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1	COURT OF APPEALS				
2	STATE OF NEW YORK				
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4	PEOPLE,				
5	Appellant,				
6	-against- NO. 25				
7	YERMIA SOLOMON,				
8	Respondent.				
9	20 Eagle Street Albany, New York				
10	March 15, 2023 Before:				
11					
	ACTING CHIEF JUDGE ANTHONY CANNATARO ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY RIVERA				
12	ASSOCIATE JUDGE MICHAEL J. GARCIA ASSOCIATE JUDGE ROWAN D. WILSON				
13	ASSOCIATE JUDGE MADELINE SINGAS ASSOCIATE JUDGE SHIRLEY TROUTMAN				
14					
15	Appearances:				
16	DANIELLE BLACKABY SULLIVAN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE				
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2 number 25, People v. Solomon. 3 MS. BLACKABY: Good afternoon, Your Honors. 4 Danielle Blackaby, Sullivan County Assistant District 5 Attorney for the People of the State of New York. 6 A birthdate is just a date. It is not a 7 jurisdictional defect. This appeal has been moot since 8 three months and two weeks after it was perfected. There 9 are two categories of issues with indictment and SCIs fall 10 into either jurisdictional and nonjurisdictional 11 categories. 12 JUDGE GARCIA: Counsel, this this case 13 baffles me a little bit. So do you think that the 14 indictment this case is indicted, and there's the 15 superior court information filed while that indictment is 16 live. Is that an error? 17 MS. BLACKABY: I think it depends on the 18 supporting deposition that was attached to the initial 19 misdemeanor complaint for endangering the welfare of a 20 child. If that deposition included statements regarding 21 oral sexual conduct, then it would have been proper becaus 22 it was properly joina					
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infirmity with the SCI? 1 2 MS. BLACKABY: I - - - I was not the - - -3 specifically that ADA - - -4 JUDGE SINGAS: I understand. 5 MS. BLACKABY: I think when you're trying to make 6 an argument on the spot in court versus having the ability 7 to go and look and find the document. We had to dig in the 8 basement for the box that had the underlying misdemeanor 9 complaint. 10 JUDGE SINGAS: So you're saying now that that was an error, joining the SCI with the indictment? 11 12 MS. BLACKABY: I'm saying that it could have not 13 been an error. Unfortunately, the documents were not 14 included in the - - -15 JUDGE TROUTMAN: Could have not been? Either it is or it isn't. Was it permissible? Normally, you follow 16 17 the criminal procedure law. If it - - - if the case starts in the local criminal court - - -18 19 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 20 JUDGE TROUTMAN: - - - if they're felonies, you 21 have a felony hearing. It's held. If there's no desire to 22 have one, you dismiss. You go straight to the grand jury. 23 But after a case is indicted, you plead to the indictment. 24 Before, you could go to special-term judge, and use an SCI. 25 This case is kind of strange. What happened? nper 1-602-263-0885 www.escribers.net

MS. BLACKABY: You know, I'm not really sure why 1 2 they didn't simply take a plea to the lesser-included 3 offense. That would have been - - - basically, everything that was said on the record would have been the same 4 5 record. It would have been the same plea. It would have 6 been the same facts. Not - - -7 JUDGE GARCIA: Let's say we conclude it was an 8 error on this record. 9 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 10 JUDGE GARCIA: What do we do with the indictment? MS. BLACKABY: I think the indictment is valid as 11 12 amended. 13 JUDGE GARCIA: The Appellate Division said it 14 wasn't validly amended, but they don't seem to have ordered 15 any remedial action after that finding. 16 MS. BLACKABY: Right. 17 JUDGE GARCIA: So what would we do? 18 MS. BLACKABY: So I think if - - - specifically 19 what would we do if the SCI was - - -20 JUDGE GARCIA: Right. 21 MS. BLACKABY: - - - improper? Okay. 22 JUDGE GARCIA: And now, we're looking at the 23 indictment, right? 24 MS. BLACKABY: So if the SCI - - -25 JUDGE GARCIA: What do we do with that? npers www.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

1	MS. BLACKABY: is invalid and should be			
2	done away with, then it's you know, we're left with			
3	what happened to the underlying felony indictment? And			
4	here, the question is actually the same as to the			
5	indictment versus the SCI as it was			
6	JUDGE GARCIA: Can we			
7	MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh.			
8	JUDGE GARCIA: even reach that? Because			
9	the Appellate Division doesn't seem to have done anything			
10	with it other than it almost is dicta, right? They've			
11	decided it, but they didn't order the indictment dismissed.			
12	MS. BLACKABY: Right. And it it is			
13	slightly confusing. I think myself and opposing counsel			
14	probably have different views on what still exists as a			
15	valid indictment in the lower court, and it's our position			
16	that it was when the Third Department reversed or			
17	well, reversed the SCI			
18	JUDGE GARCIA: Uh-huh.			
19	MS. BLACKABY: and sent it back, the case			
20	reverts to what was present immediately before the SCI was			
21	initiated. So you would have the indictment as amended			
22	because that's how it separated out before it's all put			
23	together, and the SCI is signed. And so the question			
24	becomes whether the issue with the underlying indictment			
25	was properly raised by appellant well, respondent in			
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his response brief in the Court of Appeals, or if it should have been raised below, or raised as an ineffective assistance of counsel claim.

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But the - - - the actual analysis about that document is the same as it is for the SCI about whether the issue is a jurisdictional or a nonjurisdictional question. And it's the People's position that the birthdate here is one of the less fundamental flaws. It's not a jurisdictional issue. We were permitted - - - properly permitted to amend because the victim in this case is not identified in one manner. She's identified in three separate ways.

In - - - specifically, in the indictment, she's identified as the person known to the grand jury. She's identified as less than seventeen, and we give the wrong birthdate, which is a typographical error, which in this case, is slightly more relevant than any other typographical error might have been in a different case. JUDGE SINGAS: You're - - - so you're making an argument now as to the amendment of the indictment, or are you somehow trying to connect that indictment to the SCI combination indictment error?

MS. BLACKABY: So it - - - it - - - because it's the same error, and because under the CPL, both indictments and SCIs are treated the same, the amendment is in our view

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1 correct whether we're talking about the SCI or the 2 underlying indictment. 3 JUDGE RIVERA: Are - - - are you saying it's 4 supposed to be treated as one instrument under the CPL 5 because of the consolidation - - -6 MS. BLACKABY: No. No. No. 7 JUDGE RIVERA: - - - or are you saying we still 8 look at it as two separate - - -9 MS. BLACKABY: So it - - - it's - - - it's two 10 separate questions. 11 JUDGE RIVERA: Or two separate instruments, two 12 separate - - -13 MS. BLACKABY: Yeah. They are - - - they are two 14 separate documents. It's just that - - -15 JUDGE RIVERA: Even though they were consolidated 16 17 MS. BLACKABY: Right. 18 JUDGE RIVERA: - - - for purposes of the plea? 19 MS. BLACKABY: So once - - - but if the SCI is been properly reversed, then we take - - - the SCI is out. 20 21 It's - - - it's been dismissed, and so what's left is the 22 indictment as - - -JUDGE RIVERA: Your position is it should not 23 24 have been, correct? Isn't your position that the SCI is 25 not jurisdictionally defective? npers www.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

1 MS. BLACKABY: Yes. We - - - we - - - yes. Both 2 that the indictment is jurisdictionally okay, and that the 3 SCI was jurisdictionally okay because there are the three 4 different ways that she is identified, specifically by 5 We know who this person was. name. 6 JUDGE TROUTMAN: But if the SCI is not valid, you 7 - - - is it your argument that the indictment could still 8 survive because that's a typographical error? Is that what 9 you're arguing? 10 MS. BLACKABY: Yes. Yes. That - - - that 11 regardless of the outcome for the SCI, it's the People's 12 position that there is a valid indictment charging five 13 felonies. 14 And the Appellate Division JUDGE GARCIA: 15 disagreed with you. 16 MS. BLACKABY: Yes. 17 JUDGE GARCIA: But they didn't do anything with 18 that. 19 MS. BLACKABY: Correct. 20 JUDGE GARCIA: So I don't understand how you're 21 able to appeal that to us because you're not aggrieved by 22 the Appellate Division order. MS. BLACKABY: So we're aggrieved by the remand 23 24 of the SCI. The People were asked by respondent to offer a 25 We reconsidered our position. We were ready for plea. nper www.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

1 trial. This was the Friday before trial was to begin on 2 Monday. We offered him a plea. He waived appeal. 3 Everybody - - - these documents were considered until 7 4 o'clock at night the day - - - on that Friday. We had him, 5 the defendant, execute a statement admitting to the 6 felonies so that we would hold this open because we were so 7 unsure that he would actually take this plea. 8 And it's our position that everything he's done 9 since is in derogation of that plea. He's effectively 10 attempting to walk out on his plea. And that's where the People are injured is that we expected finality. I was - -11 12 - uh-huh. 13 JUDGE GARCIA: I understand your view of that 14 process, but my problem's more localized with the Appellate 15 Division. 16 MS. BLACKABY: Sure. 17 JUDGE GARCIA: So you have a ruling with the - -18 - in the Appellate Division - - -19 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 20 JUDGE GARCIA: - - - that says this indictment 21 was improperly amended, but they don't dismiss the 2.2 indictment, so I'm not sure what you're appealing to this 23 court. 24 MS. BLACKABY: Oh, so we're simply appealing 25 their decision on the SCI. That's where our primary injury 1-602-263-0885 w.escribers.net

1 is. We have - - - we have remedies below if it's 2 necessary, but we think they were incorrect. 3 JUDGE GARCIA: Let's say we disagree with you on 4 that. 5 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 6 JUDGE GARCIA: What happens? 7 MS. BLACKABY: If you disagree with me that we 8 were injured by - - -9 JUDGE GARCIA: No. If I disagree - - - if - - -10 if the court were to disagree that - - -11 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 12 JUDGE GARCIA: - - - that you - - - this SCI is 13 proper for whatever reason. 14 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 15 JUDGE GARCIA: So the SCI, as you say, is out. 16 MS. BLACKABY: Okay. 17 JUDGE GARCIA: What happens to the indictment? 18 MS. BLACKABY: I think the indictment is still 19 valid because the - - - the remedy for a reversal in the 20 Third Department is that it goes back to the status before 21 the document was entered. 2.2 ACTING CHIEF JUDGE CANNATARO: So - - - so what's 23 the aggrievement again? Because I - - - if - - - if the 24 indictment survives the reversal of the SCI, you said, I 25 think, just a moment ago, you still have options available nper 1-602-263-0885 www.escribers.net

1 to you. 2 MS. BLACKABY: We - - - we do have options. So 3 the - - - it's - - - we expected this to be over when we 4 gave him - - - gave the defendant the SCI, and what the 5 Appellate Division did was to say no. The SCI is not 6 valid. Now you go back and have a - - - an indictment, and 7 you start all over again. JUDGE GARCIA: But they said the indictment was 8 9 improperly amended. 10 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 11 JUDGE GARCIA: Let's assume we agreed the SCI is 12 improper. 13 MS. BLACKABY: Uh-huh. 14 JUDGE GARCIA: It has to be tossed out, so where 15 are you when you go back with respect to an indictment that 16 the Appellate Division has found was improperly amended, 17 but we can't reach? 18 MS. BLACKABY: Okay. I think I get where we're -19 - - trying to - - - so the - - - if - - - the Third 20 Department's functionally dicta because they didn't - - -21 there was no remedy there. There was no decision as to go 2.2 back is accurate, then the defendant was never in jeopardy, 23 and the People have the ability to represent to the grand 24 jury. And he would be, again, or then for the first time 25 charged with five felonies and a misdemeanor. nper 1-602-263-0885 www.escribers.net

1 ACTING CHIEF JUDGE CANNATARO: Thank you, 2 Counsel. 3 MS. BLACKABY: Thank you. 4 MR. MARMUR: Good afternoon, Your Honors. May it 5 please the court. Nathaniel Marmur for defendant 6 respondent. 7 I'd like to take Judge Garcia's questions because I think they're - - - they really go to the heart of what, 8 9 I think, the court needs to do here and how to - - - how to 10 sort of think about this case. And I'll just - - briefly, there are sort of two, I'll call them merits 11 12 issues, right? One is the post-indictment SCI, which it is 13 improper for a host of reasons. It's - - - it's done off a 14 misdemeanor, and not being held for grand jury action on 15 that misdemeanor. It's not extant when he supposedly 16 waives, but let's put that aside. They've somewhat 17 conceded that. 18 Then we have the other issue, which was the focus 19 of the Third Department, which was whether the, they call 20 it typographical error. We think it's much more. Just so 21 the court's aware of what happened, it's not just a 22 typographical error. They actually switched the dates of 23 the two girls who were in - - - the females, I should say -24 - - sorry - - - who were in the grand jury, one of whom he 25 had a relationship with. And they've repeated that several nper 1-602-263-0885 w.escribers.net

1 times. 2 They did it in the indictment. They did in the 3 bill of particulars. 4 JUDGE GARCIA: So - - - and I understand your 5 view on -6 MR. MARMUR: Okay. JUDGE GARCIA: - - - on the improper amendment, 7 8 which as I read it, the Appellate Division agreed with you 9 on, but ordered no remedy. 10 MR. MARMUR: So let me - - - yeah. I'm sorry. 11 JUDGE GARCIA: So what do we do with that? 12 MR. MARMUR: Okay. 13 JUDGE GARCIA: Assume we agree on the SCI. 14 MR. MARMUR: Okay. So this is how I - - - I 15 would like to see it go, and what I think the court can do. 16 The validity of the amendment is not before the court. 17 Okay. There was no adverse ruling. We - - - we call it 18 dicta, whatever. That was not the declaration. That was 19 not the decretal paragraph of the Third Department. The 20 Third Department said we vacate the plea and remand. 21 The People, in their brief, do not ask for any 2.2 remedy with respect to the - - - the amendment. Their 23 brief, and just reading their point heading, they deal with 24 the fact of whether the SCI was jurisdictionally defective 25 or not. www.escribers.ne 1-602-263-0885

1 The path of least resistance, and what I think is 2 really the only one that's - - - that's consistent with 3 what the court's jurisdictional obligation here is to 4 decide what I think is the easy and somewhat conceded 5 issue, which is the fact that this SCI could not have been 6 filed at the time it did in the manner in which it was, 7 putting aside whatever significant problems there was with 8 this to wit clause. And - - - and I think the court knows 9 the - - - our arguments on that. 10 And the rest, the court should not stray further 11 than that because I think there, you're getting into some 12 jurisdictionally - - -13 JUDGE GARCIA: Should we send it back to the 14 Appellate Division? 15 MR. MARMUR: Well, if you're - - no. Because if you're - - - you're affirming - - - the only issue on 16 17 appeal here is should the plea be vacated. That's what the 18 People sought leave on, or the court took leave on. The 19 manner in which you do it, I think, is the easiest way to 20 do it is the - - -21 So are you saying what happens JUDGE TROUTMAN: 2.2 in the future is if the People do as it was suggested by 23 your opponent - - -24 MR. MARMUR: Uh-huh. 25 JUDGE TROUTMAN: - - - and they could file 1-602-263-0885 www.escribers.net

charges again, that's left for another day? 1 2 MR. MARMUR: Well, they're - - - they're in the 3 lower court. They're - - - have an indictment. They do 4 have what we'll call a strong advisory opinion by the Third 5 Department if you want to put it that way. I - - - I'm - -6 - we're all trying to characterize it fairly. But that's -- - that is what would happen here to be candid, but I 7 8 don't know that the court has another way of getting to it 9 10 JUDGE TROUTMAN: Okay. MR. MARMUR: - - - without - - -11 12 JUDGE GARCIA: Thanks. So then that view would 13 be then the People proceed at their peril if they try to 14 move forward on the original indictment, or they can do 15 something else. 16 MR. MARMUR: I - - - I think peril's a strong 17 word, a good word. The problem's - - - and I know we're 18 not going to get too far into the merits here because I 19 think you have the issue, but it's the - - - so problematic 20 what happened here with this indictment and the way they 21 attempted to amend it that the People, if they truly want 22 to go forward with this case, which is obviously their 23 prerogative, they should go back to the grand jury and 24 present it correctly. 25 Is that clear that the rule from JUDGE WILSON: 1-602-263-0885 w.escribers.net

Boston applies to a plea to a misdemeanor? Because Boston 1 2 applied to felonies, and the rationale behind it was your 3 right to have felony - - -4 MR. MARMUR: Uh-huh. 5 JUDGE WILSON: - - - to - - - to be - - - have an 6 indictment in front of the grand jury. But for the 7 misdemeanor, you wouldn't have that, so - - -The - - - the SCI stems from the 8 MR. MARMUR: 9 Article 1, Section 6 of the Constitution, which speaks to 10 the right to be indicted by a grand jury or to have a superior court information filed, and that you have to - -11 12 - it has to be extant at the time that you - - - that 13 you're there. And I'm not - - - maybe I'm not answering 14 your questions. You're asking more specifically, can it be 15 done on a misdemeanor? 16 JUDGE WILSON: Yeah. What I'm asking is that the 17 rationale that - - - that's expressed in Boston really 18 turns on the fact that for felonies, you have a right to 19 have the charges presented to a grand jury, right? And 20 that's what's being protected, I think, by the rule in 21 Boston. But where the - - - where the plea, let's say, 22 here is just to a misdemeanor, it's not clear that Boston 23 would foreclose a holding that said because that 24 constitutional right is not at play with regard to a 25 misdemeanor, this process that - - - that you have to w.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

follow for a felony, you don't have to follow for a misdemeanor.

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3 MR. MARMUR: Well, the - - - the process is still 4 set forth in the criminal procedure law. There may be a 5 policy that Your Honor is getting to, but quite frankly, 6 you could just plea to a misdemeanor complaint. You don't 7 need to do a superior court information to plea to that, 8 and if you look at this court's cases in D'Amico, Trueluck, 9 every single one, they all say the exact same thing, which 10 is a superior court information happens when you waive to -- - when you are being held on a felony complaint. 11 That's 12 - - - I mean, anybody who just does this knows that if 13 you're going to try to get around that, you've got to go 14 back. You've got to arrest them on the new felony 15 complaint, and bring them in. And - - - and - - -

JUDGE WILSON: There was a misdemeanor complaint originally, though.

18 MR. MARMUR: There was a misdemeanor complaint 19 originally. He was not held for grand jury action on that 20 because it was a misdemeanor complaint. We don't know 21 whether it was presented to the grand jury. It certainly 2.2 wasn't voted out by the grand jury. He was certainly not 23 being held on it at the time that he waived, and quite 24 25 record, that's not actually what he was waiving indictment

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on. He was waiving indictment on a count that was already 1 2 in the indictment. He was not waiving as to the 3 misdemeanor complaint. And that's at 828. 4 So again, I think for that part of this, it's 5 very simple, and I think given the complexities of this 6 case I think the simplest way, quite frankly, is for the 7 court to just say this is - - - we can't do this. I would 8 invite a memorandum. 9 JUDGE RIVERA: That they can't do what? Can't do 10 what? 11 MR. MARMUR: You can't - - - sorry. The this in 12 that sentence was - - -13 JUDGE RIVERA: Yes. 14 MR. MARMUR: - - - have an SCI after an 15 indictment, and whatever holes that they're trying to poke 16 in this, they just don't - - -17 JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh. 18 MR. MARMUR: - - - it just doesn't fit. 19 JUDGE RIVERA: Okay. So let me ask you about the 20 date of birth thing. Why - - - why isn't that - - -21 MR. MARMUR: Uh-huh. 2.2 JUDGE RIVERA: - - - given that there's already a 23 statement the victim is not seventeen years old, not 24 seventeen. Why isn't that superfluous and doesn't render 25 it defective? www.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

1 MR. MARMUR: Because under - - - under the - - -2 the criminal procedure law - - -3 JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh. 4 MR. MARMUR: - - - and as this court says 5 repeatedly in Iannone and all those cases, and indictment 6 is jurisdictionally defective if the facts that it does 7 state - - -8 JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh. 9 MR. MARMUR: - - - do not make out a crime, and 10 that's the - - -11 JUDGE RIVERA: There are some facts that do. Is 12 - - - is - - - is your rule that if there are facts that do 13 14 MR. MARMUR: Uh-huh. 15 JUDGE RIVERA: - - - and facts that don't, that 16 clash renders it defective? 17 MR. MARMUR: Well, what this court said in 18 Randall was when there is that inconsistency, it's the 19 factual because those are the more specific parts of it, 20 that will control, and that's what the - - - the lower 21 courts have done. They've had these - - - they would call 22 these limine cases. 23 JUDGE RIVERA: But what does that mean when you 24 have two facts - - -MR. MARMUR: Well, if you say - - -25 nper www.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

1 JUDGE RIVERA: - - - that are in - - - go ahead. 2 MR. MARMUR: Well, take for example, if you - - -3 if you had a - - - an account that said he possessed a 4 firearm, to wit, on a certain day he had, and opened, and 5 showed a switchblade - - -6 JUDGE RIVERA: Yes. 7 MR. MARMUR: - - - we would think that the 8 defendant was - - - was not guilty of that crime because 9 the facts negate the charge. And that's what's coming out 10 of the grand jury. 11 JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh. 12 MR. MARMUR: So the grand jury is indicting him 13 for something that was not a crime, notwithstanding that 14 they recited the statute or the elements. The specific 15 facts that they're saying are not a crime. 16 JUDGE RIVERA: But you're saying that - - - that 17 the statement the victim is under seventeen years old is 18 not a factual statement? 19 MR. MARMUR: The - - - the statement that she - -20 - well, the - - - the statement that she was born on a 21 given day - - -22 JUDGE RIVERA: No. No. That's a factual 23 statement. 24 MR. MARMUR: Okay. 25 JUDGE RIVERA: I don't disagree with that. The 1-602-263-0885 www.escribers.net

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1	other there's two statements, right?
2	MR. MARMUR: Right.
3	JUDGE RIVERA: That's the problem. We've got two
4	statements.
5	MR. MARMUR: That's it.
6	JUDGE RIVERA: If we only had the date of birth
7	statement, this would be a very easy case.
8	MR. MARMUR: I I I understand.
9	JUDGE RIVERA: Right?
10	MR. MARMUR: The I think what we're
11	the the better way for me to phrase it then is how
12	the court uses the terms, which is the accusatory part, and
13	that's what I should have said earlier. The accusatory
14	portion of the indictment is considered to be the the
15	statutory citation and the recitation of the elements. And
16	then the factual portion, and that I should have said
17	that before. That's what really trumps, and that's what
18	Randall says.
19	JUDGE TROUTMAN: If the birth certificate were
20	presented to the grand jury, and was part of the record,
21	does that make a difference?
22	MR. MARMUR: Well, I I think the judge here
23	did look behind the grand jury minutes and found that. So
24	I'm not going to say that that wasn't there. But that
25	- that doesn't matter. It's what the grand jury voted out,
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1 and they - - - I mean, and again, this wasn't - - - and I'm 2 not sure this would've made a huge difference, but it 3 wasn't as if a - - - a one was changed to a two. They 4 actually switched the birth dates of two separate females 5 in the grand jury. 6 JUDGE RIVERA: So - - - so if they didn't include 7 the date of birth, it would've been sufficient? 8 MR. MARMUR: Sure. 9 JUDGE RIVERA: Not a problem. 10 MR. MARMUR: I mean, that's a - - - that's a 11 straightforward indictment. Right? That - - - that's not 12 a problem. 13 ACTING CHIEF JUDGE CANNATARO: Thank you, 14 Counsel. 15 MR. MARMUR: I see that my time is up. Thank 16 you. 17 (Court is adjourned) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 www.escribers.net 1-602-263-0885

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