UNITED STATES DIST FOR THE DISTRICT OF M	
,	Criminal Action No. 13-10200-GAO
BEFORE THE HONORABLE GEORG UNITED STATES DIST <u>STATUS CONFER</u>	RICT JUDGE
John J. Moakley United S Courtroom No One Courthouse Boston, Massachuse Monday, September 10 a.m.	o. 9 e Way tts 02210
Marcia G. Patrisso Official Court R John J. Moakley U.S. One Courthouse Way, Boston, Massachuse (617) 737-8 Mechanical Steno - Computer	Reporter Courthouse Room 3510 tts 02210 728

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1 PROCEEDINGS THE CLERK: All rise. 2 3 (The Court enters the courtroom at 9:59 a.m.) THE CLERK: The United States District Court for the 4 District of Massachusetts. 5 6 Court is in session. Be seated. 7 For an initial status conference, the case of United 8 States versus Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Docket 13-10200. Will counsel 9 identify yourselves for the record. 10 MR. WEINREB: Good morning, your Honor. William 11 Weinreb for the United States. 12 MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Aloke Chakravarty for the United 13 States. 14 MS. PELLEGRINI: Nadine Pellegrini for the United 15 States. 16 THE COURT: Good morning. MS. CONRAD: Good morning, your Honor. Miriam Conrad, 17 federal public defender for Mr. Tsarnaev. And with me are Judy 18 19 Clarke and assistant public defender Tim Watkins. 20 THE COURT: Good morning. Thank you for the status 21 report. I appreciate that. 22 Let's start with whatever issues there may be with 23 respect to discovery. I guess maybe the place to start is with 24 the defense, who indicated there may be some -- you may be 25 interested in something beyond what you've already gotten. Is

1 that right? MS. CONRAD: Yes, your Honor. We do plan to deliver, 2 hopefully by the close of business today, to the government a 3 fairly detailed discovery request letter. But this is not 4 5 going to be the be-all and end-all discovery request in this 6 case. 7 We received automatic discovery -- what the government defines as automatic discovery on September 3rd. This included 8 a large amount of digital evidence, including videos and 9 10 computer and telephone hard drives, but also a number of 11 reports of interviews with witnesses that we're going through. Notably, missing from that discovery is information 12 13 such as interviews or grand jury testimony of family members 14 and other information that would -- we would deem to be relevant and, in fact, potentially exculpatory with respect to 15 16 sentencing. So the biggest sort of philosophical dispute we have 17 18 with the government right now is the timing of disclosure of 19 information that would tend to support mitigation of 20 punishment, which, of course, is defined under Brady as 21 exculpatory evidence. 22 It is particularly -- well, I think I would just note, your Honor, that the local rules don't really address the 23 24 procedure for disclosure of mitigating evidence in a death 25 penalty case. There is timing for disclosure of mitigation in

1 a usual case, but that timing doesn't really work in a potential death penalty case where we are obligated to make a 2 presentation to the U.S. Attorney and to the Department of 3 4 Justice in the coming months about reasons why the government 5 should not seek the death penalty in this case. 6 There are other issues that are relatively less 7 global, if you will, or philosophical in nature, such as 8 questions regarding some of the digital evidence, questions 9 regarding some of the redactions -- in some cases extensive 10 redactions -- that have been made by the government which we 11 feel are unnecessary, especially in light of the fact that we have a fairly restrictive protective order in place with 12 13 respect to the discovery that we have received. 14 Can I just check with my co-counsel for a moment to 15 see if I've missed anything? 16 (Pause.) THE COURT: No? 17 18 MS. CONRAD: That's it for discovery, your Honor. 19 Sorry. 20 THE COURT: Mr. Weinreb? 21 MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, it's the government's view 22 automatic discovery is complete. And although we haven't yet received this letter from the defense, I've heard nothing 23 24 mentioned to date that would fall into the category of 25 automatic discovery.

1 We have provided a great deal of information, in our view, all of the information that we were required to produce 2 under the law. And we've also produced a great deal of 3 additional information just in the event the defense finds it 4 5 useful in preparation for defense. 6 We produced a very detailed index to that information; 7 in fact, it's the same index we prepared for ourselves and shared with the defense. And there is a quantity of evidence 8 9 that has been made available to them at this point just for 10 inspection and review, meaning we haven't actually given them copies of things. 11 12 And we actually do intend, over the coming weeks, just 13 as a courtesy to the defense, to produce copies of things that 14 right now are available for inspection and review. But not 15 because they are automatic discovery in our view, simply because it will expedite the case. 16 Until we get the request from the defense along with 17 18 whatever legal basis they're going to cite for anything else 19 they believe they deserve, I can't really comment on the 20 government's position on those matters. THE COURT: Well, we'll let that, I guess, take its 21 22 course when the formal request is made, and then we'll get a 23 formal response, and I quess we'll deal with that. 24 You've, in the status report, suggested some timing 25 for that. That seems fine. The defense submission today, and

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1 then I guess it's basically two weeks for the government to respond. I'm not sure -- well, I won't fine-tune it, I quess. 2 I'm not sure we need to wait after the government's 3 response another two weeks for a motion since you know what you 4 5 want and you'll know what they have said should be possible to 6 generate the motion, but for the sake of a week or two, I'll go 7 by your dates. And then I think, just to jump ahead to that, we can 8 9 set a status conference. You suggested jointly the 12th of 10 November. We actually have matters scheduled then, but the 11 13th, the next day, is open for us. So if that's okay with 12 counsel, I'd like to schedule it in the afternoon of the 13th 13 of November at two o'clock. 14 MR. WEINREB: That's fine with the government, your 15 Honor. MS. CONRAD: Your Honor, Ms. Clarke has obligations 16 out of state on the 13th. If it would be possible to either 17 schedule it -- if it would be possible to schedule it in the 18 19 morning on the 13th, then that would accommodate her travel 20 schedule, if your Honor would be so kind. 21 THE COURT: Yes, we could do that, I think. Let me 22 just get the date here. 23 (Pause.) 24 THE COURT: That's fine. If we could do it in the 25 morning -- then let's make it ten o'clock in the morning on the

1 13th. MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Your Honor, we'd expect to have 2 3 argument on any motions that we've filed? THE COURT: Yes. We'll let you know that beforehand, 4 5 but, yes, that's -- I mean, the timing is such that it would be 6 appropriate to do that. I wouldn't see any reason not to. 7 MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, as long as we're on the business of scheduling, I would just like to add that the 8 9 defense has indicated that these are preliminary discovery 10 requests, they may have additional ones. And I understand from 11 things counsel has said on the phone that some of those may be relatively uncontroversial in the sense of they have video but 12 13 lack the Kodak that's necessary to view a particular piece of 14 video, or there's something redacted that they want unredacted. 15 We are happy to entertain those in the meantime -there's no need to resolve the initial discovery request --16 before we get to the next round, if the next round really 17 doesn't have to deal with the resolution first round. So we 18 19 would be more than happy to have those as soon as they're ready 20 and be prepared to discuss them and, if necessary, argue them 21 at this status hearing. 22 MS. CONRAD: That's fine, your Honor. That's what we 23 anticipated doing. 24 THE COURT: Okay. The more we can do that day, the 25 better.

1 With respect to -- let me just say something about the protective order that has been entered, jointly proposed by the 2 parties, and, more generally, about sealing matters in the 3 4 case. 5 As Judge Bowler indicated in one of her conferences 6 with counsel, she was concerned about the level of sealing and 7 urged people to look at that. And you know that since then I've entered an order unsealing some of the matters that have 8 9 been sealed. 10 Unfortunately, our local rule with respect to the impoundment of documents predates CM/ECF and other 11 technological advances and needs to be reconsidered. And our 12 13 local rules committee is going to undertake that. But pending 14 that, I thought it would be appropriate to have an 15 order regarding -- a procedural order regarding sealed motions. And really, it won't be particularly surprising to anyone. 16 It's simply going to try to add some order to the process. 17 In brief, I anticipate that the order will say that 18 19 before something can be filed under seal, there must be a 20 motion to seal explaining the reason why the matter should be placed under seal, and it will include a provision that is in 21 22 our local rule now that when such a motion is made, it should 23 indicate when the matter might be unsealed. 24 The order would then provide that after the motion's 25 made there has to be an order granting or denying the motion,

1 what are the reasons for that, and then if it's granted, the sealed matter may be filed under seal. It's simply to make 2 sure we have a step-by-step record of the application, the 3 order on it, and then the matter, okay? 4 MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Your Honor, just on that point --5 6 THE COURT: Yes. 7 MR. CHAKRAVARTY: -- customarily when a motion is filed, there's a time for response. In the case of some 8 9 exigency, should we file and explain whether we've been able to 10 obtain the assent of the other party? 11 THE COURT: That would be helpful, I guess. And of 12 course, as you know, it's not uncommon in cases like this for 13 matters to be filed under seal and ex parte. As a matter of 14 fact, the bulk of the filings tend to be that in a 15 CJA-regulated case where the defense is required to get 16 approval for various actions. And so those are, of course, ex parte and appropriately under seal. And I think some of the 17 concern that has been voiced about sealing in this case may 18 19 have come from a lack of familiarity with the ordinary progress 20 of a CJA-controlled case. 21 So anyway, I anticipate -- there will be nothing 22 really surprising about the order. I just want to be sure that

23 we are turning square corners on these matters. And I hope it 24 won't slow things down. In other words, we're going to try 25 to -- you know, we'll act on the motion to seal as promptly as

1	possible so the matter can then be placed on the record. And
2	if there's a response to be made, then the time will be started
3	for that response and so on and so forth.

So with respect to the protective order, which is where I started, the protective order provides for some sensitive material -- or information, as defined in the order, to be filed under seal. And I think the order is -- is an order that allows that to be done without further motion as long as it's identified as sensitive as the parties understand that.

11 I would urge that if that happens -- because some of the examples given were personal medical information or other 12 13 private identifiers that already are to be -- under the 14 e-filing regimen are already to be redacted, but I would urge 15 that there be a redacted copy of the host document, if possible, placed in the public record with the unredacted filed 16 under seal in case of sensitive information. That's with 17 18 respect to sort of -- that's a gloss on the protective order.

So I guess the next topic is something that was -- has been addressed last week by filings, and that is when the government expects to be able to file a notice of election with respect to the penalty.

23 MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, the U.S. Attorney -- under 24 the Department of Justice's own internal guidelines, the U.S. 25 Attorney is to file a -- make a submission to the Attorney General that includes information that would be useful for the Capital Case Unit in the Department of Justice, and ultimately the Attorney General, to make a decision on whether to authorize the seeking of the death penalty.

5 The U.S. Attorney intends to make that submission on 6 or before October 31st. The death penalty protocol asks, 7 essentially, the U.S. Attorney to make that no more than 90 8 days before a death penalty authorization decision needs to be 9 made, so that the Capital Case Unit, the review committee and 10 the Department of Justice, the Attorney General, has sufficient 11 time to consider it.

And just as the defense is invited to provide any input to that decision that they wish to provide to the U.S. Attorney, they also have a second chance to provide input to the Capital Case Unit when the time comes. And so 90 days is the amount that the death penalty protocol asks the government to seek for that.

That is why we have -- we're not asking the Court to set a deadline. We intend to file any notice respecting seeking the death penalty as expeditiously as possible. But if the Court is inclined to set one, then we ask that it be set no earlier than January 31st to allow for that 30-day period for consideration.

24 MS. CLARKE: Well, we're not -- good morning. We're 25 not asking the Court to set a notice-of-intent or 1 lack-of-notice-of-intent deadline right now. What we would 2 like the Court to do is direct the delay in the defense 3 submission -- mitigation submission. 4 We're really talking about a couple of things here,

and one is fairness. And the government filed a short brief on Friday about the authority of the Court to weigh in on the scheduling matters. And we can file a brief this week setting forth what we think is the Court's authority to do that, should the Court want us to do that.

10 We have attached the CJA guideline and Judge Gleeson's 11 memo -- 2008 memo -- which sort of sets forth the reasons that 12 the Court should weigh in on that scheduling. And it was a 13 process by which the Department of Justice was involved. So 14 it's not like some judges have imposed some authority on the 15 Department of Justice; they were involved in the promulgation of that guideline, and it is a guideline that is aimed at 16 fairness and a reasonable opportunity for both sides to do the 17 18 work necessary to make a reasonably accurate determination 19 whether the government should or should not seek the death 20 penalty.

The government has said in its pleading that gave us an August 23rd deadline initially that we asked for some more time. It's a little bit more complicated than that. The government, without notice to us, without discussion, gave us an August 23 deadline, which was some ten days before

1 production of any discovery in the case. And we essentially wrote back and said, "You know, this is a big, complex case. 2 We agreed to certain decline extensions that you requested, and 3 4 we'd request a reasonable opportunity to prepare for this 5 presentation. Post-discovery we'd like to meet with you and 6 talk about it." And without any of that, their meeting and 7 talking about it, the government then decided an October 23rd mitigation submission deadline would be appropriate. 8

9 It's in the absence of some pretty critical discovery 10 that we believe that the government has. Now, the government 11 has taken a position with us, "Look, we know what we have, and we don't need you to comment on it." Well, that sort of defies 12 13 the role of defense counsel, and it seems to me the Attorney 14 General of United States would like to know whether they have accurate information that they're considering in making the 15 determination of whether or not to seek the death penalty. 16

So we think it's a matter of fairness that the Court should regulate the scheduling process. If the government needs a deadline for the notice of intent, that's a matter for another day. We think that when the government sees our letter, we hope they will reconsider their position on what we view as critical *Brady* exculpatory evidence with regard to penalty.

I recognize that the local rules don't directly address death penalty cases, but the spirit does, because the

spirit is that you get sentencing -- relevant sentencing material prior to the sentencing process. And the Department of Justice making a decision about the death penalty is part of what we really think of as the sentencing process.

5 So we'd ask that the Court do two things today: One 6 is delay the mitigation submission deadline and set it after 7 we've had an opportunity for the Court to rule on -- or the 8 government to reconsider its own view of what is *Brady*.

9 I can't stop without reminding the Court that it was 10 at the government's request that the -- and our acquiescence in 11 a collegial sense that they delay the indictment an additional 12 30 days -- and it was at the government's request and for good 13 reason, the complex complexity of the case, that we agreed to 14 the delay of the initial -- the production of automatic 15 discovery.

So it's a little bit stunning for the government now to say that it's the defense delaying things, and that it's six months after the event that the defense wants more time. We'd be well ahead of the game, had the government not asked for and we accessed, again, an extension of time to file the indictment and an extension of time for the automatic discovery.

So what we would ask the Court to do is vacate the August 23rd deadline and reset that as we -- after we've had an opportunity to convince the government their view of *Brady* is wrong or the Court has reevaluated.

THE COURT: Mr. Weinreb? 1 MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, the deadline of August 23rd 2 isn't an order of the Court --3 THE COURT: I think you're both talking about October 4 5 31st. 6 MR. WEINREB: October 31st. Thank you. 7 The Attorney General has the -- the law requires the Attorney General to file a notice of intent to seek the death 8 9 penalty in a case where the government intends to seek it. The 10 law does not require that the Attorney General make that 11 decision in any particular way or on any particular timeline. We don't question the Court's authority to set a 12 13 deadline for the Court to file a notice, but how the Attorney 14 General makes up his mind, what information he deems is appropriate to consider, according to what timeline, are all a 15 pure executive function. The deadline that the -- the deadline 16 set by the death penalty protocol are simply internal Justice 17 Department -- Department of Justice matters that the Attorney 18 19 General has decided upon for the orderly progression of cases 20 within the Department of Justice. It doesn't clearly -- clearly it doesn't create any 21 22 rights in the defense, and I don't believe that the defense has 23 any authority to come in here and say that as a matter of what 24 they perceive to be fairness, or what they deem to be a 25 reasonable time, they can subgrade that into a law that then

1 the Court is free to impose on the government in making this 2 decision.

3 The Attorney General has deemed this to be a 4 reasonable time and the -- I think that although it's a 5 non-judicable question, we believe -- we think that six months 6 is a reasonable time in a case like this. Although it is true 7 that the defense has not had an opportunity to thoroughly review and comment on every piece of the government's evidence, 8 9 the U.S. Attorney in this case is fully aware of all the 10 government's evidence, and in order to make this decision, the 11 Attorney General does not need the defense's thorough 12 consideration and commentary on all of it.

13 What we seek from the defense presentation is whatever 14 they may have come up with through their own investigation of 15 the case. And that, added to what the government has come up with from its investigation, is sufficient to make the 16 recommendation or the decision in this case. So I don't 17 believe the defense's argument is well taken as a matter of 18 19 law, as a matter of fairness, or as a matter of common sense. 20 THE COURT: Ms. Clarke?

MS. CLARKE: Your Honor, the government did file something late on Friday, mid-afternoon Friday. If the Court's concerned about its authority, we could file something this week regarding that. And I can tell you that there are two district courts that have said, "We've got the authority to

1 delay the mitigation submission," and two district courts that 2 say no. 3 And so I think that the Court can look at that. It's the -- it's really the implementation of Judge Gleeson's memo 4 and the guideline that the Department of Justice did 5 6 participate in and buy into. 7 It's of concern that the government believes that it 8 can make a decision -- I don't think the Attorney General of 9 the United States would agree with this. But it's pretty 10 stunning to say that they can make a decision based on what 11 they know without some defense input. They may have a 12 completely erroneous story, that I think the protocol is 13 designed to help -- allow us to help them see a different way. 14 And to just doggedly go forward after getting extensions of 15 time which delay this whole process, at their request, would be unfair. 16 But on the matter of the Court's authority, we would 17 18 be happy to file a brief in the next couple of days just at 19 least advising the Court of the status of the case law. 20 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I think for the time being I 21 will not set a date by which the Court must be notified of the 22 election. I understand the time frame of the protocol. I 23 think not only the brief that Ms. Clarke just referred to from 24 the defense, but also, I'd like to get a sense of the 25 additional discovery requests and the government's response

because that may influence what is a realistic date for notifying the Court.

3 Let me ask, because we just touched on what further discovery might or might not occur, there was a reference in 4 5 the status report about substantive motions from the defense. 6 Can you tell us anything about that? Do you anticipate any -- on the discovery you have now. Obviously, if something 7 comes up in additional discovery, that has to be evaluated. 8 9 But on the discovery now, do you anticipate any substantive motions? 10

MS. CLARKE: I think our problem is we're -- you know, we received a substantial amount of stuff and we're not in a position really to stake that out right now. We hope to be able to advise the Court now by the 12th of November.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Let me ask a more pointed question:16 Do you anticipate any objection to venue?

MS. CONRAD: I think it's too early to address that,
your Honor. We just haven't really thought about it, frankly.
THE COURT: Okay.

MS. CONRAD: Your Honor, may I just ask for clarification on one point? You indicated that you would accept a brief from us on this issue of the Court's authority regarding the death penalty protocol, but you also mentioned you would like to get a sense of the discovery request? THE COURT: Well, you're going to be filing the 1 request today, I understand.

2	MS. CONRAD: Yes. But we hadn't anticipated filing
3	them with the Court; we anticipated just sending them to the
4	government. So I don't know if the Court wants us to file them
5	with the Court. If we could, we would probably be asking
6	THE COURT: I guess so. I guess my chance to be
7	looking at them would be when you move after you're
8	dissatisfied with the government's response.
9	MS. CONRAD: Unless you want us to file them under
10	seal.
11	THE COURT: We can follow the normal practice. I
12	don't have to get involved in the negotiations.
13	MS. CONRAD: Okay. Thank you.
14	THE COURT: So I guess that would be after on your
15	schedule, that would be after October 21st.
16	MS. CONRAD: Right.
17	(Pause.)
18	THE COURT: I guess we have a problem with the date
19	that we suggested. That's what the clerk was passing me a note
20	on. He tells me that the sentencing in United States versus
21	Bulger is set for that morning, so I think it would be
22	impractical to try to have a case conference in this case at
23	the same time.
24	So let me look at the calendar.
25	MS. CONRAD: I'm wondering if the 18th or 19th would

1 be possible, your Honor?

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2	MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, if I might be heard, I would
3	suggest compressing the schedule then. Because if the Court
4	wants the benefit of defense motion on discovery before the
5	current deadline that the government has set for defense
6	submission, it's not going to get it on the current schedule.

But if the defense is prepared to file their discovery request today, we won't need two weeks to respond. I mean, they'll need two weeks to file a motion. And there's no need then to set the further status conference even further out. I would suggest we set it earlier and the parties simply work out a more compressed schedule to address these matters.

MS. CONRAD: That's fine with us.

THE COURT: Well, how about just taking one week out of each of those periods; that is, the government response to today's request by next Monday, and then the following Monday, the 7th, would be a motion due. And then you want two weeks for the response or do you want to respond faster than that?

MR. WEINREB: Actually, on that score, we would like the two weeks because we have no idea what's coming.

THE COURT: Right. Right. That's fair enough. So that gets us to the 21st of October. So we can move it maybe forward. Actually, we could do it the 1st or 2nd of October -- I'm sorry. I'm in the wrong month. MS. CLARKE: Will the 4th work?

1 THE COURT: No, the 4th will not work. MS. CONRAD: Your Honor, if I may, if the government's 2 3 goal was to get a status conference before the current deadline for the submission to the U.S. Attorney, which I believe is 4 5 actually October 24th, then --6 MR. WEINREB: No, that wasn't the goal. 7 MS. CONRAD: Okay. Then I misunderstood. MR. WEINREB: It was simply to allow the defense time 8 9 to file their motions so the Court could have a sense of what 10 the discovery requests are. 11 MS. CONRAD: Okay. 12 THE COURT: How about Friday, November 8th? 13 MS. CLARKE: Your Honor, if it could be a Monday, 14 Tuesday or Wednesday, that would work a whole lot better. 15 (Pause.) THE COURT: Let's go back to the 12th of November. 16 Ι have a trial scheduled the previous week, which may go into 17 18 that week, which is why I avoided the morning before, but we 19 can perhaps work around it. So let's make it ten o'clock on 20 the morning of November 12th for the next status conference. 21 MS. CLARKE: Have we compressed the other deadlines 22 and --23 THE COURT: Yes, we have compressed the other 24 deadlines but... 25 MS. CLARKE: And we'll still have the hearing on the

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     12th?
              THE COURT: Well, yes, among other things. In other
 2
     words, that's the next status conference. One thing we can
 3
     consider are the motions.
 4
 5
              Any other matters now?
 6
              MR. WEINREB: Nothing from the government, your Honor.
 7
              MS. CLARKE: Does the Court have a preference as to
     when we should file the brief this week?
 8
 9
              THE COURT: No.
10
              MS. CLARKE: By Friday?
              THE COURT: By Friday is fine.
11
              MS. CLARKE: Thank you, your Honor.
12
13
              THE COURT: So we'll set the next status conference on
14
     the 12th of November. The time intervening will be excluded
15
     under the Speedy Trial Act pursuant to Section
     3161(h)(7)(B)(ii), complex case requiring additional time. I
16
     think that's fairly obvious.
17
18
              Okay. That's all for now. I would -- if counsel for
19
     the defense are available, I would like to have a very brief ex
20
     parte conference regarding the budget for the case.
              MS. CLARKE: Thank you, your Honor.
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22
              THE COURT: We'll be in recess.
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              MR. WEINREB: Thank you, your Honor.
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              MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Thank you, Judge.
25
              THE CLERK: All rise for the Court.
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(The Court exits the courtroom.) THE CLERK: The Court will be in recess. (The proceedings adjourned at 10:33 a.m.) CERTIFICATE I, Marcia G. Patrisso, RMR, CRR, Official Reporter of the United States District Court, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript constitutes, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes taken in the matter of Criminal Action No. 13-10200-GAO, United States of America v. Dzhokhar A. Tsarnaev. /s/ Marcia G. Patrisso MARCIA G. PATRISSO, RMR, CRR Official Court Reporter Date: 9/24/13