

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

-----

United States of America,	)	File No. 22-cr-223
	)	(NEB/DTS)
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
Aimee Marie Bock(1),	)	Courtroom 13W
Salim Ahmed Said(3),	)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
	)	Monday, February 3, 2025
Defendants.	)	9:22 a.m.
	)	

-----

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY E. BRASEL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT JUDGE

**JURY VOIR DIRE PROCEEDINGS**

Court Reporter: RENE E. A. ROGGE, RMR-CRR  
United States Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street, Box 1005  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

\* \* \*

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography;  
Transcript produced by computer.

\* \* \*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff: UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
BY: JOSEPH H. THOMPSON  
HARRY JACOBS  
MATTHEW S. EBERT  
DANIEL W. BOBIER  
600 United States Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

For Defendant KENNETH UBONG UDOIBOK P.A.  
Aimee Marie Bock(1): BY: KENNETH U. UDOIBOK  
310 Fourth Avenue South, #5010  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

For Defendant COLICH & ASSOCIATES  
Salim Ahmed Said(3): BY: MICHAEL J. COLICH  
ADRIAN SCOTT LAFAVOR-MONTEZ  
RAGHEN LUCY  
10 South Fifth Street, #420  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

\* \* \*



1 feeling that you have done a very real civic duty that makes  
2 a real difference in people's lives.

3 Serving as a juror allows people to make a  
4 difference in our democracy. So your being here not only  
5 fulfills a promise of the Constitution, but in a practical  
6 sense it brings fairness and justice to our society. And  
7 again it directly impacts the lives of the parties in the  
8 courtroom here today.

9 I'll introduce all those folks to you at the  
10 appropriate time, but before we begin that and before we  
11 begin the process of questioning all of you, I want to go  
12 over a few ground rules that apply to all of you before we  
13 begin that questioning.

14 First, I want to make sure that your cell phones  
15 are, I believe that yours are in pouches. Am I right about  
16 that, or are they just -- no, you don't have the pouches.  
17 Okay. So all the way off. They need to be all the way off,  
18 not just on silent.

19 There's an order posted outside the courtroom. It  
20 prohibits the use of cell phones or any recording device in  
21 the courtroom. If you violate this order, you may be found  
22 in contempt of court. So, again, that is an order of the  
23 court. Turn your cell phone all the way off. No cell  
24 phones or recording devices.

25 Second, if you are selected as a juror in this

1 case, you cannot discuss the case with your fellow jurors  
2 before you are permitted to do so at the conclusion of the  
3 trial. You also cannot discuss it with anyone else until  
4 after a decision has been reached by the jury.

5 So that means -- and I'm going to go over this in  
6 a number of different ways. It's going to feel repetitive,  
7 but you cannot talk about the case or otherwise have any  
8 communications about the case with anyone, including your  
9 fellow jurors, until I tell you so.

10 So in addition to not having face-to-face  
11 conversations with your fellow jurors or anyone else, you  
12 cannot communicate about the case in any way, whether in  
13 writing, email, text, blogs, comments on social media,  
14 et cetera. No communications about the case.

15 Third, no research. So you are not investigators.  
16 You cannot conduct any type of independent or personal  
17 research or investigation regarding any matters related to  
18 the case.

19 So that means not using any of your devices to do  
20 any research or investigation of the case, the matters in  
21 the case, the legal issues presented, or the individuals or  
22 other entities involved in the case.

23 You must ignore any information about the case  
24 that you might see, even accidentally while browsing the  
25 internet or on your social media feeds. This is because you

1 must base your decision, if you are selected as a juror,  
2 solely on what you see and hear in this courtroom. That is  
3 the only way to ensure fairness to the parties.

4 It's very important that you abide by these rules.  
5 Failure to follow the instructions could result in the case  
6 having to be retried, which no one wants.

7 Before I ask you individual questions and group  
8 questions, I'm going to now administer an oath to you for  
9 voir dire examination.

10 If you are selected as a juror, there's a  
11 different oath that you take, but for now you are taking an  
12 oath to tell the truth because that's what you must do  
13 during voir dire.

14 So I'd like all of you in the courtroom to stand,  
15 and I'm going to swear you in.

16 Would you raise your right hand. You and each of  
17 you do swear that you will true answers make to such  
18 questions as may be put to you touching upon your  
19 qualifications to sit as jurors in this case. If so, answer  
20 "I do."

21 JURY PANEL: I do.

22 THE COURT: Thank you. You all may be seated.

23 All right. We're now going to go through the  
24 process of jury selection or what we call voir dire.

25 In order to ensure that we choose a fair and

1 impartial jury, I'll ask you a variety of questions.  
2 Initially I'm going to direct my questions to 39 prospective  
3 jurors sitting in the front of the courtroom. What do I  
4 mean by "the front of the courtroom"?

5 I have a map that I am sometimes able to follow  
6 and sometimes I'm not so good at it, but there are 39 of you  
7 sitting in the jury box here, in the front row of the  
8 benches back there, and then in the row behind them.

9 So I think if I've done this right, raise your  
10 hand if you are Juror Number 17. Hi. Great. That's what I  
11 have too.

12 And then the person right behind Number 17, is  
13 that jury Number 33? Raise your hand if you are 33.  
14 Perfect. Great. That's exactly what I have.

15 The attorneys also have the seating maps, so  
16 hopefully we won't screw it up. All right.

17 If any of the 39 of you are excused, the rest of  
18 you are considered overflow jurors. All right? If any of  
19 the 39 are excused, I'm going to call a substitute from the  
20 back of the room randomly selected by number. I'll ask that  
21 person, without repeating all the prior questions, whether  
22 any of the questions pertains to him or her.

23 So it's important that each of you listen  
24 carefully even if you are not in that first 39 because then  
25 I won't have to go through everything one by one. All

1 right?

2 The purpose of the questions is to enable us to  
3 select a jury that will be fair and impartial in this case.  
4 My questions to you, your answers to them, are in no sense  
5 evidence in the case. The questions are not meant to  
6 embarrass you in any way or to pry unnecessarily into your  
7 personal affairs, but only to obtain basic information  
8 necessary to permit the parties to make an informed choice  
9 about jurors in the case.

10 The questions that I ask you are not intended to  
11 question your honesty or your integrity. The fact that  
12 you've been summoned here for jury service to federal court  
13 means that you are qualified to serve.

14 Rather, what we're trying to determine in fairness  
15 to each party and to ensure a fair trial for the parties  
16 before the court that there's nothing that's happened to you  
17 in your lifetime that would interfere with your ability to  
18 be a fair and impartial juror in this case to all parties.

19 So I would urge each of you to answer the  
20 questions that I ask fully and frankly. In our system of  
21 justice, the best way for a trial judge to ensure that a  
22 party receives a fair and a just trial and a fair and a just  
23 result is to make sure that each case is decided by a fair  
24 and impartial jury.

25 If you feel that the answers to any of my

1 questions will cause you great embarrassment or discomfort  
2 or you prefer to discuss the answer privately, please let me  
3 know. Any juror who wishes to share a concern privately  
4 during voir dire may ask for a sidebar to speak with me in a  
5 safe manner, along with the lawyers and court reporter  
6 participating as well.

7 I have to allow an attorney from each party to  
8 hear your answer, and the court reporter will have to make a  
9 record.

10 Under your oath, you are obligated to give fair  
11 and truthful answers to these questions. It's your solemn  
12 duty to serve as a fair and impartial juror if you are able  
13 to do so.

14 It's equally your solemn duty not to serve if for  
15 any reason you can't be fair and impartial. So you must  
16 disclose to the court any fact or belief which might prevent  
17 you from serving as a fair and impartial juror.

18 At the same time, it's important that you not say  
19 anything in open court about the parties in this case or  
20 about any other matter that might tend to impair the  
21 open-mindedness and fairness of another juror or other  
22 member of the panel.

23 So if a question calls for a yes or no answer, you  
24 can answer yes or no. If you feel further information  
25 should be disclosed but that it might tend to influence

1 those around you, tell me that. I'll follow up with you,  
2 and we'll do so in a manner so that the other members of the  
3 panel don't hear you.

4 If you are selected as a juror in this case, the  
5 only evidence that you may consider in deciding this case is  
6 the evidence of witnesses under oath and exhibits which I  
7 receive into evidence. I have no knowledge of the facts of  
8 this case as they may come into evidence.

9 Nothing I say constitutes evidence. I am going to  
10 briefly describe to you the charges which have been brought  
11 by the government in this criminal case against the  
12 defendants so that you will understand the reasons for  
13 certain questions being asked.

14 Again, this is a criminal case. The name of the  
15 case is the United States of America versus Aimee Marie Bock  
16 and Salim Ahmed Said. The charges are set forth in what is  
17 called an indictment, and I'm going to summarize that  
18 indictment for you now.

19 The indictment alleges that from about April 2020  
20 to January 2022, Number 1, Aimee Bock engaged in wire fraud  
21 conspiracy, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal  
22 programs bribery and federal programs bribery.

23 And, Number 2, Salim Said allegedly engaged in  
24 wire fraud conspiracy, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit  
25 federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery and

1 conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering.

2 The government in this case is represented by  
3 Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Thompson and his  
4 team.

5 Mr. Thompson, would you rise and introduce your  
6 team to the jury panel.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
8 My name is Joe Thompson. I'm an Assistant United States  
9 Attorney. I'm here with several of my colleagues: Harry  
10 Jacobs, who is also an Assistant United States Attorney,  
11 Matt Ebert and Dan Bobier all Assistant United States  
12 Attorneys, as well as joining us from the FBI, FBI Special  
13 Agent Jared Kary, FBI Special Agent Travis Wilmer and FBI  
14 forensic accountant Pauline Roase.

15 THE COURT: Do any of you know any of these  
16 attorneys, anyone else who works at the United States  
17 Attorney's Office or any of the agents who are sitting at  
18 the back table?

19 All right. I'm seeing no hands. Thank you.

20 Mr. Udoibok, would you please rise, introduce  
21 yourself and your client.

22 MR. UDOIBOK: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen  
23 of the jury. My name is Kenneth Udoibok. It's a little  
24 hard name to pronounce. And with me is, stand up please,  
25 Aimee Marie Bock, who you see.

1 Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 And, Mr. Colich or Mr. Montez, would you rise and  
4 introduce your team and your client?

5 MR. MONTEZ: Good morning, everyone. My name is  
6 Adrian Montez. I'm here with my cocounsel, Michael Colich,  
7 along with Raghen Lucy, and together we represent Salim  
8 Said.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated.

10 Do any --

11 Mr. Colich is having voice issues this morning, so  
12 that's why his voice is a little bit quieter.

13 Do any of you, are any of you acquainted with any  
14 of the folks who just rose? Mr. Udoibok and his team,  
15 Mr. Colich, Mr. Montez and their team?

16 All right. Thank you. I'm seeing no hands.

17 All right. Let me introduce you to my court  
18 staff. They are in front of me. You have met Kristine  
19 Wegner already. She is my courtroom deputy. She is the  
20 person you will be interfacing the most. She always has the  
21 answers to questions. I'm not quite sure how, but she does.

22 Renee Rogge is in front of me. She is the court  
23 reporter for this trial. She is my court reporter. She is  
24 excellent. She will tell you to slow down if you speak too  
25 fast, and she's not going to stand up because she's taking

1 down my words.

2 And then Anthony Hernandez is over here. He is my  
3 law clerk. He is a relatively recently barred attorney and  
4 brilliant, and he has answers to all of my questions as  
5 well. Again, I don't know how he does that.

6 Any of you know us on a social or professional  
7 basis?

8 Okay. During your juror orientation, you were  
9 shown a list of persons who may be called as witnesses in  
10 this case. I know it was long. I also have some additional  
11 names. The additional names are Qaman Ahmed, Mohamud Ali,  
12 Amino Abdi, Mohamed Liban.

13 Can you raise your hand if you know any of the  
14 persons on the witness list that you were given or the names  
15 that I've just added?

16 Yes, sir, in the back.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Three names.

18 THE COURT: Three names? All right. Since you  
19 are an on-call juror and you are pretty far in the back, I'm  
20 going to not go through that with you right now. All right?

21 Anybody else? Same I think. Go ahead.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have one, but the spelling  
23 of the first name is off, that I know.

24 THE COURT: What's the name?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Sharmarke Jama.

1 THE COURT: Sharmarke Jama?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: But it's only by a letter.

3 THE COURT: Can the government disclose a brief  
4 occupation of Sharmarke Jama?

5 MR. EBERT: I can disclose that that individual  
6 lives and works in Rochester, Minnesota.

7 THE COURT: Not the same? All right. Thank you.  
8 Anyone else?

9 Okay. I'm really surprised because there's a Matt  
10 Anderson on the list. Are you telling me that nobody here  
11 has heard of Matt Anderson? I know three of them. No.  
12 Okay.

13 All right. Thank you. If anything comes to mind  
14 as we go forward, again your time has not passed. You may  
15 raise, raise an issue if you have one later.

16 All right. I'm directing these questions to the  
17 first 39 people again in the front of the room.

18 Jury selection begins today. Trial will actually  
19 begin next Monday. So we'll start with opening statements  
20 next Monday. So you would have today, if we get a jury  
21 today, you will be done for the week. Then we will recess.  
22 We will be -- you will be sworn in, but we will be in recess  
23 the remainder of the week, and trial will begin Monday,  
24 February 10, with opening statements.

25 The parties expect this trial to be completed

1 within four weeks of February 10.

2 Trial will generally be Mondays through Thursdays.  
3 We'll generally meet from 9:00 to 5:00, and we'll take an  
4 hour break for lunch and two breaks in the morning -- I mean  
5 in the morning and in the afternoon.

6 As indicated on the jury questionnaires that you  
7 all completed, I'm authorized to excuse someone from jury  
8 service if that service would inflict an extreme hardship.  
9 Extreme hardship does not mean the type of inconvenience  
10 that all jurors face. Rather, it means something unusual  
11 and severe.

12 All of you have indicated on the forms you  
13 submitted that service would not be an extreme hardship.  
14 Has that changed for any of the 39 of you in the jury box in  
15 the front of the courtroom?

16 Yes. So I've got, we've got a microphone. When  
17 you speak, I'd like you to speak into the microphone. And  
18 you are Juror Number 40. Am I right?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: (Moves head up and down.)

20 So my husband is scheduled to have surgery  
21 tomorrow and requires care for the next four to six weeks,  
22 and I have a letter from his doctor.

23 THE COURT: And you live in Winona, correct?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. I'm going to excuse you.

1 I appreciate your service, and you may put the microphone  
2 down, and I'm going to have you exit the courtroom. I don't  
3 think you need to check in with the jury clerk.

4 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Just with Gerri outside. She's  
5 going to collect the --

6 THE COURT: Okay. So there's somebody outside who  
7 will collect the papers from you.

8 If you are excused, I want you all to make sure  
9 that you're handing that witness list back to the person  
10 outside the courtroom. All right?

11 And so, Ms. Wegner, would you please call someone  
12 to sit in that seat.

13 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Our next juror is Juror  
14 Number 41 will take our seat Number 10.

15 THE COURT: Good morning.

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

17 THE COURT: Any question that I have asked so far  
18 that you would say yes to?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

20 THE COURT: Okay. You can be with us?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: (Moves head up and down.)

22 THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else on the extreme  
23 hardship. Yes. So this is where I have trouble reading my  
24 math. What number are you, sir?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 29.

1 THE COURT: 29. Go ahead.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Oh, sorry. I'm supposed to be  
3 out of town Monday and Tuesday, coming back on Wednesday.

4 THE COURT: Of next Wednesday?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

6 THE COURT: And what for?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just to go on vacation.

8 THE COURT: How long planned?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: What is that? I'm sorry.

10 THE COURT: How long planned?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: First week of January.

12 THE COURT: So after you completed your  
13 questionnaire.

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct. Yeah.

15 THE COURT: And who are you going on vacation  
16 with?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A buddy of mine. We're going  
18 to Scottsdale.

19 THE COURT: All right. Let me hold that one for a  
20 moment. Okay?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Okay.

22 THE COURT: I think someone else in the jury box  
23 had raised their hand. Number 6.

24 (Reporter interruption)

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's not a hardship, but --

1 THE COURT: That was my fault.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's not a hardship. I just  
3 hadn't made it fully through the list. I might know the Joe  
4 Smith that's on here.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So I just wanted to make that  
7 known.

8 THE COURT: From the government, can you give a  
9 brief summary of Mr. Smith's occupation?

10 MR. BOBIER: That's Joe Smith, Your Honor, and  
11 that's an FBI agent headquartered here in Minneapolis.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not the same Joe Smith.

13 THE COURT: Not the same. All right. Thank you.  
14 I appreciate that.

15 Anyone else? Yes. Juror Number 16. Wait. Wait.  
16 Wait for the microphone. Can you pass it? Thank you.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I know a Chad Fleming.

18 THE COURT: Again to the government. Chad  
19 Fleming's address -- or I'm sorry -- occupation or city of  
20 residence?

21 MR. BOBIER: Chad Fleming is also an FBI agent.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Sorry.

23 THE COURT: Not the same one.

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

25 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

1           Anyone else?

2           So could you pass the microphone to Juror  
3           Number 2, please.

4           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Also perusing through the list  
5           here, I do know a Matt Anderson.

6           THE COURT: Thank you.

7           MR. THOMPSON: One moment, Your Honor.

8           Your Honor, I think it's someone that probably  
9           won't end up being called, so it's a nonissue.

10          THE COURT: All right. We're striking Matt  
11          Anderson. That may clear up some things.

12          Anyone else? Number 4?

13          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A Mike Kinney.

14          THE COURT: Okay. Mike Kinney is?

15          MR. THOMPSON: Scott Kinney, Your Honor?

16          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Mike Kinney.

17          MR. THOMPSON: Mike Kinney is a customs agent,  
18          works for Customs and Border Patrol.

19          THE COURT: Same one or different? Different.

20          Anyone else? Okay.

21          MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, my colleagues inform me  
22          that Matt Anderson is actually one of Defendant Bock's  
23          witnesses.

24          THE COURT: And so could you give a description of  
25          his occupation? Approximate.

1 MR. UDOIBOK: Just a second, Your Honor.

2 Your Honor, it's unlikely that we will call him.

3 THE COURT: Unlikely that you will call him?

4 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes.

5 THE COURT: All right. Also then to the 39 of  
6 you, if you are selected to serve on a jury you will have to  
7 read documents written in English, listen to testimony of  
8 witnesses who will speak in English, and you'll have to  
9 deliberate in English with the other jurors.

10 Do any of you have difficulty reading,  
11 understanding or speaking the English language?

12 All right. I see no hands.

13 Anyone have problems seeing or hearing that would  
14 interfere with jury service?

15 And I see no hands there as well.

16 I see one in the back, so I'm just going to  
17 direct -- I don't think you're in the first 39 so I'm going  
18 to wait on that one.

19 Any other physical or mental issues that would  
20 prevent you from serving as a juror on this case? Anyone?

21 And does anyone know any other potential jurors?  
22 Did any of you recognize each other as you went through  
23 orientation?

24 I have had two instances where either a father,  
25 son, or a father, mother, son-in-law. I made them choose.

1 All right. We'll go back to Juror Number, was it,  
2 29? I'm going to excuse you, sir, and let you go to  
3 Scottsdale.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Okay.

5 THE COURT: I'm hoping you feel the heat from all  
6 of the other potential jurors here.

7 Make sure you hand your documents to the clerk at  
8 the exit, and we'll call another juror in.

9 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 43 will take seat  
10 29.

11 THE COURT: Good morning sir. Would you have  
12 answered yes to any of the questions that I have asked yet  
13 today?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: What was -- and let's get you the  
16 microphone.

17 Thank you.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning. My situation  
19 has changed since I filled the application. My company was  
20 awarded a project by the State of Minnesota that I am the  
21 designer and the critical member of the team, and we need to  
22 complete it by May.

23 So the project has started already. I would like  
24 to request the postponement of the jury service.

25 THE COURT: What is your company?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Apadana.

2 THE COURT: All right. If that had been the case  
3 prior to completing the questionnaire, I would have excused  
4 you, so I will excuse you now. Thank you.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: And, again, hand your documents to the  
7 clerk at the outside of the door, and we will call the next  
8 juror.

9 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 44, seat 29,  
10 please.

11 THE COURT: Is the microphone still back there  
12 with you?

13 Thank you.

14 Good morning, sir. Would you have answered yes to  
15 any of the questions that I have asked?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

18 All right. Moving on to a few more group  
19 questions, have any of the lawyers in this case or any  
20 members of their firms or agencies acted as your attorney or  
21 the attorney for any member of your immediate family or  
22 close friends, to your knowledge?

23 I'm seeing no hands there.

24 Has anyone talked to you or communicated with you  
25 in any way about this case?

1 I'm seeing no hands there.

2 Have you or any member of your family ever had any  
3 dealings with the United States Attorney's Office for the  
4 District of Minnesota?

5 I'm seeing no hands there.

6 And how about you or any member of your family had  
7 any dealings with the FBI?

8 I'm seeing no hands there.

9 All right. What I'd like to do now is to go  
10 through and review each prospective juror's individual  
11 questionnaire with them. So I'm going to start in the jury  
12 box with Juror Number 1.

13 And all of the attorneys have the questionnaire  
14 books in front of you -- in front of them. Excuse me. So  
15 they will be able to review. They had a review of those  
16 earlier.

17 I will tell you the following about our processes  
18 for jury selection in this case:

19 I did send out the questionnaires, and I  
20 appreciate the fact that you all completed them. The  
21 attorneys have books of them. Those books do not leave the  
22 courtroom. They were allowed to review them on Friday. We  
23 then gathered them back up.

24 They have them in front of them now. We will  
25 gather them back up, and that is what happens with the

1 questionnaires. They are not filed in the case.

2 In addition, when the attorneys reviewed the  
3 questionnaires, your names were whited out. So they did not  
4 have your names.

5 Right now they do have a list of your names, so  
6 they are allowed to have your names. We will not refer to  
7 you by name in court. And after jury selection is over, I  
8 gather the names from the attorneys, and they are not filed.

9 All right? So that is the process that we follow  
10 and that I ensure that we follow.

11 Juror Number 1, I have your questionnaire. I had  
12 a couple followups. You noted your employment as a heavy  
13 equipment operator. Where do you work?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Ramsey County.

15 THE COURT: And do you work for the county?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, public works.

17 THE COURT: Public works. Okay.

18 Do you know whether Ramsey County gives you paid  
19 time off for jury service?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, they do.

21 THE COURT: Do they?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

23 THE COURT: Thank you. And who is your immediate  
24 supervisor?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Randy Royls.

1 THE COURT: How do you spell the last name.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: R-O-Y-L-S.

3 THE COURT: And your question to Number 9 said  
4 pool as your free time.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Billiards.

6 THE COURT: Billiards. Thank you.

7 And on Question Number 12, it looks like you might  
8 have checked yes by mistake and then checked no, is that  
9 correct, or was there an ambiguity there that I should  
10 follow up on?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The answer no is correct.

12 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

13 And have you ever heard of this case before today?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: And sorry. I'm going to go back to  
16 Number 8. What are your parenting responsibilities for the  
17 child?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have a  
19 one-and-a-half-year-old, and me and my wife live together,  
20 so it's just -- I don't know what you mean.

21 THE COURT: So go back to Number 6.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not, I'm not legally  
23 married. I am common law marriage.

24 THE COURT: I understand. Okay. So you live with  
25 the --

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

2 THE COURT: That was my question, and I wanted to  
3 make sure that if you were a single father that --

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

5 THE COURT: -- you were able to serve. In other  
6 words, it wasn't an extreme hardship, and I know you didn't  
7 bring it up, but that's why I ask that question.

8 Anything else that you want to bring up?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Let's go on to  
11 Number 2. One moment.

12 Good morning.

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

14 THE COURT: You list your occupation as a school  
15 teacher. Do you still teach?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I do.

17 THE COURT: And where?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: South Washington County  
19 schools, Park High School.

20 THE COURT: And what do you teach?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Special education.

22 THE COURT: And what's the school district's  
23 policy on jury service?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They do pay my salary. They  
25 do require me to reimburse the court fee, the \$50 a day.

1 Yes, I have to provide that to them.

2 THE COURT: To reimburse the court for your jury  
3 pay, not I'm assuming for your expenses.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

5 THE COURT: Okay. And you listed one of your  
6 children as a graduate student at the University of  
7 Wisconsin. In what area are they studying?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He is studying -- I'm drawing  
9 a blank here -- library science. In particular -- gosh, I'm  
10 drawing a blank here, but it's library science.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

12 And you are a member of the teachers union. What  
13 union is that?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not sure of the local  
15 number, but it's --

16 THE COURT: It's the local teachers union.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The local teachers union,  
18 correct.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And on Question 13 whether you  
20 had relatives or close friends who were, are employed in  
21 legal profession, you stated yes. Can you explain?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. I have an aunt who now  
23 is deceased who was an attorney in Chicago.

24 THE COURT: And what kind of law did she practice?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I believe it was -- I don't

1 know if it was personal injury or, but I don't recall.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And anyone else that you, in  
3 your close family who is employed in the legal profession?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Actually, my ex-wife was a  
5 paralegal.

6 THE COURT: Where?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That just came to mind. I'm  
8 not sure where she's employed presently, but she was  
9 employed for an attorney in St. Paul I know when we were  
10 married.

11 THE COURT: Okay. And how long have you been  
12 separated from her?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 20 years.

14 THE COURT: And you also answered yes to having  
15 relatives or close friends who worked in law enforcement.  
16 Can you explain that?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have a cousin in Chicago who  
18 is a police officer.

19 THE COURT: Do you talk to her or him about being  
20 a police officer?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, not regularly.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And do you know in what  
23 capacity he or she is serving?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think a patrol officer.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Anything about that that you

1 think would affect your ability to be fair or impartial  
2 here?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

4 THE COURT: And anything about your answer to  
5 Number 16, the fact that you were a victim of an assault  
6 20 years ago, is there anything about that that you think  
7 would affect your ability to be fair and impartial here?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

9 THE COURT: And you stated you participated in a  
10 court hearing for that. Did you testify in court?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. I mean, it wasn't, it  
12 was just local through Cottage Grove.

13 THE COURT: And was that a trial or a hearing?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A hearing I believe, yes.

15 THE COURT: Okay. And in terms of hearing about  
16 this case, it sounds like you have, maybe recall a news  
17 story. Anything else about that?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I didn't follow it that  
19 closely, but I did just kind of piece together the  
20 particular question about the different organizations.

21 THE COURT: Is there anything about what you heard  
22 that would affect your ability to be fair and impartial  
23 here?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

25 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.

1 Juror Number 3.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: All right. Thank you.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

4 THE COURT: Good morning. You work for TSA.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: What do you do?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Security screening of person  
8 and property at the airport in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

9 THE COURT: And does TSA give you paid time off  
10 for jury service?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Good. And go to Number 14, which is  
13 working in law enforcement. TSA is obviously a federal  
14 agency, and you will be hearing from federal agents in a  
15 different federal agency, that being the FBI and others on  
16 the witness list here in this trial.

17 Can you treat those individuals like you treat any  
18 other witness?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

20 THE COURT: Anything about your TSA service that  
21 you think would affect your ability to be fair?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

23 THE COURT: Okay. All right. That's all I have  
24 for you. Thank you.

25 Juror Number 4. Good morning. You are a teacher.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Substitute teacher.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And where do you serve as a  
3 substitute teacher?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Wayzata schools and Hopkins  
5 through Teachers on Call.

6 THE COURT: For Teachers on Call?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Hopkins Teachers on call and  
8 also Wayzata schools.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Is Teachers on Call an  
10 organization like a nonprofit that --

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: An organization that --

12 THE COURT: What does it do?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: -- gives schools substitute  
14 teachers.

15 THE COURT: Okay. That aren't necessarily  
16 employed by the district itself.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Right.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have a particular age or  
19 specialty?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm a special education  
21 teacher, but I substitute in all subjects and all ages K  
22 through 12.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

24 And at one point were you a full-time teacher?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

1 THE COURT: You've always been a substitute?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. I got my degree late in  
3 my life so --

4 THE COURT: Got it.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Long-term sub.

6 THE COURT: Okay. You list your ex-husband's  
7 employment as a software engineer. For what company?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I can't recall the name of the  
9 company now. He's laid off.

10 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And you've  
11 disclosed a couple of incidents where both your daughter and  
12 you were victims of crimes. Do you -- you had stated that  
13 your daughter's car theft was felt -- dealt with fairly.

14 And then the orders for protection that you  
15 mention, do you feel that the system treated you fairly in  
16 those, you and your daughter fairly, in those instances?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I do.

18 THE COURT: And anything about those instances  
19 that you think would affect your ability to be fair and  
20 impartial?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

22 THE COURT: Okay. What are you aware of with  
23 respect to the summer food programs during COVID for  
24 schools?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not much. I just know that

1 schools had a summer program where anyone could come in and  
2 get lunch in the summer. Maybe there was food to take home,  
3 too.

4 THE COURT: Did you participate in or volunteer  
5 with any of those programs?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I did not.

7 THE COURT: Okay. I think you -- there was  
8 something attached to your questionnaire that I think was a  
9 mistake and we contacted you about. Was that right?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's a mistake. I have  
11 never seen that before.

12 THE COURT: Okay. All right. It's in everybody's  
13 questionnaire books, and we had all sorts of questions about  
14 it, but you've never seen it. It just got in there by  
15 mistake.

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. That's all I have  
18 for you. Thank you.

19 Juror Number 5. Good morning. You work for  
20 Minnesota Health Fairview or M Health Fairview. What do you  
21 do?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I no longer work for them.  
23 I'm currently unemployed.

24 THE COURT: Okay. What did you do for them?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was an imaging coordinator.

1 I scheduled imaging appointments for all sorts of different  
2 locations and things of that nature.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And what happened with your  
4 employment?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was just too much of a  
6 mental toll.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Very sad and depressing.

9 THE COURT: And as you consider what you may do  
10 next, what are you thinking about?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's a great question. So I  
12 do -- I don't know if it's necessarily a hardship, but since  
13 I filled out the form, my mom's health has declined a bit,  
14 and I've been having to go over there often to help get her  
15 off the floor because she's fallen. And it's happened like  
16 three times in the last couple weeks.

17 So I guess for that reason, I might not like to be  
18 on the jury because if something like that happens and I  
19 can't help, I'm not going to feel good about it.

20 THE COURT: Is there anyone else who can help?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I'm her only kid. My  
22 wife works as well. There's not really any family around  
23 that's capable of doing that, and I don't want to have to  
24 have her call an ambulance for something like that when  
25 she's not hurt. She just can't get herself off the ground.

1 THE COURT: How old is she?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Unfortunately not that old.  
3 She's almost 60, but she has some health issues, so --

4 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to excuse you.  
5 So I'm going to ask you to make your way out of the jury  
6 box. I know you are in the middle of it and have our next  
7 juror come in.

8 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 45 will take seat  
9 5.

10 THE COURT: Good morning. You've got a microphone  
11 right to your right.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

13 THE COURT: Good morning. Would you have said yes  
14 to any of the questions that I have asked so far?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And you work for Hennepin  
17 Healthcare. What do you do for them?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I just currently transferred  
19 as a surgical coordinator, but before that I was a welcome  
20 services representative.

21 THE COURT: And your spouse's employment is with  
22 BluSky Restoration?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: BluSky Restoration.

24 THE COURT: BluSky. That makes more sense than  
25 "BluSky," doesn't it?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

2 THE COURT: What does your spouse do for them?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's a water technician.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And when was the case that you  
5 mentioned in Number 17?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: This was 2023.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And was that in Hennepin  
8 County?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

10 THE COURT: What county?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. Actually it was Hennepin.  
12 I think it was between Ramsey and Hennepin. Hennepin  
13 County, I believe, yeah.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And do you feel that case was  
15 resolved fairly?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And is it completely over?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

19 THE COURT: All right. Does Hennepin Healthcare  
20 give you paid time off for jury service?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

22 THE COURT: Excellent.

23 Anything else that you wish to call to the court's  
24 attention?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 All right. Juror Number 6. And you list your  
3 occupation as technical support.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

5 THE COURT: For what company?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Infor.

7 THE COURT: What does Infor do?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Computer ERP software,  
9 purchasing, payroll.

10 THE COURT: And where are they located?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Corporate is New York. Our  
12 office is in St. Paul.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And do they give you time off  
14 for jury service?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Paid time off?

17 Part of the reason I ask that is for hardship, but  
18 I also ask it so that we follow up with the companies and  
19 thank them for having that policy, and I think it's  
20 important going forward. So that's part of my interest in  
21 it.

22 Where is your spouse's or significant other's,  
23 where are they a mental health therapist?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Lakeville.

25 THE COURT: In Lakeville. And any specialty

1       there?

2                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I couldn't tell you.

3                   THE COURT: Okay. And you are divorced, right?

4                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

5                   THE COURT: Okay. How long have you been  
6 divorced?

7                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Twelve years.

8                   THE COURT: Got it. Okay.

9                   And your, you have an adult, a 25-year-old who  
10 works as a purchasing agent. For what company and in what  
11 industry?

12                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Superior Steel.

13                   THE COURT: Is that in Wisconsin?

14                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's in Minnesota.

15                   THE COURT: It's in Minnesota. Okay.

16                   And you have had some exposure to this case  
17 through the news?

18                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

19                   THE COURT: Based on your -- well, first of all,  
20 what outlets do you rely on?

21                   PROSPECTIVE JUROR: You know, the evening news,  
22 some online headlines pop up. I haven't done any research  
23 or anything. Just mainly the headlines and just listening  
24 to the news.

25                   THE COURT: Okay. And so two questions about

1 that: One, whatever you have had heard, can you put it  
2 aside and treat this case separately?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Can you apply the presumption of  
5 innocence that the law requires to these defendants?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

7 THE COURT: And can you also during the trial not  
8 pay attention to the news?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Okay. You also note that the USDA is  
11 a customer of the software company that you work for. Do  
12 you have significant interactions with the USDA?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Only answering questions about  
14 the software, not directly dealing with the business itself.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Anything about that that you  
16 think would affect your jury service?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

18 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

19 Juror Number 7. Good morning.

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

21 THE COURT: What do you do for Anoka County?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work as a nurse.

23 THE COURT: You are a nurse.

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A nurse.

2 THE COURT: And what kind of a nurse? What's your  
3 service?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's a public health nurse.  
5 We go to homes.

6 THE COURT: And when you go to homes, who are you  
7 treating, or do you have a specialty in what your treatment  
8 is?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Pregnant women, babies and  
10 parenting.

11 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Little over six months.

13 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I also work as a community  
15 health nurse for Neighborhood Health Source.

16 THE COURT: Neighborhood Health Source?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

18 THE COURT: Okay. And what do you do in that  
19 capacity?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Currently or --

21 THE COURT: What do you do as a community health  
22 nurse?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: When I was Neighborhood Health  
24 Service, we did outreach, gave vaccines, COVID vaccines, and  
25 we did other community work.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And that was in Anoka County as  
2 well?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't know. I believe  
4 Hennepin. It had four locations and between all four,  
5 Minneapolis, Coon Rapids.

6 THE COURT: And you went to all of those?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I did.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 And you are married, and your spouse works for  
12 Prudential. Can you explain what your spouse does?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's a staffing agency.

14 THE COURT: It's a staffing agency. Prudential?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. He is an administrator  
16 for the agency.

17 THE COURT: So this isn't the insurance company.  
18 This is a staffing agency?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. Staff through facilities  
20 to work nurses, LPNs and nurses.

21 THE COURT: Understood. Okay.

22 Anything else you want to call to the court's  
23 attention?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't think so, no.

25 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

1 Juror Number 8. Good morning.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

3 THE COURT: You list your employment as a  
4 production operator?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I'm a public health nurse  
6 for Hennepin County Human Services and long term service and  
7 support.

8 THE COURT: Are you Juror Number 8?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

10 THE COURT: And what's your city of residence?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Rosemount.

12 THE COURT: It looks wrong. Doesn't it look  
13 wrong?

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Mm-hmm.

15 THE COURT: All right. We're going to take our  
16 morning break and get your paperwork figured out. All  
17 right? It's a good time for a break anyway.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: All right.

19 THE COURT: Thanks, everybody.

20 THE CLERK: All rise.

21 THE COURT: So stay on the floor and leave your  
22 papers in the courtroom. Fair?

23 (Recess taken at 10:20 a.m. till 10:35 a.m.)

24 THE COURT: You may all be seated.

25 Just a few things before we get started. Number

1 one, I neglected to tell you what I typically tell you at a  
2 break and that it applies throughout the entire proceedings.  
3 And that is that when we, when I gave you earlier the rule  
4 about not communicating with anyone about the case, that  
5 includes all of the attorneys and the agents and the  
6 defendants sitting in the courtroom here today.

7 So parties and attorneys are not to talk to you.  
8 I order them not to talk to you. That means even to pass  
9 the time of day. So they are not being rude when they pass  
10 you and don't speak with you. I have ordered them not to do  
11 so, and I've ordered you not to talk to them.

12 So again, that is for not only fairness, but the  
13 appearance of fairness.

14 And so I may not repeat that at every break, but  
15 please understand that it applies at every break and all  
16 through the trial.

17 We've now replaced the imposter Juror Number 8,  
18 I'm so sorry, with the actual Juror Number 8.

19 Let me say also, you all laughed at the  
20 appropriate time, and I appreciate that. That only happened  
21 after I became a judge, but I know I'm really not funny. I  
22 also know that that could easily be taken the wrong way,  
23 given the solemnity of federal court.

24 During voir dire in particular, I perhaps act more  
25 casually than you would expect a federal judge to act, and

1 sometimes I make jokes that you laugh at and I appreciate  
2 that. But I do that for one reason and one reason only.

3 I do that so that you are a little more  
4 comfortable in a situation that I know is not a comfortable  
5 situation. I do not do that to take away at all from the  
6 solemnity of this trial, of the proceedings, and of the  
7 importance of the trial to the parties in the courtroom.

8 So I want you to know that. I want to underline  
9 that for you now. It changes during trial once we get  
10 going, but I do want you to be comfortable and want you to  
11 see the courtroom both as a solemn place and also as a place  
12 that is welcoming to the public. And so that's my  
13 reasoning.

14 Juror Number 8. Good morning.

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

16 THE COURT: Do you have the microphone?

17 You are a production operator for what company?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work for 3M.

19 THE COURT: You do. And can you explain a little  
20 bit more about what you do for 3M?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My job basically entails  
22 slitting and packaging of blue painters tape and monitoring  
23 the line.

24 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just shy of 11 years.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And I'm fairly sure 3M does pay  
2 for jury service.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They do to an extent.  
4 Benefits change after four weeks. I do get a full hourly  
5 pay, but I lose my double time days.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for being here. I'll  
7 note that in my letter to them and encourage them to  
8 broaden, but I do appreciate the fact that they have a  
9 policy. Not all companies do.

10 You have never heard of this case; is that  
11 correct?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: When I filled out the  
13 questionnaire, I knew I hadn't, but as I collectively  
14 thought of some of the questions on here, I had an  
15 assumption of what it was.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And is that because you've seen  
17 it on the news?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I would say over, over time,  
19 but not that I've sat and watched --

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: -- articles about it, but I  
22 know that it crossed my mind.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And do you, do you think that  
24 will affect your jury service?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I would like to call a sidebar

1 for further details on that.

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 **(Sidebar discussion)**

4 THE COURT: Jury Number 8, can you hear me? Can  
5 you speak again?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I could hear you but very  
7 softly.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Better now?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Any attorney who can't hear? You can  
11 all hear okay?

12 What did you want to say, sir?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just basically on my last week  
14 prior to leaving work, my supervisor had brought up some  
15 details on the case prior to knowing what it was, so I do  
16 have some details as far as what has happened previously as  
17 far as the sentencing and the two, the two clients that have  
18 pled guilty that were supposed to be here today.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And so you know that two have  
20 pled guilty, and you know that in a previous case people  
21 were sentenced?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And do you know what their  
24 sentences were?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I believe one that was

1 mentioned was 210 months or 17 years.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: And then I did hear something  
4 about 12. I'm assuming it was dealing with this case, but  
5 I'm not certain.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And did you form any views  
7 about the guilt of the two remaining defendants based on  
8 what you have heard?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: On what I've heard, I've kind  
10 of assumed that there was some correlation between the  
11 previous that were supposed to stand with them and that I  
12 think I would have a hard time finding them not guilty after  
13 hearing about the other two and some of the previous  
14 defendants.

15 THE COURT: Were you aware of, the two who have  
16 pled guilty, are you aware of what they have said about  
17 these two?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am not.

19 THE COURT: Okay. So you are forming that  
20 conclusion based on the fact that they've pled guilty and  
21 not the details of their plea?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Of them pleading guilty and  
23 also prior found guilty and sentencing.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So one of the things that I  
25 would instruct you to do is to base your decision only on

1 the facts in this courtroom, and these two defendants are  
2 entitled to the presumption of innocence.

3 Are you telling me you can't follow that  
4 instruction?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I would have a hard time  
6 knowing because of what I know. I don't think I had any --  
7 had drawn any conclusions prior to finding out the other  
8 guilt or found guilty.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I'm going to  
10 excuse you.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

12 **(In open court)**

13 THE COURT: I'm excusing Juror Number 8, and we'll  
14 call the next juror up.

15 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 46 will take  
16 spot 8, please. Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Juror Number 46, good morning. Do you  
18 have the microphone there?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

20 THE COURT: Would you have said yes to any of the  
21 questions? I wanted to follow up with your answer to  
22 Number 25 in particular.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

24 THE COURT: Can you be here for the trial?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

1           THE COURT: Okay. And I wanted to follow up on  
2 your occupation. You are a mental health worker with  
3 Allina?

4           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

5           THE COURT: And what do you do?

6           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work in patient mental  
7 health adult primarily as a mental health counselor.

8           THE COURT: And do you travel around clinics, or  
9 do you have one particular clinic that you work for?

10          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I just work at Abbott in  
11 inpatient adult and adolescent in the emergency department  
12 as well.

13          THE COURT: Thank you. And you have a significant  
14 other who is in insurance. What do they do?

15          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They do employ insurance for  
16 USI.

17          THE COURT: And you have read some or been exposed  
18 to some media about this case; is that right?

19          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct, just basic headlines  
20 from news over the, over time.

21          THE COURT: Okay. And are you able to apply the  
22 presumption of innocence to these two defendants based on  
23 what you've read?

24          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

25          THE COURT: You can set aside what you've heard

1 and judge the case only on what you hear in the courtroom?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And I know that you have had an  
4 injury to your wrist. How are you feeling now?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Feeling better, but I'm still  
6 out of work. I've been out of work since the end of  
7 October, post op recovery, and I'm on short-term  
8 transitioning to long-term disability from work.

9 THE COURT: You are.

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So kind of in a weird phase of  
11 being off work for a long time and recovery from surgery.

12 THE COURT: Are you on pain medication?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And do you think that's going  
15 to affect your jury service, your wrist?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.

18 All right. Let's go then to Juror Number 9.

19 Thank you, sir.

20 Good morning.

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

22 THE COURT: Would you have said, you didn't say  
23 yes to any other questions, correct?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I didn't, but have I heard  
25 about the case?

1 THE COURT: Yeah. You said no in your  
2 questionnaire. Have you heard about it since?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have.

4 THE COURT: And so can you explain that without  
5 exposing any views to the rest of the panel?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just in passing on the news,  
7 just recently. Oh, sorry. Just in passing on the news.

8 THE COURT: All right. And is there anything  
9 about what you've heard in passing that would affect your  
10 ability to be fair and impartial to these two defendants?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

12 THE COURT: Can you apply the presumption of  
13 innocence to these two defendants?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: What do you do for the Chamber of  
16 Commerce?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Director of events.

18 THE COURT: Sorry. Excuse me.

19 Which Chamber of Commerce?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Dakota County Regional Chamber  
21 of Commerce.

22 THE COURT: I was trying to decode DCR, and I  
23 couldn't get there.

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's a long one.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And your spouse works for Best

1 Buy. What do they do?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's a project manager.

3 THE COURT: That encompasses a wide range of  
4 duties. Can you explain a little bit further?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. So he's in the AV  
6 department, so he can builds proposals for all audio visual.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

8 Anything else you wish to bring before the court?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For the role I am in, I am new  
10 with it, so I have been there a month. And we have a big  
11 leadership forum that I am preparing, and that's on Friday,  
12 March 21st. So it is a lot, but I know that work is not  
13 excuse, but it is a lot.

14 THE COURT: Well, I do believe that we will be  
15 done by March 21st, but I know it's the lead-up, not the  
16 conference that matters, but given what I know about the  
17 timing, I don't think I'm going to excuse you for that.

18 Okay. Thank you.

19 And Juror Number 41, right?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct.

21 THE COURT: Okay. All right. You answered yes to  
22 having friends who are employed in the legal profession.  
23 Can you explain that?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. My aunt is a paralegal.

25 THE COURT: For what?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She bounces around a little  
2 bit. It's been Apple Valley, Faribault. I'm not sure where  
3 she is now.

4 THE COURT: And is she employed by the city or the  
5 county or a firm?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She was Rice County for a  
7 couple months and then private firms.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Do you know whether she deals  
9 with criminal law?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I believe so.

11 THE COURT: Anything about that that would lead  
12 you to be less than fair and impartial?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Absolutely not.

14 THE COURT: And you also have relatives or close  
15 friends in law enforcement. Can you explain?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Second cousin, I believe, that  
17 I don't really talk to is a sheriff.

18 THE COURT: Where?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Around Granite Falls,  
20 Montevideo area.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else that you want to  
22 bring to the court's attention?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So recently I've been, after  
24 college, I've been helping my buddy out doing lawn care and  
25 landscaping, but that has been in Ames, Iowa. So it's been

1 a little slow lately, but I don't know if that will  
2 particularly hinder being up here, but that would only come  
3 down to monetary stress, so --

4 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I don't think  
5 I can let you go for that. Thank you.

6 All right. Juror Number 11. And can you talk a  
7 little bit about your employment?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm retired.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Probably ten years or more.  
11 So I help people catch lost dogs as a volunteer.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And you did work for  
13 Tupperware?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

15 THE COURT: Okay. And how long did you do that?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Twelve years.

17 THE COURT: Okay. So the organization is Lost  
18 K-9?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

20 THE COURT: And you spell it like the police spell  
21 K-9.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

23 THE COURT: Does it have anything to do with  
24 police dogs?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And you've not heard of this  
2 case, either?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So twice this week, last night  
4 and then once last week, it was going to be coming up on the  
5 news that there was a trial, and so I switched it off.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. That's all I  
7 have for you.

8 Do you have anything else you want to bring up?

9 Okay. Juror Number 12, good morning.

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

11 THE COURT: You are a digital marketer?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

13 THE COURT: And what do you do? Can you explain  
14 that a little bit more and what company you work for?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work at Hook Agency, and the  
16 work that we do is promoting businesses that want to, that  
17 basically work for roofing, landscaping, kitchens and bars,  
18 and we help promote their businesses on Google.

19 So I work as a PPC technician, which is a  
20 pay-per-click technician, and our company also specializes  
21 in PPCSEO, which is search engine optimization. We also  
22 make websites for companies if they choose. We also serve  
23 for GBP services, which is Google business partnership, and  
24 LSA is location services ads.

25 THE COURT: Can you spell the name of your

1 company?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. H-O-O-K Agency.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And where is that based?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's in Minneapolis in the  
5 North Loop.

6 THE COURT: And are they giving you paid time off  
7 for jury service?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

9 THE COURT: And you've heard about this case  
10 through or heard about the -- I'm not reading your  
11 handwriting -- most of the organizations.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything about what  
14 you've heard that will affect your ability to be fair and  
15 impartial?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

17 THE COURT: Can you apply the presumption of  
18 innocence to these two defendants?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

20 THE COURT: And do you know whether you've heard  
21 anything about this trial in particular as opposed to the  
22 larger investigation?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I have not heard anything.

24 THE COURT: About this trial in particular?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

1 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

2 Anything else you want to bring to the court's  
3 attention?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

5 THE COURT: Okay. We'll go on to Juror Number 13.  
6 Good morning.

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

8 THE COURT: You were an electronic technician.

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I was.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And what company did you work  
11 for?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: TSI.

13 THE COURT: How long ago did you retire?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A year and a half ago.

15 THE COURT: Congratulations. And you have not  
16 heard about this case?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I really didn't know what case  
18 it was, so I may have heard something on the news, but  
19 not -- I never put it together.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything about what  
21 you heard that would affect your ability to be fair or  
22 impartial here?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't think so, no.

24 THE COURT: And did you hear anything about this  
25 trial in particular as opposed to the larger investigation?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

2 THE COURT: All right. Anything else you wish to  
3 call to the court's attention?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

6 Juror Number 14.

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Hello.

8 THE COURT: You are a 911 dispatcher.

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do medical only.

10 THE COURT: Okay. How does that work?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So we're considered a  
12 secondary piece app. I work for Allina Health DMS. So we  
13 only get the medical calls. We don't get anything else.

14 THE COURT: Okay. How long have you done that?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Seventeen years.

16 THE COURT: And how long have you been divorced or  
17 separated?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Year and a half.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And --

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My boyfriend is self-employed.  
21 He does distribution for Pepperidge Farm. Does that make  
22 sense?

23 THE COURT: Yes, so this is your current partner.

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: (Moves head up and down.)

25 THE COURT: Got it. Distribution for, say that

1 one more time.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Pepperidge Farm.

3 THE COURT: Got it.

4 And you have seen news clips about the case?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The case in general, not sure  
6 if it's this one or the one as a whole.

7 THE COURT: Has anything about what you've seen  
8 affect your ability to be fair and impartial?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

10 THE COURT: And can you apply the presumption of  
11 innocence to these defendants?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

14 Juror Number 15. Good morning.

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

16 THE COURT: You work for the City of St. Peter.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I do.

18 THE COURT: What do you do?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work for public works as a  
20 utility operator, so I will help wastewater, water, streets,  
21 parks, environmental services, all at different times  
22 throughout the week.

23 THE COURT: All right. And you, are they paying  
24 for you, your salary while you are here?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am, they are.

1 THE COURT: Good. What does your spouse do for  
2 the State of Minnesota?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She works for a department  
4 called DEED, acronym, so it's Department of Employment  
5 Economic and Development as a, an HR human resources as a  
6 director.

7 THE COURT: And that's for the State, right?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am, State of  
9 Minnesota.

10 THE COURT: Do you know what commissioner that  
11 falls under?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She has told me, but it's not  
13 drawing attention to me.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I should have took notes.

16 THE COURT: That's all right. And you haven't  
17 heard of this case?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I have not, honestly.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And anything else that you wish  
20 to call to the court's attention?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: You are welcome.

24 THE COURT: Juror Number 16.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

1 THE COURT: You are a nurse?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am.

3 THE COURT: How long have you been a nurse?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 29 years.

5 THE COURT: And what do you specialize in?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Cardiology.

7 THE COURT: And where do you work?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm employed by the University  
9 of Minnesota Physicians. I work in the M Health Fairview  
10 system as a clinic manager for our cardiology departments.

11 THE COURT: And so that's fairly regular hours as  
12 opposed to shift work?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And they pay for your jury  
15 service?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They do.

17 THE COURT: Or they pay your salary. All right.  
18 Your 23-year-old, what is she studying?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Finance.

20 THE COURT: And your 21-year-old.

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Supply chain management and  
22 logistics.

23 THE COURT: You served on a jury in Dakota County.  
24 And I know you don't know the exact year. Within the last  
25 five or ten?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Within the last ten.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Did you serve all the way to  
3 verdict?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Do you know what the charge was?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was like theft or burglary.  
7 A bike was stolen.

8 THE COURT: Were you the foreperson of the jury?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

10 THE COURT: And putting aside any, can you put  
11 aside the law that you may have learned when you were in  
12 that, on that jury, and apply the law as I give it to you?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

14 THE COURT: And you have heard a few news articles  
15 about this, the larger investigation?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just headlines in the news,  
17 but no. No details.

18 THE COURT: And how about this case in particular?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And anything about that in what  
21 you have heard that would lead you to be less than fair an  
22 impartial?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Anything else  
25 you want to bring up?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

2 THE COURT: Okay. We'll go to Juror Number 17.

3 Good morning. You are a certified medical  
4 assistant?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

6 THE COURT: And tell me more about that. Where do  
7 you work?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work for the Minnesota  
9 Department of Corrections.

10 THE COURT: And where?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Faribault.

12 THE COURT: And so can you tell us more about what  
13 that means?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I dispense medications to  
15 inmates, provide vitals and basic patient care, like wound  
16 care with RNs.

17 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I've been there for a year.

19 THE COURT: One year?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: One year, yes.

21 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I worked at a clinic.

23 THE COURT: Is there anything about your  
24 interactions with the inmates there, the residents of  
25 Faribault, that would affect your ability to be fair and

1 impartial in a criminal case?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't think so. We don't  
3 talk about their crimes.

4 THE COURT: Do you know whether Faribault has both  
5 so-called white color inmates or people who have been  
6 convicted of white-collar crimes as well as people who have  
7 been convicted of in-person crimes?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I know of at least one inmate  
9 with a white color crime. I assume there is more.

10 THE COURT: Okay. But you don't talk with the  
11 inmates about it?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

13 THE COURT: All right. And you have heard about  
14 this case, you said when the story first broke. Anything  
15 about what you heard that would lead you to be less than  
16 fair or impartial?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want to bring  
19 to the court's attention?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

22 Juror Number 18. What do you do for Baxter  
23 International, and I assume we're talking about the health  
24 care company?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

1 THE COURT: Okay. What do you do for them.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My title is payer systems  
3 administrator. I am essentially an online access  
4 administrator for our operational users. So that is  
5 authorization specialists, intake specialists.

6 We are -- the area of Baxter I'm in is a device  
7 provider, so we work with the insurance companies to gather  
8 payment.

9 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a spouse who works  
10 at the Mayo Clinic?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

12 THE COURT: And what does he or she do?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She is an educator the cardiac  
14 rehabilitation portion. So she intakes new employees and  
15 instructs them on how to read ECGs correctly.

16 THE COURT: And let me go back. Baxter is paying  
17 your salary to be here?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And then you have an uncle who  
20 is a patent attorney. Where is that?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: California based out of  
22 Irvine.

23 THE COURT: Okay. That's a good place to be a  
24 patent attorney.

25 And you have a -- is your father-in-law a police

1 officer?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's a retired officer.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And where?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Fairbanks, Alaska.

5 THE COURT: And how long a career did he have in  
6 law enforcement?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not sure how long his  
8 career was. I believe he -- I mean, he didn't retire per  
9 se. He left the force or was asked to leave the force, and  
10 that was I believe in 2012.

11 THE COURT: Anything about that that would lead  
12 you to be fair or impartial?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

14 THE COURT: Less than fair or impartial? All  
15 right. And you are able to treat law enforcement officers  
16 as you would any other witness with a blank slate when they  
17 take the stand?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want to bring  
20 to the court's attention?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 Juror Number 19. Good morning.

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

25 THE COURT: Is this your -- what's your current

1 employment?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not employed right now.

3 THE COURT: Okay. So you were an account manager  
4 for Red Rock Radio?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Okay. How long did you do that?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: About five years.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And what did you do before  
9 that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Little jobs, bartending, that  
11 kind of thing.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And you're unemployed right  
13 now. Are you seeking work?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

15 THE COURT: Okay. And I don't think you brought  
16 anything else to the court's attention.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I'm pretty boring.

18 THE COURT: No, that doesn't mean you are boring.  
19 You state that you're spiritual. I'm wondering if you have  
20 a regular church?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

22 THE COURT: Okay. But no religious, ethical,  
23 political or philosophical beliefs that would make it  
24 difficult for you to serve on a jury?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And can you apply the  
2 presumption of innocence to these defendants.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

4 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

5 Juror Number 20. You are a banquet manager; is  
6 that right?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Can you explain what that is?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work at the Graduate  
10 Minneapolis right on University of Minnesota campus. I'm a  
11 banquet manager of the hotel for all of the events that we  
12 have on site.

13 THE COURT: Can you name the hotel one more time  
14 for me?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Graduate Minneapolis.

16 THE COURT: Graduate, okay. How long have you  
17 done that?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: About three years now.

19 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was the assistant, assistant  
21 general manager at a smaller hotel down in Eagan.

22 THE COURT: And you have not heard of this case?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Small stuff on the news,  
24 headlines, that kind of stuff.

25 THE COURT: Anything that would affect your

1 ability to be fair or impartial?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

3 THE COURT: You have an open mind with this case?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Are the events that you host  
6 mostly for students and their families?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A little bit of everything.  
8 We do a lot of corporate groups as well, a lot of university  
9 business. Some student-led events, otherwise a lot of  
10 department-led events through the university as well.

11 THE COURT: Do you like it?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. It's a lot of fun.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

14 Juror Number 21. You still work for Target.

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

16 THE COURT: What do you do for them?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I basically take the back part  
18 of the stores, so I deal with the truckers, carriers,  
19 vendors. I work from home, so I do everything on phone.

20 THE COURT: How long have you worked from home?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Since 2020.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Since COVID.

24 THE COURT: Sure. And so the communication with  
25 the vendors, truckers, et cetera, is that phone contact?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They call us. We assist them  
4 with any issues they have to get the product to the store.

5 THE COURT: Do you work in a particular store?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I deal with all stores.

7 THE COURT: All right. And you also state that  
8 your spouse is retired. What did your spouse do before  
9 retirement?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He worked on circuit boards  
11 since he was 18, different variety of business. I can't  
12 name them all.

13 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And you note a,  
14 someone you know who is a police officer for 14 years,  
15 right?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's my son-in-law.

17 THE COURT: That's your son-in-law?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And he is currently with  
20 St. Louis Park?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct. He worked in  
22 Minneapolis, then St. Michael's, and now he's in St. Louis.

23 THE COURT: St. Louis Park?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

25 THE COURT: And patrol officer or different

1 responsibilities? Can you explain.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So he does, he supports the  
3 community. He works with on calls, everything.

4 THE COURT: And how long has he been your  
5 son-in-law?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Let's see. They're going to  
7 be having a celebration. Longer than his being an officer  
8 so --

9 THE COURT: A long time.

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, a long time.

11 THE COURT: All right. And some of the witnesses  
12 in this trial are likely to be law enforcement officers.  
13 Can you treat those law enforcement officers when they take  
14 the stand just as you would treat any other witness, that is  
15 with a blank slate?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I can. I just personally know  
17 because of the police officer and the toll it takes on the  
18 family, it's very, very tough. My family is also tied to  
19 the Sackett that passed, James Sackett, through that. So  
20 that was really tough for the whole family.

21 It still is really tough for my husband because  
22 that was his uncle, and so it's just very, very tough  
23 with --

24 THE COURT: Understood.

25 So what I'll tell you about the type of testimony

1 here and the agents who will testify here is that it's a  
2 different circumstance than you may be thinking of, right,  
3 because this is, the charges are fraud. And so the agents  
4 who testify are most of them going to be federal agents who  
5 work on white-collar cases.

6 Does that change your opinion or answer at all?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I will try to be open-minded  
8 as all possible on that situation.

9 THE COURT: Can you say a little bit more about  
10 your connection to the James Sackett case?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That is my husband's uncle, so  
12 Jeanette Sackett, we know the family. We -- my husband  
13 still connects with the kids, so to this day. In fact, he  
14 just saw one of the kids yesterday, now adult.

15 THE COURT: I'm going to excuse you. Thank you  
16 for being here. I'm going to have you give the microphone  
17 to the woman next to you.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

19 THE COURT: And I will have you gather your  
20 things, give your papers to the clerk on the way out, and we  
21 will call another witness or another potential juror.

22 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 47 will take seat  
23 Number 21.

24 THE COURT: Good morning.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

1 THE COURT: Would you have said yes to any of the  
2 questions that I've asked thus far?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

4 THE COURT: You are a veterinarian?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am.

6 THE COURT: All right. And where do you work?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Mission Animal Hospital.

8 THE COURT: And are they paying your salary to be  
9 here?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I get paid for three days.

11 THE COURT: Okay. You note that -- I'm sorry.

12 You note that you have a significant other. Can  
13 you tell me the significant other's employment?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's a nonattorney disability  
15 representative.

16 THE COURT: Got it. And that's your answer to  
17 Number 13. Okay.

18 Anything about that that you think would be, lead  
19 you to be less than fair or impartial?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

21 THE COURT: You have heard some about this case in  
22 the news. Based on what you've heard, do you think you can  
23 be fair and impartial in this case?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. I did hear a news story  
25 about this particular trial on Friday on the radio when I

1 was driving home from work. I think -- I don't think it  
2 would affect my impartiality, but I just wanted to update  
3 you on that.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And can you apply the  
5 presumption of innocence to these two defendants?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Okay. When you filled out this form  
8 you had, your father was having health issues that you  
9 talked about. How -- can you give the court an update on  
10 that?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No change, but his, at the  
12 time I filled it out, his primary, his partner was out of  
13 town for several weeks, but his partner, who is his primary  
14 caregiver, is now back in town. So that makes things easier  
15 for me. I have fewer responsibilities.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

17 Okay. Thank you.

18 Juror Number 22. Your employment is social media.  
19 Explain.

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Oh, very part time. I would  
21 consider myself semi retired. The company that my husband  
22 consults with, I do social media posting for them.

23 THE COURT: What is that company?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Christian Brothers Automotive.

25 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 17 years as a communications  
2 director at a church.

3 THE COURT: What church?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Edinbrook Church in  
5 Brooklyn Park.

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

7 And you have still, since you completed this  
8 questionnaire, still not heard of the case?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, I was watching the  
10 weather last night for my drive here, and I did see  
11 headlines.

12 THE COURT: Anything about what you saw that would  
13 lead you to be less than fair or impartial?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

15 THE COURT: Okay. You can apply the presumption  
16 of innocence to these two defendants?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Anything else you want to bring to the  
19 court's attention?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

22 Juror Number 23. You are a bindery operator.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Can you explain what that is.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I run large machineries that

1 perform printing tasks.

2 THE COURT: And where is that?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: St. Paul, Minnesota.

4 THE COURT: And what company?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Ideal Printers.

6 THE COURT: And does Ideal Printers have a policy  
7 on jury payment?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I will be paid.

9 THE COURT: And you are married, and your spouse  
10 is a credit union teller; is that right?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Where is that?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Toro in Bloomington.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And you answered Number 15  
15 about law enforcement, and I'm curious if you can tell me  
16 whether you think that's going to affect your treatment of  
17 the law enforcement officers who might testify in this case.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. This is something totally  
19 different.

20 THE COURT: So having, I'm guessing, but having  
21 more to do with nonwhite color crime?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

23 THE COURT: Can you treat law enforcement officers  
24 as you would treat any other witness with a blank slate?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And you have heard some local  
2 news about this case?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I did.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And do you know whether you  
5 heard it about the broader investigation or this trial in  
6 particular?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just the broad investigation,  
8 Channel 11 news, I believe.

9 THE COURT: Okay. And has what you've heard and  
10 seen, will it affect your ability to be a fair and impartial  
11 juror?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I can be fair and  
13 impartial.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want to bring  
15 to the court's attention?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 Juror Number 24. Good morning.

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: You are a technology executive. Can  
21 you explain?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. I run a business that I  
23 founded in 1995.

24 THE COURT: And what is that business?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's called Solution Builders.

1 THE COURT: And what do they do?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: We are a managed service  
3 provider, so we provide IT services to businesses and -- to  
4 businesses.

5 THE COURT: How big a company?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: We have about 42 employees  
7 currently.

8 THE COURT: And you run it?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

10 THE COURT: And your spouse is a bookkeeper. For  
11 what company?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She works for the same  
13 business.

14 THE COURT: You have two children who are  
15 teachers. Where are they teachers?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct. I have, my second  
17 daughter is a teacher. She's been at Minnehaha Academy.  
18 She's still currently at Minnehaha Academy, yes.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: And then the other daughter is  
21 at a school. It's actually a preschool in  
22 South Minneapolis.

23 THE COURT: Do you know where in South Minneapolis  
24 or the name of the preschool?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It is a -- I don't know the

1 name of it. It would be in the Tangletown area. I can tell  
2 you that.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 And you have a, some lawyers who are professional  
5 colleagues. Any practicing criminal law?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

7 THE COURT: And you have a son who completed, a  
8 son-in-law who went to school for law enforcement and worked  
9 in security; is that right?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

11 THE COURT: And tell me a little bit more about  
12 that.

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He, his father, his father was  
14 in law enforcement. He has a brother in law enforcement  
15 from Colorado. He married my daughter. They moved to  
16 Minnesota, and he pursued law enforcement. So he completed  
17 his law enforcement schooling at North Hennepin Technical, I  
18 believe, or North Hennepin College.

19 So he did complete. He did not ultimately find a  
20 job in law enforcement. He was working at the Mall of  
21 America at the time in their security, and he has since left  
22 the security job and is now working in retail.

23 THE COURT: Anything about that that would lead  
24 you to be less than fair or impartial either in the case or  
25 treating law enforcement witnesses on the stand?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And you have heard of the case  
3 in the news.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct.

5 THE COURT: All right. Anything about what you've  
6 heard that would lead you to believe less than fair or  
7 impartial?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Do you have anything else you wish to  
10 bring to the court's attention?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. If you want to hand that  
13 across the aisle to Juror Number 25?

14 Where are you a physical therapist assistant?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So I work for Pro Rehab, and  
16 we have about 30 different sites. So I kind of float to  
17 about ten of them from Minneapolis to Cold Spring to  
18 Milaca/Buffalo area.

19 THE COURT: And how long have you done that?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: About six years.

21 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was in school for that, so  
23 before that I worked as a hostess.

24 THE COURT: And you are married and your husband  
25 or wife is an electrician?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Low voltage electrician, yes.

2 THE COURT: And for what company.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Electric Fire and Security.

4 THE COURT: Where is that?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Their main office is in Inver  
6 Grove Heights I believe.

7 THE COURT: Does Pro Rehab have a jury service  
8 policy?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They will pay up to two weeks.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And you served as a juror on a  
11 first degree murder case in your early 20s?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Where was that?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Florida, Orlando.

15 THE COURT: And that case went all the way to  
16 verdict?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Were you the foreperson of the jury?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

20 THE COURT: And you obviously learned a little bit  
21 of law through the jury instructions and otherwise there.  
22 Can you put aside that case and any law you might have  
23 learned and follow the instructions here?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: And you've not heard of this case?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I have not.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything else you wish  
3 to bring to the court's attention?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Juror Number 26. Good morning.

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

9 THE COURT: Okay. I tried really hard to read the  
10 last word of Question 5.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's Ecumen.

12 THE COURT: Okay. What does that mean?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's a long term care  
14 facility.

15 THE COURT: How long have you worked in that  
16 facility?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have worked there for a  
18 year.

19 THE COURT: And you work there as a nurse?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And what did you do before  
22 that?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, I also work for Hennepin  
24 County as an RN case manager.

25 THE COURT: In what location?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For the Hennepin County, so  
2 I'm all over.

3 THE COURT: You are all over?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For the county, yeah.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So I work in behavioral health  
7 case management.

8 THE COURT: And how long have you done that?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have been there for three  
10 years.

11 THE COURT: All right. And what did you do before  
12 that.

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I worked for Reentry Act  
14 Team doing assertive community treatment team nursing for  
15 Hennepin County. So working behavioral health in the  
16 community.

17 THE COURT: And the reentry team, can you explain  
18 a little bit more about that?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Sure. So they take  
20 individuals who are chronically mentally ill, several of  
21 them being on mental health commitments, and trying to keep  
22 them safe and others safe and keep them in the community.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And so when -- sometimes when  
24 we hear the word "reentry" here in court, we're talking  
25 about formerly incarcerated individuals and helping them to

1 reenter after being incarcerated. Is that the same use?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

3 THE COURT: No.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just the name of the company.

5 THE COURT: And you have a spouse who works for  
6 API Supply. Can you explain a little bit more about that?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. He's a truck driver for  
8 construction equipment.

9 THE COURT: How much of your time is spent in  
10 Hennepin County versus Ecumen?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm full time at Hennepin  
12 County. At Ecumen I am a casual part-time employee.

13 THE COURT: And Hennepin County has a jury service  
14 policy; is that right?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, they do.

16 THE COURT: Your answer to Number 18, was that  
17 you?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Is there anything about that that will  
20 make it difficult for you to serve or make you less than  
21 fair or impartial here?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything else you want  
24 to bring to the court's attention?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 Juror Number 27. Good morning.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

4 THE COURT: You work for SuperValu; is that right?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Right. It's called UNFI now.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And what do you do?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work in their distribution

8 center. I do different things. Forklift operator, air

9 corrector on our, on our technical equipment.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Different things.

12 THE COURT: And is that, when you are doing that,  
13 is that really working on the distribution of food?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

15 THE COURT: Was your work in that area during  
16 COVID different than it was in other years?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Did you --

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Very busy, all hands on deck  
20 and, you know, yeah.

21 THE COURT: Are you aware generally of where the  
22 food is going when you are distributing or helping to  
23 distribute?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. Yeah, each load has, you  
25 know, a destination that we see when we do that.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

2 And you have a spouse who is an educator. Can you  
3 tell me a little bit more about that?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Right. She's in the --  
5 cosmetologist instructor in Bloomington.

6 THE COURT: Anything about your previous jury  
7 experience, it looks like it didn't go to verdict, but your  
8 previous jury experience that would affect your ability to  
9 be fair or impartial here?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a brother-in-law  
12 who is a lawyer?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

14 THE COURT: Where?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's with, it's corporate  
16 attorney. He was with Road Blade and a liquor distributor.  
17 I'm not sure what company he is currently with.

18 THE COURT: Okay. It sounds pretty far from what  
19 we are doing here in this courtroom.

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

21 THE COURT: Anything about that that would lead  
22 you to be less than fair or impartial?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And you have heard about at  
25 least this broader investigation or some of the

1 organizations; is that right?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Based on what you have heard,  
4 is there anything about what you've heard that would lead  
5 you to be less than fair or impartial?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And is what you have heard  
8 related to the broader investigation as opposed to this  
9 trial?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: At the time of the  
11 questionnaire was the broader investigation, but recently I  
12 did hear something about this trial.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And nothing about that that  
14 would affect your ability to be fair?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: You can apply the presumption of  
17 innocence to these individuals?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Anything else you want to bring to the  
20 court's attention?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 Juror Number 28. You work for Collins Aerospace?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct.

25 THE COURT: What do you do?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am a customer service  
2 supervisor on the repair side of the business.

3 THE COURT: Can you say that one more time but  
4 slower?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm a customer service  
6 supervisor on the repair side of the business.

7 THE COURT: Where is Collins located?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Burnsville.

9 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: About three and a half years.

11 THE COURT: And what did you do before that?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was employed at the Anoka  
13 County Courthouse as a court admin, first records clerk and  
14 then family court with specifically child support, 40 cases.

15 THE COURT: Anything about that work that you  
16 think would affect your jury service?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't believe so, no.

18 THE COURT: And in 2014 you served on a criminal  
19 jury?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think it was 2016, as I  
21 thought about it later.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not entirely sure, but  
24 yes, I did.

25 THE COURT: And what county?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Blue Earth, Mankato county or  
2 Mankato.

3 THE COURT: And what was the charge?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I believe it was criminal  
5 sexual misconduct or something in that vein.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And were you the foreperson?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was not.

8 THE COURT: And you have some family and friends  
9 who were either law enforcement or military police. Can you  
10 explain a little bit more about that?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My mother-in-law and my  
12 sister-in-law during their service were MP in the military.  
13 I don't believe either of them have worked in law  
14 enforcement since.

15 Then I do have a friend of my husband's who is a  
16 follower police officer out of Austin.

17 THE COURT: Did you serve in the military as well?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I did not.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Anything about your  
20 mother-in-law or sister-in-law's service that would affect  
21 your ability to treat law enforcement officers as any other  
22 witness?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And you have seen some things  
25 about this case, following it on social media and local

1 news?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have read a couple of  
3 articles here and there and heard some things. I knew a  
4 little bit about or anticipated what today's trial might be  
5 about, so --

6 THE COURT: And has what you have read or heard  
7 related to the broader investigation or this case  
8 specifically or both?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Broader investigation, I  
10 believe.

11 THE COURT: And has, can you treat these two  
12 defendants with the presumption of innocence as required?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Any difficulty doing that given what  
15 you have heard?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do have one other thing to  
19 bring up.

20 THE COURT: Go ahead.

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I didn't bring it up during  
22 hardship because I don't know that it fits that definition,  
23 but since filling out my juror questionnaire, I did find out  
24 that I am in my first trimester of pregnancy.

25 THE COURT: Congratulations.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you. So day-to-day,  
2 that kind of affects my health here and there, and I would  
3 hate for that to be a potential disruption if I were to be  
4 on the jury.

5 THE COURT: Understood. We make those  
6 accommodations, sorts of accommodations all the time, and  
7 I'm confident we can make that for you.

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Okay. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.  
10 Okay. Juror Number 44, who is sitting in the spot  
11 of Juror Number 29.

12 What company do you work for?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Anderberg Innovative Print  
14 Solutions.

15 THE COURT: And where is that?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: St. Louis Park.

17 THE COURT: And how long have you worked for them?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Ten years.

19 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I worked for a printing  
21 company.

22 THE COURT: Okay. You've been in printing your  
23 whole career?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Most of it.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Does Anderberg have a jury

1 service policy?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Two weeks paid.

3 THE COURT: When you say, "Most of it," what was,  
4 what was the rest of it?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Before that I was in  
6 advertising.

7 THE COURT: In what industry --

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, we --

9 THE COURT: -- or did you work for an advertising  
10 agency?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. Electrical company was  
12 our main client.

13 THE COURT: Okay. All right. You have, is the  
14 26-year-old in production?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In Waupun, Wisconsin, yes.

16 THE COURT: And what do they do?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Make washing machines.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything else that you  
19 wish to call to the court's attention?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

22 Juror Number 30.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

24 THE COURT: Good morning. Where did you go to  
25 school?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For high school, Como Park,  
2 and then the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

3 THE COURT: And you work as an actuary?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

5 THE COURT: For what company?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Aon.

7 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR 18 years.

9 THE COURT: Does Aon have a jury service policy?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

11 THE COURT: You will be paid while you are here?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

13 THE COURT: And you have a spouse who is a nurse?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Where do they work?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Children's, Minneapolis.

17 THE COURT: Okay. You have a brother who is a  
18 corrections officer in Stillwater?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

20 THE COURT: How long has your brother done that?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Eight or nine years, I think.

22 THE COURT: And is it because of that that you say  
23 you are generally in favor of law enforcement?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

25 THE COURT: All right. So my instruction to you

1 is going to be to treat every witness separately and  
2 individually, and there will be law enforcement officers  
3 testifying here, although as you've heard they're federal  
4 law enforcement.

5 This is a what we call a white color crime. It is  
6 fraud and not a person, like an assault.

7 Can you treat the law enforcement officers who are  
8 likely to testify here the same as any other witness?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I believe so.

10 THE COURT: Okay. So I'm going to need a little  
11 bit better than that. I'm going to instruct you to do that.  
12 My question is, can you follow my instruction?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

14 THE COURT: And how long ago was your brother's  
15 incident with the police officer?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Twelve, thirteen years ago.

17 THE COURT: All right. And you have heard of this  
18 case; is that correct?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The broader case in general,  
20 not this specific one.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And so what you write in  
22 paragraph 20 is what your understanding is of the  
23 allegation, or do you believe that?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Based on an article I had  
25 read, it -- there were some convincing arguments for that.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And so putting aside the  
2 broader investigation, these two individuals start with the  
3 presumption of innocence and -- as every defendant does in  
4 this courtroom.

5 Can you apply it to them?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Can you treat them separately?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

9 THE COURT: When you received meals during COVID  
10 from your, from the kids' schools, how were those, how did  
11 that work?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My wife and the kids would  
13 walk up to the school, and they'd give them meals, like a  
14 bag or a box or something.

15 THE COURT: Okay. What school did your kids go  
16 to?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's the Lakeville public  
18 school district, Christina Huddleston Elementary.

19 THE COURT: And other than receiving meals from  
20 the schools, are you aware of anyone who received meals as a  
21 part of any other federal or state program?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

23 THE COURT: Is there anything else you wish to  
24 call to the court's attention?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

2 Juror Number 31. It's a close call between a  
3 couple of you on who has the best handwriting, but you are  
4 definitely in the running.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Which perhaps makes it appropriate  
7 that you have a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design.

8 Can you explain what you do?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am a civil engineering  
10 technician at Alliant Engineering, so I do computer drawings  
11 for or on construction plans for design projects across  
12 Minnesota.

13 THE COURT: The name of the company again?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Alliant Engineering. They are  
15 located downtown Minneapolis.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And do they have a jury service  
17 policy?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have to check.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And how long have you worked  
20 with them?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Five years.

22 THE COURT: And what did you do before that?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Another engineering firm in  
24 Plymouth for another five years.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a husband who is a

1 PC support analyst. Where does he work?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He works at Graco  
3 Manufacturing in Rogers, Minnesota.

4 THE COURT: Is there anything else that you wish  
5 to call to the court's attention?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Juror Number 32. You're an operations manager.  
9 Where do you work?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Cretex Medical.

11 THE COURT: Where is that?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's in Brooklyn Park.

13 THE COURT: Do they have a jury service policy?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: What do you do for them?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Direct leadership of medical  
17 manufacturing.

18 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 20 years.

20 THE COURT: And for the same company?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Various companies, same type  
24 of role.

25 THE COURT: And you have a spouse who is a hotel

1 manager?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Mm-hmm.

3 THE COURT: What hotel?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: You know, I don't know the  
5 name. It's a small independent hotel in Rogers.

6 THE COURT: You have a 20-year-old who is a  
7 student. What is your 20-year-old studying?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: International business.

9 THE COURT: And you had a previous contact with  
10 the criminal justice system as a victim of a crime. Where  
11 did that crime occur?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Brooklyn Park.

13 THE COURT: When was that?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It had to be 25 years ago.

15 THE COURT: Anything about that that you think  
16 would affect your ability to be fair or impartial here?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

18 THE COURT: Anything else you wish to call to the  
19 court's attention.

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 All right. So now we're going to come, we're  
23 going all the way over to Number 33. Sorry.

24 Good morning.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

1 THE COURT: You also do lawn care. How busy are  
2 you right now?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am not that busy as of right  
4 now. I only work when it snows.

5 THE COURT: So you had some this morning or no?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I did not go in this morning.

7 THE COURT: Do you work for a company then?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

9 THE COURT: What's the company?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Showcase Lawn Care.

11 THE COURT: And do they have a jury service  
12 policy?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do not know.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You grew up in Forest Lake?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And are you living  
17 independently or with your parents?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: With my parents right now.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And what do they do?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do not know for sure.

21 THE COURT: So their occupation, you are not sure?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. Like I know a broad of  
23 what they do, but I don't know what companies they work for.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Can you say broadly what they  
25 do?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My dad is a truck dispatcher.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: And my mom fixes fire  
4 extinguishers.

5 THE COURT: And based on everything that you have  
6 heard in the courtroom here today, do you have any concerns  
7 about your ability to be a fair or impartial juror?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

9 THE COURT: And you have a license with the USDA  
10 to spray pesticide for your lawn care job?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Do you interact specifically  
13 with the USDA, or does your company take care of it for you?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My company takes care of it.

15 THE COURT: Okay. All right. All right. Thank  
16 you. I don't have anything else.

17 Juror Number 34.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

19 THE COURT: Good morning. You are in facilities  
20 maintenance. Where is that?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: At a company called Bell  
22 Manufacturing in Northeast.

23 THE COURT: And how long have you worked for Bell?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Since 2010.

25 THE COURT: And what did you do before that?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I worked for another company  
2 called Discount Steel over on Second Street.

3 THE COURT: Same kind of role?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

5 THE COURT: Okay. And does Bell Manufacturing  
6 have a jury service policy?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Your spouse is a warranty  
9 administrator. Where is that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For Ziegler Cat down in  
11 Bloomington.

12 THE COURT: And you have a child who is the  
13 president of a chamber of commerce. Where?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Midland, Louisiana.

15 THE COURT: And you also have one who is a  
16 logistics manager. Where is that?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not sure. He just changed  
18 jobs, but it's near Chanhassen.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And you served on a jury. Was  
20 that during COVID?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think it was, yes.

22 THE COURT: And where was that?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Wherever they have civil  
24 trials here.

25 THE COURT: In this courthouse?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think it was in this  
2 building, yes, ma'am.

3 THE COURT: Okay. You don't remember the judge's  
4 name, do you?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do not.

6 THE COURT: You never do. It's all right. It's  
7 not about us.

8 Okay. Oh, you do have the -- it was not -- that  
9 looks like, based on the number, that look like it was  
10 Hennepin County. Yeah.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's probably correct.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Did you serve all the way to a  
13 verdict?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, we did.

15 THE COURT: And were you the foreperson?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I wasn't.

17 THE COURT: Do you recall whether you reached a  
18 verdict for the plaintiff or the defendant?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was for the plaintiff.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And was it for a dollar amount?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. I don't remember the  
22 amount, though.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And do you remember anything  
24 else about the nature of the case?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just the guy was treated

1 unfair from his company that he worked for.

2 THE COURT: Like an employment case?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: All right. And you have either a  
5 relative or a close friend who is a police officer?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have a son-in-law that's a  
7 police officer down in Louisiana and a brother-in-law who is  
8 a police officer in Tyler, Texas.

9 THE COURT: And anything about those relationships  
10 that would lead you to be less than fair or impartial?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Okay. You can treat law enforcement  
13 officers on the witness stand just as you would treat anyone  
14 else?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And you have heard a little bit  
17 about this case on the news?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Actually it's been quite a bit  
19 more since it came on, yeah.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Well it looks like you watch  
21 and read quite a bit of news.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do.

23 THE COURT: What are your sources of news?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Usually Channel 4, I mean  
25 Channel 5 or Channel 11 here in the city and then also MSN.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Have you heard about the  
2 broader investigation as opposed to this particular trial or  
3 both?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Both.

5 THE COURT: Based on what you have heard, can you  
6 put aside what you have heard and be a fair and impartial  
7 juror here?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: And has what you have heard include  
10 reports about this particular trial in the past week or so?  
11 I'm going to excuse you. Thank you.

12 Thank you for your service, and we'll call someone  
13 else to be in Juror Number 34's spot.

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 48 will take seat  
15 34.

16 THE COURT: I can see you. Good morning.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

18 THE COURT: I have your questionnaire in front of  
19 me. You are now a stay-at-home mom. Have you always been?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I was a graphic designer  
21 for a property management company.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And how long did you do that?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 17 years.

24 THE COURT: What was the company?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: StuartCo in Bloomington.

1 THE COURT: And your spouse is a sales engineer  
2 for what company?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He works for a company in  
4 California called Nutanix.

5 THE COURT: And does he do that remotely?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

7 THE COURT: And you have a cousin who is a  
8 detective?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, in Wisconsin.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Do you talk to him or her about  
11 the about their cases?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I only talk to him maybe once  
13 a year, but we do not talk about his cases.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Anything about that that would  
15 affect your ability to be fair or impartial?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

17 THE COURT: All right. You live in Prior Lake,  
18 right?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And your answer to Number 20,  
21 do you have more detail about that?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. My -- a good friend of  
23 my husband's passed away a couple years ago or 2020. His  
24 house and land went up for sale, and it was purchased by  
25 someone. I believe it was purchased by someone in the

1 Feeding Our Future program.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Do you know anything more? Yes  
3 or no. Do you know anything more than that? Just a yes or  
4 no for now.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Sorry. I know you just got in your  
7 space there, but I'm going to have you come up with a  
8 headset, please.

9 **(Sidebar discussion)**

10 THE COURT: Can you hear me now?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just barely.

12 THE COURT: Any better?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Attorneys can you hear? Yes?  
15 Okay.

16 And so can you describe more about what you know  
17 about the property and who bought it?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So the two vacant lots next to  
19 the house that my husband's friend owned was sold to  
20 someone, and it has now become I believe a ward of the  
21 state.

22 THE COURT: So it's been seized by the --

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. Yes. And so we still  
24 talk to his parents very regularly, but we don't have,  
25 haven't discussed anything more than that, really.

1 THE COURT: Do you know the individuals who  
2 purchased the property that's now been seized?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Say that again?

4 THE COURT: Do you know the individuals who  
5 purchased the property that's now been seized?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Do I know who tried to  
7 purchase it?

8 THE COURT: Yeah.

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I do not know the name.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I just know that their trial  
12 was still upcoming.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And do you believe it's one of  
14 these two defendants?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do not know.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do know it was a male.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Can you -- do you know the  
19 address?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: What was that?

21 THE COURT: Do you know the address?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Of the property that was  
23 purchased?

24 THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was on Prior Lake in Candy

1 Cove. I cannot think of the street name right now.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. And what were the  
3 conversations that you had with -- it's your husband's  
4 friend?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was my husband's best  
6 friend's parents.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And what were the conversations  
8 that you had surrounding that about the investigation  
9 itself?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just basically that the  
11 property was purchased, and then it was seized, and they  
12 have -- I believe they are not involved anymore because they  
13 have received payment for the property.

14 THE COURT: Got it. Okay. I'm with you.

15 Based on all of that, do you have a view, or based  
16 on anything you have heard about the case, do you have a  
17 view as to the guilt or innocence of the two individuals  
18 here who are on trial?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Sorry. I didn't hear that  
20 last part.

21 THE COURT: Do you have a view of the two  
22 individuals and whether they are guilty or innocent, the two  
23 individuals here?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: What about those two?

25 THE COURT: Do you have a view, do you have an

1 opinion --

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I do not.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And based on what you have --  
4 well, have you heard any other, have you read anything or  
5 heard anything, news, et cetera, about this case?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I haven't read up on it.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And the other question I'm just  
8 going to ask you now because I'm going to press you on it  
9 is, you say it's going to be tough to avoid conversations at  
10 home because your husband --

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, he watches the news very  
12 regularly.

13 THE COURT: He's going to have to not tell you  
14 anything.

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. I can not talk to him  
16 about it.

17 THE COURT: Okay. He can save all the clippings  
18 for you if you serve. Okay?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: What was that?

20 THE COURT: He can save all the clippings for you,  
21 even though we don't have clippings anymore. I'm just going  
22 to ask the attorneys if there's any followup while I've got  
23 her on headset.

24 Okay. You can go back. Thanks.

25 Can you please stay on the microphone, attorneys?

1 No. Yeah.

2 (Attorneys only)

3 THE COURT: Mr. Montez, I want to continue on  
4 sidebar. I need to be reminded of the forfeiture  
5 allegations and whether the Candy Cove property is involved  
6 in this case.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, it's not. Sorry.  
8 Candy Cove -- Your Honor, the Candy Cove property was  
9 purchased by Abdiaziz Farah, the lead defendant in the trial  
10 last, last spring who was also a defendant in the primary  
11 allegation.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And so we're not going to hear  
13 about it in this case.

14 MR. THOMPSON: Correct. That has nothing to do  
15 with these defendants or this case.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. THOMPSON: In fact to be clear, Abdiaziz  
18 Farah, as Your Honor may recall, was primarily sponsored by  
19 Partners in Nutrition, not Feeding Our Future.

20 THE COURT: Yeah. I knew heard the Candy Cove,  
21 and I wasn't connecting it, nor do I know if there was  
22 another one.

23 So thank you. All right.

24 **(In open court)**

25 THE COURT: Thank you for your patience. Juror

1 Number 48. Do you have anything else that you wish to bring  
2 to the court's attention?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do not.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 Juror Number 35.

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Is it afternoon? We're close. We're  
8 close, everybody.

9 All right. You are a financial planner.

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Financial advisor now, Your  
11 Honor.

12 THE COURT: Adviser. Okay. Terrific.

13 And where do you work?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Advanced Financial Consultants  
15 in Rochester, Minnesota.

16 THE COURT: How big a company?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think there's 19 advisors in  
18 our office.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Do they have a jury service  
20 policy?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No formal policy, but I will  
22 be compensated.

23 THE COURT: Good.

24 You have a now four-month old.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Three-month-old.

1 THE COURT: Three-month old.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Congratulations.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

5 THE COURT: And your spouse is home with the  
6 three-month old?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not anymore.

8 THE COURT: Okay. What does your spouse do?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She is a home manager for a  
10 colon rectal surgeon and pediatrician.

11 THE COURT: Can you explain a little bit more  
12 about what that is?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She basically runs their  
14 personal life apart from their professional life and makes  
15 sure that everything is in order.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 You do have either relatives or close friends in  
18 law enforcement?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. I have an uncle that is  
20 a retired deputy sheriff and a cousin who is a police  
21 officer.

22 THE COURT: Where was your uncle a sheriff?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Becker County.

24 THE COURT: And the cousin is a police officer is  
25 where?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Williston, North Dakota.

2 THE COURT: Anything about those relationships or  
3 their employment that would lead you to be less than fair or  
4 impartial?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Is there anything else that you wish  
7 to bring to the court's attention?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: After the fact that I  
9 submitted the forms, given the nature of the trial,  
10 colleagues and I do discuss white-collar crimes in the  
11 office, specifically money laundering and the like.

12 This one did come up, and we did actually research  
13 it, and I can't say for certain I would be able to be  
14 impartial in this case.

15 THE COURT: Where did you research it? I don't  
16 want to know what you found. I want to know where.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Justice.gov and various other  
18 articles we found on social media and on the local news as  
19 well. I heard about it there, too.

20 THE COURT: And so have you read not only about  
21 the broader investigation, but also the, this trial in  
22 particular?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: This trial specifically, Your  
24 Honor, yes.

25 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to excuse you.

1           Thank you for your service, and we're going to  
2 call the next juror.

3           COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 49 will take seat  
4 36. Sorry. Seat 35.

5           THE COURT: Sorry. The number again?

6           COURTROOM DEPUTY: 49 is in 35.

7           THE COURT: Good afternoon, Juror Number 49.

8           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good afternoon.

9           THE COURT: Are you still currently unemployed,  
10 sir?

11          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

12          THE COURT: And what did you do before your  
13 unemployment?

14          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Welder fabricator mostly, and  
15 then I was a hunting guide for about twelve years.

16          THE COURT: Where were you a hunting guide?

17          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A couple different companies,  
18 landings home outfitters, Flight Stoppers and a couple other  
19 ones, mostly the snow geese out in South Dakota.

20          THE COURT: And are you looking for work now?

21          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

22          THE COURT: Okay.

23          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, yes and no.

24          THE COURT: Okay. And if you were, would you  
25 think you'd go back to welding or try to be a guide again?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Depending on health issues.  
2 Currently, I would like to go back to welding, but I'm not  
3 sure yet.

4 THE COURT: Are any of the health issues that you  
5 have, would they affect your jury service?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Possibly. I got renal failure  
7 and liver failure or renal disease and liver failure. At  
8 any given time my hemoglobin is only a half a point above  
9 hospital, and it doesn't give me much warning when it drops,  
10 and then I got to go for a transfusion.

11 THE COURT: What's the diagnosis?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Probably need a liver  
13 transplant.

14 THE COURT: Thank you for your service. I am  
15 going to excuse you.

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Good luck to you, sir.

18 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 50 will take seat  
19 35.

20 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good afternoon.

22 THE COURT: You are an inventory specialist,  
23 right?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: What does JH Larson do?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's an electrical HVAC  
2 plumbing wholesale company.

3 THE COURT: How long have you worked for them?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: A year and three months.

5 THE COURT: And what did you do before that?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Where I was an assistant store  
7 manager for Home Depot.

8 THE COURT: And how long did you do that?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Three years.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And before that?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Assistant store manager for  
12 Lowe's.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And does JH Larson have a jury  
14 policy?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay. They are paying you?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Your spouse is in asset protection  
19 with Target?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: For how long?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's been doing that for six  
23 years.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: And he works for the corporate

1 office, so he's not in a store.

2 THE COURT: What is the nature of his work for the  
3 corporate officers?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He deals with E fencing cases,  
5 so he does investigations for are external theft and  
6 internal theft, if need be.

7 THE COURT: What did he do before that?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He worked for Lowe's.

9 THE COURT: In the same type of work, in security?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep, he was in store.

11 THE COURT: And do you know whether he's testified  
12 in court?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He's never been testified or  
14 subpoenaed. He just provides the documents for said cases.

15 THE COURT: And obviously in doing that, he's had  
16 communications with law enforcement. Is there anything  
17 about that that would lead you to be less than fair or  
18 impartial?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 Is there anything else that you wish to call to  
22 the court's attention?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

25 Juror Number 36. Am I right that we are on Juror

1 Number 36?

2 Where are you a sober living manager?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In St. Paul.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And for what sober living  
5 facility.

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I work for The Retreat.

7 THE COURT: Retreat in?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The retreat in Wayzata. They  
9 have a 30-day residential program as well, and when our  
10 clients graduate from there, we transition them to sober  
11 living.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. How long have you  
13 been doing that?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Three and a half years.

15 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Property management.

17 THE COURT: And was that for a company?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was for Mayland Management.

19 THE COURT: And how long were you doing that?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I did that about ten years.

21 THE COURT: And before that?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Before that I was an  
23 administrative assistant at the Minneapolis Veterans  
24 Hospital for the chief of staff.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a child who is a

1 Dakota County financial worker?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

3 THE COURT: And can you explain a little bit more  
4 about that?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: As far as I know, she just  
6 assists clients with getting health insurance.

7 THE COURT: And you were on a jury way back in  
8 1982?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Shhh.

10 THE COURT: Sorry. So you were five?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Did you serve as the foreperson of  
13 that jury?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I did not. I was five.

15 THE COURT: You were five, so it would have been  
16 hard.

17 All right. I don't think that's going to affect  
18 your jury service, do you?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a faint  
21 recollection of these cases. Anything that you have seen or  
22 heard that would affect your ability to be fair or  
23 impartial?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I've heard nothing  
25 recent. It's from -- I recalled something way in the back

1 of my mind when I read the question.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And you can be fair. You can  
3 apply the presumption of innocence to these two defendants?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

5 THE COURT: All right. And is there anything else  
6 that you wish to call to the court's attention?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 All right. Juror Number 37. You are in supply  
10 chain logistics for General Mills. Is that still the case?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, it is.

12 THE COURT: Can you explain a little bit more  
13 about what you do?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, they move me around, but  
15 currently I'm procuring the ingredients and packaging for  
16 the Yoplait production. So I support that division now.

17 THE COURT: Okay. How long have you worked for  
18 General Mills?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 25 years.

20 THE COURT: And you received your master's from  
21 St. Thomas. Where did you go to college?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My undergrad was Luther  
23 College in Decorah, Iowa.

24 THE COURT: It's where approximately half of my  
25 family went. Great school.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

2 THE COURT: Okay. General Mills does have a jury  
3 policy?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, they do.

5 THE COURT: Okay. You have a spouse who works at  
6 Hope Academy. Is that --

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Right here.

8 THE COURT: -- in North Minneapolis?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. Yes.

10 THE COURT: And you have one child who works in HR  
11 where?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's called Cassia. It's out  
13 of Edina. It's a health care various services for elderly,  
14 and so she's in HR and recruiting. Yep. My other two are  
15 in college still.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And you have an uncle who was  
17 long ago a police officer. Anything about that that you  
18 think would lead you to be less than fair or impartial?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. It was probably a  
20 five-year stint in Madison, and he was a patrol officer and  
21 just had a scarry evening and then that got him off, off the  
22 beat, so to speak.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And --

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

25 THE COURT: And you have not heard of this case.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have not, no.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want to call  
3 to the court's attention?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

5 THE COURT: Juror Number 38. You are a machine  
6 operator still?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I quit about 2019.

8 THE COURT: Oh. Okay. And so are you retired  
9 now?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

11 THE COURT: How long were you a machine operator?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 28 years.

13 THE COURT: What company?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Crown Beverage in Mankato.

15 THE COURT: And you have a 38-year-old who is in  
16 marketing. Where is that?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For Wells Companies in  
18 Crystal.

19 THE COURT: And you have not heard of this case?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I have.

21 THE COURT: You have. And that's since the  
22 questionnaire?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well when I filled out the  
24 questionnaire it didn't really click, but when I started  
25 thinking about it, then I realized that I had seen quite a

1 bit about it in the news.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And do you know whether what  
3 you've heard or read has to do with the broader  
4 investigation or this case in particular?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was the broader  
6 investigation.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything about what  
8 you have heard or read that would lead you to have an  
9 opinion here?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

11 THE COURT: And you understand that these two  
12 individuals begin with a presumption of innocence, and the  
13 connection, if at all, to the broader investigation is  
14 something that you will learn in this courtroom if you learn  
15 it. Does that make sense?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It makes sense, but I'm not  
17 sure I can get around all the news I saw about it.

18 THE COURT: Have you read news in the last week?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I saw something in the free  
20 press.

21 THE COURT: I don't want to know what. I want to  
22 know if.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. Yes. Saturday morning.

24 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to excuse you.

25 Thank you.

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 51 will take seat  
2 38, please.

3 THE COURT: Juror Number 51, good afternoon.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Would you have said yes to any of the  
6 questions that I have asked thus far?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

8 THE COURT: What question?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In the witnesses.

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Joshua Parks.

12 THE COURT: Say that again?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Joshua Parks.

14 THE COURT: Joshua Parks is?

15 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, he's an IRS special  
16 agent.

17 THE COURT: Same Joshua Parks?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And you are a, still a plant  
20 manager?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And the company is Sign  
23 Company?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Precision Signs.

25 THE COURT: Precision Signs. Got it. And do they

1 have a jury service policy?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR. If not, I will write one when  
3 I get back.

4 THE COURT: Excellent.

5 Okay. You have a 29-year-old child who works in  
6 corrections; is that right?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, she's a jailer in  
8 Fillmore County.

9 THE COURT: How long has she been doing that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think four years.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Anything about that that you  
12 think would lead you to be less than fair and impartial  
13 here?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not with that, but can I ask  
15 for a sidebar?

16 THE COURT: You may. Come on up.

17 **(Sidebar discussion)**

18 THE COURT: Okay. Can you hear me?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

20 THE COURT: Okay. What did you want to disclose?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In 1993 my brother Nicholas  
22 Burns was special forces. He had a really bad thing happen  
23 in Mogadishu. And I'm sorry, Your Honor. It pains my  
24 heart, but I have a prejudice against Somalis.

25 THE COURT: Ahh. Did your brother pass?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, he won't talk to the  
2 family anymore. Our father passed away. He didn't say a  
3 word. We've had a lot of problems with this since then,  
4 since he's been back.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank you for disclosing  
6 that and for recognizing that it needed to be disclosed off  
7 the record. I am going to excuse you.

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you, ma'am.

9 **(In open court)**

10 THE COURT: I'm excusing Number 51. So I think  
11 we're calling Number 52 in; is that right?

12 Are you 52?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I'm 42, and I don't know  
14 if I'm supposed to be skipped over.

15 THE COURT: You've been excused.

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Oh, okay.

17 THE COURT: That actually happened yesterday and  
18 apparently didn't get communicated. So thank you for  
19 spending your morning with us.

20 Juror Number 52. Can you explain a little bit  
21 about what you do for Mitchell Hamline?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I am a programming grants  
23 coordinator for the Public Health Law Center.

24 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For six years.

1 THE COURT: And what did you do before that?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was a director of operations  
3 at NAMI Minnesota, and before that I was program director of  
4 operations at University of Minnesota Extension Health and  
5 Nutrition Programs, especially SNAP education.

6 THE COURT: One moment. During COVID were you  
7 working at SNAP education?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. It was before that.

9 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And when you say  
10 you were director of NAMI, that's an AMI, right, not NAMI  
11 health?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Right. Director of operations  
13 and it was NAMI Minnesota, so National Association of Mental  
14 Illness.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 Anything about your affiliation with Mitchell  
17 Hamline and particularly the legal clinics there and law  
18 professors that would affect your ability to be fair and  
19 impartial?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Mitchell Hamline has a jury service  
22 policy, I'm assuming.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, they do.

24 THE COURT: Good. All right.

25 And you had some concern about law enforcement and

1 excessive force cases. Having heard what you have heard  
2 here today, do you have that concern about potential  
3 witnesses here?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not for this case, no, ma'am.

5 THE COURT: And can you treat law enforcement  
6 witnesses just as you would treat any other witness, that is  
7 with a blank slate in terms of credibility?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

9 THE COURT: All right. And it looks like you have  
10 followed this case a bit. Is that the larger investigation?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The larger investigation, yes.  
12 When I heard that it was coming on the news last night I  
13 left the room.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. And based on  
15 what you have read, can you be fair and impartial to these  
16 defendants?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Can you apply a presumption of  
19 innocence to them?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right. Do you have anything else  
22 that you wish to bring up with the court?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 Juror Number 39.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good afternoon.

2 THE COURT: Good afternoon. I'm so sorry. You  
3 might win on the handwriting. I'm not sure. This looks  
4 like it could be a font that you could monetize.

5 You are a senior account manager at Cargill?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

7 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Four months.

9 THE COURT: What did you do before that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was called what they call a  
11 category manager, which is like a project manager.

12 THE COURT: At Cargill?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

14 THE COURT: How long have you worked at Cargill?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Eight years.

16 THE COURT: And before that, what did you do?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was a scientist.

18 THE COURT: For?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For Cargill, and before that  
20 it's called the university, it's the University of  
21 North Dakota Research Center.

22 THE COURT: And Cargill has a jury service policy,  
23 right?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Fairly certain they do.

25 THE COURT: As am I.

1           One of the community organizations you list is  
2 Best Prep. What is that?

3           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's coaching high school and  
4 middle schoolers to, for stem education.

5           THE COURT: And is that in Eden Prairie?

6           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, they come to us at work.

7           THE COURT: Oh, okay.

8           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Which is in Wayzata.

9           THE COURT: So they will come to Cargill, and you  
10 mentor them there?

11          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

12          THE COURT: Or coach them there? All right.

13          And you have read or heard a bit about this case  
14 or the larger investigation on the news; is that right?

15          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's correct. The name  
16 rings a bell.

17          THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything about that  
18 that would impact your ability to be fair and impartial?

19          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

20          THE COURT: Anything else you wish to bring up to  
21 the court?

22          PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. For Question 13 I didn't  
23 realize my neighbor that I meet a couple times a year is a  
24 patent attorney.

25          THE COURT: Thank you. Where does he or she work?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No idea.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Pretty sure patent law isn't  
3 going to enter the courtroom for this case, but anything  
4 about that that you are concerned about?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

7 I'm going to have a sidebar with the attorneys.

8 **(Sidebar discussion)**

9 THE COURT: I'm going to ask now whether there are  
10 any motions to strike a juror for cause.

11 From the government?

12 MR. UDOIBOK: Can I have a moment to confer? This  
13 is Kenneth Udoibok.

14 THE COURT: You may.

15 MR. UDOIBOK: May I have a moment to confer?

16 THE COURT: Just a moment. Let me hear from the  
17 government, and I will give you a moment. Okay?

18 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, Juror Number 12  
19 indicated that she was familiar with most of the entities  
20 listed in Question Number 20. And I think, well, perhaps  
21 more follow-up questioning is appropriate here from the  
22 court, but obviously we are concerned with people who have  
23 knowledge of individual entities that are at issue in this  
24 case.

25 And reading the questionnaire, it says, yes, I

1 have heard about most of these organizations. The list  
2 being Feeding Our Future, Partners in Nutrition, the Summer  
3 Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Program,  
4 Cosmopolitan Business Solutions, Safari Restaurant, ASA  
5 Limited, Olive Management, Total Financial Solutions  
6 Stigma-Free International and Better Future.

7 Only two of those have been in the news. Like I  
8 don't know how, frankly I'm not sure how someone would have  
9 knowledge of most of those without either being personally,  
10 having personal relationships or dealings with the entities  
11 or followed the case quite closely.

12 THE COURT: All right. Let me follow up with  
13 Juror 12.

14 But before I do that, I'm going to ask for any  
15 other followup or strikes from the defendants.

16 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, we might have a couple  
17 more strikes for cause as well potentially, if you give us  
18 just a moment here.

19 THE COURT: That's fine.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, the government would  
21 move to strike for cause Juror 52. Juror 52, who you just  
22 questioned somewhat near the end there, had pretty intimate,  
23 pretty significant knowledge and, about the case. She  
24 knew -- in her questionnaire she said a lot about what she  
25 knew about the defendants, the nature of the fraud scheme,

1 the number of defendants who had been charged.

2 She also had knowledge of the attempt to bribe a  
3 juror in the last trial. In addition, she listed, she  
4 talked about she has pretty extensive experience and  
5 background in SNAP and other types of child nutrition  
6 programs.

7 And I think the risk from the government's  
8 perspective is, she's seems to be bringing a lot of  
9 knowledge in the subject matter of this case, and our  
10 concern would be, she would be bringing that. It would be  
11 hard for her to leave that behind in the jury room and that  
12 she would be drawing on that, whether it's her background in  
13 education or in nutrition and education or her knowledge of  
14 the, of this investigation and the related case.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Udoibok, do you have any objection  
16 to removing 52?

17 MR. UDOIBOK: No, I don't have any objection to  
18 that.

19 (Reporter interruption)

20 MR. UDOIBOK: I don't have any concern with that.  
21 In fact I agree.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. UDOIBOK: However --

24 THE COURT: Wait. Wait. Wait. You're -- it's  
25 got to be close to your mouth.

1 MR. UDOIBOK: How about this? How about this?

2 THE COURT: Better.

3 MR. UDOIBOK: Okay. I actually agree with the  
4 government.

5 THE COURT: On 52?

6 MR. UDOIBOK: On 52. My other concern, though,  
7 Judge is, my client can't -- I can't confer with my client.

8 THE COURT: Okay. We can take a lunch break and  
9 then --

10 MR. UDOIBOK: Please.

11 THE COURT: -- we can come back, but before I do  
12 that, I'm going to ask Mr. Montez whether he agrees on 52.

13 MR. MONTEZ: We do.

14 THE COURT: Okay. So then I'm going to pull up  
15 one more, because I want to get 39, then you all can confer.  
16 Here's the issue. You can't take the -- your notes out of.

17 We are going to have to deal with your notes  
18 because they can't go out of the courthouse for sure, and so  
19 I want you to be able to confer with your client in private,  
20 but I -- all of the notes have to stay with you,  
21 Mr. Udoibok, and with you, Mr. Montez.

22 And perhaps you can be in the attorney conference  
23 room, but I just want to make sure as officers of the court  
24 that the notes don't leave the courthouse. Okay?

25 All right. We're going to bring one more up then.

1 Thank you.

2 (In open court)

3 THE COURT: Juror Number 52, I'm excusing you.  
4 I'm excusing Number 52, and we're going to call up Number 53  
5 to be in your place.

6 Thank you for your service.

7 What seat is this?

8 COURTROOM DEPUTY: This is seat 38.

9 THE COURT: 38? Okay.  
10 Juror Number 53.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Hello.

12 THE COURT: Hello. Where are you? Hi. All  
13 right.

14 What do you do for a living?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have a hardship to bring up.  
16 Should I do that first?

17 THE COURT: Sure.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So I just signed a lease for a  
19 new apartment. I am moving next week, and I work Friday,  
20 Saturday, Sundays. So if I'm here Monday through Thursday  
21 all day, I just wouldn't have the time to move. I don't  
22 know if that's -- especially just since it's going to be  
23 five weeks, I don't know how I would be able to make that  
24 work.

25 THE COURT: All right. I'll excuse you.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Juror 54, please. In seat 38.

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Hello.

5 THE COURT: Hello. Is there any question to which  
6 you would have answered yes that I've asked so far?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And you are a dental  
9 technician; is that right?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

11 THE COURT: What do you do?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I am a workup tech, plus a  
13 pharmacy technician.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: And I also have a background  
16 of dental assisting.

17 THE COURT: Did you say workout tech?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Workup tech. So I work at an  
19 eye center, and then I also scribe with the doctor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. How long have you done  
21 that?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I've only been there two  
23 months.

24 THE COURT: Excuse me. Okay. What did you do  
25 before that?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I worked as a, worked at a  
2 DME, durable medical equipment, place.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Always been in sort of the  
4 medical field?

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Medical field, yep.

6 THE COURT: All right. And you have a brother who  
7 is a sheriff?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Sheriff reserve, yes.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Where is that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: He works out of the Big Lake  
11 area, so I'm not exactly sure what county that is.

12 THE COURT: And a friend who is a St. Paul  
13 officer?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

15 THE COURT: And then a cousin who is Sherburne  
16 County?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

18 THE COURT: Okay. And are they patrol, do you  
19 know, or do they do detective work?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I know the one that works in  
21 St. Paul, he just got a dog, and I don't know exactly what.  
22 I don't know if it's for as far as like -- I know it's not  
23 drugs, but I don't know exactly what his dog is, he works  
24 with the dog for.

25 THE COURT: He's a canine officer.

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep. Yep.

2 THE COURT: Or he works with a canine, okay.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: And then the other one is a  
4 city police.

5 THE COURT: Okay. And --

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Or the sheriff, the one that,  
7 the cousin.

8 THE COURT: You have heard quite a bit about the  
9 law enforcement officers who might, mainly federal agents,  
10 who might testify in this trial.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

12 THE COURT: And the different kind of trial that  
13 this is, that being a fraud trial. Can you treat police  
14 officers, federal officers in particular, who take the  
15 witness stand as you would any other witness, that is with a  
16 blank slate in terms of credibility?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Okay. And you have familiarity with  
19 this case; is that right?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: On the news.

23 THE COURT: All right. And any exposure in the  
24 last week?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

1 THE COURT: So you have heard more about the  
2 broader investigation?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

4 THE COURT: Anything about what you have heard  
5 that would impact your ability to be fair or impartial?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

7 THE COURT: And is there anything else that you  
8 wish to bring to the court's attention?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not in particular.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I do have to housesit next  
12 week with my mom and dad being gone or beginning on Friday  
13 of this week, so I have to housesit and watch two dogs, but  
14 that would be the only thing.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Could you bring the microphone  
16 forward, and perhaps, Agent Kary, you could bring it to  
17 Juror Number 12?

18 I just had a couple followups for you.

19 On your answer to Number 20, you talked about a  
20 familiarity with the organizations, as opposed to the  
21 investigation.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

23 THE COURT: There's a number of organizations that  
24 are listed in Question 20. Are you familiar with all of  
25 those?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not all of those, but I have  
2 like heard of them.

3 THE COURT: And have you heard of them how?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think just in passing, like  
5 in conversation or like they ring some sort of familiarity.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Do you work with them at all?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: One second. I do not think  
8 so.

9 THE COURT: Okay. So do you think that you've  
10 heard of some of these organizations through the news and  
11 about the investigation or through some other way?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think some other way.

13 THE COURT: What other way?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I would say like they just  
15 come up in conversations.

16 THE COURT: What kind of conversations? Friends?  
17 Colleagues?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. So when I worked as,  
19 before my current role, I did some social media management,  
20 and we would work with minorities or just communities here  
21 in Minneapolis. So if there's somebody working at this  
22 particular organization, we would like talk about it, and  
23 they would speak about their role at the organization or  
24 kind of tell us how the day has been in their role.

25 THE COURT: And which of the organizations are you

1 talking about.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In particular, Safari  
3 Restaurant.

4 THE COURT: Do you know someone who works at  
5 Safari Restaurant?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't know them directly,  
7 but I have, like they were near me and having conversations.

8 THE COURT: When was this?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: This was in '02, 2021 or '02.

10 THE COURT: Do you remember what the conversations  
11 were about? Yes or no question.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

13 THE COURT: Do you know anybody at Feeding Our  
14 Future?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't think so.

16 THE COURT: Do you know anyone at Partners in  
17 Nutrition?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

19 THE COURT: How about the Summer Food Service  
20 Program?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

22 THE COURT: The Child and Adult Care Program?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have, I have heard about  
24 someone who works there.

25 THE COURT: And where did the information come

1 from?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was at an event we were  
3 hosting, and they were interested in just knowing about my  
4 role at the internship I was at during that year. So around  
5 '20, '22, and it was just right before I graduated so I was  
6 just telling them what my plans were and what I wanted to  
7 study for higher education.

8 So they were just talking about that program.

9 THE COURT: Where was your internship?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My internship was here in  
11 Minneapolis.

12 THE COURT: Doing what for what organization?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was Memorialize the  
14 Movement, and I was the social media manager. I would  
15 record videos, take photos, and upload them appropriately  
16 just to promote what we do in the community.

17 THE COURT: What is the movement?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: The movement began in 2020,  
19 like the uprising here in Minneapolis, and we would promote  
20 the plywood that were a result of those protests around  
21 Minneapolis and the Twin Cities.

22 THE COURT: Promoting the plywood, meaning the art  
23 on the --

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: The graphic art?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So the murals that were  
2 collected, my boss had collected the murals, and we stored  
3 them. And when we have events, we would promote those and  
4 have community come out to support.

5 THE COURT: Okay. How about Cosmopolitan Business  
6 Solutions?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

8 THE COURT: ASA Limited?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

10 THE COURT: Olive Management?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I might be thinking of another  
12 sort of Olive Management, but probably not the one that's  
13 listed here.

14 THE COURT: Well, what one are you thinking of?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's not in the U.S. It's  
16 outside of the U.S., I believe.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Do you know where?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In South Korea.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Total Financial Solutions?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

21 THE COURT: Stigma-Free International?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

23 THE COURT: Bet on Better Future?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I believe there was somebody  
25 having conversation around me at an event from that

1 organization.

2 THE COURT: What did the conversation, what was  
3 the substance of the conversation?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My boss really tries to bring  
5 together like organizations so that we're able to  
6 collaborate and possibly work together, you know, for events  
7 or just work around the Twin Cities, Minneapolis.

8 So I do not know the details, but there was  
9 discussion of possible like collaboration in the future, but  
10 it was probably after I had left the internship.

11 THE COURT: Can we go back to the Safari  
12 Restaurant? You said you heard about someone who works  
13 there.

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Do you know who that person is?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't really recall who that  
17 person is.

18 THE COURT: What did you hear about them?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Just what they did in the time  
20 at Safari Restaurant.

21 THE COURT: In terms of their employment or in  
22 terms of something involved with Feeding Our Future?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I can't recall exactly.

24 THE COURT: Who did you hear this from?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My boss at the Memorialize,

1 Memorialize the Movement.

2 THE COURT: All right. And can you tell me your  
3 boss's name at Memorialize the Movement?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Lisa.

5 THE COURT: Last name?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I want to say it starts with a  
7 K, but I don't know her last name.

8 THE COURT: When -- in your current role are you,  
9 when you are promoting businesses as a marketer, are those  
10 businesses or nonprofits?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They're mostly roofing, HVAC,  
12 siding, kitchen and bath businesses, yes.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And are you still involved in  
14 Memorialize the Movement?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I do have a friend who  
16 still works at MTM, but I do not talk to my boss anymore or  
17 the other internship team members.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Lisa Kelly?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

20 THE COURT: All right. One moment. I'm going to  
21 take a sidebar with the attorneys.

22 **(Sidebar discussion)**

23 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, we would move to strike  
25 Juror 12 for cause. She appears to have met some of the

1 defendants in this case during the time frame in which the  
2 fraud scheme was being committed and that the owners of  
3 Safari Restaurant, all three of them are charged in this  
4 case.

5 And that includes Salim Said, who is a defendant  
6 in this case trial, as well as Abdulkadir Salah who pled  
7 guilty just last week.

8 I would note, Your Honor, that the defendants as  
9 part of our evidence may well be that the defendants carried  
10 out a social media campaign against MDE, along with Feeding  
11 Our Future, trying to raise support and rally support in  
12 certain communities against the Department of Education and  
13 in support of accusations that the Minnesota Department of  
14 Education's efforts to slow down the fraud scheme or stop  
15 the fraud scheme or shut down Feeding Our Future and its  
16 sites was actually racially motivated against the Somali  
17 immigrant community and other, other minority communities in  
18 Minneapolis.

19 It sounds like she was, may have well have been  
20 involved in that or certainly had exposure to it. I would  
21 note also she said that she was familiar with Bet on Better  
22 Future, and that's a company that was created in 2021 by  
23 defendant Abdulkadir Salah and used to open a number of  
24 Federal Child Nutrition Program sites around the state.

25 In fact some of the sites were shifted over from

1 Stigma-Free International to Bet on Better Future to spread  
2 them out in the government's evidence. I think if -- I  
3 don't have the numbers in front of me, but I think if not  
4 100 percent and close to 100 percent of the funds received  
5 by Bet on Better Future after it was created came from  
6 Feeding Our Future and were fraud schemes.

7 So it sounds like she has knowledge of some of the  
8 defendants in this case and contemporaneous conversations  
9 with people. So obviously our concerns are twofold. Well,  
10 there's that. I would note that she may not remember all  
11 those conversations today, but that memory might well be  
12 jogged during the trial when she hears and sees some of the  
13 evidence.

14 I would also note that she seems to be giving some  
15 shifting answers. There's real inconsistencies in her  
16 answers. She said in writing that she had heard of most of  
17 these organizations.

18 She gave are varying accounts to Your Honor about  
19 her knowledge of those organizations and her exposure to  
20 them. So for that reason we would move to strike her for  
21 cause.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 Mr. Udoibok.

24 MR. UDOIBOK: I'm not sure I would agree with the  
25 government's recital of the facts, but I don't have any

1 objection to excluding her because it is in the same vein of  
2 my position that jurors who have had prior consumption of  
3 stories about this case shall not sit.

4 But nonetheless, I don't have any objection, but  
5 my concern though is, the government recital of certain  
6 facts that are not in evidence, and under normal  
7 circumstances I would be concerned whether or not this is a  
8 *Batson* challenge.

9 But nonetheless, I don't have any objection to,  
10 you know, to striking her for cause.

11 THE COURT: Are you making a *Batson* challenge?

12 MR. UDOIBOK: No, I am not at this time, but --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 Mr. Montez.

15 MR. UDOIBOK: Thank you.

16 MR. MONTEZ: Thank you, judge.

17 I disagree with the government's assessment  
18 regarding Juror 12's answers. To the contrary, I don't  
19 think Juror 12 said anything that indicates that she knows  
20 any of the defendants in this case.

21 I didn't hear Juror 12 say that she was familiar  
22 with anybody who worked at Safari. I didn't hear Juror 12  
23 say that she was familiar with anybody who worked with Bet  
24 on Better Future, Feeding Our Future or any of these  
25 organizations.



1 note the following: First be patient and with the elevators  
2 and understand that it may take you a while to get back up  
3 here. I'm sorry about that.

4 You are going to go down to two for lunch where  
5 you began your day, and again I'll remind you that you are  
6 not to talk to each other about the case, that you are not  
7 to check your media feed. So from now forward, you are not  
8 to consume any news media.

9 I don't care what you have to do to make that  
10 happen, but you are not to consume any news media. And, and  
11 I'm sorry that sounds harsh, but that is the way. We risk a  
12 lot if you don't abide by that rule.

13 And then I'll have you leave your papers in the  
14 courtroom. They will be here when you come back. And we'll  
15 see you at 1:00. All right.

16 All rise for the jury.

17 **IN OPEN COURT**

18 **(JURY PANEL NOT PRESENT)**

19 THE COURT: I've excused Juror Number 71 because  
20 she was subpoenaed in a different court proceeding during  
21 this trial.

22 Off the record.

23 (Recess taken 1:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m.)

24 2:00 p.m.  
25

**IN OPEN COURT****(JURY PANEL NOT PRESENT)**

1  
2  
3 THE COURT: You may all be seated.

4 My understanding is that the parties have  
5 something they wish to raise with the court?

6 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, the government does.  
7 We wanted to re-raise or make a record of our for-cause  
8 challenge of Juror Number 12.

9 THE COURT: You may do so, but Juror Number 12 has  
10 approached Ms. Wegner and stated that she wishes to disclose  
11 more to us in a sidebar.

12 MR. THOMPSON: Perhaps I can provide a little  
13 background about our concerns, the nature of our concerns,  
14 before you get started. I don't know who is watching this  
15 if you want to do it at sidebar.

16 COURTROOM DEPUTY: I have not started the  
17 streaming. Okay.

18 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. This is our concern Your  
19 Honor, that Juror Number 12 talked about how in 2021ish she  
20 had conversations with the owners of Safari Restaurant  
21 involving social media campaigns, and obviously that's  
22 something that is at the heart of this case, and one of the  
23 owners -- all three owners of Safari Restaurant, all three  
24 partners have been charged in this case. One has pled  
25 guilty. One is on trial here today.

1           She also said she was familiar with the company  
2           called Bet on Better Future, which as I indicated earlier is  
3           a company that was created by one of the Safari co-owners,  
4           defendant Abdulkadir Salah, who pled guilty last week prior  
5           to the start of this trial.

6           I mentioned before Bet on Better Future was  
7           created in 2021. It was -- its bank account was opened from  
8           November 2021 into 2022. During that time, \$1,441,902 were  
9           deposited into the account. All but \$200 of that money came  
10          from Feeding Our Future.

11          And when you look at the outflow, and this is  
12          Government Exhibit X10, all the money we want out to  
13          Cosmopolitan Business Solutions, d/b/a Safari Restaurant,  
14          Olive Management and then two other companies only.

15          Our concern is that the potential juror is aware  
16          of a company that was involved with the scheme. Safari  
17          Restaurant, in addition to being part of the scheme, the  
18          charged scheme, was a restaurant in South Minneapolis. Bet  
19          on Better Future did not have an operational, any operations  
20          outside of this scheme.

21          Its bank records show clearly it was a shell  
22          company used to carry out, to receive and launder the funds  
23          of this program, and there will be evidence, including  
24          Government's Exhibit X10 and Government's Exhibit M5 that  
25          show that this nonprofit, Bet on Better Future that

1 Abdulkadir Salah set up, were used to carry out this fraud  
2 scheme.

3 Now I know Your Honor ruled, and I respect the  
4 ruling. You suggested that we could inquire further on voir  
5 dire. Our concern is this: Any further inquiry of Juror 12  
6 would be essentially us cross-examining her about whether or  
7 not she had any knowledge or any involvement in, even  
8 unwittingly, of this fraud scheme.

9 And for us, that just puts us in an untenable  
10 position, and I would be happy to tender these exhibits if  
11 Your Honor wants.

12 THE COURT: I think before we do that, I tend to  
13 share that concern, and I do want to hear from the defense  
14 attorneys, but before we do that, I'm going to ask  
15 Ms. Wegner to either post yourself or Mr. Hernandez outside  
16 the door and have Juror Number 12 come in.

17 We'll treat it as a sidebar, and that way we are  
18 able to ask these questions of her and have her disclose  
19 what she wished to disclose before the remainder of the  
20 jurors come in.

21 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Can we do that?

23 COURTROOM DEPUTY: I will go grab Number 12.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 My understanding is that we have one elevator

1 working.

2 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

3 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes.

4 (Off-the-record discussion)

5

6 (Juror Number 12 enters the courtroom)

7

**(Sidebar discussion)**

8 THE COURT: Good afternoon, Juror Number 12.

9 We are treating this as a sidebar, so I believe  
10 the parties obviously can hear, but our courtroom feed is  
11 not on. Let me just confirm that. Yes.

12 THE COURT: Juror number 12 --

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good afternoon.

14 THE COURT: Juror Number 12, good afternoon. I  
15 know that you wished to disclose a couple of things to the  
16 court.

17 And so I'll let you just do that in this, so this  
18 venue so that we don't have to use the headsets. Possible  
19 after that depending, but I will let the attorneys ask some  
20 questions as well.

21 But go ahead.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. So right before the  
23 lunch break, there was some questions that you had asked me,  
24 and that actually brought up the kind of really close like,  
25 not relation, but like closely heard things that I've heard

1 about the people involved in the case. And being someone  
2 involved in sort of like a community who like, which has  
3 people who are reliant on the food and what they got during  
4 that period of time, it did make me have -- or it did  
5 recollect some of the biases that I do have against what has  
6 happened.

7 THE COURT: So can you talk a little bit more  
8 about those?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. So is it all right if I  
10 name the ethnicities or communities?

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That's all right? Okay.

13 So I am part of the Islamic Eastern Twin Cities  
14 Society in Woodbury, and it's in proximity to an area called  
15 McKnight, and there is a Somali community there that was  
16 handing out the food and the meals that were being provided,  
17 but while I wasn't the one who was going to get those meals.

18 My aunt, so my mother's sister, younger sister --  
19 I have two aunts. The younger one is the one who introduced  
20 the sort of like idea that we should share this program with  
21 people in our community, and slowly when we started to do  
22 that, we didn't know anything about what had happened or  
23 like necessarily the money or the fraudulent stuff that was  
24 going on.

25 So at that time we had no idea. So we had shared

1 it around in the community, and a lot of Muslim families  
2 were going to get those meals.

3 It was also during, I believe, Ramadan, which is  
4 when we fast. So, you know, when you don't have the  
5 availability of food, you go and get the meal, and then you  
6 can break your fast. And we all come together and pray and  
7 sort of like just talk about everything that, that the  
8 families have benefited from getting those meals.

9 And, yeah, so at the mosque that I am a part of, I  
10 have heard a lot about kind of what the services looked like  
11 and what the families felt.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 Does any attorney wish to question?

14 MR. UDOIBOK: No, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. Then I am going to excuse  
16 you, and I'm also going to excuse you from service.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: All right. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 (Juror Number 12 exits the courtroom)

20 THE COURT: To be clear, and we are still at  
21 sidebar, I am granting the government's motion for excusal  
22 for cause. I don't think that she believes she's the right  
23 juror for this case, and she essentially is a witness to  
24 some of the broader programming or not that occurred.

25 Given that ruling, I want to give the defendants a

1 chance to object for the record, if they wish to.

2 MR. MONTEZ: We do intend to object for the  
3 record, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Do you have anything to add to that?

5 MR. MONTEZ: I would just note that she, Juror 12,  
6 did seem to indicate some familiarity with the programs,  
7 that there was some familiarity with food being served to  
8 her community, which is something that I had mentioned to  
9 the court earlier, that that would likely be her experience,  
10 and I think that's what we heard was that that was her  
11 experience.

12 I didn't hear anything that indicated that she has  
13 bias one way or the other as a result of being served food,  
14 just that there was a discussion at the mosque about how  
15 those services were being provided to her community.

16 THE COURT: I'll just note that she herself  
17 identified a bias, and I'll let the record stand as it is,  
18 but I appreciate the objection. Thank you.

19 For Juror Number 12 we're going to place which  
20 juror in that seat?

21 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 55.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And before we do that, are  
23 there any other motions for cause by any party?

24 MR. MONTEZ: None for Mr. Said.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Montez.

1 Mr. Udoibok, any motions for cause?

2 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes, Your Honor. Juror Number 48.

3 THE COURT: 48 is sitting in the seat of --

4 COURTROOM DEPUTY 34.

5 THE COURT: Sorry?

6 COURTROOM DEPUTY: 34.

7 THE COURT: 34. Thank you.

8 Go ahead.

9 MR. UDOIBOK: Well, Your Honor, this is in line  
10 with -- may I come to the podium or I can do it here. What  
11 would the court prefer?

12 THE COURT: I can hear you now.

13 MR. UDOIBOK: All right. This is in line with the  
14 number of other jurors that have been excused. The juror  
15 disclosed sort of an impression that she knew the wrongdoing  
16 of the organization, the Feeding Our Future, I believe, and  
17 one of the defendants in this case who purportedly bought  
18 land with the proceeds of the alleged fraudulent act.

19 THE COURT: Not a defendant in this trial, a  
20 defendant in the larger Feeding Our Future --

21 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes.

22 THE COURT: -- investigation.

23 MR. UDOIBOK: Correct, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Go ahead.

25 MR. UDOIBOK: But it leaves the impression that

1 she could not be fair, having had that detailed experience  
2 with this case.

3 We have enough jurors who haven't had, who haven't  
4 had news, who have received information about this case, but  
5 to know that one of the defendants, not in this particular  
6 case but in the overall indictment, purchased land and the  
7 land purportedly was forfeited, for whatever reason it is,  
8 it paints a juror, a picture of a juror, I know she  
9 responded that she can be fair, that there is no need  
10 allowing her to sit.

11 And the defendant exercising its peremptory, when  
12 the information she has is such, is such that she can't not  
13 overcome the impression that she already formed about what  
14 one of the defendants may have done with the, with the money  
15 from the criminal activity.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Montez, do you join?

17 MR. MONTEZ: We join, Your Honor. I have nothing  
18 else to add.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 Mr. Thompson.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, I think she probably  
22 could be fair, but that being said, we don't object to the  
23 excusal of, the cause challenge to Juror 48, I think. What  
24 happened with Juror 12 amply demonstrated exactly the  
25 concern, which is that a juror that's had some sort of

1 personal experience in the case, that may be a little foggy  
2 in their memory today during the cast of jury selection,  
3 over the course of a month-long trial they might recollect  
4 things.

5 And then we have a problem with a juror either  
6 raising her hand and saying I remember something or the  
7 concern is, of course, that the juror doesn't know how to  
8 communicate and doesn't do that.

9 And I think Juror 48, like Juror 12, that's our  
10 concern. It is, to Your Honor's point, it is a different  
11 case with a different defendant, but there are obviously  
12 similarities.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

14 Given your agreement, I will release Juror 48,  
15 which brings 55?

16 COURTROOM DEPUTY: 56.

17 THE COURT: 56? Into slot 34.

18 Any other challenges for cause?

19 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, the government has two  
20 jurors that I think we have similar concerns over, which are  
21 Juror Number 33 and Juror Number 7.

22 They both seem to have some difficulties  
23 understanding the court's questioning during the voir dire  
24 process. Starting with Juror Number 33 -- I assume this  
25 isn't being streamed; is that right?

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: It is not being streamed.

2 MR. THOMPSON: It seemed like maybe he had a  
3 learning disability. He didn't seem to be tracking the  
4 court's questions. When asked what his parents do with whom  
5 he lives, he's 22. He lives with both his parents. They  
6 both work.

7 When the court asked him what do his parents do  
8 for a living, he said I don't know, and eventually after  
9 several questions, he said that his dad is a truck  
10 dispatcher and his mom fixes fire extinguishers.

11 This is obviously, it's going to be a long trial.  
12 It is going to be relatively complex, and he just doesn't  
13 seem like the right juror for this case. I would hate to  
14 have a juror that's not tracking what's going on in the  
15 courtroom proceedings.

16 Similarly, Juror Number 7 seemed fine as a person.  
17 Our concern is that she seems like English is a second  
18 language, and she too would seem like she wasn't tracking  
19 the court's questioning. And obviously I think the court  
20 reporter and all the parties had difficulty understanding  
21 her answers.

22 At least to some of her questions, it seemed like  
23 her -- some of your questions that her answers weren't  
24 actually responsive. There was a series of questions about  
25 where she worked and where she used to work, and it seemed

1 like she wasn't tracking the distinction.

2 And again, I worry, and over the course of a  
3 month-long trial with lots of testimony, lots of exhibits,  
4 and presumably an extended deliberation, that's going to  
5 pose a difficulty and makes her not a good juror for this  
6 case.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Mr. Udoibok, first as to Juror Number 33?

9 MR. UDOIBOK: I don't have any objections to 33.

10 THE COURT: As to Number 7?

11 MR. UDOIBOK: As to Number 7, I vehemently  
12 disagree with the government. She may have an accent. By  
13 no means is she unable to track, considering what she does  
14 for a living. I think it's evident.

15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

16 Mr. Montez.

17 MR. MONTEZ: Your Honor, we join the government's  
18 motion as regard to Juror Number 33. We would oppose the  
19 motion as regard to Juror Number 7.

20 Would the court like to be heard on that in  
21 regards to Number 7?

22 THE COURT: I don't need to.

23 MR. MONTEZ: Okay.

24 THE COURT: Juror Number 33 is excused.

25 As to Number 7, I am denying the motion. She has

1 a Master's of Science in Nursing, and I don't think her  
2 answers rose to the level of a cause challenge.

3 As to 33, we will bring in 57 to sit in that seat.

4 All right. Any other motions for cause?

5 MR. THOMPSON: Not from the government, Your  
6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: From any defendants?

8 MR. UDOIBOK: Not from Bock.

9 MR. MONTEZ: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. All right.

11 So, Ms. Wegner, do you want to get the jury and  
12 then -- but before we do that, can I just look at your map  
13 and compare it with mine and make sure that I've got  
14 everything right?

15 So this is what we have: 1, 2, 3, 4, 45, 6, 7,  
16 46.

17 Is that me?

18 COURTROOM DEPUTY: I don't know.

19 THE COURT: 9, 41, 11, 55, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
20 19, 20, 47, 22, 23, 24, 25, 6, 7, 8, 44, 30, 31, 32, and  
21 then the last row in the back, 57, 56, 50, 36, 37, 54, 39.

22 Does that track with everybody else's map? Okay.

23 And remember the way that we refer to them is by  
24 their original number, even though they are in a different  
25 seat.

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Do you want me to release  
2 Jurors 48 and 33 before they come in here and then when they  
3 seat.

4 THE COURT: Yes, 48 and 33 are excused, as well as  
5 12.

6 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Okay.  
7 2:23 p.m.

8 **IN OPEN COURT**

9 **(JURY PANEL PRESENT)**

10 THE COURT: You may all be seated.  
11 Welcome back.

12 We're going to start by filling in a couple of  
13 jurors that I excused. We'll first call to Number 12's  
14 spot, Juror Number 55.

15 And then while he's making his way up, Juror  
16 Numbers 56 and 57 are going to go in the spots where 33 and  
17 34 were.

18 All right. Thank you.

19 Let's start with Juror Number 55. Is your  
20 microphone there?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Hello.

22 THE COURT: Hello. Are there any questions of my  
23 general ones to which you would have answered yes?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a Bachelor's

1 Degree in Psychology. Where did you go to school?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: At Minnesota State University  
3 Moorhead.

4 THE COURT: And you are a program manager, what  
5 does that mean and where do you work?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So I'm a careers program  
7 manager at MSUC, and it's a program for adult on the autism  
8 spectrum, and so I oversee instruction and job development.

9 THE COURT: How long have you done that?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: For about four years.

11 THE COURT: And what did you do before that?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was in kitchens as a cook.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And your answer to Number 12  
14 disclosed sort of your political philosophy, but you  
15 answered no to the question do you have any religious  
16 ethical, political or philosophical beliefs that would make  
17 it difficult for you to judge others and serve as a juror.

18 Is the answer to that still no?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I mean yes, no.

20 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

21 And so you are describing yourself as left  
22 leaning. Anything that you're concerned about or that you  
23 think the parties would be concerned about in terms of those  
24 tendencies when you think about being a juror in this case.

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. I thought it was

1 specifically asking for the ideology. Yeah.

2 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

3 And then on 15 you disclose a general distrust for  
4 the police force as a whole, but not for individual  
5 officers. Can you tell me where that comes from?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. I teach some classes  
7 for folks with autism on how to interact with police  
8 officers, and that was brought on by some interactions of  
9 police brutality to folks with autism.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And the law enforcement  
11 officers who take the stand in this case, can you treat them  
12 as you would treat any other witness, with a blank slate in  
13 terms of credibility?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE COURT: In other words, the experiences that  
16 you have had teaching folks on the autism spectrum about  
17 their interactions with police won't spill over into this  
18 courtroom.

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And you it looks like haven't  
21 heard of this case or investigation before?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And your partnership with  
24 Richfield area schools, were you -- during COVID, did you  
25 have interactions with the Richfield schools or any other

1 school district in terms of food supplies to folks during  
2 COVID?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

4 THE COURT: Is there anything else you wish to  
5 call to the court's attention?

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope. That's all. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 All right. And then let's go, if you could hand  
9 that microphone back, could you all help me get it back to,  
10 we'll start with Juror 57 just because you are against the  
11 wall there, sir, and this is in slot 33.

12 Good afternoon.

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 57 against the wall or --

14 THE COURT: 57 should be against the wall, but if  
15 you're -- you know, you know what, could you please? I'm  
16 sorry.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

18 THE COURT: It's helpful to the attorneys when  
19 they have to make decisions to look at your faces, if they  
20 need to.

21 All right. 57, hello.

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Hello.

23 THE COURT: Is there any question to which you  
24 would have answered yes that I asked before?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Tell me what you do for a  
2 living.

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So I'm a systems engineer for  
4 Honeywell aerospace, and then I am a flight engineer for the  
5 Minnesota Air National Guard.

6 THE COURT: How long have you been serving on the  
7 National Guard?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Coming up on 14 years.

9 THE COURT: Does the aerospace company have a jury  
10 policy?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, they do.

12 THE COURT: Where did you go to undergrad?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I went to Hamline University  
14 in St. Paul.

15 THE COURT: And you have served on a jury, but the  
16 case was dropped after the start?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Correct.

18 THE COURT: And that was just last year?

19 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yep.

20 THE COURT: And what county?

21 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In Anoka.

22 THE COURT: What kind of a charge was it?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So it was sexual misconduct  
24 involving a minor.

25 THE COURT: How far into the case was the case

1 resolved?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was after opening  
3 statements, they were going to call the child to testify,  
4 and they decided not to testify, so --

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: -- the case was dropped after  
7 that.

8 THE COURT: Is there anything about that jury  
9 service that you think would affect your ability to be a  
10 fair and impartial juror here?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And you have not heard of this  
13 case?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not beyond that there is a  
15 case.

16 THE COURT: Do you have anything else that you  
17 wish to bring before the court?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Nope.

19 THE COURT: All right. Then I'll have you hand  
20 the microphone over to Number 56 next to you.

21 Good afternoon. What do you do?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I drive a Zamboni.

23 THE COURT: Like the song. Where?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Where do you drive a Zamboni?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: St. Louis Park Rec Center.

2 THE COURT: Okay. How long have you done that?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think I've been there eight  
4 or nine months, but I've done various forms of that at other  
5 places for a bunch of years off and on.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And other employment that  
7 you've had?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I was a graphic designer at  
9 Fulton Brewing. I've been a substitute teacher. I was a  
10 cook when I was a kid.

11 THE COURT: When were you a substitute teacher?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think like 2018, 2017.  
13 Before COVID, but I'd have to look up the exact year.

14 THE COURT: And where was that?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Roseville area schools.

16 THE COURT: And what did you substitute teach?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Whatever they needed. I tried  
18 to take like the English and art classes and stuff mostly,  
19 but, yeah.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And you have a spouse. What  
21 does your spouse do?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She's a UX designer.

23 THE COURT: What does that mean?

24 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She designs user interfaces  
25 for software.

1 THE COURT: Is that for a company, or does she  
2 freelance?

3 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She freelances primarily for  
4 one company called Blue Shift here in Minneapolis.

5 THE COURT: And you say that you do have relatives  
6 who are lawyers, judges or employed in another job within  
7 the legal profession. Who is that?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't know if I have any  
9 relatives that are. I think -- does it say friends on  
10 there?

11 THE COURT: Close friends, relatives.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I have a close friend  
13 named Tim. He's a lawyer.

14 THE COURT: What does Tim do?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'm not totally sure, but he's  
16 got a new job, so I'm going to ask him soon when I see him  
17 next.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Do you know whether it's  
19 criminal law or civil law?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, I do not.

21 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And then as to  
22 Number 15, which is dealing with prejudices against or in  
23 favor of law enforcement, you say that you don't trust the  
24 system where officers work under. Can you say a little bit  
25 more about that?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I think there's  
2 generally been faults in the system that police operate  
3 under. I guess most notably obviously here in 2020 with  
4 George Floyd, but cases, you know, here locally before that  
5 as well.

6 And there's a long history in the U.S. of those  
7 sorts of things happening, and so I generally am skeptical  
8 of the system and look for improvements, but it doesn't mean  
9 I hold every officer to be a bad person or individually.  
10 You know what I mean?

11 THE COURT: When you talk about that, are you  
12 talking -- and you reference the George Floyd, are you  
13 talking about police brutality?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah. Police brutality,  
15 systematic oppression, just some of the culture that's been  
16 formed within, you know, police in that system.

17 I am not entirely distrusting of all police  
18 officers by any means, but I am critical and skeptical just  
19 of anyone in positions of power.

20 THE COURT: And do you think that given that you  
21 can be a fair and impartial juror here where officers will  
22 testify -- federal officers? You've been in the courtroom  
23 and have heard a little bit about what this case is about  
24 and --

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I think I can be fair

1 and impartial. I don't think that stops me from doing that.  
2 I think each individual case is still its own separate thing  
3 and should be judged accordingly.

4 THE COURT: All right. So you have a general view  
5 of the overarching system, but you are telling me when I  
6 tell you to judge this case only on what's in the courtroom  
7 and to treat officers who take the stand as you would treat  
8 any other witness, you can do that?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Absolutely.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And you have not heard of this  
11 case?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Not in any specifics. I think  
13 generally I've seen like a headline or something about it,  
14 but I don't know any details.

15 THE COURT: But nothing about what you've seen or  
16 heard would affect your ability to be fair or impartial?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

18 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.

19 Anybody in this first, here, here, and the second  
20 row, leading down to 39 --

21 You are Number 39, right?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything that you  
24 haven't disclosed yet that you need to, and is there anybody  
25 I haven't questioned?

1 All right. I'm seeing no hands -- oh, wait.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: One question.

3 THE COURT: Yes. Get the microphone and then  
4 we'll hear it.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I know there was a person on  
6 the list of witnesses, Cindy Anderson. I know somebody that  
7 has that same name. Just curious if it's that particular  
8 person.

9 THE COURT: I don't know whose list it was on, so  
10 it --

11 MR. UDOIBOK: It's ours.

12 THE COURT: It's yours. Okay. In what -- can you  
13 give me a sentence?

14 MR. UDOIBOK: A Minnesota, Minnesota Department of  
15 Education employee.

16 THE COURT: Employee of the Minnesota Department  
17 of Education?

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, I know the person that I  
19 know does work for the school system.

20 MR. UDOIBOK: That's a different person.

21 THE COURT: Okay. How old is the person that you  
22 know?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: 50s. And I know she has a  
24 hyphenated last name.

25 MR. UDOIBOK: May I just check?

1 THE COURT: You may.

2 MR. UDOIBOK: Your Honor, I don't think it's the  
3 same person, but, nonetheless, it's unlikely that she will  
4 be called.

5 THE COURT: Okay. How well do you know this  
6 person?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's a coworker of my mother's  
8 and kind of family friend.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Where does your mother work?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She works for the Willmar  
11 public school.

12 THE COURT: What does she do for the Willmar  
13 public school?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: She's a paraprofessional, and  
15 so is the Cindy Anderson that I know.

16 THE COURT: Okay. It's not sounding the same to  
17 me, but I'm not positive. I'm going to defer to the parties  
18 here, but thank you.

19 Anyone else? More disclosure? Yes. Okay.

20 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Microphone?

21 THE COURT: Yes. We're going to bring the  
22 microphone to Juror Number 9.

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: So the woman that's the  
24 deputy, deputy out there, I do know who she is, outside the  
25 door.

1 THE COURT: Is that from your work previously?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Previous, yes.

3 THE COURT: Okay. This will likely be the only  
4 time that you see her.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Perfect.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I just wanted to let you know.

8 THE COURT: It's possible we will see her again, I  
9 guess, but you don't think it affects your impartiality?

10 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else?

12 Okay. Just a few questions I have that are  
13 general, and then I'm going to call on counsel for each  
14 party who have been given ten minutes to inquire.

15 Under our system of law, the facts are for the  
16 jury to decide. The law is for the court.

17 So you all are the judges of the facts. I am the  
18 judge of the law. That's why we stand when you enter the  
19 room and why we stand when I enter the room.

20 Those two areas are separate and distinct. At the  
21 ends of the case, I'll instruct you on the law. You are  
22 required to accept the law as I explain it to you. It is  
23 your job to determine the facts under my explanation of the  
24 law.

25 Is there anyone who feels that he or she is

1 unwilling or unable to apply the law as the court explains  
2 it to you?

3 Can you think of any other matter that you should  
4 call to the court's attention which may or might have some  
5 bearing on your qualifications to serve as a juror or which  
6 may or might prevent you from rendering a fair and impartial  
7 verdict based solely upon the evidence and my instructions  
8 on the law?

9 All right. I am seeing no hands there.

10 So I will call on counsel for defendant Aimee Bock  
11 to inquire.

12 Mr. Udoibok, that is you.

13 MR. UDOIBOK: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 So I have ten minutes, so I need to, you know, ask  
15 just a few questions, and it's going to be a broad question.  
16 I would like folks to show of hands.

17 Some of you have heard, seen news and you have  
18 talked about it here. This is one more chance. Is there  
19 anyone here that feels strongly about what they heard that  
20 they would have a hard time making a decision one way or the  
21 other? Anyone?

22 Well, how many people here believe that what you  
23 heard or saw in the news is necessarily true, factually  
24 true?

25 Juror, I'm sorry, Juror Number --

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR 47.

2 MR. UDOIBOK: -- 47. You think the news is always  
3 accurate?

4 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: That is not what you asked.  
5 No, I do not think the news is always accurate.

6 MR. UDOIBOK: All right. Do you think it's true,  
7 though?

8 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think what I heard on the  
9 news was true.

10 MR. UDOIBOK: All right.

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Specific, it pertains, like it  
12 was just a statement of fact. Does that make sense?

13 MR. UDOIBOK: Okay. This is what, what statement  
14 of fact was that?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't know if I'm allowed to  
16 say.

17 THE COURT: I think it's better that she doesn't.  
18 If you want her to do it by sidebar, she may.

19 MR. UDOIBOK: How about if we do sidebar? So talk  
20 confidentially.

21 **(Sidebar discussion)**

22 THE COURT: Okay. Can you hear me?

23 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

24 THE COURT: All right. Everybody, all right?

25 Okay. The question I think from Mr. Udoibok was

1 what statement that you heard on the news was true?

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I think I understand what he's  
3 trying to ask, but I think the way his question was phrased  
4 I think is maybe -- like my interpretation is probably not  
5 what he's going for.

6 Basically I heard on the news on Friday that two  
7 of the individuals charged in this case pleaded guilty,  
8 which I believe is a statement of fact. So that is true.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Udoibok, do you want to follow up  
10 on that?

11 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Go ahead.

13 MR. UDOIBOK: Did you form any impression about  
14 that news of those two defendants having pled guilty?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I mean, I think -- I don't  
16 know how to answer that. I don't know that I formed an  
17 impression. I mean, it basically was just a statement that  
18 two of the people that were charged in this case pleaded  
19 guilty.

20 MR. UDOIBOK: How do you feel about the remaining  
21 defendants who haven't pled guilty?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I have no feelings about them.  
23 I don't know anything about them. All I know is that there  
24 were four defendants and now there are two.

25 MR. UDOIBOK: Do you know what -- what was it? A

1 newspaper or.

2 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. It was Minnesota Public  
3 Radio.

4 MR. UDOIBOK: All right.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It was like a 30-second clip.

6 THE COURT: Counsel, does anyone else want to  
7 follow up while she's here and on the headset?

8 Mr. Montez?

9 MR. MONTEZ: Thank you.

10 Do you think the fact that two of the defendants  
11 that pleaded guilty that were grouped together with these  
12 two defendants make it more likely that these two are  
13 guilty?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

15 MR. MONTEZ: Do you think you'd be able to  
16 completely separate the fact that two people pleaded guilty  
17 from the fact that two people remain on trial --

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

19 MR. MONTEZ: -- in regards to this incident?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

21 MR. MONTEZ: Nothing further.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson?

23 MR. THOMPSON: No questions, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

25 Thank you.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**(In open court)**

THE COURT: And then, Mr. Udoibok, you may continue.

MR. UDOIBOK: Thank you, Your Honor.

So I'm sure you've heard something called implicit bias. How many of you have heard that? Oh, a lot of you. Okay.

Is there anyone here that sort of have this feeling implicitly about East Africans? Feel one way or the other about East Africans? Any sort of bias?

I'm not calling folks racist here, but is there anyone who has a sort of feeling, I don't know, they are different, they may do things differently, and maybe just maybe their story is probably true? Anyone?

All right. Does anyone here believe that because there's a charge, there's an indictment, something must have been wrong? Anyone? Anyone who believes that?

Does anyone here believe that a woman should not be a manager or have that kind of feeling that if you are a woman, you're a manager, you are not going to be competent? Any such feeling?

All right. Your Honor, I don't have any further questions.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Montez.

1 MR. COLICH: I'm going to attempt to do this, Your  
2 Honor.

3 THE COURT: Oh, Mr. Colich. I'm sorry. Please.  
4 And if you want to come to that podium to use that stand  
5 mic, that may be the best for you.

6 MR. COLICH: Hello, everyone. I lost my voice, so  
7 I'm going to be brief as possible.

8 Do any of you have any concerns of how a person of  
9 color is treated in the criminal justice system? If you do,  
10 just show it by raising your hand.

11 Yes.

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: You said how a person of color  
13 is treated in the criminal justice system?

14 MR. COLICH: Correct.

15 THE COURT: Could you please -- I don't know where  
16 the microphone is, but can you get it to him? Thank you.

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I don't have any more to say.  
18 I was just making sure I heard you correctly.

19 MR. COLICH: Uh-huh. And your thoughts on it?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, I have concerns over it  
21 just generally, making sure they get fair and equal  
22 treatment.

23 MR. COLICH: Okay. Thank you.

24 Anyone else? Okay.

25 My client Salim Said is from Somalia, Somalian.

1 Is there anything that's ever touched you in your life  
2 having contact with someone from Somalia that has impacted  
3 you in a negative or a positive way?

4 Yes.

5 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I mean, I worked for a polling  
6 entertainment company. A lot of our clientele was Somalian,  
7 and they were just another customer.

8 MR. COLICH: Okay. No issues?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No issues.

10 MR. COLICH: Anyone else?

11 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Regular customers.

12 MR. COLICH: Thank you.

13 Anyone else?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Working in like the pharmacy  
15 settings, typically we would have to do a medication  
16 override so that they can go back to their home country; and  
17 when they would come back, they would come back with a  
18 different name.

19 So kind of bad impact, thinking, well, are they  
20 coming back so that they can get more money from the state  
21 and so forth, because why are you going over to your home  
22 country, coming back and changing your name?

23 MR. COLICH: Okay. So does that create sort of a  
24 negative feeling for you in terms of those people who are  
25 Somalian that come there?

1           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: In a way, but I also do have  
2 two Somalian families that live on both sides of my house,  
3 and a while back we had some confrontation, but we have  
4 overcome that and actually became friends.

5           MR. COLICH: Okay. Thank you.

6           Here's the bottom line: All we're going to do is  
7 ask you for a fair and impartial trial, to reach a decision  
8 beyond a reasonable doubt if you determine the evidence  
9 proves the case. But if the evidence doesn't prove the case  
10 beyond a reasonable doubt, then I ask you to return that not  
11 guilty verdict.

12           Is there anyone who's going to have a problem  
13 doing that simply because my client is from Somalia? This  
14 is the most important question you may answer, because you  
15 are going to be sitting in judgment of my client. Anyone  
16 have concerns about the ability to be fair?

17           Thank you.

18           News stories. Some of you, more than a handful of  
19 you, have read about this case. Some of you may just have  
20 heard Feeding Our Future in the news and paid no attention.

21           You are not asked to make a decision based on what  
22 you hear in the news. You are asked to make a decision  
23 based on the evidence in this courtroom.

24           Is there anyone right now who has heard about this  
25 case that can say to themselves, well, I'm leaning to

1 deciding that he must have done something because I read it  
2 in the news? Anyone?

3 It's not my job to prove anything to you in this  
4 case. That job, that responsibility falls in the hands of  
5 this team of prosecutors sitting right in front of us. They  
6 are tasked with the burden of proving this case beyond a  
7 reasonable doubt. That is their responsibility. Does  
8 anyone think that's unfair?

9 Let me take it a little further. A person accused  
10 of a crime, no matter what that crime is, is presumed  
11 innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable  
12 doubt. As you sit here today, do you presume these two  
13 individuals not guilty? If you don't, please raise your  
14 hand.

15 In a criminal case, the defense -- that's what I  
16 am -- has no burden to prove anything to you. Jump real  
17 quick to the end. I don't have to prove to you my client  
18 didn't commit a crime. That's the government's  
19 responsibility.

20 So here's your question: Are you going to be able  
21 to decide this case if I don't present any testimony or  
22 evidence in this case and still do it fairly and  
23 impartially? Anyone have any problem with the fact that a  
24 defendant in a criminal case does not have to produce  
25 evidence?

1           I'll take it one step further. Anyone accused of  
2 a crime has an absolute right to make a decision with or  
3 without the advice of an attorney to testify. So what that  
4 means is, a person accused of a crime does not have to  
5 testify. That means you may hear evidence from the state  
6 but no evidence from the defense, no evidence from a person  
7 accused of a crime. Is that going to make it difficult for  
8 you to reach a fair and impartial verdict?

9           Let me ask it a different way. Is that going to  
10 make you say to yourself, well, that Colich attorney didn't  
11 do a very good job. He didn't present any evidence. The  
12 defendant may or may not have testified. Are you going to  
13 say to yourself, then all we have to do then is accept  
14 whatever the state tells us? Anyone do that?

15           One last thing. Ladies and gentlemen, none of us  
16 would be here today if there wasn't some evidence in this  
17 case. We couldn't be here unless the federal government has  
18 put together some evidence pointing at my client, but you  
19 are not asked to make a decision if some evidence has been  
20 presented. You have to determine if the evidence that's  
21 been presented proves this case beyond a reasonable doubt.

22           Is there anyone here that believes because we're  
23 here and my client is charged, you are leaning toward the  
24 fact that he must have done it?

25           No one? No one here can say to me today, well,

1 he's here, maybe read it in the paper. Where there's smoke,  
2 there's a fire. No one?

3 Well, that's great. Thank you so much, ladies and  
4 gentlemen.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 All right. Ladies and gentlemen, it's been a long  
8 day. I just have one question for you on that.

9 By show of hands, do you think you can be a fair  
10 and impartial juror in this case and hold us to our burden?  
11 Yes, please? Raise your hand. I think so too.

12 Thanks a lot.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 We've now completed our questioning. I just need  
15 to consult with the attorneys for a moment, and then we'll  
16 go to our next step.

17 **(Sidebar discussion)**

18 THE COURT: Does the government pass the panel for  
19 cause?

20 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Udoibok, do you pass the panel for  
22 cause?

23 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes, Your Honor, for Bock.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Colich or Mr. Montez, do you pass  
25 the panel for cause?

1 MR. MONTEZ: We do.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Then we're going to peremptory strikes. Are you  
4 ready? Okay.

5 **(In open court)**

6 THE COURT: The parties are now going to exercise  
7 their peremptory strikes, which means that they have a  
8 number of strikes that they are able to use for no reason or  
9 any reason at all, with few limitations there. They do that  
10 by passing paper back and forth.

11 And you don't see it, and they don't say anything  
12 orally, and it's a sort of period of discomfort while you  
13 sit and talk amongst yourselves.

14 I'll ask that you stay in your seats because they  
15 may wish to look at your faces while they're determining how  
16 to exercise those strikes. So I'll ask that you just stay  
17 in your seats.

18 And then when they're finished, we'll come back,  
19 and I'll announce the names of the jurors, or Ms. Wegner  
20 will announce the names of the jurors who are selected, and  
21 the rest of you will be excused, and we'll go through that  
22 process. All right?

23 So thank you again for your patience. It won't be  
24 the last time I thank you today.

25 I am going to step off the bench while this

1 happens. Nobody needs to see my face. All right? Thank  
2 you.

3 THE CLERK: All rise.

4 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated.

5 (Recess taken at 3:00 p.m. till 3:57 p.m.)

6

7

**IN OPEN COURT**

8

**(JURY PANEL PRESENT)**

9

THE COURT: You may all be seated.

10

11

12

13

At this time the courtroom deputy will now read  
the names of the jurors who have -- sorry, not names,  
numbers of the jurors who have been elected to serve on the  
jury.

14

Just one minute.

15

16

17

18

All right. And so, again, Ms. Wegner will read  
the numbers of the folks who are going to sit as jurors in  
this case. After she does that, I'll excuse the rest of  
you, but go ahead, Ms. Wegner.

19

COURTROOM DEPUTY: Juror Number 1.

20

Juror Number 4.

21

Juror Number 6.

22

Juror Number 14.

23

Juror Number 15.

24

Juror Number 16.

25

Juror Number 25.

1 Juror 31.

2 Juror 32.

3 Juror 39.

4 Juror 41.

5 Juror 44.

6 Juror 45.

7 Juror 46.

8 Juror 50.

9 And Juror 55.

10 THE COURT: All right. Those of you whose numbers  
11 were not called, I'm excusing you from service at this time.  
12 I thank you for your service.

13 When you go out of the courtroom, when you go out  
14 of the courtroom, please give all of your papers and  
15 anything else you've been given to the clerk sitting outside  
16 the courtroom. There may be a line to do that. Please  
17 don't skip it. All of your papers.

18 Thank you again for your service and your patience  
19 here today.

20 (Prospective jurors exit the courtroom)

21 THE COURT: Ms. Wegner, before you give them the  
22 oath, could we just take roll so that we make sure we've got  
23 the correct people in the courtroom?

24 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Yes.

25 If you could just please raise your hand, so I can

1 acknowledge we have the right jurors.

2 Juror Number 1.

3 Juror Number 4.

4 Juror Number 6.

5 Juror Number 14.

6 Juror Number 15.

7 Juror Number 16.

8 Juror Number 25.

9 Juror 31.

10 Juror 32.

11 Juror 39.

12 Juror 41.

13 Juror 44.

14 Juror 45.

15 Juror 46.

16 Juror 50.

17 And Juror Number 55.

18 Thank you.

19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, everyone.

20 I'll have everyone in the courtroom rise, and the  
21 jurors will be sworn in.

22 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Members of the jury panel,  
23 please raise your right hand.

24 You and each of you do swear that you will well  
25 and truly try the issues joined in this case, a true verdict

1 render according to the evidence and the law as given by the  
2 court, so help you -- if you believe so, please answer "I  
3 do."

4 THE JURY: I do.

5 THE COURT: Thank you, everyone. You may be  
6 seated.

7 I know it's been a long day. You are going to  
8 have just a few minutes of orientation with Ms. Wegner. She  
9 can sort of let you know where you are coming next Monday.  
10 You will be -- we will stand in recess until next Monday at  
11 9:00 a.m. when you are to come to the jury room.

12 Again, we're going to do a quick orientation.  
13 I'll talk to the attorneys while you do that orientation.  
14 So again we're in recess next -- until next Monday at  
15 9:00 a.m.

16 During the recess, do not have any contacts with  
17 the participants in the case. That means I don't even want  
18 you to say "good morning," say "hello" or small talk with  
19 the participants in the case. Again, I've given them that  
20 instruction as well.

21 And again, it is because the process need not just  
22 be fair, but have the appearance of fairness. And if a  
23 prospective juror is talking to someone involved in the  
24 case, we could have the appearance of impropriety.

25 Do not do any investigation regarding anything

1 about this case, the participants in it, the law, not  
2 anything. Do not post anything on social media about this  
3 case. Do not read any or listen to any news media about  
4 this case. So I would avoid news altogether.

5 I understand there's a lot going on in the world  
6 and this is a long case. If you are going to read news  
7 media, you are going to skip right on past anything that has  
8 to do with this case.

9 You are going to turn off your notifications so  
10 you are not getting notifications that you might see  
11 otherwise, and you are going to instruct your family members  
12 and your friends, do not talk to me about it because, again,  
13 it could create something in your mind that leads you to be  
14 less than fair and impartial, and the verdict that you are  
15 going to render is solely on the evidence that you hear in  
16 this and see in this courtroom.

17 If anyone tries to approach you about this case,  
18 if any -- if you hear or see anything inadvertently about  
19 this case, do not hesitate. I want you to call Ms. Wegner.  
20 She will give you the number to call. Contact staff  
21 immediately, if anyone approaches you about this case or you  
22 come into contact about information about this case even  
23 inadvertently.

24 Any questions about that?

25 All right. I know that you will take this duty

1 solemnly. I know that it is not an easy duty, but it is a  
2 really important one, and I am glad that you are going to be  
3 with us. I'm also glad that you will get a few day break  
4 before we start the case in chief beginning next Monday.

5 All right. So I'm going to excuse you all from  
6 the courtroom. You will follow Ms. Wegner, and she will  
7 orient you to the jury room and the other logistics that you  
8 need to know.

9 All rise for the jury.

10 4:06 p.m.

11 **IN OPEN COURT**

12 **(JURY NOT PRESENT)**

13 THE COURT: All right. You may all be seated.

14 Is there anything to place on the record from the  
15 government?

16 MR. THOMPSON: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Udoibok, for your client?

18 MR. UDOIBOK: No, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Montez?

20 MR. COLICH: One moment.

21 (Mr. Colich and Mr. Montez confer)

22 MR. MONTEZ: If I may.

23 THE COURT: You may.

24 MR. MONTEZ: Your Honor, my client would like me  
25 to make a record regarding Juror Number 7 being the only

1 African American that was left on the panel following  
2 Juror 12 being stricken for cause.

3 The government made an inquiry motion to try to  
4 strike Juror 7 for cause. That motion was unsuccessful, and  
5 then following that motion, the government struck the only  
6 other African American on the jury.

7 THE COURT: The record is made. To be clear, are  
8 you making a *Batson* challenge or not?

9 MR. MONTEZ: We are, Your Honor, for the record.

10 THE COURT: The government may respond.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 Sorry.

13 Your Honor, the government did not strike Juror  
14 Number 7 based on her race. As we explained earlier, when  
15 we made a for-cause challenge of Juror 7, along with  
16 Juror 33, we made the peremptory strike for the same reason  
17 as the for-cause strike, which is our perception that  
18 Juror 7 struggled to understand the court's questions asked  
19 during voir dire and at times answered with answers that  
20 seemed nonresponsive to the actual question that the court  
21 posed to the juror, as well as the difficulty of the court  
22 reporter and everyone in the courtroom understanding  
23 Juror 7's answers due to English language skills.

24 And our concern being this is a long -- this is  
25 expected to be a long, complicated trial with several weeks,

1 three or four weeks of witness testimony and potentially  
2 extended deliberations, and a juror that, that doesn't speak  
3 English as fluently and struggles in the way that juror did  
4 doesn't seem like a good juror for this case.

5 We have concerns that that juror would not be able  
6 to follow the lengthy and complex testimony. The government  
7 has marked over more than 1,000 exhibits, many of which are  
8 voluminous, bank records and other things.

9 To Your Honor's point about the for-cause  
10 challenges, I understand the court denied on the basis that  
11 Juror 7 is, is well educated. And this is not a matter of  
12 Juror 7's' intelligence. It's a matter of her ability to  
13 perceive and understand the testimony and the exhibits  
14 presented at trial.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 Mr. Montez, any response?

17 MR. MONTEZ: Your Honor, I would just add that  
18 I -- the only issue that I saw with Juror 7 was a thick  
19 accent. I did not perceive her answers to indicate any lack  
20 of understanding.

21 The fact that the court had to ask for  
22 clarification regarding certain words that she said did not  
23 indicate that she did not understand the proceedings, was  
24 not able to understand the English language.

25 When asked point blank whether any of the jurors

1 had any problem reading, speaking, or understanding the  
2 English language, she did not indicate that she did. So I  
3 don't believe that the facts are there to support the  
4 government's assertion that she would not have been able to  
5 understand the proceedings.

6 THE COURT: I understood the government's response  
7 to include more than accent in English language and having  
8 to do with her answers to questions and ability to follow  
9 evidence; and because of that, I am denying the challenge.

10 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, may I put one more  
11 thing on the record?

12 THE COURT: You may.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Just for purposes, I know I  
14 referenced Juror 33, who appeared to be white from  
15 Minnesota, just for the record.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 To be clear, I think this is increasingly true. I  
18 accept the characterizations of the races of these jurors as  
19 the attorneys have observed them, but I do not know and  
20 increasingly do not know how particular jurors identify  
21 racially. And certainly it is true that it's possible that  
22 more of our jury pool identified as black or Hispanic or  
23 other races or ethnicities and we can't tell by skin color.

24 So I think that's probably going to be something I  
25 say increasingly going forward, but I do accept for the

1 purposes of the challenge the premise that Number 7 was the  
2 only black juror, even though I don't know that to be true.

3 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, to that, to that end, I  
4 know there was a reference to Juror's 12 ethnicity. It was  
5 certainly unclear to me. Based on her last name and  
6 appearance, she appeared to be perhaps from Pakistan or  
7 Iran, not Africa. I believe there was indications she might  
8 have been from Nairobi at one point.

9 But, again, race is a fluid thing, as Your Honor  
10 said. And there are several, there appear to be several  
11 jurors of color that were seated on this jury without  
12 objection from either party.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

14 Anything else for the record?

15 Okay. Then we're going to go off the record, and  
16 I'll talk about all of the papers that are at your desk, and  
17 we'll adjourn. We will return Monday morning at 9:00.

18 (Court adjourned at 4:14 p.m., 02-03-2025)

19 \* \* \*

20 I, Renee A. Rogge, certify that the foregoing is a  
21 correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the  
22 above-entitled matter.

23 Certified by: /s/Renee A. Rogge  
24 Renee A. Rogge, RMR-CRR

25