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13	Attorneys for Plaintiff UNITED STATES OF AMERICA					
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15	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT					
16	FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA					
17	SOUTHERN DIVISION					
18	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	SA CR No. 19-061-JVS				
19	Plaintiff,	GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR INQUIRY REGARDING DEFENDANT MICHAEL JOHN				
20	v.	AVENATTI'S POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF HIS CONDITIONS OF TEMPORARY				
21	MICHAEL JOHN AVENATTI,	RELEASE; DECLARATION OF JULIAN L.				
22	Defendant.					
23						
24						
25	Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel					
26	of record, the United States Attorney for the Central District of					
27	California and Assistant United States Attorneys Julian L. André and					
28	Brett A. Sagel, hereby files its r	request for the Court to conduct an				

inquiry regarding potential violations of defendant MICHAEL JOHN 1 2 AVENATTI's ("defendant") conditions of temporary release. 3 This submission is based upon the attached memorandum of points 4 and authorities, the declaration of Assistant United States Attorney 5 Julian L. André, the files and records in this case, and such further evidence and argument as the Court may permit. 6 7 Dated: June 7, 2020 Respectfully submitted, 8 NICOLA T. HANNA United States Attorney 9 BRANDON D. FOX 10 Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Criminal Division 11 12 ANDRÉ JULIAN L. 13 BRETT A. SAGEL Assistant United States Attorney 14 Attorneys for Plaintiff 15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

In April 2020, this Court ordered defendant MICHAEL JOHN AVENATTI ("defendant") temporarily released from custody pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i) due to the current public health crisis relating to COVID-19. (CR 140; CR 154.) Defendant was released to the custody of third-party custodian Jay Manheimer. (CR 140 ¶ 12; CR 154.) Among other things, the conditions of defendant's temporary release state that "defendant shall not possess, use, or access any digital devices that offer or allow internet access." (CR 140 ¶ 12; CR 154.) On or about April 13, 2020, Mr. Manheimer signed an Affidavit of Third-Party Custodian, Form CR 31, and Mr. Manheimer agreed to, among other things, notify Pretrial Services immediately if defendant violates a condition of release. (CR 143.) Based on the government's interview of Mr. Manheimer to approve him as a suitable Third-Party Custodian, Mr. Manheimer is not a lawyer.

As set forth below, defendant may have violated the conditions of his temporary release by using his third-party custodian Mr. Manheimer's computer to personally draft the past five documents that defendant has filed in this case. At a minimum, defendant and his counsel, H. Dean Steward, appear to have intentionally misled this Court when they claimed that defendant was unable to access a computer to review discovery in this case during the past six weeks (CR 164 at 2, ¶ 1; CR 167 at ¶ 3).

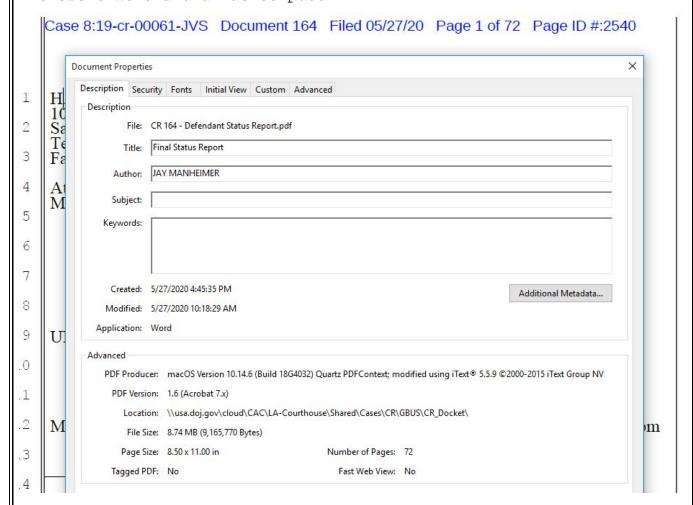
The government therefore requests that the Court hold a hearing to further inquire as to whether defendant has violated the conditions of his temporary release and provide the parties with an opportunity to address the appropriate remedy, if any, if defendant did in fact commit such violations.

2.1

2.7

Defendant's May 27, 2020, Status Report (CR 164)

On May 27, 2020, defendant, through counsel Mr. Steward, filed a 72-page Status Report, which included as exhibits four news articles pulled from the internet. (CR 164.) The metadata¹ for the Adobe PDF file that was submitted through the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 164) shows that the "Author" of the document was defendant's third-party custodian, "JAY MANHEIMER," and that the document was created using Microsoft Word and a Mac computer:



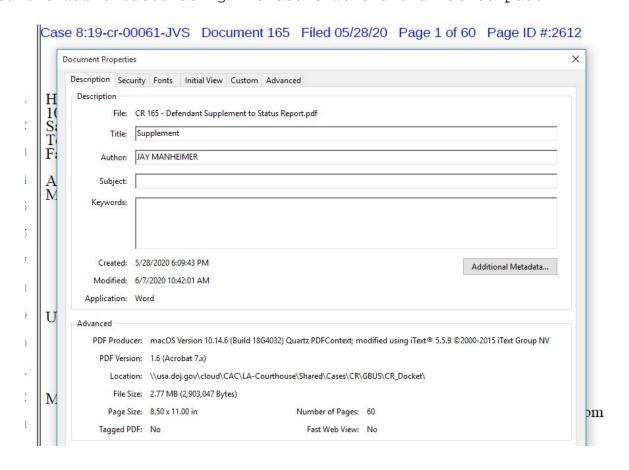
(<u>See</u> André Decl. Ex. 1.) Although the Status Report appears to be written and created using Mr. Manheimer's computer, defendant claimed

¹ The Court can view the metadata for each document defendant filed by opening the PDF file on a computer, clicking the "File" button on the top left, and selecting "Properties," and then selecting "Description."

in the Status Report that he was unable to review the discovery because he was precluded from using a computer. (CR 164 at 2, \P 1.)

Defendant's May 28, 2020, Supplement to Status Report (CR 165)

On May 28, 2020, defendant filed a Supplement to Status Report. (CR 165.) Defendant's Supplement attached another news article from the internet and an expert report that had been electronically filed in the Southern District of New York. (CR 165.) The metadata for the Adobe PDF file that was submitted through the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 165) shows that the "Author" of the document was defendant's third-party custodian, "JAY MANHEIMER," and that the document was created using Microsoft Word and a Mac computer:



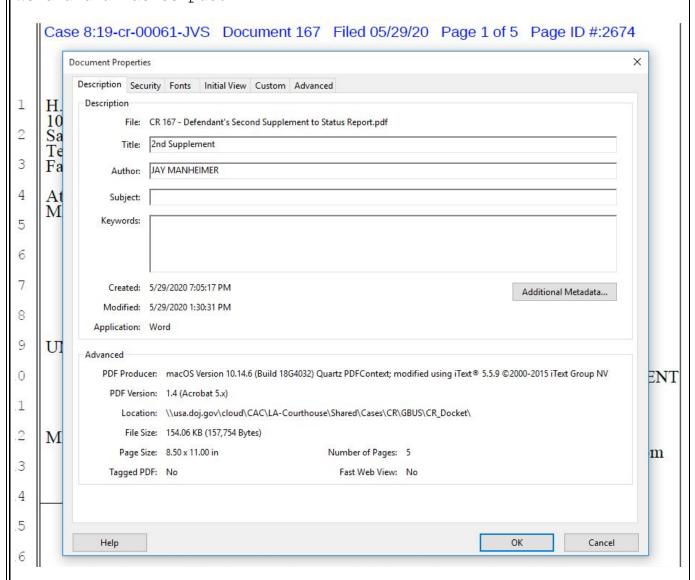
(See André Decl. Ex. 2.)

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2.2

Defendant's May 29, 2020, Second Supplement (CR 167)

In response to the Minute Order this Court issued on May 28, 2020 (CR 166), defendant filed a Second Supplement to Status Report (CR 167) on May 29, 2020. The metadata for the Adobe PDF file that was submitted through the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 167) shows that the "Author" of the document was defendant's third-party custodian, "JAY MANHEIMER," and that the document was created using Microsoft Word and a Mac computer:



(André Decl. Ex. 3.) Despite the Second Supplement to Status Report seemingly being created on Mr. Manheimer's computer, defendant stated

the he "believes the Court's suggestion [regarding a computer] is a good one and asks that the government work with the defense to accomplish this as quickly as possible." (CR 167 at 2.)

Defendant's June 5, 2020, Status Report (CR 172)

On June 5, 2020, defendant filed a Status Report in advance of the June 8, 2020, status conference. (CR 172.) The Status Report stated, among other things, that defendant was expected to receive a laptop computer to use to review the discovery on Monday, June 8, 2020. (CR 172 at 1.) The metadata for the Adobe PDF file that was submitted through the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 172) shows that the "Author" of the document was defendant's third-party custodian, "JAY MANHEIMER," and that the document was created using Microsoft Word and a Mac computer:



(André Decl. Ex. 4.)

2.1

Defendant's June 5, 2020, Memorandum (CR 174)

On June 5, 2020, defendant also filed a Memorandum re Allocation of Assets and the Impact on Defendant's Rights and the Trial Date.

(CR 174.) As with defendant's last four filings, the metadata for the Adobe PDF file that was submitted through the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 174) shows that the "Author" of the document was defendant's third-party custodian, "JAY MANHEIMER," and that the document was created using Microsoft Word and a Mac computer:

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	Description
	File: CR 174 - 2020.06.05 Def. Brief re Representation Issues.pdf
	Title:
	Author: JAY MANHEIMER
	Author: JAY MANHEIMER
	Subject:
	Keywords:
	Created: 6/5/2020 2:00:29 PM Additional Metadata
	Modified: 6/5/2020 2:07:34 PM
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	PDF Version: 1.6 (Acrobat 7.x)
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	File Size: 291.60 KB (298,594 Bytes)
	Page Size: 8.50 x 11.00 in Number of Pages: 16
	Tagged PDF: No Fast Web View: No

(André Decl. Ex. 5.)

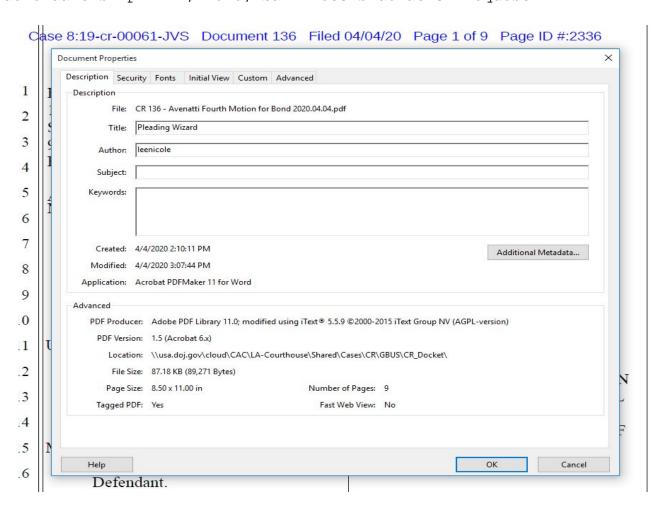
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2.1

Document's Previously Filed by Mr. Steward

The government has also reviewed a number of the documents Mr. Steward filed on defendant's behalf <u>before</u> defendant was temporarily released from custody in April 2020, including defendant's March 18, 2020, bail reconsideration request (CR 117), defendant's March 24, 2020, ex parte application for a continuance (CR 122), and defendant's April 4, 2020, bail reconsideration request (CR 136). The metadata for these three documents (CR 117; CR 122; CR 136), all have the author as "leenicole" and appear to have been created using a completely different computer and PDF generator.

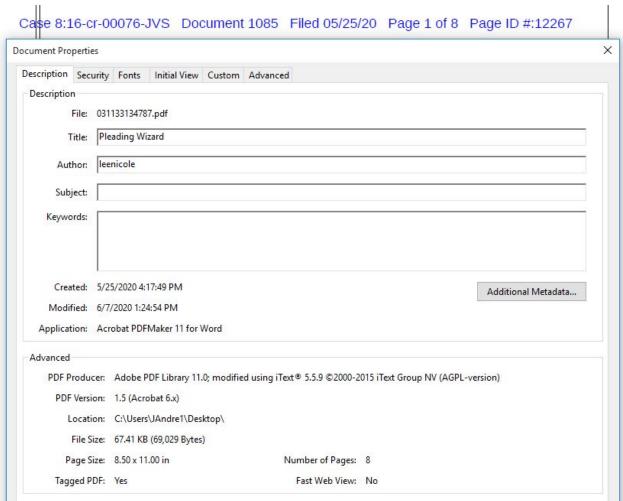
(See André Decl. Exs. 6-8.) For example, below is the metadata for defendant's April 4, 2020, bail reconsideration request:



2.2

(André Decl. Ex. 8.) The metadata for these three documents, which Mr. Steward filed while defendant was in custody, provide further evidence that defendant personally drafted his five most recent pleadings using his third-party custodian Mr. Manheimer's Mac computer.

To further confirm that Mr. Steward did not prepare defendant's five most recent filings in this case, and that other documents Mr. Steward have prepared would have "leenicole" identified as the "Author" in the metadata, the government also reviewed the metadata for a Supplement to Rule 29 Motion that Mr. Steward filed with this Court on May 25, 2020, in <u>United States v. Jonathan Brightman</u>, SA CR No. 16-076-JVS, at docket number 1085:



(André Decl. Ex. 9.) The metadata for the May 25, 2020, <u>Brightman</u> filing also lists "leenicole" as "Author," and appears to have been created using the same computer and PDF generator as the three documents Mr. Steward filed in this case while defendant was in custody.

Finally, statements defendant and his counsel made during the June 1, 2020, status conference further demonstrate that defendant has been personally drafting these filings. As the Court may recall, when the Court expressed concern regarding counsel's lack of candor regarding the discovery issues raised in defendant's May 27, 2020, Status Report, defendant himself responded:

THE COURT: Sir, I expect a greater degree of candor going forward. That's a material fact that should have been presented to the Court along with your concerns about the production.

MR. STEWARD: Understood, Your Honor.

DEFENDANT: It was included on Page 4, Footnote 5,

actually.

THE COURT: Who is that speaking?

MR. STEWARD: That was my client, Your Honor.

(6/1/2020 RT 5:14-6:1.) And when the Court later raised concerns regarding the length and relevancy of much of defendant's 34-page May 27, 2020, Status Report, defense counsel stated: "The Court is very familiar with my writing. I am usually very succinct." (6/1/2020 RT 16:9-17:6.)

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, the government believes that defendant has likely violated the conditions of his temporary release by using his third-party custodian Jay Manheimer's internet-

accessible computer to draft his last five filings in this case. At a minimum, defendant and his counsel have not been candid with this Court. Accordingly, the government requests that the Court hold a hearing to further inquire as to whether defendant has violated the conditions of his release and, if so, allow the parties an opportunity to address the appropriate remedy for any such violations. Although the government believes that the evidence contained herein is sufficient to establish that defendant violated the conditions of his temporary release, at a minimum, the government believes that the Court should direct Pretrial Services to search Mr. Manheimer's residence, including his computer, and provide the government with an opportunity to question Mr. Manheimer under oath regarding his involvement in the creation of these pleadings and/or defendant's access to Mr. Manheimer's computer and the internet.

Additionally, the government notes that defendant's use of Mr. Manheimer's computer to personally draft the last five pleadings in this case directly contradicts defendant's prior representations to this Court regarding his ability to use a computer. Such misrepresentations are directly relevant to the other issues currently before this Court, including defendant's representation issues and defendant's claims regarding the discovery in this matter.

The government will be prepared to address defendant's potential violations of his conditions of temporary release further during the June 8, 2020, status conference.

DECLARATION OF JULIAN L. ANDRÉ

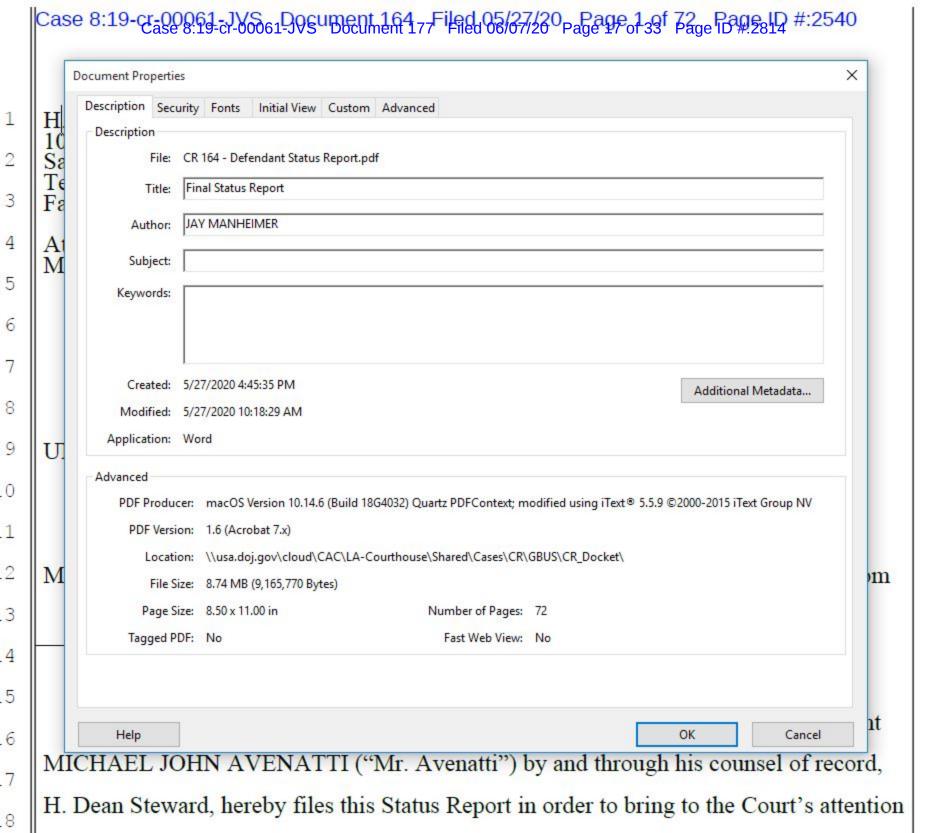
I, Julian L. André, declare as follows:

- 1. I am an Assistant United States Attorney ("AUSA") in the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO"). I am one of the AUSAs assigned to represent the government in <u>United States v. Michael John Avenatti</u>, SA CR 19-61-JVS. I submit this declaration in support of the government's request for the Court to conduct an inquiry regarding potential violations of defendant MICHAEL JOHN AVENATTI's ("defendant") conditions of temporary release.
- 2. On June 7, 2020, I reviewed the metadata for a number of Adobe PDF documents that were filed on defendant's behalf in this matter through the Court's CM/ECF system. To view the metadata for each filing referenced herein, I took the following steps:
- a. Using Adobe Acrobat Pro, I opened each PDF file, which I had previously downloaded from the CM/ECF system and saved onto my computer.
- b. I clicked the "File" button on the top left of the Adobe Acrobat program.
- c. I selected "Properties" in the "File" drop-down window.
- d. I selected the "Description" tab on the "Document Properties" screen.
- e. I then took a screenshot of the metadata for each PDF file.
- 3. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's May 27, 2020, Status

Report, which was filed in this matter at docket number 164 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 164).

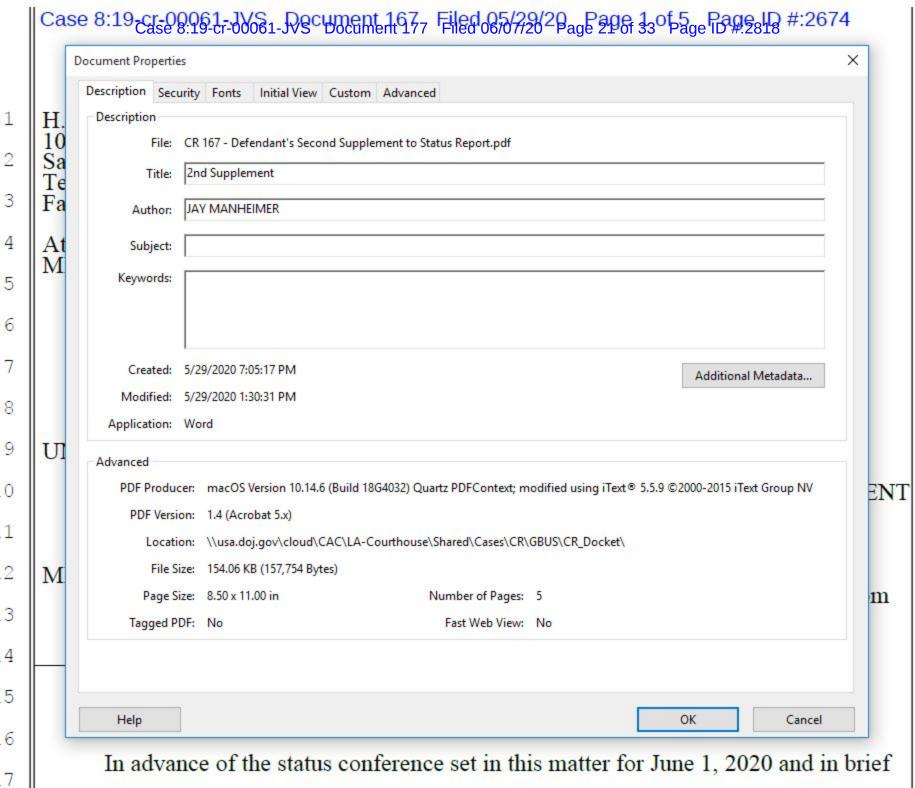
- 4. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's May 28, 2020, Supplement to Status Report, which was filed in this matter at docket number 165 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 165).
- 5. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's May 29, 2020, Second Supplement Status Report, which was filed in this matter at docket number 167 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 167).
- 6. Attached hereto as Exhibit 4 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's June 5, 2020, Status Report, which was filed in this matter at docket number 172 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 172).
- 7. Attached hereto as Exhibit 5 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's June 5, 2020, Memorandum re Assets and the Impact on Defendant's Rights and the Trial Date, which was filed in this matter at docket number 174 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 174).
- 8. Attached hereto as Exhibit 6 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's March 18, 2020, Bail Reconsideration Request, which was filed in this matter at docket number 117 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 117).
- 9. Attached hereto as Exhibit 7 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's March 24, 2020, Ex Parte Application for a Continuance, which was filed in this matter at docket number 122 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 122).

Attached hereto as Exhibit 8 is a true and correct copy of a screenshot of the metadata for defendant's April 4, 2020, Bail Reconsideration Request, which was filed in this matter at docket number 136 using the Court's CM/ECF system (CR 136). Attached hereto as Exhibit 9 is a true and correct copy of the metadata for the Supplement to Rule 29 Motion defendant's counsel, H. Dean Steward, filed on May 25, 2020, in United States v. Jonathan Brightman, SA CR No. 16-076-JVS, at docket number 1085 using the Court's CM/ECF system. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration is executed at Los Angeles, California, on June 7, 2020. Tulian Andre



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In advance of the status conference set in this matter for June 1, 2020, defendant MICHAEL JOHN AVENATTI ("Mr. Avenatti") by and through his counsel of record, H. Dean Steward, hereby files this supplement to Defendant's Status Report previously filed on May 27, 2020 [Docket No. 164].

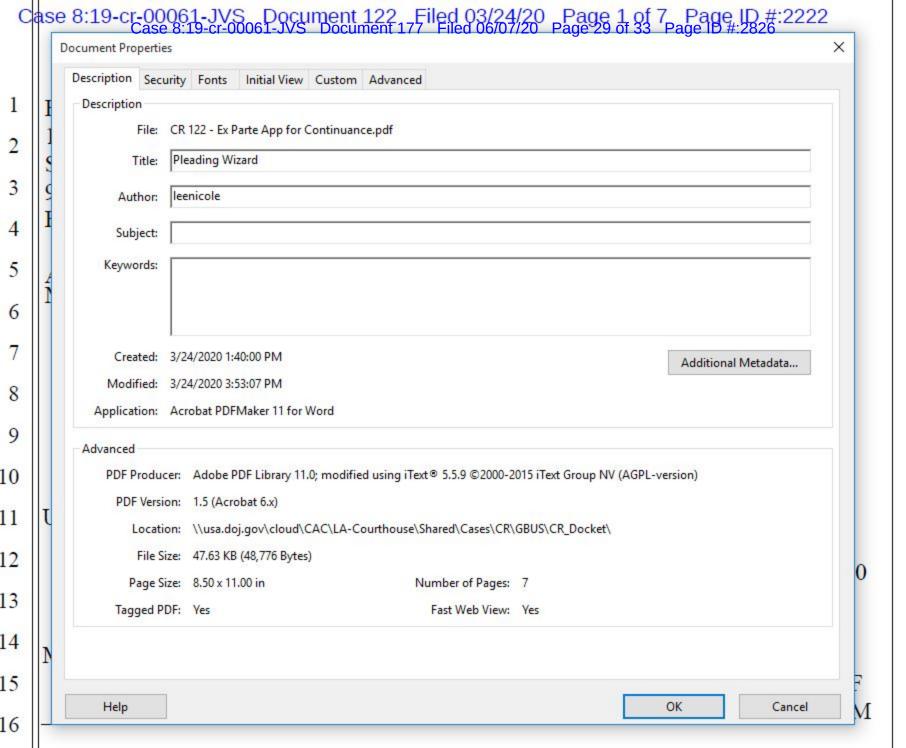


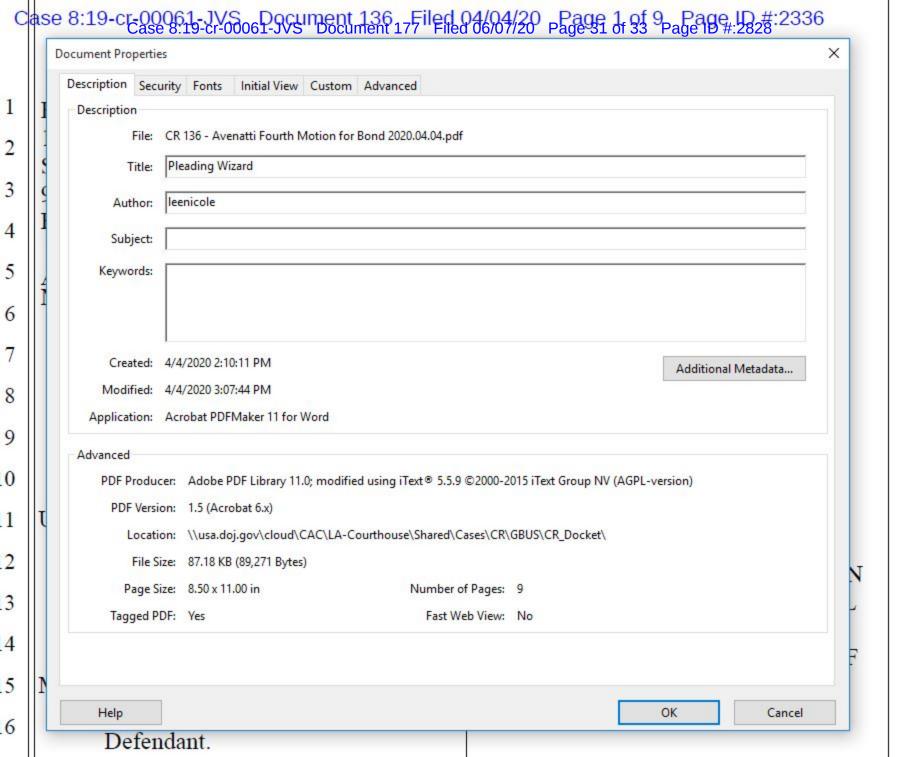
Case 8:19-cr-00061-JVS Document 172 Filed 06/05/20 Page 1 of 5 Page ID #:2718 X **Document Properties** Description Security Fonts Initial View Custom Advanced Description File: CR 172 - 2020.06.05 Defendant Status Report.pdf Status Report June 8 Title: JAY MANHEIMER Author: Subject: Keywords: Created: 6/5/2020 6:04:19 PM Additional Metadata... Modified: 6/5/2020 12:00:48 PM Application: Word Advanced PDF Producer: macOS Version 10.14.6 (Build 18G4032) Quartz PDFContext; modified using iText ® 5.5.9 ©2000-2015 iText Group NV PDF Version: 1.4 (Acrobat 5.x) Location: \\usa.doj.gov\cloud\CAC\LA-Courthouse\Shared\Cases\CR\GBUS\CR_Docket\ File Size: 209.76 KB (214,799 Bytes) Page Size: 8.50 x 11.00 in Number of Pages: 5 Tagged PDF: No Fast Web View: No Help OK Cancel 19 Dated: June 5, 2020 Respectfully submitted, 20 21 /s/ H. Dean Steward

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	sets and its alleged impact on Mr. Avenatti's rights, his defense in this case, and				

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Dated:	May 25, 2020	/s./ H. Dean Steward		
	, 20, 2020	H. Dean Steward		
		Counsel for Defendan	it	
		Jonathan Brightman		