to
17 manufacture the false impression that U.S. officials were displeased with Troost for not
18 completing the transfer after “[a] lot of structures have been put in place to continue
19 operations for” Paramount. Srivastava messaged Troost that his U.S. intelligence
20 colleagues—“my guys”—had told him that the Executive Branch (“EB”) and Department
21 of Homeland Security (“HS”) were upset with Troost for “renegotiat[ing]” and warned that
22 “[t]his is not how to build a friendship.”

23
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26 _____
27 ¹⁶ Srivastava later claimed in various forums that Troost pressured him into the deal, citing Troost’s
28 urgent-sounding emails to Paramount staff. But, it was the Enterprise that always pressured Troost,
first to sign the documents transferring them 50%, then to not wind up PDMCC’s Russian-oil
marketing, and then to sign documents inverting the Swiss-held organization and its assets into a
U.S. company, Unicom Worldwide, under the Enterprise’s total control.



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On information and belief, Srivastava fabricated this message purportedly from U.S. officials and sent it to Troost for the purpose of convincing him to sign over 50% of the shares of his companies to Srivastava.

87. Meanwhile, Wasem and Luisier exchanged additional messages on July 28, 2022, expressing fear that Troost was being conned and that the deal could lead to a complete corporate takeover. Wasem speculated (presciently, as it turned out) that Bravard—acting as Srivastava’s front—could steal \$250 million from Troost and then get him sanctioned. Luisier responded, “**we are fine, Joe Biden is behind this,**” reflecting his understanding at the time from what Troost had told him that the arrangement was supported by the U.S. government.

88. On July 30, 2022, Troost—fully deceived by Srivastava’s elaborate scheme—caused EZI to enter into the Share Purchase Agreement (“SPA”) with 1234 Holding, transferring 50% of PECSA to the Enterprise for a token CHF 50,000, while the company was valued in the SPA itself at around US \$350 million.¹⁷ In March 2025, the Dubai Chief

¹⁷ Bravard, a critical Enterprise member, acted as the face of Srivastava’s 50% interest in the business, and Bravard, not Srivastava, was recorded in PECSA’s official share registry as the beneficial owner of 50% of the shares. 1234 Holding was a Switzerland entity Bravard had incorporated for that purpose on or about July 26, 2022. Bravard held 100% of 1234 Holding

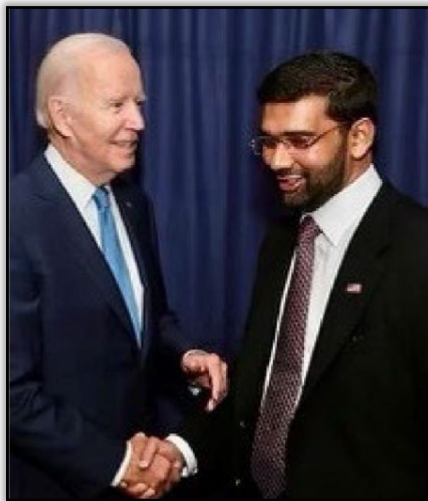


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1 Prosecutor’s investigation found that the Enterprise’s “completing the acquisition of half of
2 [PECSA]’s shares for [that] amount does not comply with accounting standards or
3 customary commercial practices in ownership transfer operations,” particularly as PECSA’s
4 wholly owned subsidiary PDMCC’s “total recent transactions according to the documents
5 reviewed during the examination period exceed 56.7 billion UAE dirhams [US \$15.4
6 billion].”¹⁸

7 89. Under the agreement, PECSA’s director Maurice Taylor would remain its
8 sole director, and Troost retained rights to dividends accrued through May 31, 2022—worth
9 hundreds of millions at the time. Meanwhile, Srivastava would be entitled to 50% of the
10 profits generated since June 1, 2022, two months before the contracts were signed, which
11 Bravard had valued at the time at \$150 million.

12 90. After the agreement was signed, Troost introduced Luisier and Wasem to
13 Bravard. Later, Bravard finally acknowledged to Luisier and Wasem that Srivastava was
14 the true party behind the transaction and claimed Srivastava had CIA connections. When
15 the advisors raised potential tax concerns, Bravard dismissed them, saying Srivastava would
16 “take care of it” with OFAC, SECO, and Swiss tax authorities. Bravard even displayed a
17 photograph on his phone of Srivastava standing with President Joe Biden as supposed proof
18 of his government ties.



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27 through a company called Waterfall Holding Suisse SA, of which Bravard also was the sole director
28 and 100% shareholder.

¹⁸ [Troost v. Arkin](#), Dkt. 44.



91. Once Srivastava and Bravard had secured 50% of PECSA and a shareholders’ agreement granting them significant rights, the Enterprise advanced to the next phase: ensuring they could seize total control of PECSA and its assets. They devised a plan to move PECSA into a U.S.-based corporate structure to be controlled entirely by Srivastava—a restructuring they called the “Inversion.” In internal email correspondence, Bravard had told Srivastava and Onouye by international email that the Enterprise would “create a US subsidiary” that would “take over all compliance [and] control of the group,” and Srivastava intended to use Defendant Unicom Worldwide, Inc. as the U.S. vehicle.

2. The Srivastava Enterprise Fraudulently Siphons Tens of Millions of Dollars from Troost’s Businesses

i. Wire Fraud and Money Laundering Involving Defendant Global Energy Law Group

92. In or around July 2022, after Troost’s purported “acceptance” into the Program, Srivastava informed Plaintiffs that it was time to make their first financial commitment. The funds, he claimed, were required to support activities allegedly run by the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Executive Branch. He began pressuring Troost and PECSA to send millions of dollars to a law firm called Global Energy Law Group, which he represented as a firm closely associated with then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and used by senior national-security officials. As was his pattern and practice to continuously reinforce his bona fides as a CIA operative by showing photographs of himself with top U.S. government officials, Srivastava sent Troost a photo of himself with Speaker Pelosi:



93. In reality, Global Energy Law Group had no association with the U.S. government or Speaker Pelosi; it was controlled by Defendant Onouye, Srivastava’s personal attorney. Onouye, a California lawyer, had been suspended in 2011 and 2012 after serving more than two years in a Nebraska state penitentiary for a drug-trafficking conviction. Plaintiffs knew none of this. They were instead told that Global Energy Law Group was part of a government-approved network of front entities.

Owen Riki Onouye #174580			
License Status: Active			
Address: Global Energy Law Group 5901 W Century Blvd, Ste 750, Los Angeles, CA 90045-5443			
Phone: 310-348-2969 Fax: Not Available			
Email: owen.esq@protonmail.com Website: Not Available			
Date	License Status ⓘ	Discipline ⓘ	Administrative Action ⓘ
Present	Active		
8/26/2012	Active		
6/21/2012	Not eligible to practice law in CA	Discipline w/actual suspension 11-C-13340 ⓘ	
8/26/2011	Not eligible to practice law in CA	Interim suspension after conviction 11-C-13340 ⓘ	
7/7/2011		Conviction record transmitted to State Bar Court 11-C-13340 ⓘ	

94. To preserve that illusion of government compartmentalization, the funds were to be routed through an intermediary in the United Arab Emirates—BAB Global LTD (“BAB Global”), chaired and operated by Sultan Saleem Hassan Khalifa Abu Sultan.

95. On June 30, 2022, PDMCC and BAB Global executed a written shared-services agreement under which PDMCC agreed to make an advance payment of \$11,999,975 to be “settled to the legal firm that [BAB Global] will assign” to provide legal drafting, review, and consulting services related to the “Business.”

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<p>SERVICES AGREEMENT</p> <p>اتفاقية خدمات</p> <p>This Services Agreement ("Agreement") is entered on June 30, 2022 ("Effective Date"), by and between:</p> <p>1- Paramount Energy and Commodities DMCC, a company incorporated and registered in Dubai under number DMCC - 798151, having its registered address at Office 4202, JBC1 Building, Cluster G, Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and represented by its manager Mr. Francois Mauron.</p> <p>1- شركة بارامونت إنرجي أند كوموديتيز م.د.م.س، شركة منطقة حرة، شركة مؤسسة مسجلة في دبي تحت رقم DMCC - 798151، عنوانها المسجل هو مركز الأعمال م.د.م.س، طابق رقم 1، مبنى جويلاري وجيميلكس 3 دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وممثلة بمديرها السيد فرانكويس ادوارد ماورون.</p> <p>Hereinafter referred to as the "Client"</p> <p>يشار إليها فيما يلي بـ "العميل"</p> <p>And</p> <p>2- BAB Global LTD, a company incorporated and registered in RAKOFFSHORE, under certificate No. A002/02/14/8033, having its registered address at Al Jazeera Al Hamra, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, and represented by its manager Mr. Sultan Abu Sultan.</p> <p>2- شركة بي أي بي غلوبال ليميتد، شركة مؤسسة ومسجلة في راک افشور بترخيص رقم A002/02/14/8033، عنوانها المسجل في الجزيرة الحمراء، رأس الخيمة، الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وممثلة بمديرها السيد سلطان أبو سلطان.</p> <p>Hereinafter referred to as the "Service Provider"</p> <p>يشار إليها فيما يلي بـ "مقدم الخدمات"</p> <p>Both Client and Service Provider shall be collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as the "Party".</p> <p>يشار فيما بعد إلى كل من العميل ومقدم الخدمات متحدين "بالطرفين" ومنفردين "بالطرف".</p>	<p>5.2 The Parties have agreed that Client shall transfer to the bank account of Service Provider an advance payment ("Advance Payment") amounting to US\$ 11,999,975.00, to be settled to the legal firm that will be assigned by Service Provide and which shall handle drafting and reviewing all the requested legal agreements and providing all necessary legal consultancy pertaining to the Business.</p> <p>اتفق الطرفان على أن يقوم العميل بتحويل دفعة مسبقة ("الدفعة المسبقة") تبلغ قيمتها 11,999,975.00 دولاراً أمريكياً إلى الحساب المصرفي العائد لمقدم الخدمات، وذلك لكي يتم تسديدها لصالح مكتب المحاماة الذي سوف يتم تعيينه من قبل مقدم الخدمات والذي سوف يتولى مهمة تحرير ومراجعة العقود المطلوبة واعطاء الاستشارات القانونية اللازمة والمتعلقة بالنشاط.</p> <p>13. PREVAILING LANGUAGE</p> <p>13. اللغة الواجبة الاعتماد</p> <p>This Agreement was drafted in both, Arabic and English languages. In the event any discrepancy appears between the Arabic and English texts, the Arabic version shall prevail for the purpose of interpreting any clause of this Agreement.</p> <p>تم تحرير الاتفاقية الحاضرة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. في حالة تعارض النصين، يكون النص باللغة العربية هو الأساس لتفسير أي بند من بنود هذه الاتفاقية.</p> <p>IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and intending to be legally bound, the Parties have each caused this Agreement to be signed as of the date first set forth above.</p> <p>وإثباتاً لما تقدم، ويقصد الالتزام قانوناً، وقع كل طرف الاتفاقية الحاضرة في التاريخ المحدد أولاً أعلاه.</p> <p>SIGNED For and on behalf of Paramount Energy and Commodities DMCC</p> <p>SIGNED For and on behalf of BAB Global LTD.</p> <p>Name: Francois Mauron</p> <p>Name: Sultan Abu Sultan</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p>
--	--

96. On or about July 8, 2022, in reliance on Srivastava's representations, PDMCC transferred \$11,999,975 to BAB Global pursuant to that agreement—funds Srivastava had orchestrated and directed.



PARAMOUNT ENERGY AND

PO BOX 449921

UNIT NO BA 1098 DMCC BUSINESS

DUBAI

DATE : 08 JUL 2022

REFERENCE: FT22189F61UB

CUSTOMER : 4784950

DEBIT ADVICE

WE HAVE TODAY EXECUTED THE FOLLOWING Account Transfer INSTRUCTION FOR VALUE 08 JUL 2022

BENEFICIARY : BAB GLOBAL LTD

PAYMENT DETAILS : As per agreement

DEBIT REFERENCE : BabGlobalLtd

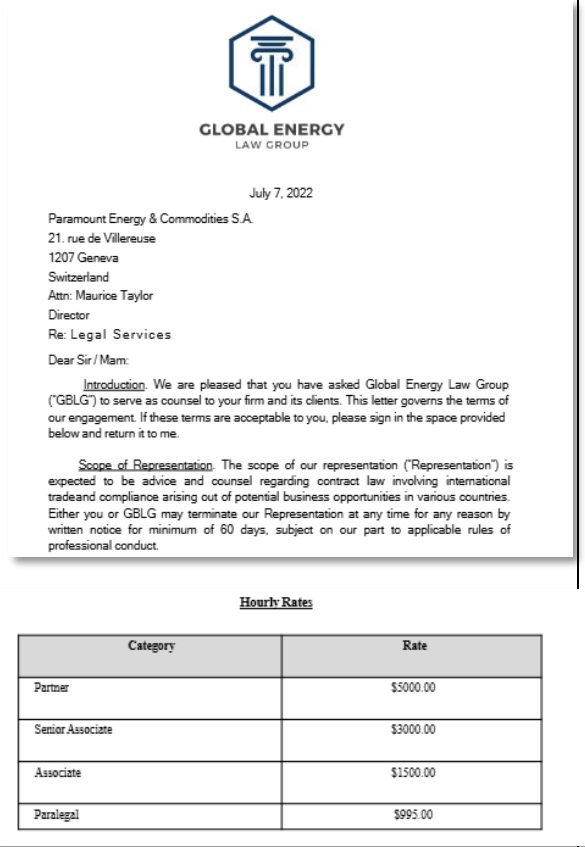
WE HAVE DEBITED YOUR USD ACCOUNT NO. [REDACTED]

(IBAN - AE850351191924784950002) VALUE 08 JUL 2022 AS FOLLOWS :

TRANSFER AMOUNT	USD	11,999,974.58
AMOUNT DEBITED	USD	11,999,974.58

THIS IS A COMPUTER GENERATED ADVICE AND HENCE NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

97. Shortly thereafter, Defendants Srivastava, Onouye, and Global Energy Law Group also attempted to cause PECSA to transfer an additional approximately \$6.2 million from outside the United States to the bank account of Global Energy Law Group ending in x4608 at Bank of America in California.



98. On July 14, 2022, PECSA's then-director Maurice Taylor received an email from "Mark Elders," Global Energy Law Group's purported finance director, attaching a sham engagement letter (with individual lawyers charging \$5,000 per hour) and demanding an initial retainer of \$6,170,250. Because the email from "Mark Elders" to Maurice Taylor was also purportedly signed by "Maurice Taylor," on information and belief, the person "Mark Elders" did not exist at Global Energy Law Group and it was instead Srivastava and Onouye working together to extract cash from Paramount by fraud to benefit the Enterprise.

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1 De : Mark Elders <mark.elders@gbglaw.com>
 2 Envoyé : jeudi, 14 juillet 2022 02:45
 À : Maurice Taylor <mtaylor@parencom.ch>; Bernard Fellay <bfellay@parencom.ch>;
 mianskovskaia@parencom.ch <mianskovskaia@parencom.ch>
 3 Objet : Letter_of_Engagement_ref.PARAMOUNT
 4
 5 Dear Maurice
 6
 7 Attached please find the executed engagement letter for your counter signature and execution.
 8
 9 Thank You
 10
 11 Kind Regards
 12 Maurice Taylor
 13 Finance Director

14 99. When PECSA attempted to execute the transaction, its Swiss bank’s
 15 compliance department rejected it, citing a lack of required information “in order to
 16 understand the underlying transactions/services linked to this mandate, in line with the size
 17 of the retainer fees paid to the law firm.”

18 100. Later, in Fall 2022, the Enterprise succeeded in profiting from its fraud,
 19 causing PDMCC to send around \$6 million through to Global Energy Law Group.

20 **ii. Wire Fraud and Money Laundering Through**
 21 **Arsari Promissory Notes and Defendant Birdsong**

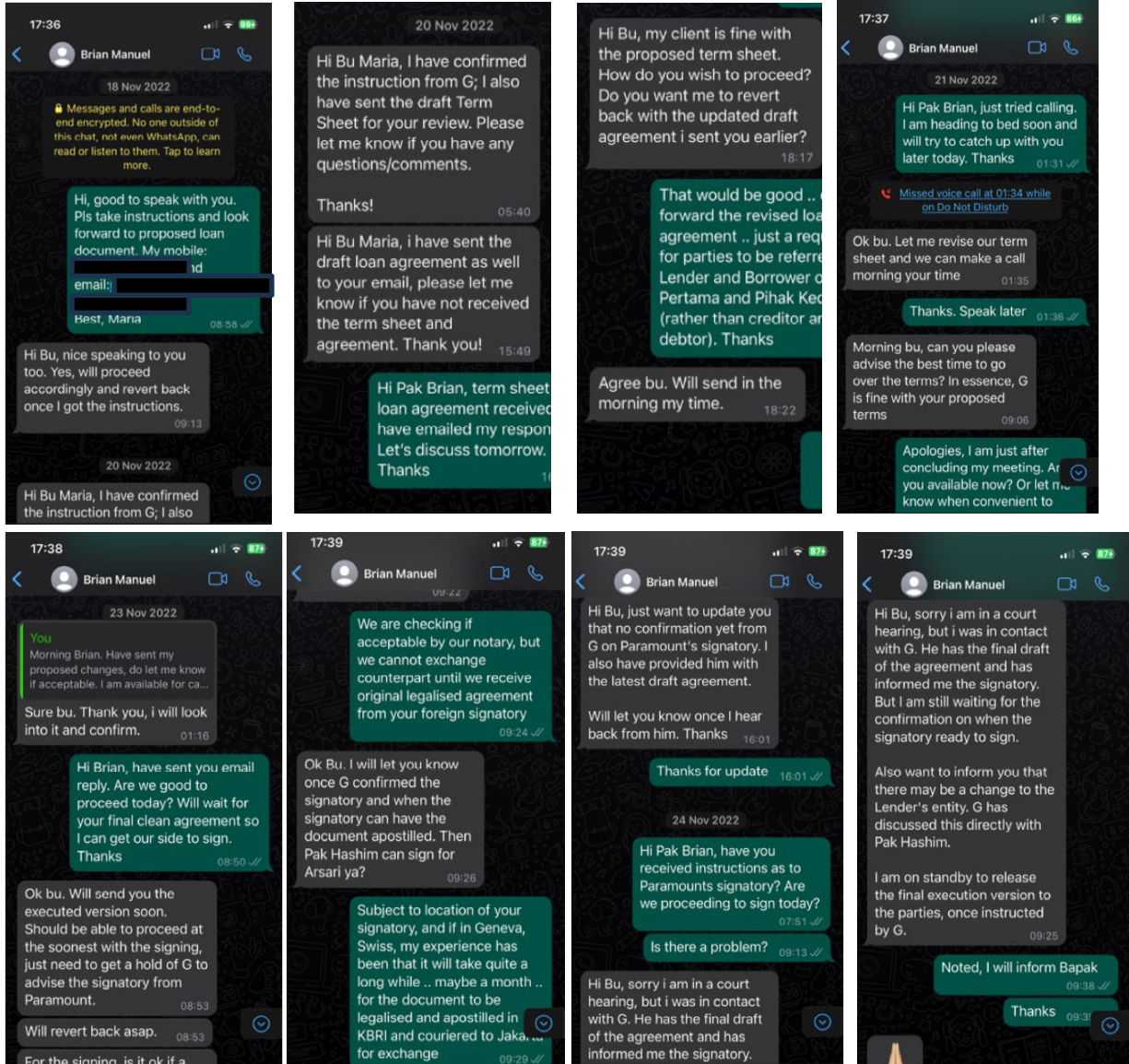
22 101. As a mere 50% shareholder of PECSA, Srivastava had no legal right or direct
 23 mechanism to draw money from PDMCC, PECSA’s UAE-based subsidiary. Nor did
 24 Srivastava hold any position of authority at PDMCC. Undeterred, in November and
 25 December 2022, Srivastava engineered a fraudulent workaround that would give him
 26 immediate access to cash to fund his lavish lifestyle: a \$51 million “loan” from PDMCC to
 27 an Indonesian conglomerate, Arsari Group (“Arsari”), operated by a politically exposed
 28 person, Hashim—the brother of then-Minister of Defense (and now President) Prabowo
 Subianto.

102. Srivastava arranged for Arsari to paper over the transaction as a sham loan
 from PDMCC for “working capital and other business operations,” and Srivastava
 simultaneously arranged to siphon roughly half of those funds to the Enterprise for his
 personal use. His objective was simple: to finance the purchase of a \$24.5 million mansion
 at 14180 W. Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, California.

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1 103. Srivastava orchestrated the transaction personally. The following are text
 2 messages from November 18 and November 23, 2022, among Maria Foley, Arsari’s
 3 representative, and Brian Manuel, Srivastava’s Indonesian representative, setting up the
 4 sham loan during which Manuel explains that he “confirmed the instruction from G,” that
 5 “In essence, G is fine with your proposed terms,” “just need to get a hold of G to advise the
 6 signatory from Paramount,” and “I am on standby to release the final execution version to
 7 the parties, once instructed by G” (Foley – right; Manuel – left)¹⁹:



19 Arsari allowed Plaintiffs to use in litigation the underlying communications with the Srivastava Enterprise per an agreement in which Arsari agreed to enforce its rights against Srivastava as to \$25 million on trust for PDMCC. So far, Arsari refuses to proceed, and Hashim continues to hold \$26 million he now knows he obtained through a fraud orchestrated by Srivastava, despite requests from PDMCC for its return. Plaintiffs reserve all rights as to Arsari and Hashim.

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1 104. At the time, PDMCC’s director, Francois Mauron, received a Signal call in
 2 which Srivastava instructed him to lend \$51 million to Arsari. When Mauron noted that
 3 such a transaction would ordinarily take the form of a joint venture, Srivastava insisted that
 4 the structure had already been “decided” at the highest levels and invoked the political
 5 power of the Subianto family. To Troost, Srivastava claimed that the funds were necessary
 6 to support the secret “Program.” PDMCC’s and Paramount’s counsel were intentionally
 7 excluded; Mauron was put in direct contact with Arsari’s counsel.

8 105. On November 26, 2022, Mauron signed a 15-year loan agreement on
 9 PDMCC’s behalf. On or about December 2, 2022, Srivastava and others willfully and
 10 knowingly conspired to cause PDMCC to wire the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) equivalent of

R/K STATEMENT
Transaksi Hari Ini

BANK BUKOPIN
 KEPADA YTH : ARSARI PRADANA UTAMA, PT
 NO.REK.GIRO [REDACTED]

ALAMAT : MID PLAZA 2 LT.6, JL. JEND SUDIRMAN
 KARET TENGSIN, TANAH ABANG
 JAKARTA PUSAT
 CURRENCY : RUPIAH
 NPWP : 01.367.605.1.091.000
 SALDO AWAL : 4,890,000.00

TGL	KETERANGAN	DEBET	KREDIT	SALDO
02/12	PB PARAMOUNT DMCC TO PT ARSARI PRADANA	0.00	755,090,000,000.00	755,094,890,000.00
		SALDO AKHIR :		755,094,890,000.00

PT BANK MANDIRI, TBK
 12206 KCP Jakarta Mid Plaza
 Jakarta Pusat, 2/12/22

CREDIT ADVICE

Our Reference : 77-99000-7108838-01
 Kepada/To : PT ARSARI PRADANA UTAMA
 JAKARTA

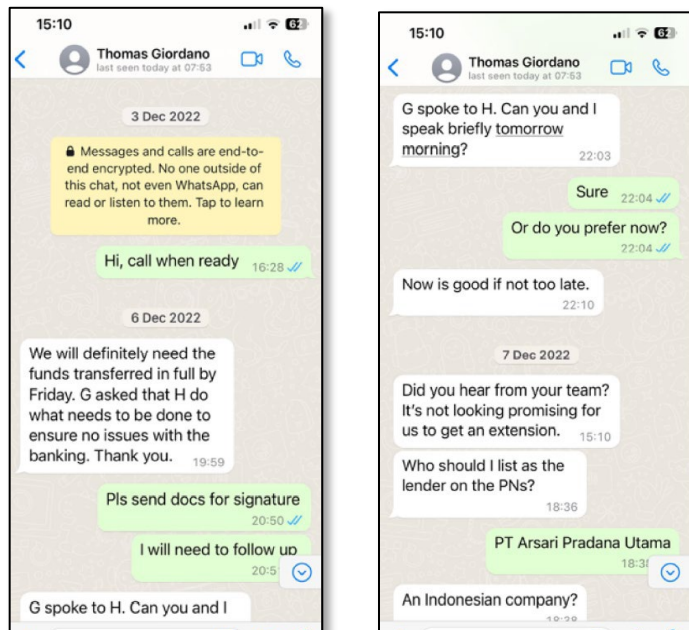
Uraian/Description :
 Kami telah mengkredit rekening Saudara sebagai berikut : / We have credited your account as
 Tanggal Valuta/Value Date : 2/12/2022
 Nomor Rekening / Account Number : [REDACTED]
 Cabang/Branch : 122-06 KCP Jakarta Mid Plaza
 Nilai Kredit/Credited Amount : IDR 30,820,000,000.00
 Nilai Transfer/Transfer Amount : 30,820,000,000.00 IDR
 Kurs Jual/Exc Rate Sell : .000000
 Kurs Beli/Exc Rate Buy : .000000
 Nama Pengirim/Sender Name : PARAMOUNT DMCC
 OFFICE 4202 JBCI CLUSTER G JUMEIRAH
 DUBAI, DUBAI
 [REDACTED]
 Bank Pengirim/Sender Bank : BBUKIDJA PT. BANK KB BUKOPIN, TBK

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1 US \$51 million to Arsari in two tranches: IDR 755,090,000,000 to Arsari’s account at Bank
 2 Bukopin in Indonesia (equivalent to approximately \$49 million) and IDR 30,820,000,000
 3 to Arsari’s account at Bank Mandiri in Indonesia (equivalent to approximately \$2 million).

4 106. However, unbeknownst to plaintiffs, immediately after Arsari received the
 5 \$51 million in loan proceeds from PDMCC, Srivastava convinced Hashim to give him
 6 immediate access to roughly half of the funds for his personal use. Srivastava had enlisted
 7 Thomas Giordano-Lascari—then at Karlin & Peebles and trustee of the Aurora Point Trust
 8 (beneficial owners: Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava)—to build the legal architecture needed
 9 to launder the funds into the United States by concealing the U.S. side of the transaction.
 10 The trust included two Delaware entities controlled by Lascari for the Enterprise: Aurora
 11 Point and Birdsong. Srivastava then funneled \$25 million of the PDMCC loan to Defendant
 12 Birdsong.

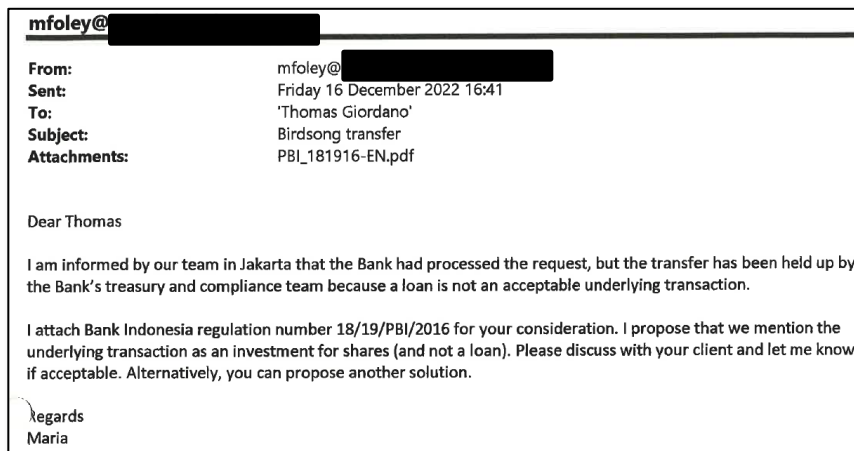
13 107. On December 6, 2022, days after PDMCC sent the \$51 million to Arsari,
 14 Lascari and Arsari’s representative, Maria Foley, exchanged international WhatsApp
 15 messages to coordinate the Enterprise’s receipt of \$25 million as quickly as possible.
 16 Lascari said, “We will definitely need the funds transferred in full by Friday, G asked that
 17 H [referring to Hashim, President Subianto’s brother] do what needs to be done to ensure
 18 no issues with the banking” (Foley – green; Lascari – white):



1 108. On or about December 7, 2022, Lascari executed three promissory notes
2 (two for \$10 million and one for \$5 million) between Birdsong and Arsari’s principal,
3 Hashim. The notes memorialized a \$25 million loan from Arsari to Birdsong that was
4 secured by the luxury mansion Srivastava intended to buy at 14180 West Sunset Boulevard,
5 Pacific Palisades, California 90272.



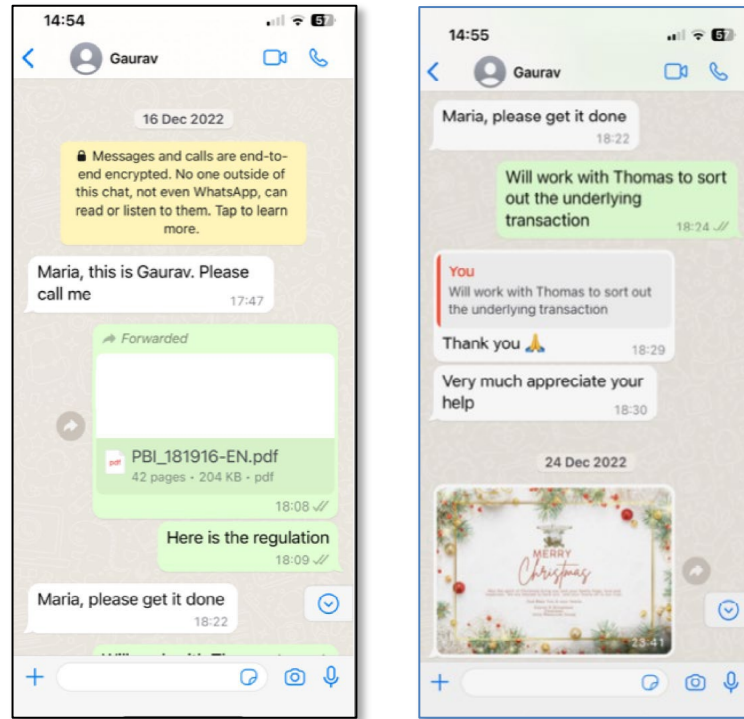
18 109. The scheme soon encountered an obstacle: Arsari’s bank refused to process
19 the outgoing transfer, flagging the nature of the transaction as suspicious, the fact of which
20 Foley emailed to Lascari in California:



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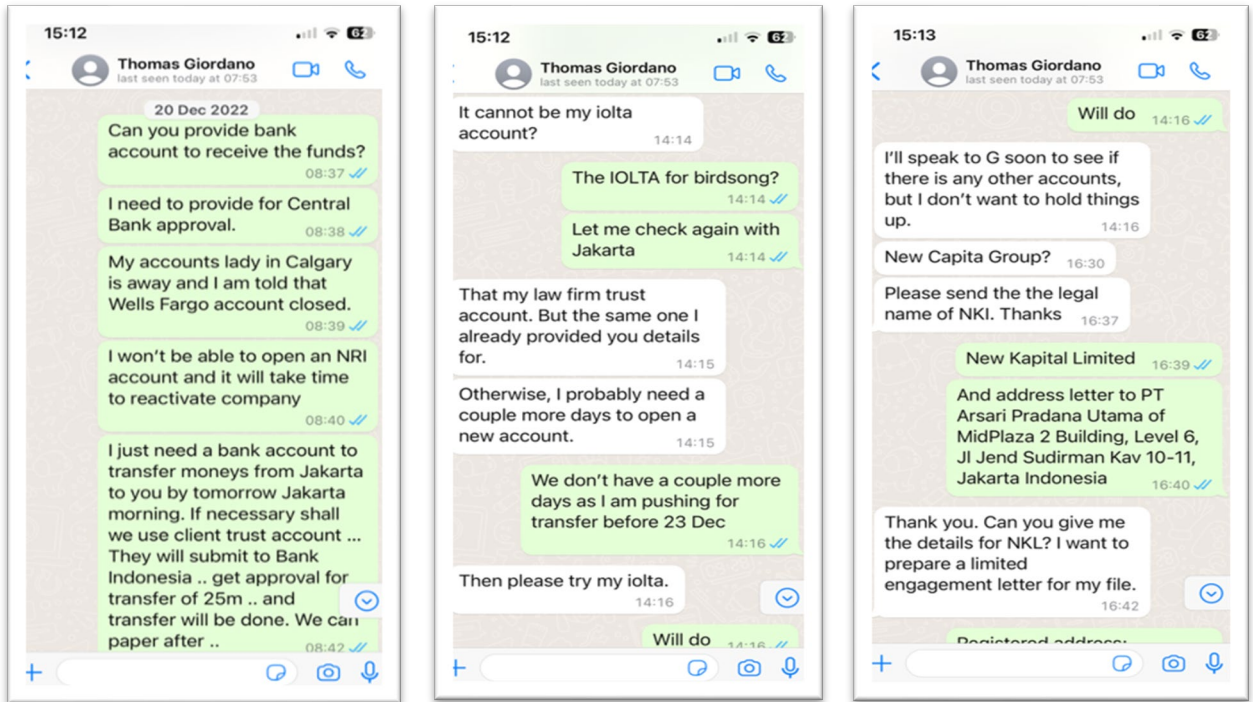
110. Srivastava ramped up pressure to get the money, notwithstanding that the Indonesian bank’s compliance department refused, telling Foley over international WhatsApp message, “Maria, this is Gaurav. Please call me,” and shortly thereafter, “Maria, please get it done.” Foley responded that she would work with Lascari to “sort out the underlying transaction.”



111. Under pressure to move funds quickly so Srivastava could close on the mansion, Lascari created a false paper trail designed to deceive financial institutions and obscure that the money originated from PDMCC. He backdated an engagement letter between his law firm and a British Virgin Islands entity associated with Arsari—New Kapital Limited (“NKL”)—making it appear the transfer was merely repayment of an inter-company loan between two Arsari-affiliated entities, and unrelated to Birdsong or Srivastava.²⁰ Lascari (white) and Foley (green) arranged it all via international WhatsApp

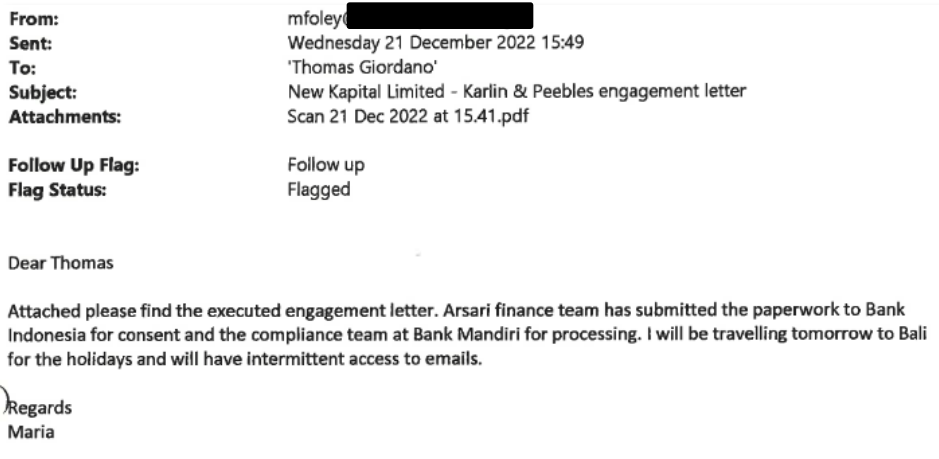
²⁰ On information and belief, including statements by Foley, there are no agreements between NKL and Birdsong supporting the transfer of \$25 million from NKL to Birdsong in Karlin & Peebles IOLTA account—it is a fiction designed by Lascari to accomplish the international transfer of criminal fraud proceeds and conceal Srivastava’s personal connection to them.

texts and emails:



112. On December 20, 2022, Lascari emailed Foley enclosing a letter on behalf of NKL stating: “We represent NKL with respect to a transaction. In furtherance of that transaction, we request that the repayment of that certain loan from NKL to [Arsari] be repaid and the funds be deposited in our firm trust account.”

113. The next day, December 21, 2022, he sent an engagement letter from his firm purporting to act for NKL, backdated to December 1, 2022. Foley signed and dated it December 2, 2022, and returned it to him.



KARLIN & PEEBLES, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

December 1, 2022

Via email: [REDACTED]

New Kapital Limited
Attention: Maria Foley, Manager
Wickhams Cay II
Road Town Tortola VG 1110
British Virgin Islands

Re: Engagement for Legal Services

Dear Ms. Foley:

Karlin & Peebles, LLP ("we" or "the Firm") appreciates the opportunity to provide legal services to you. In accordance with Firm policy, the purpose of this letter is to set forth our understanding as to the terms upon which we have been retained. Our engagement will relate back to the earliest date on which services were rendered. We look forward to working with you.

Scope of representation. Our representation will cover the following, which we will refer to as "the Matter":

Assistance with documenting that certain loan between New Kapital Limited and Birdsong Central, LLC related to the acquisition of 14180 W. Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, California, and any other such matters related to that acquisition.

Please review this letter carefully, and raise and discuss with me any questions which you may have. If this letter accurately reflects your understanding of our attorney-client relationship, please indicate your approval and acceptance by dating and signing a copy of this letter and returning it to us. Your signature indicates your authority to act on your behalf.

Sincerely,

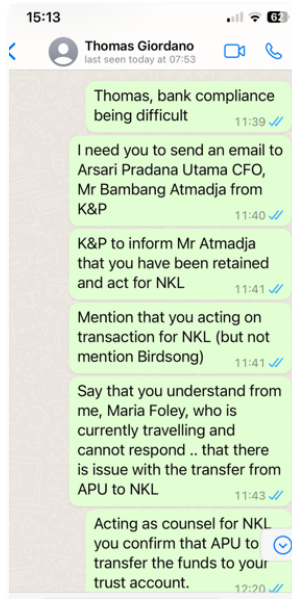
Thomas M. Giordano-Lascari, for
KARLIN & PEEBLES, LLP

New Kapital Limited

MARIA FOLEY, Manager

Date: 2/12/2022

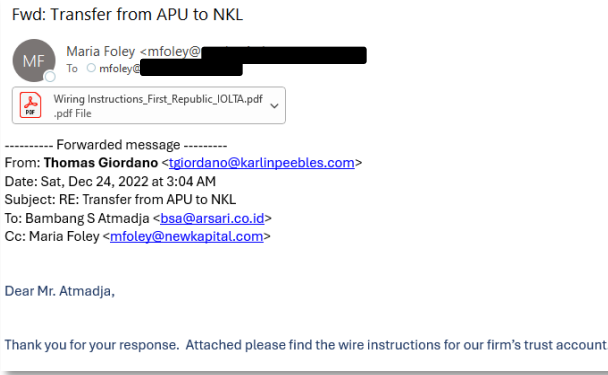
114. Even this revised fabricated structure drew bank scrutiny. On December 22, 2022, Foley wrote to Lascari that "bank compliance [is] being difficult" and asked him to prepare yet another letter from his law firm to Arsari's Chief Financial Officer stating that NKL had retained him and instructing that the funds be transferred to his firm's trust account—specifically directing him "not [to] mention Birdsong."



115. Lascari complied, providing wiring instructions for his firm's attorney trust account in California. On December 28, 2022, Arsari wired \$25 million into the bank account of Lascari's law firm, Karlin & Peebles in the United States at First Republic Bank

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ending in x1869.



116. By routing the funds through his firm's IOLTA account, Lascari was able to obscure the connection between Arsari and Birdsong.²¹ The obfuscation worked. Arsari successfully moved \$25 million from Arsari's account in Indonesia into Lascari's IOLTA account in California undetected, from which, upon information and belief, Birdsong used

²¹ To be clear: Lascari arranged for \$25 million to be received in his firm's attorney trust account on behalf of one client (NKL, associated with a politically exposed person), but then used that clients' funds for another, unrelated client (Srivastava, who had stolen them from PDMCC), without any documented written agreement between the two clients.

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1 to close on the mansion shortly thereafter.

2 117. The deed to the Pacific Palisades property was recorded in California on
3 January 5, 2023. With Lascari’s assistance, Srivastava not only funneled funds
4 fraudulently obtained from PDMCC into the United States but also concealed his
5 receipt of those funds by routing them through offshore companies and using
6 Birdsong as the nominal purchaser.

7 118. From there, Lascari attempted to extinguish the security interest in the
8 Pacific Palisades property. First, on November 16, 2023, Lascari transferred the
9 mansion from Birdsong to Aurora Point for no value. Then, on December 16, 2023,
10 Lascari caused Aurora Point to extract \$4,995,000 in cash from the equity of the
11 criminally funded mansion in the form of a private mortgage loan from a hard money
12 lender in Los Angeles, Jeffry Scapa. These transactions were fraudulent as Lascari, who
13 personally executed the promissory notes on behalf of Birdsong, knew full well that the
14 property was already encumbered by a lien documented in the promissory notes.

15 119. Initially, while extracting the initial \$25 million in December 2022,
16 Srivastava, through Lascari, also sought an additional \$2 million from Arsari. Hashim
17 refused. Maria Foley wrote to Lascari: “I am instructed that the total amount agreed was
18 \$25M. I am waiting for execution copies and will revert when the same comes to hand.”

19 **From:** Thomas Giordano <tgiordano@karlinpeebles.com>
20 **Sent:** Thursday 8 December 2022 18:28
21 **To:** mfoley@ [REDACTED]
22 **Subject:** RE: Promissory Notes

23 Dear Maria,

24 I approve the PNs, but can we make the 3rd PM for \$12M for a total of \$27M? G requested a higher amount.

25 Attached are the Birdsong company documents.

26 Finally, attached are the wire instructions.

27 I am happy with a scan. I can send the original of my signature page as instructed.

28 I will follow up separately with the deeds of trust.

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From: mfoley@
Sent: Friday 9 December 2022 14:48
To: 'Thomas Giordano'
Subject: RE: Promissory Notes

Dear Thomas

I am instructed that the total amount agreed was \$25M. I am waiting for execution copies and will revert when same comes to hand.

As you have requested for the funds to be wired to your firm's trust account, we will require an affidavit from you confirming the UBO before funds can be remitted. Our bank requires separate remittance instructions from Birdsong. Kindly forward Birdsong's remittance instructions duly signed by authorised representative for our bank transfer purposes.

Regards,
Maria

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120. On information and belief, Srivastava was attempting to secure \$2 million more in cash at the time for the Foundation to meet a pledge to the Atlantic Council to promote the Srivastava Enterprise's reputation and standing by setting up a foreign policy institute in his name, like the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, part of the Atlantic Council. The Foundation entered into a Gift Agreement by which the Foundation pledged \$2 million to the Atlantic Council for the fiscal year 2023, with the intention to renew annually for four additional years beginning April 1, 2024, for a total of \$10 million.

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121. On February 9, 2023, Defendants Srivastava, Lascari, and the Foundation also knowingly conspired to transfer and did transfer the remaining \$500,000 from the \$25 million in criminal proceeds stolen from PDMCC, which Lascari's law firm, Karlin & Peebles, had received in its First Republic Bank account ending in x1869 from Arsari's bank accounts in Indonesia, from Karlin & Peebles bank account to the Atlantic Council.

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Gift Agreement Amendment

This Amendment to the Atlantic Council Gift Agreement dated May 1, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as "**Amendment**") is entered into on the date of execution set forth below between;

1. Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc., having its registered offices at 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005, USA (hereinafter referred to as the "**Council**")
2. Gaurav & Sharon Srivastava Family Foundation, (hereinafter referred to as the "**Partner**").

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B. AMOUNT AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Upon termination of the Agreement per the execution of this Amendment, the Partner's pledge of \$2,000,000 to the Council for fiscal year 2023 with an effective date of April 1, 2023, with the intention to renew annually for four additional years beginning April 1, 2024, with the intention of giving an additional \$8,000,000, will be written off.

The first installment of \$500,000 paid by the **Partner** via wire from Karlin & Peebles, LLP Attorney CLI on February 9, 2023 will be refunded via wire from the Council to the Partner within 30 days of executing this Amendment.



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**iii. Wire Fraud and Money Laundering Through
Paramount Inc.**

122. While Srivastava and the Enterprise were siphoning tens of millions from PDMCC and using it for Srivastava’s own personal benefit and to fund the Enterprise’s efforts to maintain and improve its reputation to enable their frauds, they simultaneously launched a parallel scheme to extract funds from PECSA in Switzerland. To do so, they used a newly formed U.S. affiliate, Paramount Inc., for which Lascari served as incorporator and director, and they looted that entity.

123. In late October 2022, PECSA explored a potential \$350,000 investment in a company with exploration rights in Liberia, one of the regions Srivastava claimed was relevant to his purported government “Program.” Srivastava also suggested that the investment be held through a newly formed U.S. entity.

124. On November 9, 2022, Lascari incorporated Paramount Inc. in Wyoming, listing his then-law firm, Karlin & Peebles, LLP, as its principal office. PECSA wholly owned Paramount Inc. Lascari was installed as director of Paramount Inc. He also controlled its bank account. Thereafter, he operated Paramount Inc. and its bank account at Bank of America to the benefit of the Enterprise.²²

²² As part of due diligence on the gold investment, a draft proposed disclosure on November 24, 2022 omitted PDMCC’s Russian oil trading activities was circulated. Srivastava responded, “I am okay with this.” Troost, copying Srivastava, insisted on transparency, clarifying that “Paramount DMCC is engaged in business with Russia, which is fully compliant with all applicable regulations. Want to be clear on that.” When counsel asked whether Paramount should affirmatively disclose this to the counterparty, Troost replied, “I believe so yes. Would prefer to be transparent. G?” This exchange disproves Srivastava’s after-the-fact false narrative that Troost made up Srivastava’s CIA claims because Srivastava discovered to his surprise that PDMCC marketed Russian-origin oil; he always knew the business.



1 125. Srivastava and Lascari demanded \$6 million be sent to Paramount Inc. On
 2 December 29, 2022, PECSA wired \$6 million from Switzerland (via its correspondent
 3 account at Bank of New York Mellon) into Paramount Inc.’s newly opened Bank of
 4 America account.

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1103 SINGLE CUSTOMER CREDIT TRANSFER	
Message data	
(20) SENDER'S REFERENCE	768626TRC110998
(23B) BANK OPERATION CODE	CRFD
(32A) VALUE DATE; CURR; INTERBANK SETTLED AMOUNT	
DATE	29.12.2022
CURRENCY CODE	USD
AMOUNT	6,000,000.00
(33B) CURR; INSTRUCTED AMOUNT	
CURRENCY CODE	USD
AMOUNT	6,000,000.00
(50K) ORDERING CUSTOMER - NAME & ADDRESS	ACH [REDACTED] PARAMOUNT ENERGY + COMMODITIES SA 22 RUE DE VILLEREUSE CHGENEVA,1207
(52A) ORDERING INSTITUTION	
(53A) SENDER'S CORRESPONDANT	
(54A) RECEIVER'S CORRESPONDENT	
(55A) THIRD REIMBURSEMENT INSTITUTION	
(56A) INTERMEDIARY INSTITUTION	
(57A) ACCOUNT WITH INSTITUTION	BOFAUS3NXXX 71453951449 PARAMOUNT ENERGY AND COMMO. INC. 5900 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 500 LOS ANGELES, CA 90036
(59) BENEFICIARY CUSTOMER	
(70) REMITTANCE INFORMATION	LOAN AGREEMENT PARSAINC 12202 DATED 13.12.2022

13

Date Posted	Customer Reference	Amount	Description	Bank Reference
12/29		5,999,962.00	WIRE TYPE:WIRE IN DATE: 221229 TIME:0709 ET TRN: 2022122900248964 SEQ: F9S2212290523100/300545 ORIG:PARAMOUNT ENERGY + COMMOD ID:CH27086291051823 SND BK:THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON ID:0001 PMT DET:768626TRC110998 LOAN AGREEMENT PARSAINC 1	[REDACTED] 644800370248964

16 126. That same day, Lascari confirmed receipt of \$5,999,962 after bank fees.
 17 Troost sent the wire confirmation to Srivastava at his Gmail address.

18 127. Immediately thereafter, Srivastava and the Enterprise moved to divert the
 19 funds. On January 2, 2023, Srivastava’s assistant at Unity Resources Group emailed Troost
 20 and Lascari requesting authorization to “release USD 5.2m from Paramount Inc. Account,”
 21 signing as “Personal Secretary to the Chairman,” referring to Srivastava. On January 4,
 22 2023, Srivastava—using his email address g@unityresourcesgroup.com and signing as
 23 “Chairman”—again demanded release of \$5.2 million for unspecified “Paramount related
 24 expenses.” Troost never would have consented if he had known that Srivastava and the
 25 others were defrauding him and Paramount, and he consented only on the condition that an
 26 invoice be presented documenting legitimate Paramount-related expenses. No invoice was
 27 ever provided.
 28



1 128. Despite Troost’s explicit condition, Lascari transferred \$5.2 million from
 2 Paramount Inc.’s Bank of America account to his law firm’s IOLTA account at First
 3 Republic Bank on January 17, 2023, and then transmitted the funds to Srivastava personally.

<u>Withdrawals and Debits</u>				
Other Debits	Date	Customer	Amount	Bank Reference
Posted	Reference			
	01/17		5,200,000.00	WIRE TYPE:WIRE OUT DATE:230117 TIME:1706 ET TRN:2023011700834376 SERVICE REF:023699 BNF:KARLIN AND PEEBLES LLP TRU ID: [REDACTED] BNF BK:FIRST REPUBLIC BANK ID: [REDACTED] PMT DET:23 1HH0452LT42J56

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 9 129. A Paramount Inc. bank-reconciliation statement prepared by Lascari on May
 10 2, 2023 falsely listed the \$5.2 million transfer as “REIMBURSEMENT TO GS (APPROVD
 11 BY NT) [sic].” Troost never approved any personal payment to Srivastava, and the
 12 prerequisite invoice explaining the nature of the alleged Paramount-related expenses was
 13 never provided.

TRANSACTION,DATE,AMOUNT,NOTES

Deposits Credits,29-Dec,"5,999,962.00",INITIAL DEPOSIT

Deposits Credits,30-Dec,88.76,INTEREST PAID

Deposits Credits,31-Jan,585.04,"INTEREST PAID ON 31 DAYS AVERAGE COLLECTED BALANCE OF \$3

Withdrawals Debits Other,17-Jan,"5,200,000.00",REIMBURSEMENT TO GS (APPROVD BY NT)

14
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 20 130. The reconciliation report reflected a second unauthorized transfer: a \$50,000
 21 payment on March 6, 2023, also falsely labeled “REIMBURSEMENT TO GS (APPROVD
 22 BY NT).” In reality, the \$50,000 was sent without approval to Orbimo, a company with no
 23 connection to Paramount, but connected to Srivastava and Onouye.

<u>Withdrawals and Debits</u>				
Other Debits - Continued	Date	Customer	Amount	Bank Reference
	Posted	Reference		
	03/06		50,000.00	WIRE TYPE:BOOK OUT DATE:230306 TIME:0949 ET TRN:2023030600347980 RELATED REF:Reimbursement BNF:ORBIMO CORPORATION ID:32 [REDACTED]

24
 25
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 **
 Withdrawals Debits Other,06-Mar,"50,000.00",REIMBURSEMENT TO GS (APPROVD BY NT)

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1 131. On or around April 19, 2023, Bravard requested that Plaintiffs send another
2 \$2,000,000.00 to Paramount, Inc. describing it as an “increase” to the “existing loan.” The
3 request fit the pattern: by this point, the Srivastava Enterprise viewed Paramount Inc. as its
4 own personal piggybank, a U.S.-based account from which it could extract cash at will
5 under the guise of “corporate operations.”

6 From: N. Bravard <nbravard@parencom.ch>
7 Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:25 AM
8 To: Niels Troost <ntroost@parencom.ch>
9 Cc: Thomas Giordano <tgiordano@karlinpeebles.com>
10 Subject: Usd 2mm to paramount us
11
12 Dear Niels,
13
14 Can we proceed with the USD 2 MM transfer to paramount USA. We should just increase the
15 existing loan by USD 2 MM.

13 132. Throughout early 2023, funds transferred from PECSA to Paramount Inc.
14 were diverted to individuals and expenses related to the Srivastava Enterprise.

15 133. By May 2023, the theft could no longer be concealed. On May 3, 2023, Troost
16 spoke by phone with Bravard after receiving Lascari’s reconciliation report, which
17 purported to explain Paramount Inc.’s outgoing transfers. During that call, as the
18 discrepancies became undeniable, Bravard admitted the truth—that Srivastava had stolen
19 the funds:

20 **Troost:** That is fraud.
21 **Bravard:** I know it’s fraud. ... A shareholder cannot take money.
22 **Troost:** Absolutely. And 5.2 million and 50,000 G paid to himself.
23 But you understand that this is not correct, right?
24 **Bravard:** Yes. I agree with you.

25
26 * * *



iv. Wire Fraud and Money Laundering through Cedar West

134. In or around February 2023, Srivastava, Bravard, Lascari, Cedar West Ventures, and 1234 Holding SA willfully and knowingly conspired and attempted to transfer \$3,000,000 and, on information and belief, transferred \$500,000 from a bank account in the United States to an account ending in x45-92 at UBS (then Credit Suisse) in Switzerland belonging to Dorsay Services Sàrl, Bravard’s Swiss company:

DORSAY SERVICES Sàrl

CEDAR WEST, LLC
5900 WILSHIRE BLVD,
LOS ANGELES, CA, 91423, US

Geneva, 3rd of February 2023

Invoice No. F02230302-1

Ref : Commercial Agreement - 2022

Service	Qty	Amount	Total in USD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negotiation, execution, and closing of the acquisition of Paramount Energy & Commodities SA shares and Harvest commodities SA shares on behalf of 1234 and its shareholder. - Incorporation and administration, as a sole director of 1234 Holding SA, for 2022. - Payment schedule : \$500,000 within 48h, \$2,500,000 when the dividend from Paramount Energy & Commodities SA, for fiscal year 2022, is paid to 1234 Holding SA bank account. 	1	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000

Terms of payment: Bank transfer
All charges and bank fees incurred by the remitter

Total in USD: \$ 3,000,000

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2. **Srivastava Uses PECSA Funds to Hire a Personal Chief of Staff**

135. After forming the Paramount Inc. U.S. subsidiary, Srivastava built out a Los Angeles office designed to impersonate an official U.S. government workspace to carry out the Enterprise’s schemes. The office displayed the Great Seal of the United States and custom-engraved ceremonial swords bearing Srivastava’s name—objects he falsely claimed were gifts from senior government officials, but that he, himself, had ordered and had engraved. Though Paramount Inc. paid the rent and other expenses, when Troost traveled to Los Angeles in 2023, Srivastava instructed others in the Enterprise to keep Troost away from the Paramount Inc. office, further underscoring that its appearance was part of the fraud.



136. Around January 6, 2023, Srivastava recruited Jim Reese as his “Chief of Staff.” Reese is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel and former Delta Force operator who left the military in 2007 and who had previously done business with Troost. Troost introduced the two in late 2022. Reese understood he was being retained solely by Paramount Inc. as an independent consultant.

137. In reality, Srivastava used Paramount Inc.—and Paramount Inc.’s funds—to deploy Reese as a key operative for the Enterprise. Although Reese believed he worked for

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1 Paramount Inc., Srivastava had him performing work for entities Srivastava owned or
2 controlled, including Defendants Unity Resources Group and Unicom Worldwide. Reese
3 was even assigned email addresses for Unity and Unicom, which were housed on
4 Paramount Inc.’s servers, despite those entities having no connection to Paramount’s
5 business.

6 138. As “Chief of Staff,” Reese became deeply involved for a time during January
7 to May 2023²³ in advancing the Enterprise’s objectives, using Paramount resources to do
8 so. His responsibilities included:

- 9 • Coordinating with Lascari to handle personal arrangements for Srivastava and
10 his family;
- 11 • Setting up and furnishing the Enterprise’s Los Angeles office using
12 Paramount Inc. funds, which Lascari leased in his capacity as Paramount
13 Inc.’s sole director;
- 14 • Helping Srivastava leverage the Atlantic Council relationship, financed with
15 Troost’s and Paramount’s money, to enhance the Enterprise’s credibility;
- 16 • Assisting Srivastava in attempting to build philanthropic and public-relations
17 visibility for the Enterprise;
- 18 • Arranging and attending meetings with public officials that Srivastava used
19 to inflate his perceived stature and to lull Troost into remaining in the
20 “Program”; and
- 21 • As discussed in further detail below, participating in the Enterprise’s early
22 efforts to attack Troost in mid-May 2023 after Troost discovered the fraud
23 and rescinded Srivastava’s ownership of PECSA.

24 139. Srivastava further attempted to bolster his fabricated intelligence persona by
25 feeding Reese false information. Srivastava falsely claimed that XP Services, a helicopter
26 refitting company in Nashville he claimed to own (he did not), had contracts to refit C-130

27 _____
28 ²³ In around late May and early June 2023, Reese concluded Srivastava was a fraud and withdrew
from his association with him.



1 aircraft for Indonesia, even though the company’s CEO had expertise only in helicopters.
2 Srivastava also misrepresented that he was born in Ohio (which would have made him a
3 U.S. citizen), and that he graduated from USC—claims contradicted by USC’s records. He
4 asked Reese whether he knew General Clark, implying closeness with U.S. military
5 leadership; Reese did know General Clark from his service in the Balkans.

6 140. In February 2023, Srivastava invited Reese to his California mansion, where
7 Reese observed first-hand the Enterprise’s efforts to manipulate its online reputation.
8 Sharon Srivastava introduced Reese to a team of search-engine-optimization (“SEO”)
9 contractors as “our family office chief of staff,” a title he had never agreed to and did not
10 hold. Reese saw Sharon attempting to have online reports about their civil frauds and unpaid
11 bills removed while boosting favorable stories about the Foundation. When Sharon asked
12 if the negative stories could be deleted, the SEO consultants said they could not, though
13 they might be buried with effort. Soon after, the SEO firm contacted Reese for overdue
14 payments of \$60,000-\$80,000. Builders who had renovated the mansion also later contacted
15 Reese seeking payment, explaining that the Srivastavas had never paid them.

16 141. Srivastava also directed Reese to conduct a “threat assessment” on the family.
17 When Reese—based on his extensive counterterrorism experience—concluded the threat
18 level was low, Sharon became angry and insisted it must be higher because Srivastava had
19 allegedly been “held hostage by ISIS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2008.”
20 This was impossible: ISIS did not operate in the DRC in 2008, nor did any ISIS-affiliated
21 group exist in that region at that time.

22 **3. The Srivastava Enterprise Continues to Gather Political Clout**

23 142. Meanwhile, Srivastava continued to work to bolster his image as someone
24 deeply connected to U.S. intelligence agencies. Srivastava hired real ex-CIA operatives,
25 including former Station Chief Defendant John Maguire, to lend credibility to his claims of
26 being a CIA operative.

27 143. In around February 2023, Maguire travelled with Srivastava and Troost to a
28 meeting with the National Security Advisor of Iraq in the private wine cellar of the dining

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1 room at the Armani Hotel inside the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.



14 144. Srivastava and Maguire told the National Security Advisor that they were
15 there on behalf of the FBI and CIA as part of a program offering U.S. Government
16 assistance to locate and capture terrorists for the U.S. Government. At one point, Srivastava
17 claimed that Maguire would replace Secretary of State Anthony Blinken when he resigned.
18 Maguire passed a handwritten note to the National Security Advisor containing names of
19 supposedly wanted terrorists. For this and other meetings in the UAE, Srivastava had
20 arranged for Paramount Inc. to pay over \$15,000 for private security officers and multiple
21 large SUVs with drivers, which Srivastava used to create the façade that he and Maguire
22 were on official U.S. business.

23 145. Following the meeting, the National Security Advisor privately warned one
24 of the attendees to stay away from Srivastava and Maguire, describing them as “dangerous”
25 and not to be trusted. Maguire later (while still participating in the Enterprise) admitted to
26 a former Department of Homeland Security official, Chris Hinn—who had previously
27 worked for Srivastava—that he had been falsely posing as an active-duty CIA officer during
28 meetings with officials in Dubai.

146. During early 2023, Srivastava told Hinn he had worked with the FBI.



1 Srivastava claimed he handled a lot of cases, and that he was very close to leadership at FBI
2 headquarters, stating “I go right to the top.” Srivastava also claimed to have recruited for
3 the CIA. Hinn asked Srivastava whom he supposedly worked for within the U.S.
4 government, but Srivastava said it was “Top Secret.” Hinn responded that Maguire had
5 security clearance and therefore could hear the answer, but Srivastava claimed it was
6 “extremely” secret and still would not tell him. In Hinn’s presence Srivastava at various
7 points referred to his status as a CIA operative.

8 147. In mid-November 2023, Srivastava called one of the attendees of the meeting
9 with the National Security Advisor of Iraq via international wire communication about
10 trying to conduct Iraqi business under fraudulent pretenses. Srivastava said that he had
11 warned Troost that there was a saying in the U.S., “if you draw the sword against the king,
12 you must kill the king.” Srivastava took credit for getting Paramount sanctioned and said
13 that the UK, the EU, and the U.S. were also going to sanction Troost. Srivastava said that
14 if a person is his friend, he will do anything for them, but if you go against him, it is not
15 good for that person.

16 148. After this call with Srivastava, Maguire also called that meeting attendee via
17 international wire communication to ask to be re-connected to the Iraqi National Security
18 Advisor. Maguire said he wanted to discuss expanding oil operations with a new company
19 in Iraq. Maguire falsely claimed they had a company registered in Geneva, Switzerland and
20 California, apparently referring to the Paramount companies in which the Enterprise no
21 longer had any ownership interest. Maguire falsely claimed they were working on the
22 project with the “Deputy Director” of the CIA. Maguire claimed to have financial records
23 supporting four years of the company’s operations and that they were a \$16.5 billion
24 company, which was also false—PECSA had ceased any Russian-related activity and
25 reduced its other activities since the fall of 2022 and PDMCC had ceased all activities as of
26 August 2023. Maguire also told the person that Troost was a fugitive (false), that he was
27 being targeted by the U.S. (false), and that multiple countries were looking for him (false).
28 He warned the person not to speak to Troost.



1 149. Maguire and former CIA officer Mary Beth Long (who questioned Mr.
 2 Troost at the New York gala after Srivastava told him she still worked for the CIA) also
 3 had been previously involved in working together to vouch for another fake CIA officer,
 4 Matthew Marshall, who defrauded a Montana billionaire. Their scam was covered by the
 5 press and the subject of a multi-episode podcast.²⁴ During early episodes of the podcast,
 6 Long and Maguire vouched for the fake agent's bona fides.²⁵ Between episodes, however,
 7 Marshall pleaded guilty in a U.S. federal court to fraud. Nonetheless, Maguire and Long
 8 then wrote letters to the judge supporting Marshall at sentencing. On February 27, 2022,
 9 Maguire, signing as a retired CIA officer, wrote that Marshall was his "trusted warrior-
 10 brother" and "If I had to define him with one word it would be honorable." *U.S. v.*
 11 *Marshall*, Dkt. No. 191-2. Long, describing herself as "The Honorable Mary Beth Long,"
 12 wrote that Marshall was "a dedicated patriot" "with a deep sense of right and wrong" who
 13 was vouched for by "a former senior-most member of the Department of Defense's
 14 Intelligence organization." *Id.* She wrote that Marshall "is a wonderful friend," and "I wish
 15 to assure the Marshall family and this Court that I intend to remain a supporter of the family
 16 and of [Marshall] when he returns to society." *Id.* Their letters to the judge were apparently
 17 unpersuasive; Marshall was sentenced to six years in federal prison. Maguire and Long
 18

19 ²⁴ Ken Silverstein, [Seed Money](#), New York Magazine (Nov. 22, 2022); Rosin, H, Nov. 29, 2022,
 20 Episode 6 *All the Voids*, Cover Story, Season 2. Mary Beth Long met with Srivastava and Maguire
 in mid-April 2023, and was paid through her company, Askari Defense & Intelligence, LLC.

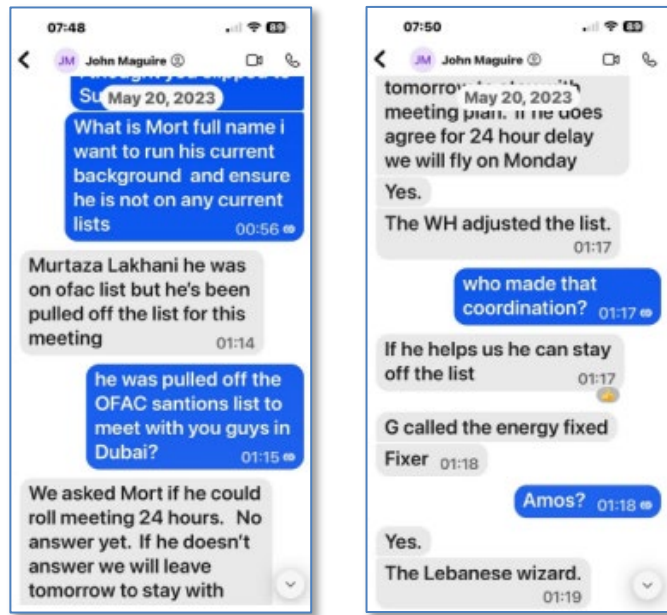
21 ²⁵ According to Mark Seyler, the FBI Special Agent in charge of the Marshall criminal
 22 investigation, when the victim reported Marshall's fraud to the FBI in November 2018, Mary Beth
 Long contacted the victim's team and told them "he might want to stop digging around and
 23 questioning Marshall's CIA background," she was "sure Marshall had been in the CIA, and to
 suggest someone like John Maguire would be mistaken about something like that was ridiculous."
 24 Seyler, *Go Big or Go Home: Spies, Cops, and Oath Keepers Under the Big Sky* 57, 167 (2024).
 Maguire and Long then participated in what they called "Operation Lima" to defend Marshall by
 25 destroying the victim's reputation; Marshall emailed Long to say they needed to "start taking a
 body count" and "destroy" the victim, lamenting that his lawyer was too ethical and that he needed
 26 Maguire and Long to "blur those lines a bit to get some shit done quickly and effectively." *Id.* 167-
 68. Long emailed someone who was blackmailing the victim to suggest they "meet to discuss a
 27 'common interest' in 'bringing to heal [sic]'" the victim, whom she described as "'a piece of shit.'" *Id.*
 at 184-85. In June 2021, however, the judge (who had taken testimony from Long and
 28 Maguire—the latter of whom the judge described as "combative"—during a classified hearing)
 found that neither Maguire nor Long had any personal knowledge that Marshall worked for the
 CIA. *U.S. v. Marshall*, Dkt. No. 121. On information and belief, Maguire and Long ran the same
 playbook against Troost for the Enterprise, with Srivastava substituting for Marshall.



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1 appeared on a later episode of the podcast singing a different tune from their supportive
 2 sentencing letters; Long called Marshall a “con man,” saying “John [Maguire] and I
 3 laughed, we laughed about it the other day, finally after drinking, ‘Well, it happens once
 4 in everybody’s life,’ and ‘this guy is a master liar, master liar.’” Maguire, for his part,
 5 claimed that he got “played by a grifter” and that he wanted “to go back to headquarters
 6 and talk to personnel. I want to know what the fuck the truth is.” As to Srivastava, however,
 7 Maguire did not get played—Maguire knew full well that Srivastava was not a CIA
 8 operative and knew that Srivastava would pay him handsomely for helping him appear to
 9 be one and, later, to wage a vicious disinformation campaign against the Troost family.

10 150. On May 20, 2023, after Srivastava had been expelled from Troost’s
 11 companies, Maguire (texting in gray) texted Srivastava’s chief of staff (Jim Reese-in blue)
 12 by Signal and claimed that Srivastava used Amos Hochstein, special advisor to President
 13 Biden, to get the Biden White House to remove Murtaza Lakhani, a Pakistani-Canadian oil
 14 trader from the U.S. sanctions list and that the White House would keep Lakhani off the
 15 sanctions list if Lakhani continued to do business with Srivastava and Maguire (“he was on
 16 ofac list but he’s been pulled off the list for this meeting.” “The WH adjusted the list.” “If
 17 he helps us he can stay off the list”):



1 151. On information and belief, this was another wire fraud being committed by
 2 the Srivastava Enterprise, this time targeting Lakhani and his companies with false
 3 assurances that Srivastava and Maguire could use their CIA affiliation to keep Lakhani off
 4 the U.S. sanctions list.²⁶ Indeed, in May 2023, Srivastava mentioned his dealings with
 5 Lakhani to Troost, falsely associating them with the Program. During an international call
 6 on May 8, 2023, Srivastava claimed that Paramount was still in its “extended favor time”
 7 with the U.S. government, that he was going to meet Lakhani (“Murtaza”) in Dubai, that he
 8 was considering whether to fly to Dubai with UAE Ambassador Yusef Otaiba (“Yusef”) to
 9 meet Lakhani, and that the Program for marketing Russian-origin oil would involve starting
 10 to work with the UAE:

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1	MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: But, you know, we -- we
2	need to -- we really need to get, you know, we really need
3	to get everything sorted and in gear because, you know,
4	we're getting at the -- we're getting at the end of our
5	extended favor time, so I -- I want to sort this out as
6	quickly as possible.
7	MR. NIELS TROOST: Right, but right now we still
8	have, let's say, their support and their protection because
9	of you, right, in the --
10	MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Correct.
11	MR. NIELS TROOST: Yeah.
12	MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Yes.
13	MR. NIELS TROOST: Yeah.

22 ²⁶ The UK and the EU sanctioned Murtaza Lakhani in December 2025. Srivastava’s post-
 23 Paramount fraudulent dealings with Lakhani again shows Srivastava is lying when he now claims
 24 he did not want to be associated with the Russian oil business (*see, e.g.*, Logan Podcast, 41:03 to
 25 41:51) as part of his false narrative that he discovered in a Spring 2023 audit that PDMCC was
 26 trading Russian oil and that discovery caused Troost to make up a defensive fake spy story against
 27 Srivastava. Indeed, Lakhani’s association with Russian oil has been widely reported. *See, e.g., The
 28 Largest Oil Trader: What Is Known About Murtaza Lakhani*, Business Matters (Jul. 8, 2025)
 (“According to a Bloomberg investigation published in 2023, Rosneft’s president, Mercantile &
 Maritime, and one of Putin’s closest allies — Igor Sechin — celebrated New Year in Dubai on a
 luxury yacht docked near the Palm Jumeirah islands. One of the most important guests on board
 was Lakhani. The Bloomberg report stated that in 2022, Sechin devoted much time to developing
 schemes to circumvent oil sanctions, and Lakhani was one of those actively helping him. Lakhani
 created an entire network of oil trading and shipping companies in Dubai to distribute Russian oil
 worldwide.”), available at <https://bmmagazine.co.uk/business/the-largest-russian-oil-trader-what-is-known-about-murtaza-lakhani/>.



14 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Yes, but I'm not -- I'm
 15 here, man. I'm -- by the way, Murtaza wants to meet in
 16 Dubai so I'm thinking whether I should directly come from
 17 DC or I come back to LA then go to Dubai but Murtaza wants
 18 to meet in Dubai and then I will either -- so Yousef will
 19 probably fly back --
 20 MR. NIELS TROOST: Okay.
 21 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: -- with me.
 22 MR. NIELS TROOST: Okay.
 23 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: And then -- because the
 24 way this program will start, this program will start as a
 25 collaboration between the U.S. and UAE, which is great.

4. The Srivastava Enterprise Attempts to Gain 100% Control of Paramount Through the "Inversion"

152. In late 2022, the G7 countries imposed a price cap. While it did not affect the legality of PDMCC's oil marketing operations (provided it did not use G7 services – which it did not), the cap did make it appear that the U.S. government did not approve of such business. Srivastava then fraudulently induced Plaintiffs not to wind up PDMCC's Russian-origin oil operations by falsely representing that the U.S. government actually wanted PDMCC to keep trading as part of the supposed CIA program Troost had joined, that OFAC would be issuing a special license formalizing on paper this arrangement, and that Srivastava and his team (including members of the U.S. government) had even cleared this with Swiss regulators. Srivastava did this so the Enterprise could take benefit from 50% of PDMCC's profits from continuing Russian-origin oil marketing that otherwise would have stopped in December 2022.²⁷

153. Troost was inclined to wind up Paramount's operations (which, again, remained lawful but publicly politically disfavored). At the time, he told Maurice Taylor,

²⁷ Indeed, on April 17, 2023, Bravard wrote to Troost (copying Srivastava and others), "We must dividend up the profit from DMCC into [PEC]SA ... This is a very urgent matter, we need to move forward on this, so that we can ... declare the dividend, agree on asymmetric split, and execute the inversion ... As shareholder, we will need to receive a cash dividend for 2022."



1 PECSA director, that he was increasingly uncomfortable with the Russian oil sector and
2 was under family pressure to exit the industry altogether. He had similar discussions at the
3 end of 2022 with Francois Mauron, then the director of PDMCC. The situation caused
4 Troost significant emotional distress. Despite Troost’s growing unease, Srivastava pushed
5 him not to wind up the business. Troost even told Taylor that he felt Srivastava was coercing
6 him, to the point that he feared for his and his family’s safety.

7 154. In late 2022, Srivastava met with Mauron, Bravard, and Troost at the Four
8 Seasons in Megève, France, where he falsely assured them that he “controlled” U.S. law
9 enforcement and OFAC. Srivastava claimed that “everything was fine” with respect to U.S.
10 regulators, boasted of having “a lot of friends” in U.S. law enforcement, and said he had
11 personally donated “a lot of money” to politicians. To bolster the deception, displayed a
12 photograph on his phone showing him and Sharon Srivastava posing with President Biden.



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21 He insisted he could obtain an OFAC license because, he said, “I control this.” He also
22 claimed he was speaking “with the lady at SECO”—referring to Helene Budliger Artieda,
23 the Director of Switzerland’s sanctions regulator—who allegedly supported the alleged
24 Program as well as his restructuring plan.

25 155. While in Megève in or around December 2022, Troost and members of his
26 family took Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava and a friend of theirs to a Japanese restaurant for
27 dinner. During the dinner and in front of Sharon, Gaurav Srivastava spoke about his
28 supposed secret missions for the U.S. Government in the Middle East, particularly in



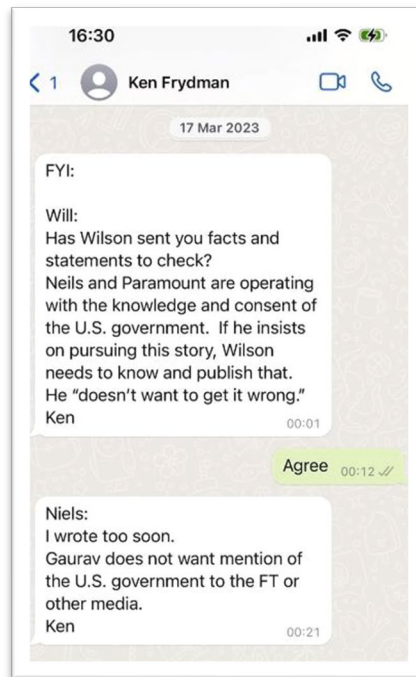
1 Afghanistan, and how he had become involved in dangerous situations there. For her part,
2 Sharon claimed to be from royal Japanese descent; Gaurav added that they often visited the
3 Emperor at the Tokyo Imperial Palace and would stay there.

4 156. On or about March 23, 2023, the Srivastavas and Troosts dined at another
5 Japanese restaurant in Los Angeles. While the Troosts were in Los Angeles, Gaurav and
6 Sharon Srivastava had promised to take them to Nobu in Malibu, a famously exclusive and
7 fancy restaurant where it was notoriously difficult to get a last-minute reservation.
8 Srivastava explained that he could book a table through “the Agency,” referring to the CIA.
9 When it was time to meet, Srivastava changed plans and told the Troosts to take a taxi to a
10 nondescript sushi place on Wilshire Boulevard in West Los Angeles. Gaurav explained in
11 front of Sharon that other guys from “the Agency” were eating in Nobu that evening and
12 that they could not be seen with the Troosts there. A Troost family member asked Sharon
13 why they had picked this place as an alternative to Nobu. Sharon responded that they often
14 went to this sushi restaurant because the “boys from the Agency” liked it because it is low
15 key and therefore was a good place for “the Agency guys” to get together. Sharon also said
16 that it was Gaurav’s favorite spot to meet with the “boys from the Agency” and discuss
17 whatever they needed to discuss. Gaurav then promised to get the Troost family a Nobu
18 reservation in Los Angeles the next day, but Troost later asked him to cancel it and they
19 went to another restaurant recommended by Srivastava closer to their hotel. After their
20 family dinner, Srivastava picked up Troost and they went to a cigar bar together.

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1 157. That same month, Troost had an exchange with Ken Frydman, a public
 2 relations professional retained by Srivastava. In discussing a forthcoming article being
 3 written by Financial Times journalist Tom Wilson, Frydman was adamant that Paramount
 4 tell Wilson that “Niels and Paramount are operating with the knowledge and consent of the
 5 U.S. government” because “[i]f he insists on pursuing this story, Wilson needs to know and
 6 publish that. He ‘doesn’t want to get it wrong.’” Troost agreed, as this is precisely what
 7 Srivastava had been telling him all along. Srivastava, however, vetoed the suggestion
 8 because he knew that his purported connections with the U.S. government were fake and
 9 unsupported and that divulging his supposed dealings with the U.S. government to a
 10 reputable journalist would invite further scrutiny and expose his fraud.



22 158. On January 31, 2023, Srivastava led a conference call with Mauron and other
 23 PECSA and PDMCC personnel announcing that the companies would be restructured under
 24 U.S. control (the “inversion”). For the first time, he introduced himself to the staff as
 25 PECSA’s other shareholder, claiming he was an American investor and asserting that all
 26 new policies would flow through a U.S. lawyer, Jeffrey Berg, then a Partner at
 27 BakerHostetler. He instructed employees that the restructuring was mandatory and that
 28 anyone unwilling to comply “could exit the company.”



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1 159. Mauron questioned the strategy, noting that U.S. sanctions already did not
2 apply to a UAE-based entity owned by a Swiss company and that bringing the structure
3 under U.S. jurisdiction could unnecessarily expose the business to the G7 price cap. To
4 address these concerns, Srivastava and Berg traveled to Dubai to meet with Mauron and
5 PDMCC staff on or about February 17, 2023. They reviewed PDMCC’s contracts related
6 to Russian ESPO oil trading and claimed their goal was to ensure compliance with U.S.
7 law. Srivastava and Berg reassured Mauron that the inversion was not a problem because
8 an OFAC license was forthcoming and that their U.S. contacts would secure approval. They
9 told Mauron they understood “how this works” better than he did. Berg ultimately assured
10 Mauron and others that PDMCC legally could continue trading Russian ESPO oil above
11 the price cap and that an OFAC license was “in the works.”

12 160. By spring 2023, as the inversion remained stalled, Srivastava intensified his
13 pressure campaign on Troost. He told Troost he had a meeting scheduled with President
14 Biden and that foreign governments supported PDMCC’s continued Russian oil trading. In
15 a text message, Srivastava claimed he had spoken with the Dutch ambassador, who—
16 despite disagreeing with the United States—would ultimately “comply” with the United
17 States’ decision to work with Paramount.

18 161. Srivastava further claimed that unless Troost completed the Inversion, he
19 would give Paramount’s spot in the purported “Program” to Murtaza Lakhani, leaving
20 Troost and his businesses exposed. He warned that if PDMCC did not maintain U.S.
21 government “cover” through Srivastava, regulators would view Troost as having acted
22 unilaterally and would impose secondary sanctions for its otherwise lawful marketing post-
23 December 2022.

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1 162. In the same time period, to increase pressure and lend credibility to his
2 fabricated authority, Srivastava enlisted senior elected officials to contact OFAC. He
3 persuaded then-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Congressman Pat Ryan to ask
4 OFAC to speak with Paramount’s legal counsel. As a result, on April 12, 2023, OFAC
5 Assistant Director for Compliance Claire McCleskey emailed Berg, stating that OFAC’s
6 Legislative Affairs team had received outreach from Congressman Ryan’s office about the
7 Russian oil price cap and inviting discussion.

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11 **From:** Ricotta, Jill (Schumer) <jill_ricotta@schumer.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 11:07:11 AM
To: Jim Reese <JR@unityresourcesgroup.com>
Cc: Bodian, Lane (Schumer) <Lane_Bodian@schumer.senate.gov>; Kuiken, Michael (Schumer) <Michael_Kuiken@schumer.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow up from last week and New Ambassador to India discussion

Hi Jim,

We've reached out to OFAC a few times and they have explained to us that they cannot receive information verbally/through a meeting. All new information has to be received through this email: OFAC_Feedback@treasury.gov. If someone from URG can email that address and copy me, I can reach back out to OFAC and make sure it gets reviewed.

Best,
Jill

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From: Claire.McCleskey@treasury.gov <Claire.McCleskey@treasury.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 8:43 AM
To: Berg, Jeffrey <jberg@bakerlaw.com>
Subject: Price cap OFAC outreach

[External Email: Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.]

Hi Jeff,

I received your name from OFAC's Leg Affairs team, who got some outreach from Congressman Pat Ryan's office on the Russian oil price cap. The Congressman's Chief of Staff said you have some information or views to share on the Russian oil price cap sanctions regime. I'd be happy to discuss this with you if you are interested.

Best,
Claire

Claire O'Neil McCleskey
Assistant Director, Compliance
Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Desk: 202-622-2376
Cell: 240-738-0194
claire.mccleskey@treasury.gov

163. Srivastava also instructed his lawyers to interact directly with OFAC officials to request a special license so that PDMCC could continue its business and Srivastava could continue to take 50% of the profits from PDMCC’s Russian-origin oil marketing once the company was under his total control in the United States. On April 28, 2023, Berg and others from BakerHostetler met by video with the Assistant Director at OFAC. At Srivastava’s direction, the meeting was intended “to introduce Paramount SA and its wholly owned subsidiary [in Dubai] to OFAC for several reasons, including [Paramount’s] impending inversion and to address policy concerns with the price cap sanction on Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products”:

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*Outline for April 28 Meeting with OFAC
Mannino, Berg, Sferrazza
Claire McCleskey*

Initial introductory remarks:

Thanking Claire for meeting us today. Here on behalf of one of Jeff’s clients of more than a decade - a U.S.-person with significant multinational interests in energy commodities (the “Client”). Purpose of meeting is to brief on our client’s energy businesses, compliance with U.S. sanctions and client’s plans to bring a number of his foreign businesses under US ownership and potentially US control, including transactions that could be subject to the price cap on Russian crude oil.

Facts

Our client is currently in the process of bringing those interests into the U.S. by moving multiple companies under a U.S. holding company (“Holdco”). At this, most of his interests in the energy sector are not subject to US jurisdiction; we know that our client is subject to US jurisdiction.

DMCC’s business focuses on oil and gas trading and transportation of oil products between Russian and China, where such trades are conducted at prices exceeding the price caps implemented by G7 member countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, and EU). DMCC’s operations are conducted and overseen within DMCC. Importantly, DMCC is not engaged with Russian state-owned entities. Our client buys from small upstream operators that are not so uniquely tied to the Russian Government. It is our understanding that our client’s competitors are doing the opposite.

DMCC is selling to downstream refineries in China, India, and some other regions that would otherwise be buying from other major traders, directly or indirectly, involved in oil and gas projects in Russia that have ultimate beneficial owners tied to Putin and the Russian Government. Paramount DMCC is currently a small player in the mid-stream sector of the Russian crude oil industry in comparison to its competitors.

[If asked: DMCC’s recurring business revolves around selling and transporting oil sourced from the Eastern Siberian Pacific Ocean (“ESPO”) Pipeline. Such oil and gas products are compiled and loaded onto ships at the Kozmino port in Russia, typically for delivery to China’s Qingdao port. DMCC’s customer base includes but is not limited to Ocean Energy, Shandong Port International Trading Group Co. Ltd, and CNOOC Trading (Singapore) PTE. Ltd. Trade frequency amounts to roughly one full vessel per day, sometimes two, leaving the Kozmino port, which yields a growing monthly revenue measured in the billions of U.S. dollars, exceeding \$19 billion annually. For context, it is estimated that DMCC is responsible for roughly one-third of the Kozmino exports.]

164. Unbeknownst to Plaintiffs, Srivastava’s representations that the U.S. government approved of Paramount’s business at the highest levels, including OFAC, were false, and Srivastava, who was not a CIA operative as he had claimed, lacked any ability to change that. According to the BakerHostetler attorneys present, the meeting did not go well.²⁸ In fact, the meeting with OFAC was a colossal disaster; the OFAC official “almost

²⁸ Berg and his team memorialized the meeting in a memorandum that was originally hidden from Troost and Paramount. The memo was only obtained after PECSA initiated a lawsuit against Berg and BakerHostetler that sought client files required to be handed over to PECSA under California law.



1 fell off her chair” when she realized that they were asking for a license for PDMCC’s above-
2 price-cap marketing, she “was amazed that any company would even have the guts to ask
3 for such a license” and “she did not believe that any such license would be issued.” In fact,
4 she stated that PDMCC was exactly the type of company for which OFAC “is getting calls
5 to impose secondary sanctions.” The lawyers noted that OFAC “clearly did not support
6 [PDMCC’s] activities.” OFAC had no intention of changing the price cap or authorizing
7 specific companies to trade above the price cap, “particularly, with respect to the ESPO
8 pipeline” that PDMCC specialized in:

BakerHostetler

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

TO: File of Paramount Energy & Commodities SA

FROM: Jeffrey P. Berg
Melissa B. Mannino

DATE: May 1, 2023

SUBJECT: April 28, 2023 OFAC Meeting

This memo summarizes our April 28, 2023 meeting with Claire O’Neill McCleskey of the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”). Claire is the Assistant Director of Compliance at OFAC. The meeting was requested by our client, who is an indirect 50% owner of Paramount Energy & Commodities SA (“Paramount SA”). The origin of the meeting was laid out in Claire’s April 12 email to Jeff; the email stated “I received your name from OFAC’s Leg Affairs team, who got some outreach from Congressman Pat Ryan’s office on the Russian oil price cap. The Congressman’s Chief of Staff said you have some information or views to share on the Russian oil price cap sanctions regime. I’d be happy to discuss this with you if you are interested.” Per our client’s direction, the meeting was supposed to introduce Paramount SA and its wholly owned subsidiary, Paramount Energy & Commodities DMCC (“Paramount DMCC”) to OFAC for several reasons, including the impending inversion and to address policy concerns with the price cap sanction on Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products. In preparation for the meeting, we meet with our client, drafted questions for the client, drafted talking points, and had internal prep meetings. Jeff shared the talking points with the client and reviewed the questions with the client. The client was clear that we were discuss DMCC’s business, which consists almost exclusively, if not exclusively, of trading in Russian-origin ESPO pipeline oil about the price cap.

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During the meeting, we made clear that Paramount SA focuses on energy trading in Africa and other parts of the world, but not Russia, and that DMCC’s business is trading in Russian-origin crude oil above the price cap. We also made clear that we understand Paramount SA’s and Paramount DMCC’s businesses are in compliance with all applicable sanctions laws and regulations. We stressed that no U.S. person directs or controls the day-to-day operations of the Paramount companies and no U.S. person has any involvement in the trading activities of the Paramount companies. We did not detail that Paramount DMCC’s business is trading in ESPO pipeline oil from the Kozmino port. During the factual overview, Claire asked questions regarding why our client, a U.S. person, did not own 50% of Paramount DMCC. Jeff explained why our client did not own 50% of DMCC from a legal perspective. Claire did not appear to be convinced by the explanation and agreed to we move on to the policy discussions. Claire was taking notes during the meeting; she seemed be familiar with the Paramount companies and seemed a surprised when she learned that we were meeting with her to discuss them.

As to the policy issues, Melissa explained that our client does not believe the price cap is serving its intended purpose as Russian-origin oil continues to be traded above the price cap, and the persons and countries that are immensely profiting from trading in Russian-origin crude oil are those that are adverse to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests (Russia, China, Iran, and sanctioned persons). Claire was clear that OFAC and our allied nations believe the price cap is working. Claire explained that the price cap was not intended stop the flow of Russian oil as nations need it; it was to stabilize the energy markets, reduce the monies going to Russia to fund its war on Ukraine, and ensure no Russian crude oil is imported into the United States. Claire mentioned a “Q School” article on the Russian price cap sanction; she said that article discussed the effectiveness of the price cap. Claire also said that she believed the purpose of the meeting was for us to share information about third persons who were violating the price cap. As mentioned above, the content of meeting caught her off guard. Claire stated that she receives calls from Senators and representatives about sanctioning companies, such as Paramount DMCC, it was not clear whether she has received any specific calls about sanctioning Paramount DMCC or other Paramount companies. She was definitely familiar with the Paramount companies. Claire asked if we had ideas on a new policy or how to improve the policy; we said that we had not dug that deep yet.

We proposed several questions to Claire about the likelihood of OFAC issuing a license to Paramount DMCC if its Russian-origin oil activities become subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Initially Claire did not seem to understand the question. She then asked if we were asking if OFAC would issue DMCC a license to engage in trading in Russian-origin crude oil above the price cap; she almost feel off her chair when she realized that was the question. Claire said no one has asked for such a license and she did not believe that any such license would be issued. She seemed amazed that any company would even have the guts to ask for such a license. She reiterated that the U.S. and G7 nations believe the price cap is working.

The meeting lasted about 45 minutes (1:00 pm ET to 1:43 ET). We do not think the meeting went well. OFAC clearly does not support DMCC’s activities and DMCC is the type of company that OFAC is getting calls to impose secondary sanctions on. Further, OFAC has no current intent to change the price cap or authorize companies to engage in activities above the price cap, particularly, with respect to ESPO pipeline oil from the Kozmino part. We did not disclose that DMCC’s Russian-origin crude oil trading is of the ESPO pipeline oil from the Kozmino port, but Claire already likely knows that fact. To the extent the meeting was helpful, OFAC now knows to reach out to us and understands that the Paramount companies are being proactive and transparent with OFAC.



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165. Instead of disclosing to Troost the discussion that took place during this meeting (which would have stopped the Enterprise’s fraud in its tracks), Berg and Srivastava lied about it. On May 1, 2023, Berg emailed Troost and Srivastava claiming that “the dialog with OFAC” had “momentum.” During a call on May 5, 2023, Berg told Troost it was a “good conversation,” when Troost asked how the meeting with OFAC went. Berg added that “the meeting itself, I would consider to be good. We certainly didn’t hear anything new or alarming or that would cause us to suspect that the company was a target of OFAC” and that “the companies are not doing anything wrong. In our opinion it is not violating U.S. sanctions. That’s our position and it hasn’t changed. You know, it took a while to get all the facts. . . . We have a view based upon a set of facts which we think is accurate.” And Srivastava continued to pressure Troost to complete the inversion, even though Srivastava and his lawyers knew that inverting Paramount was likely to trigger significant issues with OFAC.

166. During a call on May 6, 2023, Srivastava lied to Troost and told him that OFAC confirmed during their call with the lawyers that he and Paramount were “okay” because it was part of the secret “program”:

1	MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Well, because -- because
2	they were -- because there is a list. I've told this to
3	you five times, there's a list the Ukrainian government is
4	circulating that is -- has your name and Paramount name on
5	it. It has been sent to SECO, it's been sent to EU, that
6	they've sent to Dubai, that they have sent to U.S.
7	Everybody has that list and you are featured on that list
8	so I needed Jeff to talk to them to make sure that he
9	explains to everybody and OFAC and OFAC was then going to
10	relay to other agencies that you're okay. Otherwise, there
11	was going to be not -- there was going to be five
12	investigations happening at the same time and that will for
13	sure bury the company.



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14 MR. NIELS TROOST: But did OFAC then confirm that
15 we're okay?
16 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Yes. They want to
17 collaborate on working -- on different state -- on the
18 state actors.
19 MR. NIELS TROOST: And this is because they
20 understand that this is part of this program or --
21 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: They understand that I am
22 part of this company.
23 MR. NIELS TROOST: And that there is --
24 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: The program -- the
25 program did -- they know that this is run out of Los

1 Angeles by me and that's what they told Jeff and that was
2 that. You're okay. And that's what -- and it wasn't only
3 Jeff. It was Melissa Mannino; it was the full Baker team.
4 It was six people or four people from their side on that --
5 on that call, you know? Even O -- Melissa used to work for
6 OFAC. Melissa said that in her entire time there, OFAC has
7 never made an outreach call to build a relationship with a
8 company. Ever. Period.
9 MR. NIELS TROOST: So that would -- that's highly
10 unusual then.
11 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Absolutely. Forced. I
12 forced OFAC to do it because I don't want shit to happen.
13 I want to do this business with you and just -- just -- and
14 the company. So it's very unusual. It's very unusual. It
15 never happens. That they reach out --
16 MR. NIELS TROOST: But then -- but --
17 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: -- (inaudible) Jeff --
18 MR. NIELS TROOST: But Jeff and Melissa -- but
19 Jeff and Melissa understand then why -- why it's happening
20 or --
21 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Of course. Of course.



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10 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Some day, I will, you
 11 know, talk -- we're going to talk and I'll tell you the
 12 whole story from top to bottom. But there is a lot of
 13 stories.
 14 MR. NIELS TROOST: The story -- the -- the story
 15 of what?
 16 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: The story of why people
 17 listen, how they listen, how this whole thing works. There
 18 is a system. There -- there is a system. It works. And
 19 we just need to -- we -- if we work with system, we'll grow
 20 with the system. And that's -- you know, and because --
 21 you know, I think you and I care about the same thing,
 22 which is to maintain the -- the way of western life.
 23 MR. NIELS TROOST: I want to do what's best for
 24 the western world, yeah. Absolutely.
 25 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: Exactly.

1 MR. NIELS TROOST: Yeah.
 2 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: So and that's, you know,
 3 it's not idealism. We can't -- okay --
 4 MR. NIELS TROOST: Okay, Sir.
 5 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: But -- but 0 -- but OFAC
 6 is, you know, that was, you know, that wasn't the call that
 7 Baker Hostetler requested. OFAC reached out to Jeff to set
 8 up a call with him, to have a chat with him.
 9 MR. NIELS TROOST: Mmm.
 10 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: And in the end of the
 11 call, they told Jeff we would love to collaborate with you
 12 on figuring out who the other bad -- who the bad state
 13 actors are. That's not normal. OFAC's job is to
 14 prosecute; not to be -- not to be --
 15 MR. NIELS TROOST: No, I don't understand how any
 16 of this works but that's --
 17 MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: But it's working so why
 18 don't you just enjoy the fruit rather than trying to
 19 understand it. This is what I don't understand.

167. The OFAC meeting was just the tip of the iceberg. On May 1, 2023, PECSA received an unexpected letter from SECO, the Swiss sanctions regulator, requesting



1 information about Paramount’s operations. This surprised and alarmed Troost because
 2 Srivastava had repeatedly claimed he had been in direct contact with SECO and that SECO
 3 had already approved of Paramount’s business. Believing Srivastava’s prior
 4 representations, Troost forwarded the inquiry to Srivastava, Bravard, and Berg, expressing
 5 confusion that SECO was asking for information if the approvals Srivastava had described
 6 were real.

7

From:	Niels Troost[O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C796365B1BC54B45AA3BE868ABB79BEE-NTROOST]
Sent:	Mon 5/1/2023 11:16:48 AM (UTC+02:00)
To:	Gaurav Sri[ggksrivastava@gmail.com]; N. Bravard[nbravard@parencom.ch]; Jeffrey Berg[jberg@bakerlaw.com]
Cc:	Jevgeni Barasev[jbarasev@parencom.ch]; Maurice Taylor[mtaylor@parencom.ch]
Subject:	Fwd: letter from SECO
Attachment:	4623_001.pdf

8

9 Dear Jeff and G,
 10 Please see attached! I’m very confused because I was constantly informed that G was speaking
 11 directly to the top person at SECO, Helen, and dealing with this and that we got the all clear
 12 from SECO.

13

14 Please call me urgently and let me know how we proceed.

15 168. The next day, May 2, 2023, Troost wrote to Swiss counsel—copying
 16 Srivastava and Bravard—and repeated his understanding based on Srivastava’s fabricated
 17 narrative. Troost told Swiss counsel that BakerHostetler had been engaged in ongoing
 18 discussions with OFAC and that a “representative of Paramount” (i.e., Srivastava) had been
 19 speaking with senior SECO officials. Troost asked Swiss counsel to incorporate those
 20 supposed contacts into PECSA’s response to SECO, “especially when SECO asks what
 21 steps Paramount has taken to be compliant with the regulations.”²⁹

22 169. When confronted with SECO’s inquiry, Srivastava escalated his fabricated
 23 intelligence narrative. He used his Chief of Staff, Jim Reese—whom he had manipulated—

24

25 ²⁹ Later, after Paramount expelled Srivastava, Berg and Srivastava were concerned that Paramount
 26 was going to tell SECO what the two of them had been telling Troost and Paramount about their
 27 OFAC interactions—because it was all false. On May 14, 2023, Berg wrote to Paramount’s Swiss
 28 lawyers, copying Bravard, “In connection with your preparation of the responses to SECO’s request
 for information, we are advising you that the US shareholder [Cedar West for Srivastava] and its
 fiduciary [1234 Holding/Bravard] demands the opportunity to review and comment on any and all
 proposed responses to SECO, as well as any information related to such shareholder and
 information shared by BakerHostetler, *including but not limited to our conversations with OFAC.*”
 (emphasis added).



1 to corroborate his lies. That evening, Srivastava and Reese made international phone calls
2 to Troost to reassure him that Paramount was part of a secret CIA program allegedly
3 approved “at the highest levels.”

4 170. On one of those calls, Troost asked, referring to Srivastava, “You don’t think
5 he’s a charlatan that just wants to take my money and suck me dry[?]” Reese responded, “I
6 don’t.” Later in the conversation, when Troost asked Reese whether the CIA Director knew
7 Srivastava, Reese answered “yes.” When asked whether Paramount was “really building a
8 program here with the Agency,” Reese again said “yes,” claiming he had attended meetings
9 with Srivastava and senior officials, including Senator Mark Warner, Chairman of the
10 Senate Intelligence Committee.

11 171. Reese further told Troost that Srivastava was a “NOC” and that the alleged
12 Program had an official codename he could not reveal. Reese claimed he was “breaking his
13 clearance” by discussing it and asserted that there had been no regulatory backlash against
14 PECSA because of Srivastava’s “influence” and because Troost’s involvement was part of
15 a “covert action.” Reese explained to Troost how the NOC program worked in substantial
16 detail.

17 172. Later that evening, Reese again spoke on the phone with Troost, in part about
18 the U.S. government’s approval of Paramount trading ESPO, Srivastava’s involvement with
19 the CIA, and Srivastava wanting Troost to participate in a program with the U.S.
20 government or else he would use a different company. Reese said, “I just sat with Ben Harris
21 from the U.S. Department of Treasury.³⁰ The guy who wrote the entire sanctions program.
22 Not a word about it [Paramount]. He even talked about ESPO. He’s like “Hey, we got no
23 issues with ESPO,” which was the focus of PDMCC’s Russian-origin oil marketing
24 business. When Troost asked what the U.S. government’s reaction was when they brought
25 up Paramount, Reese said, “He [Harris] says, ‘[Paramount], we see no issues with.’” Troost
26 asked specifically about PDMCC. Reese said, “DMCC, in Dubai? Yes, ‘We give Dubai a
27 pass.’” In fact, Srivastava, Reese, and others participated in an interstate video call with

28 ³⁰ Ben Harris is a former Assistant Treasury Secretary for Economic Policy and Chief Economist.



1 Ben Harris, earlier that day:

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From: Jim Reese[O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F8D096A3E58042B79680099FA2175A2A-FABB4692-2C]

Sent: Mon 5/1/2023 5:06:51 PM (UTC-07:00)

To: James Reese[james.p.reese.5@gmail.com]

Subject: zoom call

JR is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: G, Ankit, Ben, Greg and Jim
Time: May 2, 2023 13:30 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81594419409?pwd=UTYzVUx6MXViOTR0YUYzcmZqSXBCZz09>

9 173. Despite these claims of U.S. Government approval, Srivastava could produce
10 no proof. Paramount staff—particularly Mauron—remained skeptical. Mauron had seen a
11 March 2023 report that Srivastava purchased an expensive mansion in California and started
12 putting two and two together (that is, started suspecting that the \$51 million PDMCC loaned
13 to Arsari actually was a pass-through to Srivastava):

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HOME / MOGULS / POWER PLAYERS

Gracious Palisades Estate With Its Own Bomb Shelter Sells for \$24 Million

By James McClain March 10, 2023 9:46 pm PT



Ryan Lahiff, PR Newswire/Harvest Commodities

Seller	Rita DeLeone	Year	1952; rebuilt 2012
Buyer	Gaurav & Sharon Srivastava	Architect	Marc Appleton
Location	Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, Calif.	Specs	Multiple structures totaling 10,000 square feet, 7 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms
Price	\$24.5 million	Lot Size	1.12 acres

25 When Troost told Srivastava that Mauron believed Srivastava was scamming Troost,
26 Srivastava became enraged. On May 3, 2023, he threatened Troost that he would “fucking
27 destroy everything in three seconds” and that Troost “ha[d] no fucking idea.”

28 174. Also that day, on a call with Troost, Srivastava claimed that Democratic

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1 Senator Mark Warner, the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee, supported
2 PDMCC's Russian oil business. Srivastava said he could not give details because he was in
3 a CIA program, which was false. Srivastava instructed Troost to "ask Jim [Reese]," noting
4 "I cannot say things because of the programs I am a part of, but he can. He can talk to you.
5 Under law, he can speak to you because as a friend or whatever, but I can't speak to you,
6 when I'm part of a program that I cannot tell you about all this stuff, but he can." Troost
7 then called Reese and they discussed Srivastava's supposed affiliation with the CIA. During
8 that call, Reese said "G is a NOC . . . a non-official cover operative." Reese explained the
9 background and history of the NOC program and how it works, and confirmed that Troost
10 was a "P3" source for the CIA under Srivastava. After that call, Troost spoke again with
11 Srivastava by phone and said "I had a good chat with Jim, and I understand a lot more now.
12 You probably know what I mean because you told me that I can ask him." Srivastava
13 replied, "Yes, ask him. That's why I told you, because I cannot tell you certain things."

14 175. The pressure campaign continued, with Srivastava insisting the Inversion
15 was the only way Troost could speak to U.S. authorities. He told Troost that because the
16 company was not yet under "U.S. control," Srivastava could not issue any documentation.
17 When Troost challenged him—asking, "But even if I'm your asset, you cannot do that?"—
18 Srivastava responded: "I can write so I can make sure there's nothing harmful that happens
19 to you from the U.S., and the U.S. can reach out to its counterparts to make sure that they
20 don't do anything to you that is going to be ultimately affecting you." Srivastava then went
21 further, reconfirming that the Inversion would transform PECSA into a shielded proxy for
22 U.S. operations: "[O]nce you are a U.S. company, you're acting on U.S. behalf. The U.S.
23 ain't going to do shit. I know that. They're fucked. They have given us carte blanche on
24 whatever I want to do. Carte blanche; do whatever you want to do, okay? That's basically
25 it."

26 176. On May 4, 2023, Troost again questioned why everything "had to become
27 American." Srivastava responded that the U.S. government cared only about "a pure
28 American enterprise with an American mindset," and that Troost's daughter living in New



1 York was the only reason officials allowed Troost to remain involved.

2 177. When Troost requested written proof that Srivastava could protect him from
3 U.S. and Swiss regulators, Srivastava claimed Troost was an “MX-1 asset,” but admitted
4 no documentation existed. On information and belief, no such classification exists.
5 Srivastava claimed providing anything in writing would “breach[] the law,” but assured
6 Troost that “the U.S. is not going after [him].”

7 178. On May 5, 2023, Srivastava resumed pressuring Troost, who voiced concerns
8 about violating sanctions if PDMCC operated under a U.S. parent. Srivastava warned Troost
9 that hesitation might make U.S. officials question whether he was deceiving them and
10 threatened that “by tomorrow morning, it will be fucking pandemonium in your life.”
11 Srivastava added, “I don’t think you understand who you’re dealing with ... I can call, it’s
12 not a joke man, call eight Senators in a day and the President in the White House and the
13 ambassador of this country. This is not monkey business. This is very serious shit.”

14 179. Srivastava claimed this reach was possible because he was “part of a program,
15 I’ve told this to you before, in which there is only 30 people,” insisting he could “call
16 anybody” because he operated as a “NOC,” and that Troost was “not supposed to even be
17 privy to this information”:

12	MR. GAURAV SRIVASTAVA: -- you -- but you -- but
13	-- but you have to understand this by now. The fact that I
14	can reach all these people, I can call -- it’s not a joke,
15	man, to call eight senators in a day and full thing and the
16	president in the White House and the -- you know, the
17	ambassador of this country and -- this is not monkey
18	business; this is very serious shit --
1	am part of the program so I can call anybody, can reach out
2	to any state, any agency, anybody, but in non -- but it is
3	called Non-Official Cover, NOC, okay? But you’re not
4	supposed to know all this; you’re not supposed to even have
5	privy to this information. For your intent and purposes, I
6	am your friend, I’m your partner, I’m a business, whatever.
7	You’re not supposed to know this. And then you say, “Well,
8	give me a piece of paper.” Well, probably not supposed to
9	know that and how am I supposed to show you a piece of
10	paper? It’s like it’s counterintuitive. Either you --

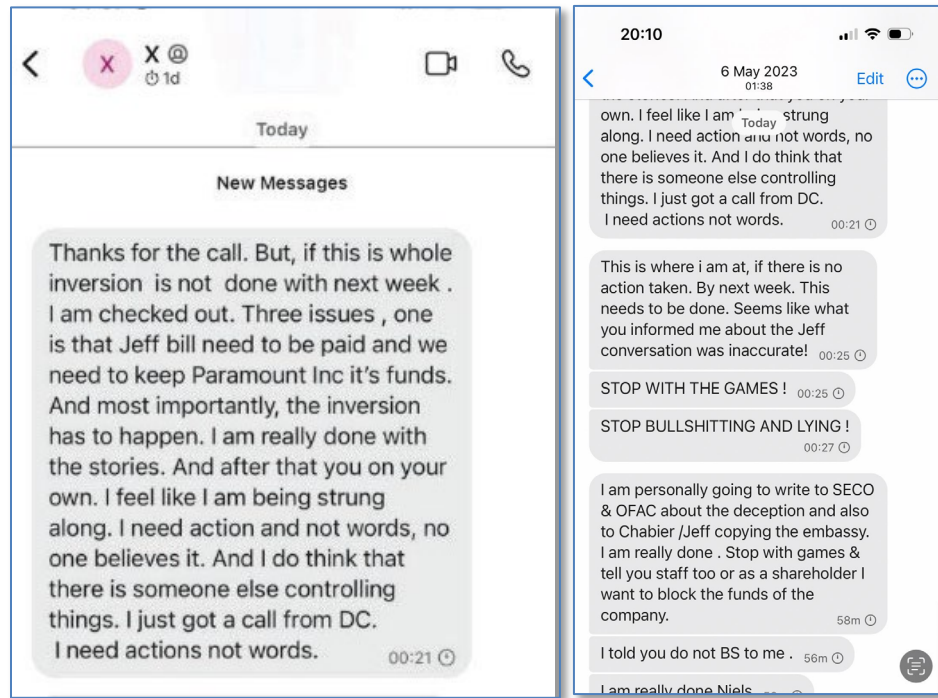
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1 180. To reinforce that Troost had no choice but to proceed with the inversion,
 2 Srivastava claimed responsibility for Sam Bankman-Fried’s prosecution because Bankman-
 3 Fried “fucked with” Srivastava.

4 181. On May 6, 2023, Srivastava sent by international wire texts to Mr. Troost
 5 accusing him of lying and telling him “most importantly, the inversion has to happen,”
 6 otherwise, Srivastava threatened, he would tell U.S. authorities that Mr. Troost was a
 7 Russian agent (“I do think that there is someone else controlling things. I just a got a call
 8 from DC.”), he would get Mr. Troost sanctioned (“I am personally going to write to SECO
 9 [the Swiss sanctioning authorities] & OFAC about the deception.”), and he would block
 10 Paramount’s assets—a clear extortion attempt by Srivastava³¹:



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 23 182. Troost called Srivastava and asked, “What lie are you talking about?”
 24 Srivastava replied that he could not talk. Troost then called Reese who said, “G just wanted
 25 me to tell you that he’s with [then-Speaker of the House] Nancy Pelosi and can’t talk right
 26 now, so he needs a couple of hours.” When Troost spoke with Srivastava by phone later
 27 that same day, Srivastava recounted purported conversations he had with members of CIA

28 ³¹ These texts violated Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1951, and 1952(a)(3).



1 leadership, including the actual Director of the CIA, Bill Burns, whom he claimed were
2 upset with Troost for delaying the inversion and were therefore considering that Troost
3 might actually be a Russian agent. He also claimed to have gotten Subianto of Indonesia off
4 of the U.S. no-fly list and to have kept General Dagalo of the Sudanese Rapid Response
5 Forces off of the sanctions list. He also mentioned Troost's daughter in New York and
6 confirmed that he was one of about thirty NOCs who all know each other. They also
7 discussed the April 28, 2023 call the lawyers had with OFAC, as arranged by Srivastava
8 through members of Congress. Srivastava falsely represented that the meeting went well
9 and that OFAC approved of Paramount's businesses. Troost asked for the memo noting
10 what happened during the call. Srivastava responded, "Yeah, I don't want him [Jeff Berg]
11 to send that memo because it's not necessary. You asked me about it. I don't think it's
12 necessary to send." Srivastava claimed that he had "forced" OFAC to contact the lawyers
13 to set up the call. Troost asked, "But did OFAC then confirm that we're okay?" Srivastava
14 replied, "Yes. They want to collaborate on working on different, on other state actors."
15 Troost asked, "This is because they understand that this is part of this Program?" Srivastava
16 replied, "They understand that I am part of this company. The Program, they know that this
17 is run out of Los Angeles by me. And that's what they told Jeff. And that was that. And
18 you're okay."

19 183. In the days that followed, Srivastava continued pressing Troost. He even
20 deployed BakerHostetler to write legal opinions supporting the legality of PDMCC's
21 continued operations and Srivastava's extraction of those profits from the Paramount
22 companies for himself. One such opinion, dated May 8, 2023, stated, "Notwithstanding the
23 origin of the funds for the Dividend (i.e., [PDMCC]'s trading in Russian-origin crude oil
24 above the price cap), we believe that the issuance of the Dividend and receipt of it by the
25 U.S. Shareholder [Srivastava] and the others does not fall within any U.S. sanctions
26 prohibitions."³²

27 _____
28 ³² These May 2023 memos justifying Srivastava's receipt of Russian-origin oil marketing profits
destroy Srivastava's after-the-fact claims that he was surprised to learn that PDMCC marketed
billions' worth of Russian-origin oil, and his discovery of that supposedly damaging fact is why



BakerHostetler

Notwithstanding the origin of the funds for the Dividend (i.e., DMCC’s trading in Russian-origin crude oil above the price cap), we believe that the issuance of the Dividend and receipt of it by the U.S. Shareholder and the others does not fall within any U.S. sanctions prohibitions. As stated above, we understand that DMCC’s business is in compliance with all applicable laws. The U.S. Shareholder is not involved in any trading activities of any Paramount entity and is not involved in the day-to-day operations of Paramount SA or DMCC. He would simply be receiving funds from a non-Russian person as a result of being a 50% shareholder of Paramount SA.

**ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE
CONFIDENTIAL**

TO: Paramount Energy & Commodities SA
FROM: Baker & Hostetler LLP
DATE: May 8, 2023
SUBJECT: U.S. Sanctions Analysis for DMCC’s Dividend Distribution

The Russian Price Cap sanctions do not permit SA or any other persons from Implementing Countries to be involved in, or otherwise support or assist, DMCC’s operations. It is our understanding that DMCC is not subject to the Implementing Countries’ Russian Price Cap² and may continue to engage in its business operations under the current laws and regulations. SA has compliance policies and procedures in place for its employees and keeps its business operations separate from DMCC to comply with the Russian Price Cap.

184. That same day, Srivastava again assured Troost that SECO’s inquiry was merely due to “a government disconnect” and that SECO was receiving press criticism for not acting against PECSA. He claimed SECO had told him that if PECSA wanted to avoid enforcement action, it must complete the Inversion into a U.S. company.

D. After Uncovering Srivastava’s Deceptions, Troost Rescinds the Agreements and Expels Him from the Company

185. As doubts about Srivastava mounted among PECSA personnel around this time, Taylor, on behalf of PECSA, commissioned a private investigator, Jonas Rey, to look into Srivastava’s past. The investigator’s report revealed a documented history of fraudulent behavior. As a result, PECSA began resisting further attempts by Srivastava to exert control, particularly in regard to the inversion. Srivastava’s previous fraudulent behavior included:

- In January 2021, a California plaintiff sued Srivastava, alleging that “Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava used a convicted, drug smuggling felon to incorporate a shell corporation (Unity Resources Group, Inc.) which Gaurav and Sharon then used to lease a luxury residence.” They allegedly “then stole in excess of \$100,000 in wine from a locked wine cellar in the leased home . . . and caused other damages to the home.”

Troost supposedly fabricated a fake-spy narrative against him.



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- In March 2019, another California plaintiff sued Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava for failing to pay over \$100,000 in rent for a private residence, which they allegedly continued to live in. In February 2019, a collection agency sued Gaurav Srivastava after he had agreed to pay hospital expenses for his father and given it checks for \$14,850 and \$67,238, then allegedly stopped payment on the checks.
- Also in February 2019, Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava signed a settlement agreement in which they admitted that they “knowingly and intentionally made misrepresentations” to a woman to take \$100,000 from her when the Srivastavas “knew that their financial condition would not allow them to pay back” the money, they “knew that their representations were false,” and they “had no intention to repay [her] any portion of the amount borrowed.”
- And, in February 2017, Srivastava was sued for fraud, agreeing to settle the case for \$30,000, but he never paid, as is set out by the court in its judgment in *Khoudari v. Davalos*, B298628, 2020 WL 6053398 (Cal. Ct. App., filed Oct. 14, 2020).

186. Initially shocked by these discoveries, Troost finally decided he’d had enough. On May 10, 2023, his holding company, EZI, rescinded the SPA (and the Shareholder Agreement) with 1234 Holding that had given Srivastava a stake in PECSA. EZI cited “tangible evidence that it was misled into entering into the SPA due to intentional deceit and fundamental error by various parties including [Srivastava].”

187. However, the damage the Srivastava Enterprise inflicted was far from over. Eventually, Troost was sanctioned by the UK, the EU, and the Swiss, and PECSA and PDMCC by the UK because of PDMCC’s lawful but politically disfavored business. Srivastava has publicly taken credit for causing this. The United States government, however, which learned in detail about Srivastava’s fraud, and whose U.S. Treasury sanctioning process is unique in the higher level of evidence required to sanction a person or entity than in the UK, EU, or Switzerland, has rightfully not sanctioned any of them.



1 This, despite Srivastava, Maguire, and others attempting to persuade U.S. officials to
2 sanction them, on information and belief.

3 **E. The Srivastava Enterprise Continues Its Racketeering Activities**
4 **After Troost Cuts Ties**

5 **1. Following Srivastava’s Removal from PECSA, the Enterprise**
6 **Launches an Extortionate Scheme Targeting Troost**

7 188. Following his expulsion from PECSA on May 10, 2023, Srivastava
8 immediately texted Troost, “Are you kidding me?” What followed was a coordinated effort
9 by Srivastava and his associates to reestablish contact, directly and indirectly, including
10 through Troost’s wife and daughter. As Srivastava had repeatedly threatened, his removal
11 triggered a wave of “pandemonium” in Troost’s personal and professional life.

12 189. Reese was present when Srivastava learned he had been removed from
13 PECSA. Srivastava reacted with anger and immediately arranged a meeting in Washington,
14 D.C. with the Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. for the next day. Srivastava, Bravard,
15 Lascari, Berg, and Cedar West then worked together to email letters to officials in various
16 countries, including Switzerland, the United States, Turkey, and the UAE in an attempt to
17 freeze Paramount’s assets on the false pretext that Troost had stolen \$47 million from
18 Paramount relating to a Turkish terminal and then shut Srivastava out of the companies so
19 Troost could take all the assets. The truth, as Defendants well knew, was that Plaintiffs
20 removed Srivastava after discovering that he had been defrauding them since he was
21 introduced to Troost in May 2022, a fraud through which Srivastava successfully stole tens
22 of millions of dollars. Defendants omitted these material facts which rendered their
23 correspondence to public officials fundamentally false.³³

24
25
26 _____
27 ³³ And, as noted above in ¶12 n.6, the Dubai Chief Prosecutor’s investigation found that their
28 accusations were based on doctored evidence. Srivastava later claimed that he also complained in
the same correspondence about the Russian-origin oil marketing he supposedly had just discovered
to these officials. But that is completely false; the various letters not only fail to complain about
PDMCC’s business, they inform the officials that the business was legal.



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KARLIN & PEEBLES, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

May 10, 2023

Yousef Al Otaiba
Ambassador
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
Email: Alotaiba@UAEembassy-USA.org.

Re: Termination of Representation
Regarding International Tax Advice

Your Excellency,

My name is Thomas Giordano-Lascari, and I am contacting you in my capacity as manager of Cedar West Ventures, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Cedar West"). I am honored to make your acquaintance and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

KARLIN & PEEBLES, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

May 10, 2023

Dr. H. Murat Mercan
Ambassador
Embassy of Turkey
Email: murat.mercan@mfa.gov.tr

Re: Willful and Malicious Criminal Theft Scheme against a US Stakeholder in Turkey

Your Excellency,

My name is Thomas Giordano-Lascari, and I am contacting you in my capacity as manager of Cedar West Ventures, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Cedar West"). I am honored to make your acquaintance and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

190. On May 11, 2023, Troost received threatening WhatsApp messages from a Colorado number, written in French, warning that the sender would disclose purportedly embarrassing personal information about Troost to Troost's family.

191. That same day, Srivastava and Reese visited the Turkish embassy in Washington, D.C. They later met the Ambassador in a nearby park, where Srivastava falsely accused Troost of working for the Russians and asked for help severing Troost's relationships with Turkish business partners. These accusations directly contradicted Srivastava's comments to the Ambassador just two days earlier, during a May 9 meeting, when he lauded Troost's operations and described himself as an American businessman who owned Paramount.

192. On information and belief, Srivastava or his associates provided Turkish officials—either at this meeting or a subsequent one—with a document containing false and



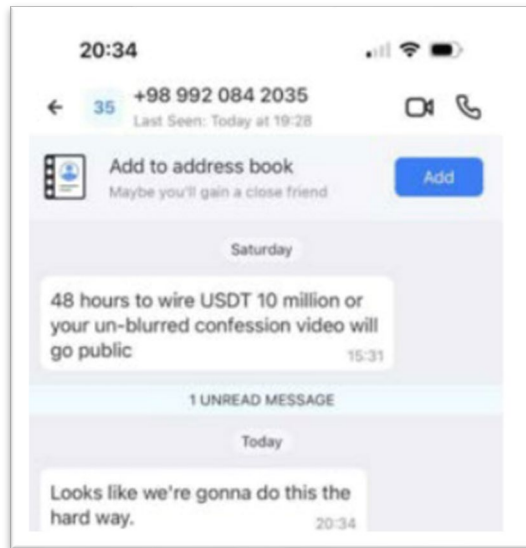
1 defamatory accusations against Troost and his family, including the fabricated claim that
2 they were funding the Wagner Group.

3 193. On the evening of May 11, 2023, Srivastava again texted Troost: “We need
4 to talk.” The following day, on May 12, an Iranian number, +98 992 084 2035, sent Troost
5 a video via WhatsApp. Troost did not open it for security reasons, and the sender later
6 deleted it. According to Financial Times journalist Tom Wilson, “At the same time, the
7 [same Iranian] number started to message me at the FT, offering information about Troost’s
8 operations.”

9 194. On May 13, 2023, Srivastava again messaged Troost: “Please call me.” Later
10 that day, the Iranian number messaged Troost stating, “48 hours to wire USDT 10 million
11 or your un-blurred confession video will go public.” Hours later, Srivastava repeated, “We
12 need to talk. Really.”

13 195. That evening, Troost’s daughter received a message from a California number
14 identifying the sender as a Wall Street Journal reporter requesting a call about “the
15 relationship [a Russian oligarch] has with your father, Niels?” This same number had been
16 shared with Srivastava by Troost on March 20, 2023.

17 196. On May 15, 2023, the Iranian number again messaged Troost: “Looks like
18 we’re gonna do this the hard way.”³⁴



34 Each of these international text messages violates Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951



1 197. Shortly thereafter, Berg—still acting on Srivastava’s instructions—emailed
2 letters to the Swiss ambassador to the United States, copying the U.S. Ambassador to
3 Switzerland, repeating the fabricated allegations the Enterprise had brought to the UAE and
4 Turkish ambassadors and informing them that his client, Cedar West, had been expelled
5 from PECSA. Notably, Berg continued to take the (correct) position that PDMCC was **not**
6 subject to the G7 sanctions and reinforced that “no persons from Implementing Countries
7 provide services to Paramount DMCC relating to Sanctioned Activity.” In other words, they
8 confirmed to authorities that neither Paramount, nor Troost, violated sanctions in any way.

9 198. Reese, still serving as Srivastava’s de facto Chief of Staff, also wrote to the
10 U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, seeking a meeting. He subsequently met with Special
11 Agent Glen Moffat of the U.S. State Department Diplomatic Security Service.

12 **2. The Srivastava Enterprise Attempts to Seize the Remaining \$26**
13 **Million of PDMCC Funds Held by Arsari**

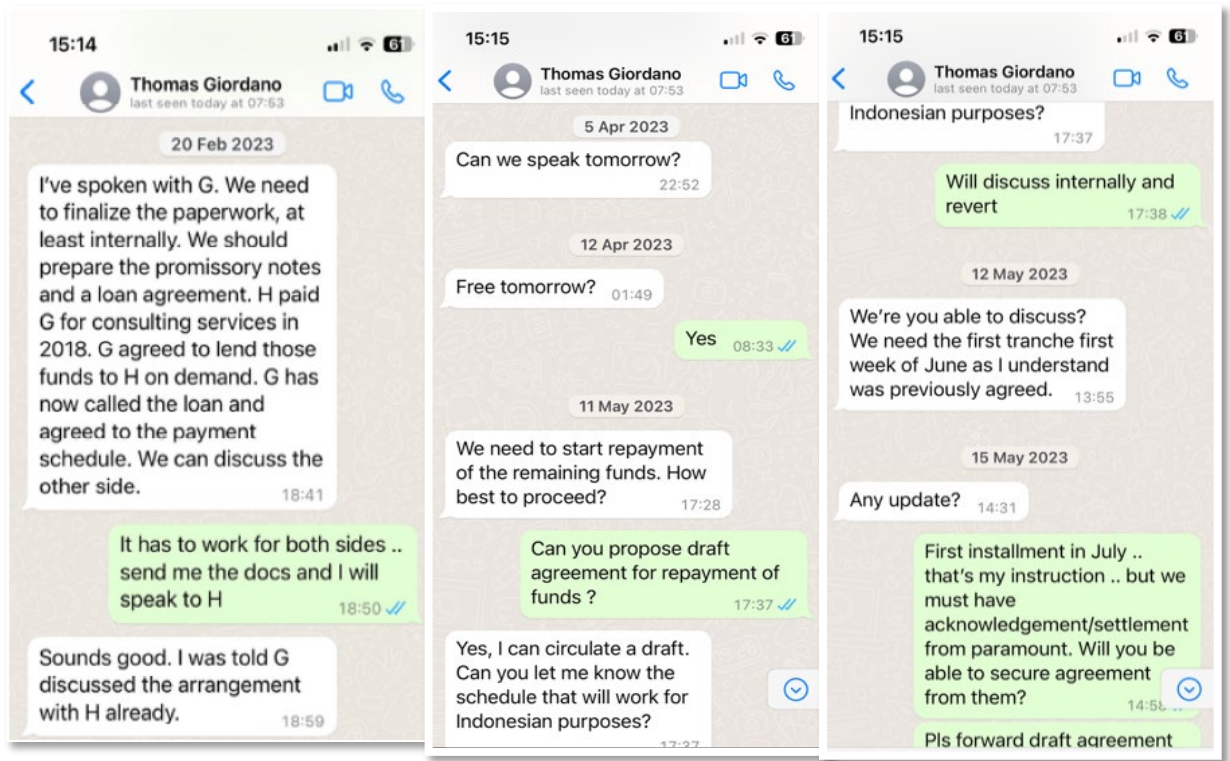
14 199. From February through September 2023, Srivastava, Lascari, and Maguire
15 repeatedly attempted to extract the remaining \$26 million of PDMCC’s loan proceeds held
16 by Arsari. Srivastava and Lascari provided various fictitious pretexts to justify on paper to
17 banks why Arsari should send Srivastava more money, including a phony consulting
18 agreement dating to 2018 for which Lascari offered to generate `documentation (5 years
19 after-the-fact) showing that Arsari owed Srivastava money:

20
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28 _____
and 1952(a)(3).



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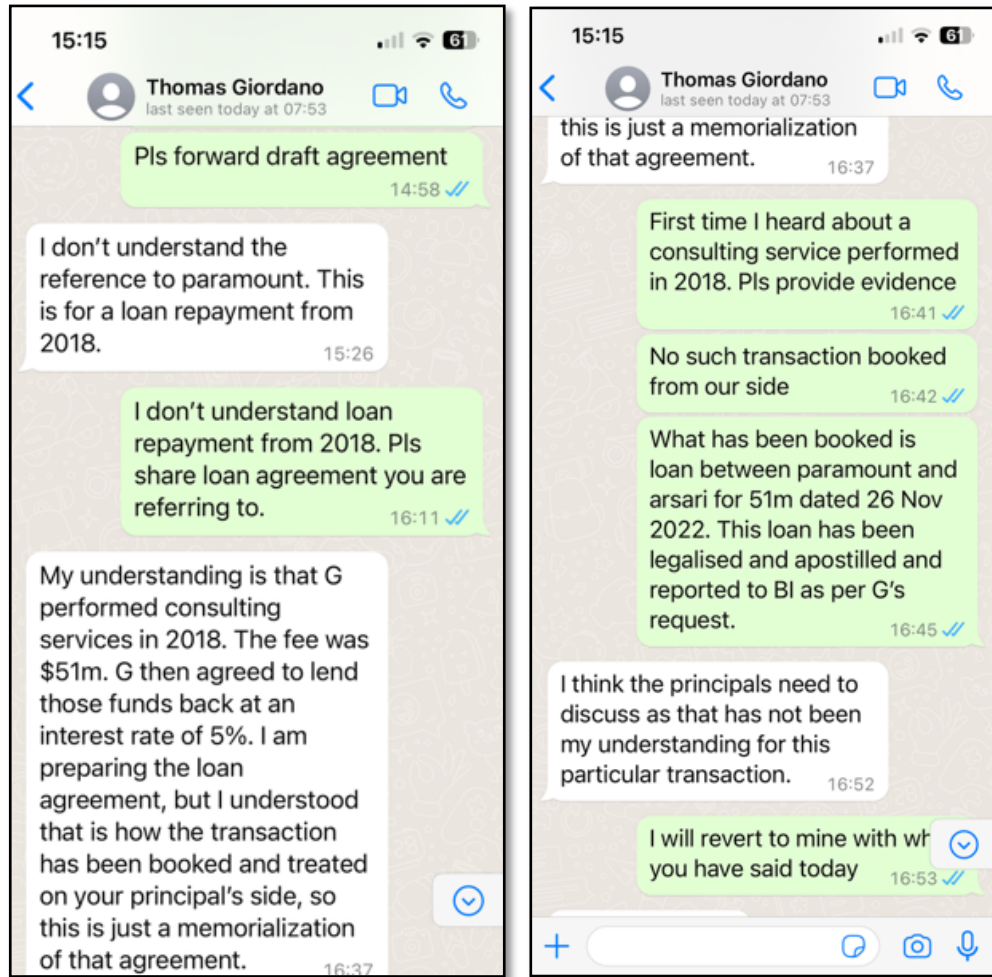


200. On May 11, 2023, Lascari messaged Maria Foley of Arsari: “We need to start repayment of the remaining funds. How best to proceed?” The next day he pressed again: “Were you able to discuss? We need the first tranche first week of June as I understand was previously agreed.”

201. By that time, Arsari had become increasingly cautious in its dealings with Srivastava and insisted that the \$51 million loan from PDMCC be forgiven before any disbursement of funds could take place. In response, Lascari claimed that the \$51 million had not originated from PDMCC. Instead, he falsely asserted that Srivastava had “performed consulting services” back in 2018 for that amount, had “agreed to lend those funds back at an interest rate of 5%,” and was now in the process of preparing documentation for that supposed 2018 consulting services loan. Essentially, Lascari claimed to understand that those undocumented personal services had been worth \$51



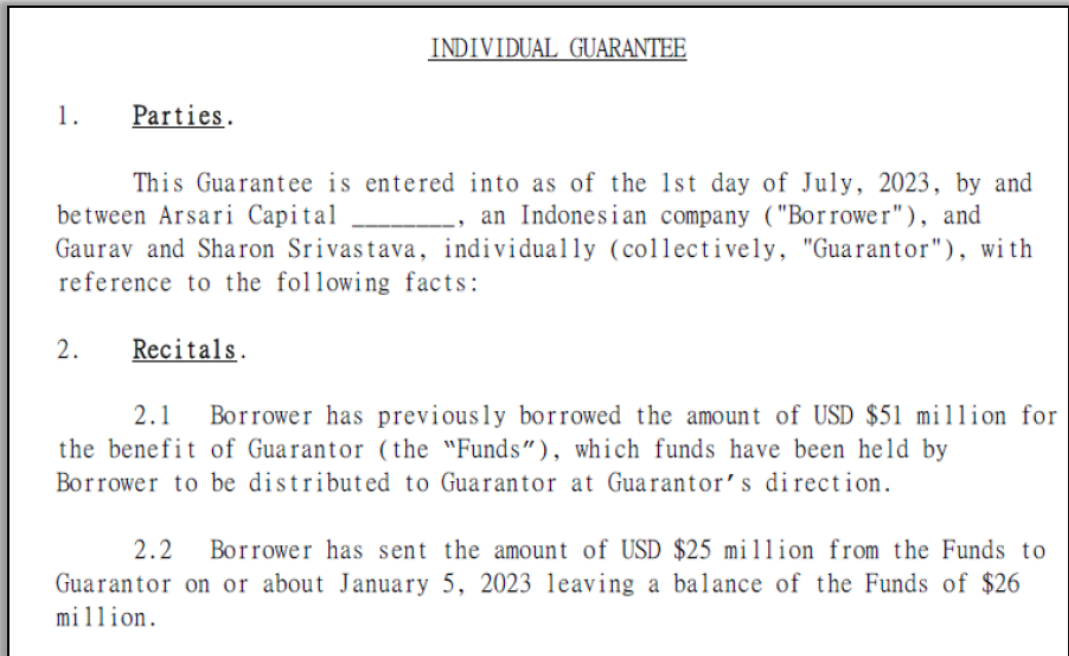
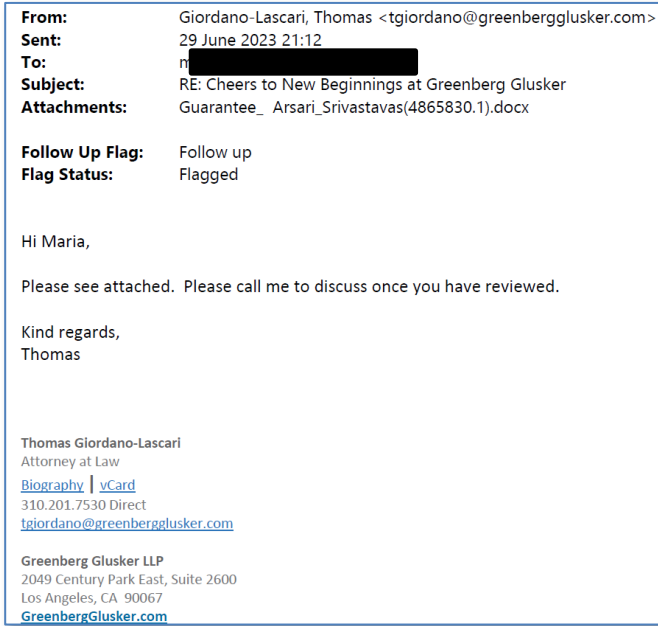
1 million, that Srivastava had loaned (without documentation) 100% of those proceeds back
 2 to Arsari, and that Srivastava was now collecting them back.



202. This explanation was implausible. If Srivastava had truly agreed to such terms
 in 2018 for Srivastava’s “consulting services,” it made no sense for his lawyer to only now
 be preparing the documentation—five years later. Maria Foley, who had worked with the
 company’s principal since before 2018, responded skeptically on May 15, 2023: “First time
 I heard about a consulting service performed in 2018. Pls provide evidence. No such
 transaction booked from our side.” Lascari had no evidence to provide because the
 justification was entirely fabricated. Foley further clarified, “What has been booked is loan
 between paramount and arsari for 51m dated November 26, 2022. This loan has been
 legalised and apostilled and reported to [the bank] as per G’s request.”

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203. Per Lascari, the \$26 million transfer was to be backed by a supposed personal guarantee Srivastava proposed but had no intention of honoring:



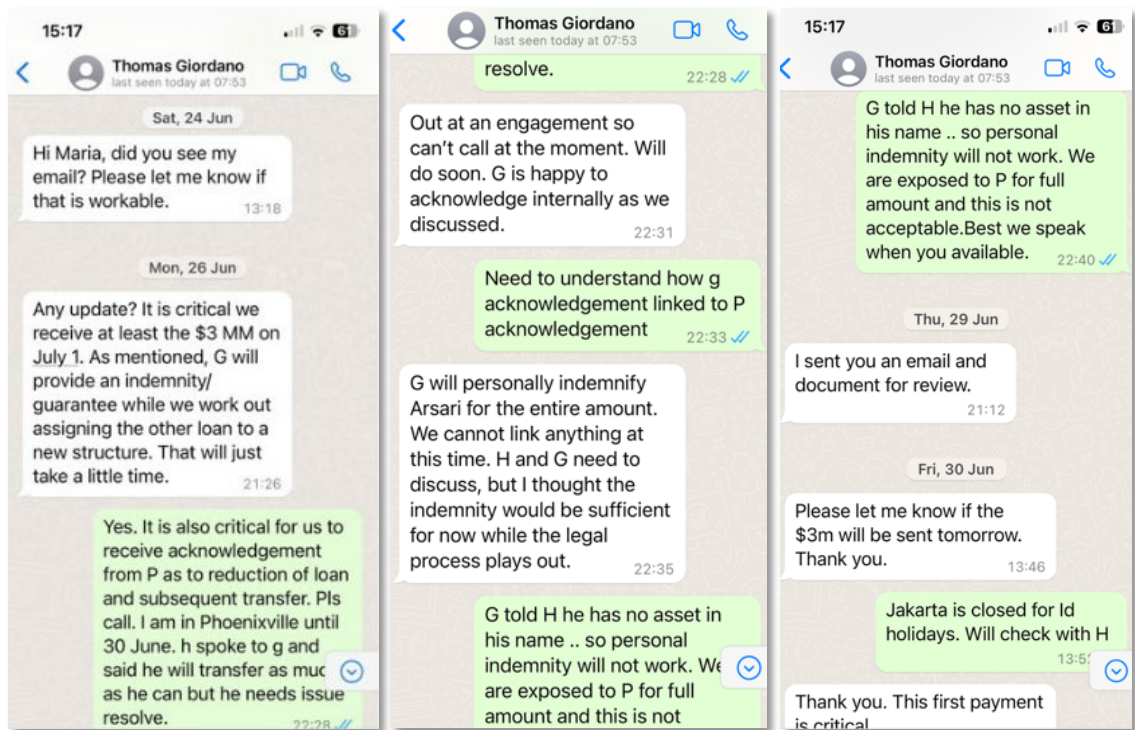
The supposed personal guarantee that Lascari drafted and sent by email is a smoking gun document confessing that the \$51 million Arsari borrowed from PDMCC was "for the benefit of" "Gaurav and Sharon Srivastava" and that Arsari had sent "the amount of USD \$25 million from" those funds to the Srivastavas in January 2023. That \$25 million had



1 been siphoned from the PDMCC-Arsari loan and laundered through Lascari’s IOLTA
2 account to purchase Srivastava’s Pacific Palisades mansion.

3 204. On June 9, 2023, Foley again requested proper paperwork for repayment of
4 the actual PDMCC-Arsari loan executed on November 26, 2022.

5 205. On June 26, 2023, still pressing for funds, Lascari told Foley: “It is critical
6 we receive at least the \$3 MM on July 1. As mentioned, G will provide an
7 indemnity/guarantee while we work out assigning the other loan to a new structure.” She
8 replied, “It is also critical for us to receive acknowledgment from [PDMCC] as to reduction
9 of loan and subsequent transfer.” Lascari responded, “G is happy to acknowledge internally
10 as we discussed.” Foley was unsatisfied, responding, “Need to understand how G
11 acknowledgment linked to P [PDMCC] acknowledgment.” Lascari replied, “G will
12 personally indemnify Arsari for the entire amount.” Foley rejected this stating, “G told H
13 [Arsari’s principal] he has no asset in his name..so personal indemnity will not work.”

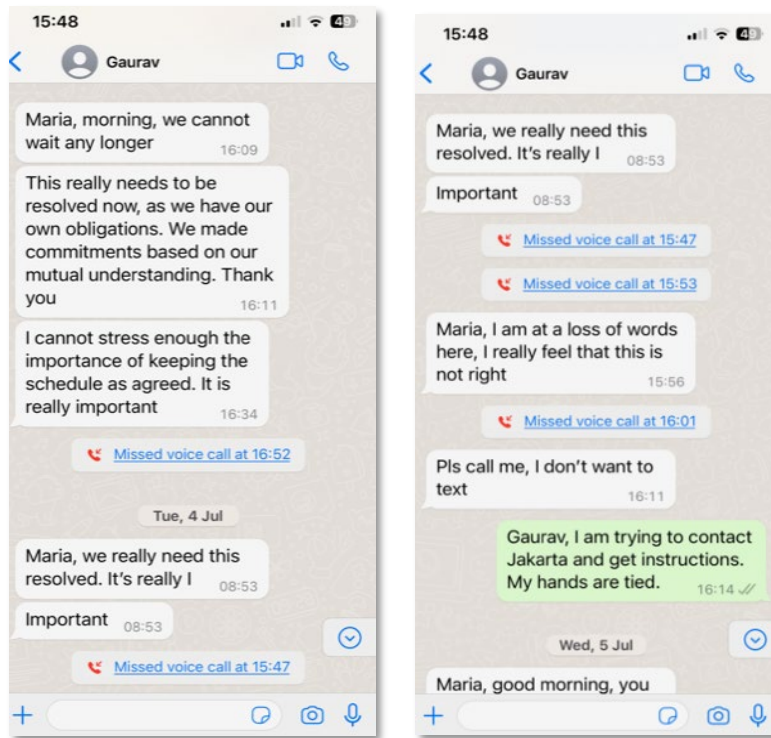


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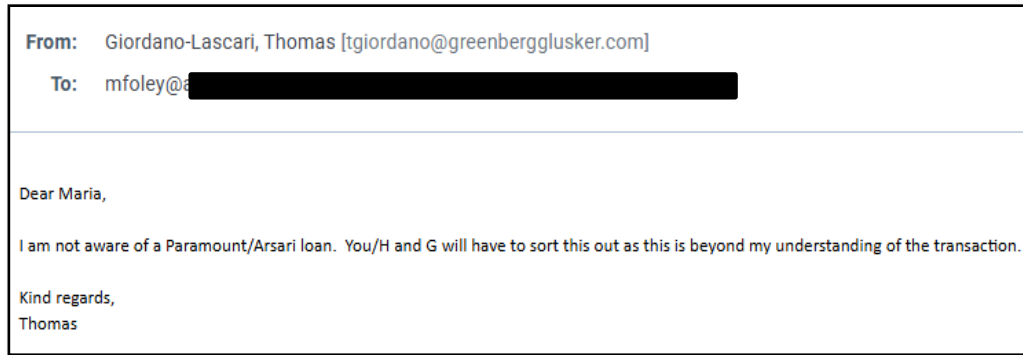
206. On July 2 and July 3, 2023, the pressure campaign intensified. Maria Foley received escalating demands from both Lascari and Srivastava urging immediate transfer of the remaining funds. Lascari insisted: “Any later than the 5th will not work, so this must be resolved by then. G said that is the expectation.” The next day, he pressed again: “H told G we would get 1.5m on the 5th. Please confirm. Do you have our wire instructions?” At the same time, Srivastava sent his own barrage of messages, pleading and applying pressure in equal measure: “we cannot wait any longer...I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping the schedule as agreed. It is really important...we really need this resolved...I am at a loss of words here, I really feel that this is not right...” Foley responded, “Gaurav, I am trying to contact Jakarta and get instructions. My hands are tied.” Despite her refusal, she continued receiving texts and calls from Srivastava for months afterward.



207. On July 4, 2023, Lascari followed up yet again, this time directing Foley to transfer the funds to “Echo Grove LLC.” She immediately questioned the request, responding: “who is Echo Grove and what connection with original lender, Paramount? We require an acknowledgement from Paramount that the original loan amount to Arsari was 50% repaid in Dec 2022 and any subsequent transfers to Echo Grove will also reduce the



1 outstanding amount owed to Paramount.” Rather than address the discrepancy, Lascari
2 replied by again falsely asserting that he had no knowledge of any loan between Paramount
3 and Arsari.



10 208. When Arsari continued to refuse to send the \$26 million, Srivastava and
 11 Maguire tried to persuade Arsari to do so by falsely claiming that Troost was under criminal
 12 investigation for stealing \$1.6 billion dollars and subject to an impending Interpol Red
 13 Notice. But, Arsari’s team checked with Indonesian authorities, who confirmed there was
 14 no Red Notice on Troost. Srivastava and Maguire also falsely claimed to Arsari’s principal
 15 that PDMCC had been incapacitated. They presented a letter from a UAE law firm alleging
 16 that they had filed a criminal case in Dubai and instructing Arsari that all business involving
 17 PDMCC “should exclusively originate from Giordano-Lascari.” In fact, Lascari never held
 18 any position within or authority over PDMCC. And Foley learned from a UAE lawyer that
 19 there is no such thing as a company being incapacitated in the way that Srivastava and
 20 Maguire had claimed. Moreover, as the Dubai Chief Prosecutor’s investigation later found,
 21 their complaint was based on doctored evidence. On information and belief, Srivastava’s
 22 attorneys at respected Dubai firm, Al Tamimi & Co., ultimately withdrew from representing
 23 the Enterprise.

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Bahrain • Egypt • Iraq • Jordan • Kuwait • Morocco • Oman • Qatar • Saudi Arabia • UAE

التاميمي و شركاه
ALTAMIMI & CO.

Private and Confidential
By Email
Mr. Brian Manuel
Macaloharin Mendrofa Advocates
Graha CIMB Niaga, 2nd Floor,
Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 58,
RT.5/RW.3, Senayan,, Kby. Baru
Kota Jakarta Selatan, Jakarta
Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta 12190
Indonesia

In Reply Please Quote EAT 213471
Date 01 September 2023

brian.manuel@mhm

Dear Mr. Manuel,

Re: Criminal Investigations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - Mr. Niels Troost, Mr. Francois Mauron, Mr. Ishan Sharma and Others.

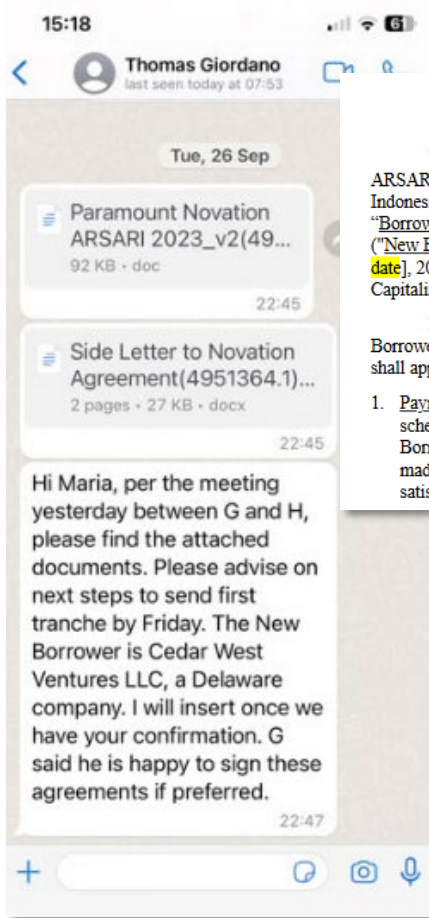
We write to you in our official capacity as the legal representatives of Cedar West Ventures LLC, with Mr. Thomas Giordano-Lascari acting as the designated principal of our client. Cedar West Ventures LLC is the 50% Ultimate Beneficiary Owner (UBO) of Paramount Energy & Commodities DMCC. We wish to formally notify you of recent developments in ongoing criminal investigations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) pertaining to criminal charges against Mr. Niels Troost, Mr. Francois Mauron, and several other individuals. As a result of these investigations, significant legal actions have been taken,

We hereby highlight that all communications and instructions related to business matters should exclusively originate from Mr. Thomas Giordano-Lascari. Any acts according to instructions received from alternative individuals or entities will be regarded as providing assistance to the parties under investigation and treated accordingly.

209. Undeterred, Srivastava and Maguire continued pressing for the money. On September 26, 2023, Lascari circulated a draft novation agreement purporting to transfer the entire \$51 million loan from Arsari to Cedar West, a company he operated but which was controlled by Srivastava. In parallel, a side letter to the novation agreement sought to secure the immediate transfer of the remaining \$26 million to Cedar West, structured as monthly “installments” of \$2 million—an attempt to create a fictional repayment structure that would mask the fraudulent diversion of funds.



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SIDE LETTER TO NOVATION AGREEMENT

This Side Letter to Novation Agreement (“Letter”) is entered into as of [insert date], 2023, between PT ARSARI PRADANA UTAMA, a company duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of Indonesia and situated at MidPlaza 2, Level 6, Jl Jend Sudirman Kav 10-11, Jakarta 10220 Indonesia (“Borrower”) and [insert name], a company duly organized and existing under the laws of [insert jurisdiction] (“New Borrower”) with respect to that certain Novation Agreement (the “Agreement”) also dated as of [insert date], 2023 entered into between Borrower and New Borrower concerning Paramount Loan Agreement. Capitalized terms not defined in this Letter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

FOR VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, Borrower and New Borrower agree that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement, the following shall apply:

1. **Payment Schedule.** Borrower agrees to transfer the Loan Amount to New Borrower pursuant to the payment schedule set forth hereto as Exhibit A, which amounts to USD twenty-six million United States Dollars. New Borrower agrees to treat an unrelated transfer of USD twenty-five million United States Dollars Borrower made to Birdsong Central LLC in December 2022 as a credit against the remaining Loan Amount and in full satisfaction of its obligations under the Agreement.

EXHIBIT A	
Payment Schedule	
30 September 2023	USD 2,000,000
31 October 2023	USD 2,000,000
30 November 2023	USD 2,000,000
31 December 2023	USD 2,000,000
31 January 2024	USD 2,000,000
29 February 2024	USD 2,000,000
31 March 2023	USD 2,000,000
30 April 2024	USD 2,000,000
31 May 2024	USD 2,000,000
30 June 2024	USD 2,000,000
31 July 2024	USD 2,000,000
31 August 2024	USD 2,000,000
30 September 2024	USD 2,000,000
TOTAL	USD 26,000,000

210. At around this same time, Srivastava and Maguire personally attempted to blackmail Arsari’s principal (Hashim)—the brother of now-President Subianto—by threatening to falsely accuse him of financing terrorism if he did not transfer the funds. The threat was made in front of others and was especially alarming because it occurred during the lead-up to Indonesia’s presidential election. Despite this pressure campaign, Arsari refused to transfer the remaining loan proceeds, and President Subianto ultimately won the election.

3. The Srivastava Enterprise Organizes a Smear Campaign Against Troost in an Attempt to Conceal Its Fraud

211. To discredit Mr. Troost so that (1) no one would believe him should he go



1 public to expose the Srivastava Enterprise’s crimes; (2) the U.S. and other governments
2 would sanction him, which would effectively freeze the assets they were trying to take and
3 further discredit Troost; and (3) they could convince a government authority or a court to
4 issue an order giving them control over all of Paramount’s assets, in May 2023, the
5 Srivastava Enterprise—using interstate and international wires—launched an aggressive
6 and malicious smear campaign designed to destroy Troost’s personal and professional
7 reputation, which continues to this date.

8 212. Srivastava orchestrated and financed a deceptive media operation by paying
9 individuals posing as journalists to publish fabricated stories about Troost. He enlisted
10 Maguire to help manage the campaign. Together, they generated and promoted articles
11 alleging that Troost had criminal ties to Russia, including claims that he acted as a front for
12 a sanctioned Russian oligarch. They even fabricated criminal accusations against Troost’s
13 wife and children. Maguire told Srivastava he could have the NYPD pick up Mr. Troost’s
14 daughter for questioning.

15 213. One such article, on May 16, 2023, appeared on the blog,
16 “Thyblackman.com,” which “address[es] the culture and concerns of the black
17 community.” The article, entitled “President of Russia Vladimir Putin’s Hidden War—
18 Niels Troost Crime Syndicate,” contained Srivastava and Maguire’s allegations. It accused
19 Troost of being “a front for” a sanctioned Russian oligarch. It said that “you see [the
20 oligarch’s] fingerprints all over the oil deals passed through Troost’s Switzerland-based”
21 PECSA. It alleged that Troost created PDMCC “to evade these sanctions,” even though
22 PDMCC was created years before the Price Cap. The article accused Troost’s wife and
23 daughters of committing crimes. It also accused PDMCC’s finance director and his
24 executive assistant of being Troost’s “mistresses.” And it falsely claimed “Troost, at Putin’s
25 urging, is one of the largest clandestine funders of the Wagner Group” and that “Troost,
26 simply put, is the ringleader of a global covert criminal enterprise.”
27
28



1 214. Srivastava had arranged to pay Armstrong Williams, an American political
2 commentator and talk show host, to place the article on Thyblackman.com, on information
3 and belief. In late April and early May, Srivastava and Mr. Reese had employed Mr.
4 Williams to attempt to persuade New York Times Magazine reporter, David Marchese, to
5 interview Srivastava and publish a story about “[t]he failure of the USG to engage and
6 leverage US companies abroad.” On June 3, 2023, Mr. Marchese turned down the interview,
7 saying “I think Gaurav is an interesting guy, with a smart perspective. The hitch on my end
8 is that he A: has no public profile and B: works in a business and on issues that are somewhat
9 opaque to the general reader.”

10
11 **From:** David Marchese[david.marchese@nytimes.com]
12 **Sent:** Sat 6/3/2023 6:54:35 AM (UTC-07:00)
13 **To:** Jim Reese[jr@u-ww.com]
14 **Subject:** Re: Delay 30 minutes
15
16 Hi Jim,
17 I realize I forgot to reply to this email. Thank you for the further explanation. I think Gaurav is
18 an interesting guy, with a smart perspective. The hitch on my end is that he A: has no public
19 profile and B: works in a business and on issues that are somewhat opaque to the general reader.
20 Which makes him a bit of a tough sell to my editors as a subject. But perhaps you could keep me
21 in the loop moving forward and if there are any newsworthy events or projects coming, we could
22 maybe peg an interview to one of those.
23
24 Alright, thank you for your time and my apologies for being slow to respond.
25
26 Best,
27 David

28 215. In a spreadsheet of past due expenses Mr. Reese prepared on May 26, 2023,
he listed “armstrong \$25,000” and “armstrong article \$10,000.”³⁵ The website for
Thyblackman lists Armstrong Williams as a contributor.

³⁵ The document also showed amounts due to others such as Srivastava’s then-lobbyist Ankit Desai,
Maguire, Mary Beth Long, General Wesley Clark, former Australian SAS operator Gordon Conroy,
and Greg Schultz (Biden’s former campaign adviser).



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Invoice date	Vendor	cost
5/20/2023	Office insurance	\$1,690
3/3/2023	Eco Green Painters	\$2,710
3/9/2023	Eco Green Painters	\$9,980
3/20/2023	Westway Electirc Systems	\$26,605
5/1/2023	Eric Pluies	\$15,000
5/15/2023	Eric Plues	
5/13/2023	Arch Angel due diligence	\$5,000
4/15/2023	John Carafella IT office	\$31,000
5/1 23	John Carafella IT office	\$15,000
5/1/2023	JR	\$69,071
5/1/2023	Hunt	\$35,000
6/1/2023	office rents	\$25,000
		\$236,056
	armstrong article	\$10,000
	armstrong	\$25,000
	Ankit	\$15,000
	Greg	\$15,000
	Mcguire	\$15,000
	Mary beth	\$20,000
	Gen Clark	\$136,000
	Gordon Conroy	

216. Srivastava instructed Reese to email this false article to a U.S. Government official at the State Department:

From: Jim Reese[o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f8d096a3e58042b79680099fa2175a2a-fabb4692-2c]

Sent: Wed 5/17/2023 12:33:13 PM (UTC)

To: moffatga@state.gov[moffatga@state.gov]

Subject: Fwd: President of Russia Vladimir Putin's Hidden War—Niels Troost Crime Syndicate.

Glenn
 Thanks for coming down and meeting us. Appreciate you passing this to the Legat. See article below which just came out on our partner

all the Best
 Jim

James Reese
 Chief of Staff

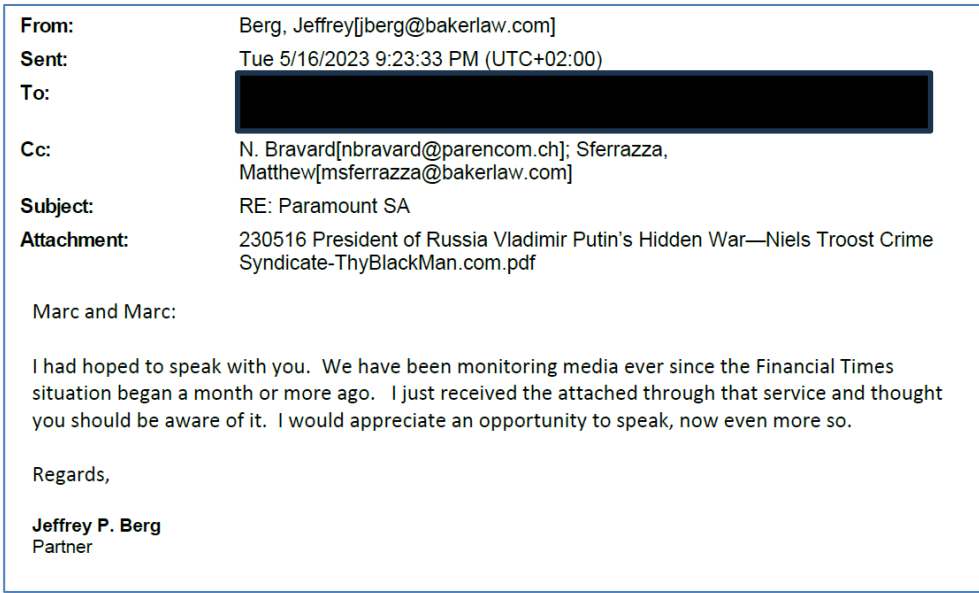
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Subject: President of Russia Vladimir Putin's Hidden War—Niels Troost Crime Syndicate.

<https://thyblackman.com/2023/05/16/president-of-russia-vladimir-putins-hidden-war-niels-troost-crime-syndicate/>



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2 217. Srivastava also directed Berg to send a copy to Plaintiffs’ Swiss counsel in an
3 effort to intimidate Plaintiffs into entering settlement discussions:



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14 218. Reese, who had direct knowledge of the operation, was present for
15 conversations in which Maguire and Srivastava discussed methods to damage Troost’s
16 reputation and drafted articles containing knowingly false allegations about Troost and his
17 company. Reese was alarmed when Srivastava and Maguire began targeting Troost’s 24-
18 year-old daughter living in New York.

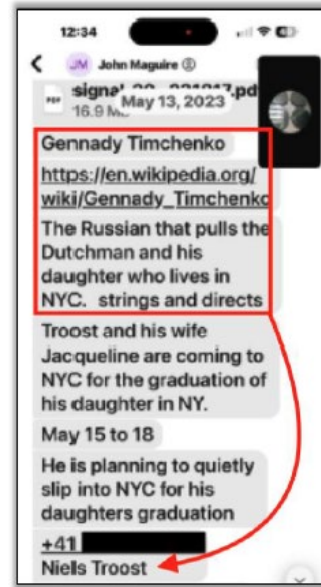
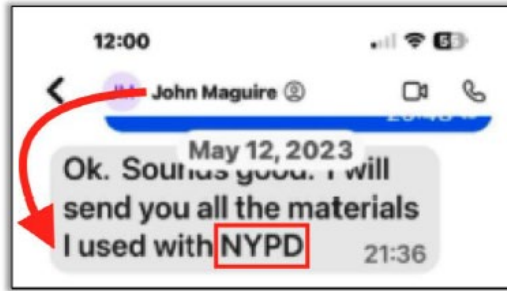
19 219. Maguire attempted to weaponize law enforcement by contacting individuals
20 within the New York City Police Department, sending them photographs of Troost’s
21 daughter, and falsely claiming she was part of an international criminal network linked to
22 Gennady Timchenko. According to Reese, Maguire told Srivastava that having the NYPD
23 question Troost’s daughter about fabricated allegations would pressure Troost into
24 transferring money to Srivastava.
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220. In December 2023 through at least February 2024, Srivastava, Maguire, and others also targeted Troost’s New York-based daughter via interstate emails to her employer falsely claiming she was a Russian spy and urging the employer to report her to the police for the purpose of pressuring Troost and to generate a negative outcome about the Troost family that could then be publicly reported to discredit Troost and to gain litigation advantages against the Plaintiffs so the Enterprise could obtain more money from Plaintiffs.

221. For example, on December 17, 2023, ukrainewomen.mother@proton.me sent an email to Mr. Troost’s daughter’s boss, copying “FCPA.fraud@usdoj.gov,” subject, “URGENT: RUSSIAN OLIGARCH IS [employer’s] INVESTOR,” stating in part: “It is quite disturbing to know that you have been funded by [Ms.] TROOST, the daughter of a wanted fugitive,/criminal . . . I have reported all of your companies and your network to law enforcement and I would advise you sincerely “selfreport” to appropriate law enforcement agencies on your interactions with [Ms.] TROOST. From our research, she([Ms.] TROOST) is a trained Russian spy who is trying to infiltrate into America on behalf of her father NIELS TROOST & GENADY TIMCHENKO. . . I hope you see the light and do the right thing and report [Ms.] TROOST to law enforcement. Do the right thing. God Bless.” The email also linked to articles about Mr. Troost planted by Srivastava and Maguire.

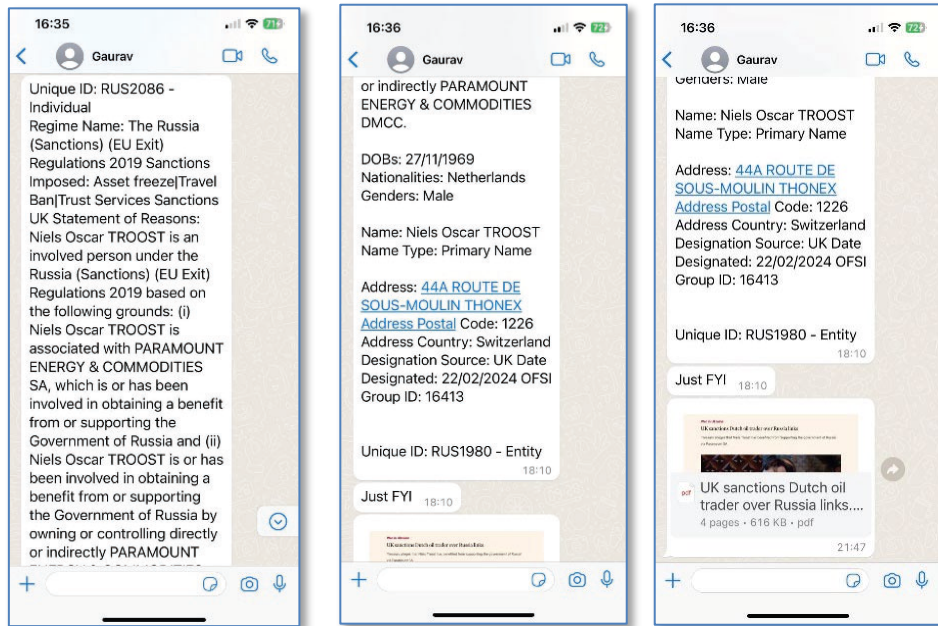


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222. The same day, “ukrainewomen.mother@proton.me” sent another email to Mr. Troost’s daughter’s employer, copying, among others, reporters Joe Wallace (*The Wall Street Journal*) and Tom Wilson (*The Financial Times*). The subject line was “RUSSIAN CRIMINAL: DAUGHTER NIELS TROOST – [employer],” and it said, “Attached are pictures of RUSSIAN AGENTS/employees of [Ms.] TROOST & RUSSIAN OLIGARCH CRIMINAL DAUGHTER NIELS TROOST, [Ms. NAME] TROOST.” The remainder of the email contained photographs of the Troost daughter and others pulled from her and others’ public social media accounts.

223. On February 22, 2024, the email address “Ukraine.freedom112233@proton.me” emailed Mr. Troost’s daughter’s employer in New York, with the subject line, “US/UK SANCTION: [Ms. Troost] NIELS TROOST,” stating in part: “How can your company pretend to care about women and children when you supporting Russian criminal financier NIELS OSCAR TROOST and his daughter [Ms.] TROOST.”

224. That same day, Srivastava and his team unleashed further attacks on Troost and his family, on information and belief. Srivastava sent the following messages to Arsari’s representative, Maria Foley, cutting and pasting the UK designation announcement, and attaching a particular FT article, “UK Sanctions Dutch Oil Trader Over Russia Links”:



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1 225. Also that day, Srivastava’s team, on information and belief, using the email
2 address “Ukraine.freedom112233@proton.me” sent another email to Ms. Troost’s boss,
3 subject line, “US/UK SANCTION: [Ms.] TROOST”: How can your company pretend to
4 care about women and children when you supporting Russian criminal financier NIELS
5 OSCAR TROOST and his daughter [Ms.] TROOST. See the Below, so you can do the right
6 thing and cut ties to funding going to killing of innocent Ukrainian women and children.
7 Attached is a Financial Times article that was published today about the NIELS OSCAR
8 TROOST. PLEASE NOTE [Ms.] TROOST IS IN POSSESSION OF SANCTIONED
9 MONEY FROM HER FATHER CRIMINAL NIELS OSCAR TROOST.

10 226. It attached the same FT article and cut and pasted the same portion of the
11 sanction designation announcement that Srivastava simultaneously sent to Maria Foley:

Unique ID: RUS2086 - Individual
Regime Name: The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 Sanctions Imposed: Asset freeze Travel Ban Trust Services Sanctions UK Statement of Reasons: Niels Oscar TROOST is an involved person under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 based on the following grounds: (i) Niels Oscar TROOST is associated with PARAMOUNT ENERGY & COMMODITIES SA, which is or has been involved in obtaining a benefit from or supporting the Government of Russia and (ii) Niels Oscar TROOST is or has been involved in obtaining a benefit from or supporting the Government of Russia by owning or controlling directly or indirectly PARAMOUNT ENERGY & COMMODITIES DMCC.
DOB: 27/11/1969
Nationalities: Netherlands
Genders: Male
Name: Niels Oscar TROOST Name Type: Primary Name
Address: 44A ROUTE DE SOUS-MOULIN THONEX Address Postal Code: 1226 Address Country: Switzerland
Designation Source: UK Date Designated: 22/02/2024 OFSI Group ID: 16413

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18 227. Overall, the anonymous attacks against Ms. Troost, aimed at her employer,
19 bore Srivastava’s hallmarks, on information and belief: (1) they directly targeted Ms.
20 Troost, consistent with the tactics Srivastava and Maguire discussed in front of Jim Reese;
21 (2) they included allegations similar to those Srivastava and Mr. Maguire were perpetuating
22 in the media; (3) they, at times, contained extra spaces around punctuation marks like Mr.
23 Reese had observed Srivastava write and are observed in other Srivastava messages; (4) one
24 ended “God Bless,” just as Srivastava sometimes ended his communications; (5) one copied
25 “FCPA.fraud@usdoj.gov,” the same email address Lascari had contacted on Srivastava’s
26 behalf on June 14, 2023³⁶; and (6) the last one was sent out in tandem with and was identical

27 ³⁶ The DOJ acknowledged receipt on July 10, 2023, and Srivastava sent it to Maria Foley. This is
28 an unusual use of the DOJ email public tipline for reporting violations of the Foreign Corrupt
Practices Act. The FCPA generally does not apply to Troost as a non-U.S. person. Also, reporting
to the DOJ tipline is not often effective in starting a criminal investigation. Their tactic appears to



1 in all material respects to what Srivastava personally sent to Maria Foley.

2 228. The Srivastava Enterprise orchestrated a similar scheme targeting Troost’s
3 son. In September 2024, Srivastava, Maguire, and others caused international email
4 communications to be sent from fake journalists, “emma.kleinish@gmail.com” and
5 “lisa.hagenn@gmail.com” to Troost’s son’s university in the United Kingdom in an attempt
6 to cause the school to expel his son for the purpose of pressuring Troost and to generate a
7 negative outcome about the Troost family that could then be publicly reported to discredit
8 Troost and to gain litigation advantages against the Plaintiffs so the Enterprise could obtain
9 more money from Plaintiffs.

10 229. Srivastava and Maguire also planted fabricated stories in online media
11 Intelligence Online, claiming that Srivastava had uncovered illegal Russian dealings by
12 Troost. For example, Srivastava and Maguire planted an article on
13 www.intelligenceonline.com on May 31, 2023,³⁷ that contained a number of false
14 allegations, including that “Troost has largely gone underground”; Mr. Troost “recently
15 cancelled a trip to New York”; Mr. Troost “secretly co-owned a California-based shell
16 company”; “Troost’s former partner provided information to law enforcement in the US
17 and abroad about his alleged sanctions busting”; “Troost cancelled a scheduled visit to New
18 York to attend his daughter’s 17 May college graduation”; that Srivastava commissioned
19 an audit “after he became concerned Troost was defrauding the California company”;
20 “Troost falsely established himself as the sole owner of the California company and used
21 its account to conduct international business”; and that an audit showed that Mr. Troost had
22 “extensive, ongoing dealings” with a U.S.-sanctioned oligarch. Maguire, on information
23 and belief, communicated much of the substance of these false allegations to the
24 Intelligence Online “reporter” via international wire communications. The reporter was the
25 same one to whom Maguire had fed negative information about fake CIA officer Matthew

26 _____
27 have been to generate a return receipt from the DOJ that Srivastava could use to claim that the DOJ
28 was investigating Troost. To date, there is no indication that Troost is the subject of a U.S.
investigation.

37 See [FBI alerted of Russian oil trader Niels Troost’s secret US business interests](#), Intelligence
Online (May 31, 2023).



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1 Marshall’s fraud victim for Marshall.

2 230. In or about June 5, 2023, Srivastava and others caused Berg, who had
3 formerly represented PECSA and PDMCC, to draft a letter to be circulated to third parties
4 via email and text and used as a court exhibit against the Plaintiffs that falsely portrayed the
5 events involving the Plaintiffs and Defendants, materially omitted facts about the Srivastava
6 Enterprise’s crimes against the Plaintiffs, and attached a resume of Srivastava that claimed
7 he is “an American businessman” (false) who graduated from the University of Southern
8 California at age 18 with a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering (false) and joined Paramount
9 in 2019 (false):

BakerHostetler

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F 310.820.8859
www.bakerlaw.com

June 5, 2023

Jeffrey P. Berg
direct dial: 310-442-8850
jberg@bakerlaw.com

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this explanation pertaining to how Gaurav Srivastava¹ (“Mr. Srivastava”) became business partners with Niels Troost (“Mr. Troost”). I have represented Mr. Srivastava and his multiple business interest for more than a decade. Mr. Srivastava indirectly acquired from Mr. Troost’s personal holding company, EZI-Diaroc Holding SA (“EZI”), half of the issued and outstanding equity securities of Paramount Energy & Commodities SA (“Paramount SA”).

As illustrated below, Mr. Troost specifically sought out and targeted Mr. Srivastava for the perceived benefit that partnering with him would bring Mr. Troost, and Mr. Troost abruptly rescinded Mr. Srivastava’s interest in Paramount SA (the “Breakup”) when such benefit was no longer perceived to be significant. By that time, Mr. Srivastava had already expended significant time and resources into the venture that Mr. Troost induced him to join as a 50% shareholder.

¹ See CV of Mr. Srivastava attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Atlanta Chicago Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus
Los Angeles New York Orlando Philadelphia San Francisco

Gaurav Srivastava

100 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phn: (██████████) ██████████ Email: g@unitysourcesgroup.com

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Gaurav Srivastava is an American businessman and entrepreneur based out of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Srivastava comes from a multi-generational family who have been involved in various successful business ventures across the globe. Mr. Srivastava is known for being an architect of complex financial and security related challenges. His business organizations include, but are not limited to, defense security, maintenance, repair and overhaul for military/civilian aircraft, commodities trading, including oil and gas as well as agricultural commodities. Mr. Srivastava leadership guidance and strategic drive continue to sustain the steady growth of all his companies. Most recently, Mr. Srivastava was instrumental in shipping wheat and corn from the “grain corridor.” This was instrumental in helping to address the food crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Srivastava also has a joint venture for Asia with Arsari Group and its chairman, Hashim Djojohadikusumo.

Mr. Srivastava is involved in many philanthropic endeavors through his foundation for animal conservation across Asia and Africa. He also has several education programs for education of 14,000 children across Asia and Africa.

PRIMARY BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

PARAMOUNT

In 2019, Mr. Srivastava acquired an ownership stake and a senior management role in Paramount Energy and Commodities S.A. (“Paramount”). Paramount is a privately held commodities trading

EDUCATION

University of Southern California
BS Aeronautical Engineering – 2008



1 231. Srivastava escalated the smear campaign by creating anonymous websites,
2 including “sanctionnielstroost.com,” which falsely portrayed Troost as a criminal, as well
3 as his family. In doing so, on information and belief, Srivastava and others caused interstate
4 and international emails to be exchanged with the website hosting company in Arizona and
5 also coordinated these activities via interstate wire amongst themselves.

6 **4. The Srivastava Enterprise Launches a Coordinated Effort to**
7 **Deflect Responsibility and Continue the Enterprise**

8 232. Srivastava’s scheme seemingly began to unravel when reputable journalists
9 exposed his own misconduct. On October 10, 2023, Project Brazen published an expose of
10 the Srivastava Enterprise’s crimes, titled *The Old ‘I’m a Secret Spy, Pay Me’ Con*.³⁸
11 Defendants Srivastava, Maguire, and others made the damaging (but factually accurate)
12 article disappear from Internet searches by issuing a Digital Millenium Copyright Act notice
13 under the name “Sherrie Hagen.” “Hagen” claimed she published the content of the article
14 first on Tumblr and that Project Brazen had violated her copyright by plagiarizing it. But
15 this was false. The post by “Hagen” purporting to be the original article was created in
16 November, *after* the Project Brazen article. On information and belief, these defendants
17 used interstate wire communications to coordinate and to submit the false copyright claim
18 for the purpose of avoiding detection, investigation, and prosecution, and to protect the
19 Enterprise’s reputation as they attempted to complete their fraud scheme by obtaining
20 control over all of Paramount’s assets.

21 233. In February 2024, the Atlantic Council severed all ties with Srivastava,
22 despite his donations exceeding \$1 million, after discovering that he had lied about properly
23 registering his foundation as a 501(c)(3) and could not verify other basic aspects of his
24 background.³⁹

25 234. Democratic political figures later froze or returned Srivastava’s donations,
26

27 ³⁸ Soobin Kim and Bradley Hope, [The Old ‘I’m a Spy, Pay Me’ Con](#), Project Brazen (Oct. 10,
2023).

28 ³⁹ Caitlin Oprysko, [The China lobbying terminations continue](#), Politico (Feb. 23, 2024); *see also*
David Lippman, X, [@dlippman](#) (Feb. 23, 2024).



1 after learning he was not credible.

2 235. Additional exposure followed in late 2024, when *The Wall Street Journal*
3 published a detailed investigative article supported by messages, financial records,
4 affidavits, and recorded calls. The article dismantled Srivastava's public persona and
5 confirmed his fraudulent conduct. With further scrutiny pending—particularly from *The*
6 *Financial Times*—Srivastava attempted to deflect blame.⁴⁰

7 236. Srivastava and the Enterprise responded by hiring The Arkin Group, an
8 investigative firm with real ex-CIA ties, and Victoria Kataoka, a former NYPD intelligence
9 specialist, to push a false counter-narrative accusing Troost of running a disinformation
10 campaign. This was another deliberate attempt to obscure Srivastava and the Enterprise's
11 misconduct.

12 237. As *The Financial Times* prepared its exposé, Srivastava, Arkin, and their
13 associates crafted and publicly promoted a story portraying Srivastava as a wealthy
14 American businessman betrayed by Troost. *The Financial Times* conducted a substantial
15 investigation. They reviewed sworn affidavits and business records, conducted multiple
16 interviews, and listened to recordings of Srivastava himself falsely claiming CIA ties. *The*
17 *Financial Times* found that Srivastava did not produce any credible witnesses or evidence
18 to substantiate his narrative.⁴¹

19 238. Despite these findings, the enterprise continued to push its disinformation
20 campaign through pay-to-publish outlets such as *TechBullion* and *EU Policies*.⁴² These
21 sites, which accept paid submissions, published articles portraying Srivastava as the victim
22 of a global conspiracy led by Troost. These stories mirrored the themes Arkin and Kataoka
23 promoted and served to amplify the false narrative.

24 239. Srivastava's team also created additional websites, including

25 _____
26 ⁴⁰ Joe Wallace, [A Fake Spy, Russian Oil and \\$1 Million Funneled to Democrats](#), Wall Street Journal
(Aug. 27, 2024).

27 ⁴¹ Tom Wilson, [Niels Troost has a staggering story to tell about how he got sanctioned](#), Financial
Times (Dec. 14, 2024).

28 ⁴² Luke Wright, [The Weaponization of Lies: How Gaurav Srivastava's Life Became a Battlefield](#),
TechBullion (Dec. 23, 2024); Editor Team, [How a Shadowy Disinformation Campaign Targeted
Gaurav Srivastava](#), EU Policies (Dec. 5, 2024).



1 “officialgauravsrivastava.com” and “gauravsrivastavascandal.com,” that falsely accused
2 Troost and his advisors of running a disinformation operation. These sites included videos
3 featuring Kataoka and other content intended to discredit Troost.

4 240. The Enterprise expanded its campaign onto video and audio platforms,
5 launching a YouTube channel and later sponsoring a podcast titled Targeted, produced by
6 Next Chapter Podcasts in California. On information and belief, this podcast was a
7 contrivance by Vantage and Aron Shaviv (a personal friend of the host), working with The
8 Arkin Group. Although marketed as a show about victims of disinformation, the episodes
9 concerning Srivastava—released in March 2025—served primarily as a promotional tool
10 for his false narrative. These episodes incorporated scripted storylines and manufactured
11 “digital artifacts” to lend credibility to the lies.

12 241. In the podcast, host Zach Abramowitz interviewed Kataoka, who repeated her
13 earlier claims and emphasized her firm’s supposed due diligence of Srivastava. She was
14 presented as a credible investigator who had independently validated Srivastava’s story.
15 The podcast was distributed widely and accumulated more than 1.2 million views,
16 becoming a central component of Srivastava’s strategy to recast himself as a victim.⁴³

17 242. For her part, Sharon Srivastava also spread press articles falsely claiming to
18 be the victim of a disinformation campaign waged by Troost.⁴⁴

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23 _____
24 ⁴³ Podcasting Today, *Targeted Podcast hits 1.2 million listeners in three months*, (July 2, 2025).

25 ⁴⁴ See, e.g., *The Woman in the Crossfire: How Sharon Srivastava’s Life Was Shattered by a*
26 *Manufactured Scandal*, Canyon News (May 20, 2025), available at [https://www.canyon-](https://www.canyon-news.com/the-woman-in-the-crossfire-how-sharon-srivastavas-life-was-shattered-by-a-manufactured-scandal/)
27 [news.com/the-woman-in-the-crossfire-how-sharon-srivastavas-life-was-shattered-by-a-](https://www.canyon-news.com/the-woman-in-the-crossfire-how-sharon-srivastavas-life-was-shattered-by-a-manufactured-scandal/)
28 [manufactured-scandal/](https://www.canyon-news.com/the-woman-in-the-crossfire-how-sharon-srivastavas-life-was-shattered-by-a-manufactured-scandal/); Chris Bates, *Sharon Srivastava and the High Cost of Online*
Misinformation, BreakingAC.com (June 6, 2025), available at
[https://breakingac.com/news/2025/jun/06/sharon-srivastava-and-the-high-cost-of-online-](https://breakingac.com/news/2025/jun/06/sharon-srivastava-and-the-high-cost-of-online-misinformation/)
[misinformation/](https://breakingac.com/news/2025/jun/06/sharon-srivastava-and-the-high-cost-of-online-misinformation/); Rana Maqsood, *Sharon Srivastava and the Human Cost of a Digital*
Disinformation Campaign, The Financial (June 11, 2025), available at
[https://finchannel.com/sharon-srivastava-and-the-human-cost-of-a-digital-disinformation-](https://finchannel.com/sharon-srivastava-and-the-human-cost-of-a-digital-disinformation-campaign/126392/b-schools-2/2025/06/)
[campaign/126392/b-schools-2/2025/06/](https://finchannel.com/sharon-srivastava-and-the-human-cost-of-a-digital-disinformation-campaign/126392/b-schools-2/2025/06/).



243. Parallel to this media offensive, Guarav Srivastava sought to rebuild political influence. After long aligning with Democratic figures, Srivastava shifted toward Republican circles following his exposure. He appeared on conservative podcasts. He presented a speech to a conservative audience at a political convention in Las Vegas. And, in June 2025, he even posted a photograph with Vice President J.D. Vance, claiming to be working with him. Srivastava did this to regain political clout and potentially use governmental contacts to retaliate further against Troost and perpetuate the scheme. However, Srivastava still maintained his close ties with the Biden family:⁴⁵



244. This effort to restore political capital was only one facet of the Enterprise's attempt to survive exposure. Even after losing access to Troost and PECSA, the Enterprise adapted and continued its racketeering activities through new schemes built on the same false CIA persona.

5. After Failing with Troost, Srivastava and the Enterprise Continue Running New Fraud Schemes

245. After Troost expelled Srivastava from PECSA—cutting off the Enterprise's ability to exploit Plaintiffs for financial gain—the Srivastava Enterprise did not disband. Instead, it continued operating and, on information and belief, engaged in at least two

⁴⁵ Josh Boswell, *Desperate, broke and his meal ticket dad powerless, Hunter Biden is caught in a cozy lunch with a controversial guest...*, DailyMail.com (Mar. 30, 2025). In fact, Hunter Biden's daughter, Naomi Biden, lives in a house owned by Sharon Srivastava. *See Vance's Link to the Dems Donor Who Is a Friend of the Bidens*, The Daily Beast (Oct. 17, 2025), available at <https://www.thedailybeast.com/did-vances-new-friend-tell-vp-hes-a-biden-landlord>.



1 additional schemes in which Srivastava once again posed as a well-connected CIA “NOC”
2 to pursue profit and influence.

3 246. As alleged above in paragraphs 150 to 151, the Enterprise targeted Murtaza
4 Lakhani, a well-known and prolific Russian oil dealer in late May 2023.

5 247. And, in or around November 2023, a person who had attended the Dubai
6 meeting with the National Security Advisor for Iraq received a phone call from Srivastava.
7 During the call, Srivastava discussed the falling-out with Plaintiffs and proposed additional
8 business opportunities. Srivastava explained what allegedly happens “when he is crossed.”
9 He claimed that Paramount had been sanctioned and effectively shuttered, that Troost’s
10 phone was being monitored, and that INTERPOL would soon issue a Red Notice for Troost.
11 Srivastava then underscored the point with a threat he had previously made to Troost: “If
12 you come at the king, you best not miss.” Srivastava said he had warned Troost that if Troost
13 “puts a sword” to him, he should make sure Srivastava was dead and not merely hurt.

14 248. Srivastava asked whether the National Security Advisor for Iraq they had met
15 in Dubai had followed up with him about the supposed terrorists. When he said no,
16 Srivastava abruptly shifted topics, asking whether he could connect him with a source who
17 would sell high-sulfur diesel for cash out of the Ceyhan port in Turkey.

18 249. The next day, Srivastava called again. He said that because Troost had “turned
19 against” him, the U.S. government—specifically the U.S. Treasury Department—was now
20 scrutinizing PECSA and its oil-trading activities. He also claimed he was engaged in various
21 unspecified “government things” in a Middle Eastern country in which the U.S. government
22 purportedly had business interests.

23 250. After Srivastava’s calls, Maguire contacted the person. Maguire asked him to
24 reconnect Maguire and Srivastava with the Iraqi National Security Advisor, claiming they
25 wished to discuss expanding oil operations in Iraq through a new company allegedly
26 registered in both Geneva and California. Maguire also represented that he was working on
27 this project with the “Deputy Director of the CIA.”

28 251. Maguire used the call to disparage Troost, alleging falsely that Troost had

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1 “stolen all of Plaintiffs’ money,” that the UAE government had frozen Troost’s funds and
2 would transfer them to Srivastava to support the new company, and that Troost was a
3 fugitive on sanctions lists and being pursued by multiple countries.

4 252. On information and belief, Srivastava traveled to Iraq as part of this scheme
5 in November 2023, January 2024, June 2024, and October 2024.

6 253. Also in or about November 2023, months after Srivastava was expelled from
7 Paramount, Srivastava and Bravard attempted to defraud a new victim—the majority owner
8 of Swiss Bank. The intended victim’s bank, at that time, had been subject to U.S. sanctions
9 because of its past as the Swiss subsidiary of a Russian Bank, even though the takeover of
10 the Swiss Bank had been approved in advance by Swiss and U.S. authorities. Bravard
11 contacted the banker in Switzerland and falsely represented that he and Srivastava could
12 convince OFAC to remove the Swiss Bank from the U.S. sanctions list in exchange for a
13 10% ownership stake in the bank. On information and belief, Srivastava and Bravard
14 coordinated this scheme through international wire communications, with Srivastava in the
15 U.S. and Bravard in Switzerland, and elsewhere.

16 254. In August 2025, Srivastava spoke at the America First-Ground Zero
17 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, introduced by famous conservative podcaster Laura
18 Logan. The speech is available [here](#). He introduced himself as “an energy investor from
19 California”; his official website claims his speech “addressed the urgent need for America
20 to defend its strategic and economic interests both at home and abroad. From the power of
21 oil as an intelligence tool to the corrosive influence of entrenched networks in Washington,
22 he outlined how policy sabotage weakens US security and prosperity, and called for unity
23 in safeguarding America’s leadership on the world stage.” Through his prominent
24 appearance at the conference, as well as recent efforts to infiltrate those close to the current
25 administration, Srivastava was continuing his Enterprise, attempting to fortify its
26 reputation, and trying to meet and impress wealthy potential new victims.

27
28



FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c)

(Against All Defendants)

255. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 254 in this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

256. Section 1962(c) makes it “unlawful for any person employed by or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise’s affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity.” 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c).

257. At all relevant times, each Defendant was a “person” within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1961(3), being capable of holding “a legal or beneficial interest in property.”

258. The Srivastava Enterprise is an association-in-fact enterprise within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961(4) and 1962(c). Defendants did not operate as isolated or independent actors; they acted as coordinated and interdependent participants in a single, ongoing criminal organization with a common illicit purpose. That purpose was designed to con and extort individuals and legitimate businesses—including and principally Plaintiffs—out of tens of millions of dollars, and to launder the proceeds to conceal their source and to promote the criminal schemes.

259. The Enterprise executed its fraud by misrepresenting its connections, relationships, and access to U.S. government officials; falsely claiming that certain key members—particularly Srivastava—were deep-cover “non-official cover” CIA operatives or worked for the FBI or other intelligence agencies; and fabricating a covert “Program” that Srivastava allegedly ran and that Defendants falsely claimed would ensure U.S. government protection, prevent sanctions, and provide privileged access to high-level officials. These misrepresentations were designed to gain the trust of unwary victims, including Plaintiffs, and to coerce them into entrusting Defendants with corporate control and tens of millions of dollars, which Defendants then stole. To cover their tracks and maintain leverage over victims, the Enterprise laundered its ill-gotten gains and engaged in



1 campaigns of intimidation, defamation, and extortion, all to conceal the scheme, silence
2 exposure, and sustain its ongoing criminal operations.

3 260. At all relevant times, the Srivastava Enterprise engaged in, and its activities
4 affected, interstate and foreign commerce. These activities were carried out through
5 coordinated use of interstate and international electronic communications, financial
6 institutions, law firm trust accounts, and a network of corporate vehicles designed to
7 obscure beneficial ownership, fabricate legitimacy, and facilitate the movement of illicit
8 proceeds.

9 261. At the center of the Enterprise was Gaurav Srivastava, who posed as a
10 clandestine “non-official cover” CIA operative and repeatedly claimed privileged access to
11 senior U.S. officials, law-enforcement authorities, and regulators. Other Defendants and
12 Enterprise associates knowingly propagated, reinforced, and legitimized this false narrative;
13 executed corporate and financial maneuvers to obtain, divert, or seize Plaintiffs’ property;
14 and defended the scheme through intimidation, defamation, misdirection, and obstruction.

15 262. Defendants Cedar West, Unity Resources Group, Orbimo, Unicom
16 Worldwide, 1234 Holding, Birdsong, Aurora Point, and the Foundation were incorporated,
17 controlled, used, or manipulated by members of the Enterprise to hold, move, and launder
18 illicit proceeds; to mask ownership and the flow of funds; and to create the false appearance
19 of legitimate business activity.

20 263. The Enterprise possessed an ascertainable structure and functioned
21 continuously over a multi-year period. Srivastava devised strategy, directed operations, and
22 served as the public face of the fraudulent intelligence narrative. Defendant Bravard acted
23 as a proxy and shareholding front in Switzerland, helping to secure and disguise control of
24 companies targeted by the Enterprise.

25 264. Defendants Onouye and Lascari—both attorneys—formed companies for the
26 Enterprise, drafted sham agreements, and opened and managed bank accounts through
27 which the Enterprise received, transferred, and dispersed the illicit proceeds in order to
28 conceal the schemes and promote their activities.



1 265. Defendant Maguire was deployed as a purported intelligence and national-
2 security expert to lend credibility to the narrative, to communicate with foreign officials,
3 and to reinforce the deception that the Enterprise was operating under U.S. government
4 authority.

5 266. Defendant Global Energy Law Group and various law-firm trust (IOLTA)
6 accounts were used to receive and transfer funds and transfer funds in a way that created
7 the appearance of legitimate legal activity and concealed the unlawful nature and
8 destination of the money.

9 267. Other members of the Enterprise performed operational tasks such as
10 managing internal communications, sending documents, coordinating with foreign
11 intermediaries, “vetting” potential victims; initiating wire transfers; and maintaining
12 ongoing interstate and international communications via email, secure messaging
13 platforms, and phone or video calls.

14 268. At all relevant times, the Srivastava Enterprise: (a) functioned as a continuing
15 unit with an ascertainable structure separate and distinct from the individual predicate acts;
16 (b) shared a common purpose of executing and expanding the fraudulent and extortionate
17 scheme to obtain millions of dollars from victims; (c) maintained systematic linkages
18 among members through interpersonal and contractual relationships, financial ties, shared
19 communications, and ongoing coordination; and (d) possessed sufficient longevity to
20 permit the Enterprise to pursue, adapt, and continue its unlawful objectives.

21 269. The Enterprise existed and operated with longevity independent of any single
22 transaction. Its formation predated its approach to Plaintiffs, and its activities continued
23 long after Plaintiffs terminated their contractual relationship with the Enterprise. Even after
24 the fraud was exposed, Enterprise members shifted to new victims, continued efforts to
25 extract funds from individuals and entities associated with the original schemes, and
26 persisted in using the same fabricated intelligence narrative, the same methods of moving
27 and hiding funds, and the same tactics for spreading false and misleading information.

28 270. The Srivastava Enterprise is distinct from the pattern of racketeering activity

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1 described herein. Its existence is demonstrated by its recruitment, coordination, oversight,
2 and deployment of numerous individuals who performed ongoing administrative, financial,
3 and professional tasks beyond the individual predicate acts of wire fraud, extortion, and
4 money laundering—including creating and maintaining business records, negotiating and
5 executing agreements, managing corporate structures, and handling the bookkeeping and
6 accounting necessary to receive, distribute, and disguise the proceeds of the fraudulent
7 scheme.

8 271. The Enterprise engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity comprised of
9 repeated violations of federal wire fraud, extortion, Travel Act, and money laundering
10 statutes, including 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1951, 1952, 1956, and 1957. These predicate acts—
11 which began no later than 2019 and have occurred continuously and systematically to the
12 present day—included, but were not limited to:

- 13 • manufacturing and disseminating false claims of CIA affiliation, OFAC
14 authorization, and U.S. government backing to induce victims to enter into
15 relationships with Srivastava for monetary gain and to induce Plaintiffs to
16 restructure their companies and cede control of corporate assets;
- 17 • fraudulently obtaining a 50% stake in PECSA and positioning Srivastava-
18 controlled entities to seize the remainder of Plaintiffs’ business operations;
- 19 • directing multi-million-dollar transfers under sham “legal services,”
20 fabricating “Program operations,” and falsifying consulting arrangements;
- 21 • diverting and laundering proceeds through law-firm trust accounts, U.S. and
22 foreign shell entities, and real-estate acquisitions—including the purchase of
23 a \$25 million Los Angeles mansion using proceeds of the scheme;
- 24 • engineering cross-border loan and note structures to access Plaintiffs’ liquid
25 funds;
- 26 • deploying political donations, staged public-relations events, and promotional
27 appearances to lend credibility to the fabricated intelligence persona; and
- 28 • conducting disinformation, smear campaigns, intimidation, and threats—



1 including threats directed at Plaintiffs’ children—to preserve leverage,
2 suppress exposure, obstruct investigations, and coerce continued payments.
3 These acts were related in purpose, participants, method, victims, and results, and they pose
4 a continuing threat of ongoing criminal activity.

5 272. Defendants aided and abetted others in the violations of the above federal
6 laws, rendering them indictable as principals in the 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1951, 1952, 1956
7 and 1957 offenses.

8 273. Each Defendant participated, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the
9 Enterprise’s affairs, shared in its illicit proceeds, and knowingly furthered the scheme by
10 incorporating and managing shell entities; drafting, circulating, and executing sham
11 instruments; opening and controlling bank and trust accounts; initiating, approving, or
12 processing wire transfers; misrepresenting government positions and intelligence
13 “Programs”; organizing political and public-relations fronts; and disseminating false
14 narratives, threats, and defamatory materials.

15 274. Defendants knew their actions would cause harm to Plaintiffs. Nevertheless,
16 they knowingly participated in the Enterprise and engaged in schemes of deception that
17 utilized the internet and wire transfers as part of their fraud, extortion, and money
18 laundering activities in order to steal funds from Plaintiffs by means of false pretenses,
19 misrepresentations and omissions, and extortion.

20 275. As a direct and proximate result of the Enterprise’s conduct, Plaintiffs
21 suffered substantial damages, including loss of funds, coerced transfers of corporate control,
22 regulatory exposure, reputational harm, impairment of business operations, and significant
23 investigation and remediation costs.

24 276. By reason of their injury, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory, punitive, and
25 treble damages, pre- and post-judgment interest, attorney’s fees, costs incurred in bringing
26 this action, and any other relief the Court deems just and proper.
27
28

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d)

(Against All Defendants)

277. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 276 contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

278. Section 1962(d) makes it unlawful for “any person to conspire to violate” Section 1962(c), among other provisions. 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d).

279. The Srivastava Enterprise is an enterprise engaged in and whose activities affect interstate commerce for the purpose of stealing and defrauding funds from Plaintiffs.

280. Defendants are employed by and/or associated with the Srivastava Enterprise, as applicable.

281. The Defendants and the Srivastava Enterprise have knowingly agreed, combined and conspired to conduct and/or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the Srivastava Enterprise’s affairs, as applicable, through a pattern of racketeering activity consisting of repeated violations of the federal wire fraud, extortion, Travel Act, and money laundering statutes in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1951, 1952, 1956, and 1957.

282. Defendants knew of, agreed to and acted in furtherance of the common overall objective (i.e., to steal funds from Plaintiffs) by: (1) misrepresenting their connections, relationships, and access to U.S. government officials and national security leaders; (2) falsely representing that Srivastava was a deep-cover “non-official cover” operative for the CIA; (3) fabricating a covert “Program” purportedly run by Srivastava that would supposedly ensure that Defendants would be protected by the U.S. government; and (4) falsely guaranteeing that they could prevent Plaintiffs from being sanctioned by the U.S. government, all for the purpose of gaining the trust of their victims and coercing them to entrust Defendants with their assets, which Defendants ultimately stole.

283. The Srivastava Enterprise’s fraudulent conduct and participation in the racketeering activity described herein has directly and proximately caused Plaintiffs several

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1 millions of dollars in damages.

2 284. By reason of their injury, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory, punitive, and
3 treble damages, pre- and post-judgment interest, attorney’s fees, costs incurred in bringing
4 this action, and any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

5 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **Fraudulent Misrepresentation**

7 **(Against All Defendants)**

8 285. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 284
9 contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

10 286. Defendants knowingly and willfully executed the schemes described herein
11 with the intent to defraud Plaintiffs by, among other things: (1) misrepresenting their
12 connections, relationships, and access to U.S. government officials and national security
13 leaders; (2) falsely representing that Srivastava was a deep-cover “non-official cover”
14 operative for the CIA; (3) fabricating a covert “Program” purportedly run by Srivastava that
15 would supposedly ensure that Defendants would be protected by the U.S. government; and
16 (4) falsely guaranteeing that they could prevent Plaintiffs from being sanctioned by the U.S.
17 government.

18 287. Defendants’ representations were false.

19 288. Defendants made these false representations with full knowledge of their
20 falsity.

21 289. Defendants made these false representations with the intent that Plaintiffs rely
22 on them. More specifically, Defendants made these false representations for the purpose of
23 gaining Plaintiffs’ trust and coercing them to entrust Defendants with their assets, which
24 Defendants ultimately stole.

25 290. Plaintiffs reasonably, foreseeably, and justifiably relied on Defendants’
26 misrepresentations.

27 291. As a direct and proximate result of these misrepresentations by the
28 Defendants, Plaintiffs have suffered substantial damages.



1 292. Defendants, and each of them, knowingly and willfully conspired and entered
2 into an agreement among themselves to engage in this fraud, and in furtherance of that
3 agreement, engaged in each of the acts alleged herein.

4 293. Furthermore, on information and belief, this conspiracy remains ongoing as
5 Defendants continue to attempt to conceal their fraud through defamatory and extortionate
6 acts.

7 294. As set forth in detail above, Defendants acted maliciously, fraudulently, and
8 oppressively within the meaning of those terms as set forth in California Civil Code Section
9 3294, and as such, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants.

10 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Conversion**

12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 295. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 294
14 contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

15 296. Plaintiffs owned and had the right to possess its assets, including the funds
16 they obtained through their legitimate business activities.

17 297. Defendants substantially interfered with Plaintiffs’ property by knowingly or
18 intentionally taking possession of Plaintiffs’ funds.

19 298. Defendants took possession of Plaintiffs’ funds by (1) misrepresenting their
20 connections, relationships, and access to U.S. government officials and national security
21 leaders; (2) falsely representing that Srivastava was a deep-cover “non-official cover”
22 operative for the CIA; (3) fabricating a covert “Program” purportedly run by Srivastava that
23 would supposedly ensure that Defendants would be protected by the U.S. government; and
24 (4) falsely guaranteeing that they could prevent Plaintiffs from being sanctioned by the U.S.
25 government, all for the purpose of gaining Plaintiffs’ trust and coercing them to entrust
26 Defendants with their assets, which Defendants ultimately stole. Although Plaintiffs
27 voluntarily transferred funds to Defendants, Plaintiffs were defrauded and coerced into
28 doing so, and thus Defendants did not obtain consent.



1 299. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ conversion, Plaintiffs have
2 suffered substantial damages.

3 300. Defendants, and each of them, knowingly and willfully conspired and entered
4 into an agreement among themselves to engage in this conversion, and in furtherance of
5 that agreement, engaged in each of the acts alleged herein.

6 301. Furthermore, on information and belief, this conspiracy remains ongoing as
7 Defendants continue to attempt to conceal their conversion and publicly promote the image
8 of Srivastava through defamatory and extortionate acts, and fraudulent conveyances.

9 302. As set forth in detail above, Defendants acted maliciously, fraudulently, and
10 oppressively within the meaning of those terms as set forth in California Civil Code Section
11 3294, and as such, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover punitive damages from Defendants.

12 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.**

14 **(Against All Defendants)**

15 303. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 302
16 contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

17 304. Defendants engaged in unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business acts or
18 practices by misrepresenting information to Plaintiffs, including by (1) misrepresenting
19 their connections, relationships, and access to U.S. government officials and national
20 security leaders; (2) falsely representing that Srivastava was a deep-cover “non-official
21 cover” operative for the CIA; (3) fabricating a covert “Program” purportedly run by
22 Srivastava that would supposedly ensure that Defendants would be protected by the U.S.
23 government; and (4) falsely guaranteeing that they could prevent Plaintiffs from being
24 sanctioned by the U.S. government, all for the purpose of gaining Plaintiffs’ trust and
25 coercing them to entrust Defendants with their assets, which Defendants ultimately stole.

26 305. The actions of Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 1962 et seq. and 18 U.S.C. §
27 1343 et seq.
28

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306. As a result of these unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent practices, Plaintiffs have suffered substantial harm.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court:

- a. Award compensatory, punitive, and treble damages;
- b. Order the return of funds wrongfully obtained by Defendants;
- c. Award costs, attorney’s fees, and interest;
- d. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DATED: January 21, 2026

ROSEN ♦ SABA, LLP

By: _____

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