

# **EXHIBIT D**

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re: Grand Jury Proceedings

Ex Parte Conference

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New York, N.Y.  
March 26, 2019  
4:04 p.m.

Before:

HON. COLLEEN McMAHON,

District Judge

APPEARANCES

GEOFFREY S. BERMAN  
United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

BY: [REDACTED]  
Assistant United States Attorney

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1 (In the robing room)

2 THE COURT: The following proceeding is being  
3 conducted *ex parte* and under seal.

4 The problem is, it's not being conducted in a matter,  
5 and that is one of my first questions to Mr. [REDACTED]: Why  
6 was this not filed on the Court's docket with a miscellaneous  
7 number? We don't file things under U.S. Attorney numbers.  
8 This should have been brought as a miscellaneous matter.

9 MR. [REDACTED]: So, your Honor, it was originally  
10 submitted with Judge Sweet --

11 THE COURT: I understand what he did, but I will tell  
12 you that in the opinion that will never issue, because Judge  
13 Sweet died, but he had written, and now I'm stuck with this,  
14 Judge Sweet questioned why you had not made this an "In re: The  
15 Matter of Application of the Grand Jury" or something or other,  
16 with a proper miscellaneous docket number. The fact that it  
17 would have gone to Judge Sweet doesn't mean anything. I have  
18 no way to docket USAO No. 2018R01618. That's your reference  
19 number, not ours.

20 MR. [REDACTED]: I understand, your Honor. I think we  
21 had understood that the submission should be made to the court  
22 that had entered the protective order and that --

23 THE COURT: That's true, but that doesn't mean it  
24 doesn't get a miscellaneous docket number.

25 The first thing that's going to happen, this is going

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1 to be re-legended and it's going to get a miscellaneous docket  
2 number.

3 MR. [REDACTED]: Understood, your Honor. I apologize  
4 for that oversight.

5 THE COURT: It's okay.

6 All right. Now my second question, which is a  
7 procedural question, the government here has moved for relief  
8 on behalf of a third party to whom a grand jury subpoena has  
9 issued, and that third party would like to be relieved of its  
10 obligations under the protective order, and that third party is  
11 a law firm full of brilliant lawyers that are fully capable of  
12 making a motion bringing a proceeding to be relieved from the  
13 provisions of the protective order. Why are you doing this for  
14 them?

15 Why doesn't Boies Schiller make an application for  
16 permission to be relieved from the protective order? Because  
17 it thought it was going to violate some duty that it had to its  
18 client in the underlying actions? Did they give you a reason  
19 why they weren't willing to come to court and --

20 MR. [REDACTED]: No, your Honor. So I can't speak to  
21 why Boies Schiller in particular didn't make their own  
22 application.

23 THE COURT: Because I understand that you don't think  
24 that *Martindell* is applicable here, but I do, and now I'm the  
25 judge. I wish I weren't. You know that the Second Circuit has

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1 very clearly said that, and Judge Broderick said in *Chemical*  
2 *Bank* the proper procedure is for somebody to make a motion to  
3 be relieved from the terms of the protective order. And it  
4 ain't you; it's somebody who's subject to the protective order.

5

6 MR. [REDACTED]: I think a little bit of context may  
7 help explain how the procedure developed, your Honor.

8 Originally we had submitted an All Writs Act  
9 application to Judge Sweet, which we believe was appropriate  
10 given the sort of catch-all function of that --

11 THE COURT: Yes, I understand that, but it still has  
12 to have a docket number in order to be a proceeding in this  
13 court.

14 MR. [REDACTED]: Totally understand, your Honor. But  
15 just with respect to our supplemental submission, Judge Sweet  
16 had reached out to us and asked us to submit an argument in  
17 connection with our application, and so I think whether that  
18 was sort of past experience or his preference, that is why we  
19 proceeded --

20 THE COURT: So here's why I'm being so persnickety.  
21 Forgive me. Not only do I have to like come up to speed pretty  
22 quickly, but you know -- I assume you know, but I certainly  
23 know, and everybody who follows civil litigation knows -- that  
24 Judge Sweet is about to get reversed in connection with this  
25 protective order in the Second Circuit. I mean, I don't have

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1 that on any authority other than my reading of the tea leaves  
2 after the extensive press reporting and the fact that the  
3 Second Circuit has already issued an order giving the parties  
4 until last week to say why the summary judgment papers and all  
5 the supporting papers should not be unsealed by the Second  
6 Circuit and indicating that there would be a further order with  
7 respect to all the rest of the, I don't know, 150 or so sealed  
8 documents in connection with the underlying litigation, but you  
9 can hear it in the questioning, you can read it in the press  
10 reports, you can intuit it from the order. I don't know if  
11 you've seen the Second Circuit's order that issued last week,  
12 but --

13 MR. [REDACTED]: I have, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You can intuit that something kind  
15 of unfavorable to Judge Sweet is happening, it's in the process  
16 of happening, it seems to me it's about to be happening, in  
17 connection with this protective order and its enforceability.  
18 Doesn't seem that way to you, Mr. [REDACTED]?

19 MR. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, I've read the same  
20 articles and --

21 THE COURT: I mean, really, Mr. [REDACTED]?

22 MR. [REDACTED]: So I would say, your Honor, that I  
23 would expect that any order to disclose materials that were  
24 filed in connection with, for example, the summary judgment  
25 papers, if in fact they are released or if in fact the

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1 protective order is overturned in some way, that those would be  
2 redacted as to individuals' names, personally identifying  
3 information --

4 THE COURT: Probably.

5 MR. [REDACTED]: -- which I would expect, your Honor.  
6 I don't believe that any indication is that the underlying  
7 discovery materials are likely to be unsealed, and I'm not sure  
8 whether that's at issue, but in any event --

9 THE COURT: I don't think it is. I think the only  
10 thing that's at issue in the case that the Second Circuit has  
11 heard is the publicly -- only here, not publicly -- filed  
12 litigation documents, which is essentially a lawsuit, a libel  
13 action that has been filed and litigated under seal. It was  
14 settled by terms that would have expired because the protective  
15 order doesn't extend until it goes on to a trial, but there  
16 wasn't a trial.

17 And I'm struggling with this for two reasons.

18 First of all, it's like how much deference to give to  
19 this protective order that was issued by some judge, not  
20 myself, on the basis of I don't know what, except that from the  
21 questions that the Second Circuit asked about the litigation  
22 documents, it seemed like they were being critical of Judge  
23 Sweet for not having a particularized inquiry into each  
24 document that was sought to be filed in accordance with the  
25 protective order as to why this contained confidential

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1 information and what was confidential about this, and just  
2 reading the tea leaves, I'm thinking to myself, what am I  
3 supposed to do with this protective order that looks like it  
4 stands on precarious footing to begin with? Is this the  
5 so-called improvidently granted protective order? How could I  
6 know that? I'm trying to go back in the files to see what  
7 Judge Sweet relied on in granting the protective order. I have  
8 no idea if there was an opinion. I have no idea if there  
9 was -- I mean, he recited the magic words at the beginning of  
10 the protective order. But, you know, he was doing this for  
11 five years, and he's dead, and I can't ask him. And his law  
12 clerks weren't around when he did it, although they're trying  
13 to help me find stuff in the files. So I'm just trying to  
14 figure out if there's something that's going to happen in the  
15 Second Circuit that would help you out here or that would  
16 further your investigation in a way that would make it not  
17 necessary to deal with it.

18 MR. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, I'm very sympathetic to  
19 that consideration. I think that even were the Second Circuit  
20 to unseal the entirety of what I believe is at issue, which is,  
21 as the Court noted, as the Court just noted --

22 THE COURT: 150 litigation documents, and I don't  
23 think the Second Circuit is going to take the time that would  
24 be required to make the inquiry. I'm going to guess that, you  
25 know, some poor schlub in the district court is going to have

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1 to do that. And I hope it's not me. But --

2 MR. [REDACTED]: And I believe it will apply to the  
3 docketed filings in the case and not, for example, the  
4 underlying discovery materials, deposition materials,  
5 investigation materials.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MR. [REDACTED]: And so I think that, unfortunately,  
8 for the circumstances, for perhaps all of us, that even were  
9 the Second Circuit to grant sort of the most expansive  
10 invalidation of the protective order or sort of release of  
11 these materials, that our application would still be relevant  
12 and pending and active.

13 THE COURT: Would still be relevant and pending and  
14 active. Okay.

15 And you can't explain to me why Boies Schiller didn't  
16 make a motion. Because there's no question in my mind that  
17 were this to be disclosed to the parties -- and I appreciate  
18 that we're not going to do that, but were this to be disclosed  
19 to the parties, Maxwell would protest, and the first thing that  
20 Maxwell would do would be to say the government lacks standing,  
21 it's not a party of the protective order, the issue can be  
22 litigated, if Boies Schiller chooses to make a motion to seek  
23 to be relieved from the protective order, or to quash the  
24 subpoena or to do something, but the government has no  
25 standing. It hasn't moved to intervene in the civil action.

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1 It hasn't done any of those things. So under *Martindell*, the  
2 government lacks standing, because remember, in *Martindell*, the  
3 government only had standing because all the parties were  
4 familiar with the government's application. It wasn't a  
5 secret. I don't know why it wasn't a secret, but it wasn't a  
6 secret. And nobody objected. And so they said, ah, okay,  
7 objection to standing waived.

8 So, you know, once again, Judge Sweet, I can tell you,  
9 was somewhat troubled by the procedural posture of the case  
10 even though, as I understand it, he was perhaps partly to blame  
11 for the procedural posture of the case, but it's not like Boies  
12 Schiller came in here and asked for relief from the protective  
13 order. And I am curious about why Boies Schiller didn't do  
14 that.

15 MR. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, what I can tell you about  
16 that is we, the government, thought that we were in a position  
17 to make the application via the All Writs Act submission that  
18 we originally made, that that would be an appropriate vehicle  
19 for the relief that we, as the government, were seeking in  
20 connection with the protective order. So I'm not sure --

21 THE COURT: You're seeking to have a third party, to  
22 have Boies Schiller, who were counsel for the plaintiffs in the  
23 Maxwell action, be relieved from the protective order, but if  
24 there's anybody on this planet who is capable of asking,  
25 "Please relieve us from the strictures of this protective

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1 order," it is David Boies and his partners. I mean, really.

2 MR. [REDACTED]: I'm sure you're right, your Honor,  
3 and --

4 THE COURT: They don't need the government's  
5 protection.

6 MR. [REDACTED]: Not that I don't begrudge the dozens  
7 of hours that I have spent on it in lieu of Boies Schiller, but  
8 I think -- and with apologies of perhaps being persnickety  
9 myself, but the relief that we are seeking is not precisely to  
10 allow Boies Schiller to do something but rather for the  
11 modification of the protective order that would then allow  
12 that, but we did think that we were able to make the  
13 application via the All Writs Act, and I think it was our  
14 general understanding from Judge Sweet's response asking us for  
15 support for our submission, rather than, for example, denying  
16 it based on lack of standing at the outset or simply asking us  
17 to have Boies Schiller make the application. I don't know  
18 what, if any, difference there would be in terms of the legal  
19 analysis from Boies Schiller, but I can say that I think the  
20 current posture does allow the government to explain why the  
21 investigation is extraordinary in the sense of how other  
22 decisions and courts have described it and where we, the  
23 government, are better able to explain --

24 THE COURT: But what do you mean by what you just  
25 said? I mean, you have an investigation into an allegation of

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1 human trafficking. I have no idea if you're up against a  
2 statute of limitations so that I could take the time that  
3 really is needed to kind of grapple with the procedural issues,  
4 because you haven't told me that you're up against a statute of  
5 limitations.

6 MR. [REDACTED]: I can tell your Honor -- I'm sorry.  
7 I didn't mean to interrupt. But I can tell you that, as most  
8 of our investigations do, this is moving sort of as fast as  
9 possible. This was a significant application that we  
10 thoroughly considered before making and made originally nearly  
11 two months ago, so we are hopeful to get an answer soon.  
12 Nevertheless, let me say that --

13 THE COURT: Unfortunately, but for the dead judge  
14 opinion and the Supreme Court last month, you would have gotten  
15 an answer, but --

16 MR. [REDACTED]: That said, I would not describe this  
17 as an emergency application. There's not a particular day by  
18 which we are requesting a response. We had hoped to hear back  
19 from Judge Sweet --

20 THE COURT: Before.

21 MR. [REDACTED]: Before. Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Would that that had happened.

23 MR. [REDACTED]: And if I may, just very briefly. I  
24 think with respect to the postural question, particularly  
25 regarding Boies Schiller, Boies Schiller simply isn't in a

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1 position to be able to describe the investigation in the way  
2 that we have in our submission.

3 THE COURT: Well, that's clear. That's clear. I  
4 mean, were I Boies Schiller, I would have -- never mind. We  
5 won't say what I would have done.

6 So I'm looking at the protective order itself, and of  
7 course not having been privy to any of the materials in the  
8 case -- and they're all under seal, so, I mean, I can dissolve  
9 the seal and get them, but there are 150 documents there that  
10 are under seal for filings, there are multiple documents that  
11 are under seal.

12 MR. [REDACTED]: Not to mention all the underlying  
13 materials, of course.

14 THE COURT: Not to mention all the underlying  
15 materials.

16 So you argue there isn't any truly confidential  
17 material in this, this isn't a trade secrets case, and  
18 obviously it's not a trade secrets case. It's a libel case.  
19 It would seem that the most scurrilous of accusations would  
20 have already floated across the face of the complaint. But  
21 since Maxwell can't object, how can I know that all this is  
22 about is information that would be, you know, embarrassing?

23 MR. [REDACTED]: I would point the Court in the first  
24 instance to the definition of "confidential materials" in the  
25 protective order itself, which describes "confidential

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1 materials" as "information that is confidential and implicates  
2 common law and statutory privacy interests of plaintiff

3 [REDACTED]."

4 THE COURT: I have absolutely no idea what that means,  
5 and you don't either, and none of us does.

6 MR. [REDACTED]: I don't, your Honor, but I think we  
7 argued in our submission that it, at least on its face, does  
8 not implicate the type of materials that are confidential  
9 business materials, trade secrets --

10 THE COURT: Ordinarily the subject of --

11 MR. [REDACTED]: -- ordinarily the subject of the  
12 considerations developed in some of the cases that we cited.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. [REDACTED]: And I should also say that in  
15 responding to the subpoena, Boies Schiller has the ability to  
16 say that they will not produce certain materials because they  
17 are privileged, because they believe that there is some larger  
18 overarching confidentiality issue, at which point we would be  
19 in a different posture. I am not aware that they have  
20 identified any materials as confidential that they would  
21 withhold, but I do note that we would not ask for and would not  
22 expect to receive privileged materials.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Did you provide Judge Sweet with a  
24 proposed order?

25 MR. [REDACTED]: We did, yes, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Could I see what you provided Judge Sweet.

2 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes, of course.

3 And your Honor, just for the record, I'm handing over  
4 what was our initial sealed affirmation and application to the  
5 Court for an order under the All Writs Act, and that includes  
6 an affirmation and application that I signed with an exhibit  
7 attached of the original protective order, followed by which is  
8 a proposed order for entry by Judge Sweet, which we of course  
9 would be happy to submit to the Court in Word form or in  
10 revised form, subject to the Court's views.

11 THE COURT: Right. I just wanted to see if it had a  
12 certain provision.

13 MR. [REDACTED]: If there is a provision that the  
14 Court thinks would address some of these issues, we would of  
15 course be happy to hear it.

16 THE COURT: Of course I'm not Judge Sweet, so I don't  
17 know exactly what was going on in his head.

18 I assume it would be the government's position that  
19 reliance on the nondisclosure of confidential materials to law  
20 enforcement in connection with a grand jury subpoena that has  
21 been duly authorized would be unreasonable. It wouldn't be  
22 reasonable reliance to assume that the protective order could  
23 never be modified to allow -- I mean, the parties to this  
24 negotiated the protective order, and the protective order does  
25 not contain the provision that is in every protective order I

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1 sign, which is, you can disclose it without the permission of  
2 the Court if, you know, law enforcement puts a gun to your head  
3 and says produce it. That's not in here.

4 MR. [REDACTED]: That's right, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: I don't know. It's my understanding that  
6 it may have been negotiated out.

7 MR. [REDACTED]: It may have been. I will only say  
8 that I believe that -- I'm on less firm ground than in the  
9 cases that we discussed specifically, but I believe that the  
10 converse would be void for public policy; in other words, you  
11 would not be able to put in --

12 THE COURT: That was my question.

13 MR. [REDACTED]: -- you may not disclose this to law  
14 enforcement even given a duly authorized grand jury subpoena.

15 THE COURT: Thank you for saying the words "void for  
16 public policy," because I was going there. I take it it would  
17 be the government's position that because it would be void as  
18 against public policy to absolutely prohibit the disclosure of  
19 information to law enforcement, that if a party were to say,  
20 "But I relied on this, that it would not be disclosed to law  
21 enforcement," that that would not, in your view, be reasonable  
22 reliance.

23 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes, your Honor, I think that's  
24 correct, and I think that that is borne out by the opinion in  
25 *Chemical Bank*, which essentially says: You should have asked,

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1 but of course this is fine for you to disclose this information  
2 to the government based on the validly issued grand jury  
3 subpoena, I think for the same type of reasons that the Court  
4 is describing.

5 THE COURT: Okay. So let me see what other million  
6 questions that I have.

7 It's a general subpoena. Did you take them for all  
8 discovery materials? I mean, everything that's in Boies  
9 Schiller's files, other than privileged documents, which of  
10 course you don't exclude from your subpoena but presumably they  
11 will exclude from their production. But it's literally  
12 everything. So remember, I know very little about the Maxwell  
13 case, both because it wasn't my case and, to the shock of  
14 nearly everyone that I talk to, we're all too busy to worry  
15 about some litigation that's being handled by somebody else;  
16 and second, it seems to have been litigated entirely under seal  
17 so how could I have found out anything about it. Everything I  
18 know about this case I learned from reading about the Second  
19 Circuit argument. Literally, everything.

20 So what assurance do I have that so broad a grand jury  
21 subpoena -- given that I have these competing interests between  
22 the terms of the protective order and the government's interest  
23 in conducting an investigation, what assurance do I have that  
24 you need all that stuff, that that's all somehow going to be  
25 relevant to your investigation? That is a concern from me

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1 because I don't know anything about the case.

2 MR. [REDACTED]: Okay, your Honor, and I think the  
3 answer to that is in a couple parts. The first is, I would  
4 point the Court towards some of the opinions that have talked  
5 about the government's investigative ability and authority  
6 being broad, and it is the case that sometimes we issue grand  
7 jury subpoenas --

8 THE COURT: But that was true in *Martindell* too.

9 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes, of course, your Honor, but I  
10 just need to say that it is entirely possible that, in any  
11 grand jury subpoena, that materials will come back that are not  
12 helpful to our investigation, are not relevant, for whatever  
13 reason, that it was, however unintentionally, overbroad or  
14 included unnecessary aspects. Here, we are essentially unable  
15 to significantly narrow the request for information in part for  
16 exactly the reasons that you describe. We have either little  
17 or no additional information than the Court does in terms of  
18 what materials there are, who was deposed, and that is in  
19 marked contrast to some of the other cases.

20 THE COURT: Every other case in the whole world.

21 MR. [REDACTED]: Of course, your Honor. Exactly. For  
22 exactly the reasons we described.

23 So what I can say in terms of assurance is, we are not  
24 sort of an ordinary third-party intervenor. All of these  
25 materials will be subject to the extraordinary protections of

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1 Rule 60. We will be extremely restricted in our use of them.  
2 To the extent that we receive materials that otherwise wouldn't  
3 have been narrowly connected with our investigation, they will  
4 not go anywhere that they shouldn't; they will not be treated  
5 in any way they should not be.

6 THE COURT: Let me ask a question that you may not  
7 wish to answer, and I'll appreciate it if you don't.

8 I know who the target of your investigation is, at  
9 least the one that you've identified. Is there any expectation  
10 that these materials would be used to commence criminal  
11 proceedings against either of the parties to the libel case?

12 MR. [REDACTED]: I can say that just as a general  
13 matter, that any materials that we gather in any part of any  
14 investigation that appear to give rise to criminal liability  
15 for individuals implicated in those materials could cause us to  
16 proceed with an investigation of any such individual. That's a  
17 little broad, your Honor, obviously, but --

18 THE COURT: Oh, no. I understand what you're saying.  
19 And I think Judge Sweet had some concerns about that.

20 MR. [REDACTED]: But I don't think that there's any  
21 additional protection for the parties of the lawsuit as opposed  
22 to nonparties' information.

23 THE COURT: They're the ones who relied on the  
24 protective order. Of course you say it's not reasonable to  
25 rely, but they're the ones who relied on the protective order

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1 in order to give whatever in discovery they gave, whether it  
2 was deposition testimony they gave or -- then again, I can't  
3 fathom why anybody who has any criminal exposure would not have  
4 taken the Fifth Amendment in response to questions in a civil  
5 deposition, but I don't know.

6 MR. [REDACTED]: So just taking that very briefly in  
7 order, your Honor, I do not know, but I think it is entirely  
8 possible that what we are seeking is page after page of people  
9 taking the Fifth. That is entirely possible. But to the  
10 extent that it is not or there are other materials -- and this  
11 may be bad for our argument, but in all transparency and  
12 candor, I think there may be other individuals who also relied  
13 on the protective order. In other words, anyone other than the  
14 parties who were deposed may have, in theory, and perhaps  
15 unreasonably, relied on it.

16 THE COURT: For example, the target of your  
17 investigation.

18 MR. [REDACTED]: For example, the target of our  
19 investigation. But I don't think that the parties would be  
20 differently situated in terms of their rights, and there are  
21 certainly many cases that talk about how the government has the  
22 ability to grant immunity in a criminal investigation, but not,  
23 of course, through restricting materials --

24 THE COURT: But that's the whole point of the  
25 government needing to follow the procedure, the proper

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1 procedure of either having the target of the subpoena make a  
2 motion to quash or a motion for relief or the government moving  
3 for relief to intervene, instead of engaging in self-help.  
4 There isn't an application like this in any case except the  
5 *Chemical Bank* case, and in the *Chemical Bank* case, it all was  
6 ex post facto and it all happened.

7 MR. [REDACTED]: Right. And I'll just note, without  
8 wanting to be defensive at all about the posture -- I  
9 understand the Court's questions about that -- I cannot recall  
10 whether it was *Martindell* or one of the other cases, but one of  
11 the original cases in this line, one of the issues was that the  
12 court had gotten on the phone with the judge and requested it,  
13 you know, sort of informally, right?

14 THE COURT: Yes.

15 MR. [REDACTED]: Despite our errors in the precise  
16 procedure, we did want to have a formal application with  
17 reasons and then subsequently, at the request of Judge Sweet,  
18 supporting law. And so I do apologize for the precise posture.  
19 We took the approach that we did in the hopes that we could  
20 avoid the types of problems that had been engendered by other  
21 types of applications which I think were made by the government  
22 in other cases, and so that's what we did here as well.

23 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, I'll tell you one  
24 thing that I am going to do. I am going to ask the clerk of  
25 the court to assign a miscellaneous number to this case and

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1 everything will be filed under seal, and it will be "In Re  
2 Grand Jury," you know, the usual, and it will have the  
3 treatment that "In Re Grand Jury" materials get, and everything  
4 will be filed under seal. But that way I at least have a place  
5 to put this, okay?

6 MR. [REDACTED]: I appreciate that, your Honor. I  
7 think we had expected that had the order been either granted or  
8 denied, that consistent with our usual All Writs application,  
9 that it would have then been identified with a number, but  
10 frankly, I'm not in the clerk's office, so --

11 THE COURT: Okay. But it has to have one, and I'm  
12 particularly acutely desirous of making sure that this is filed  
13 under a docket number with this court because I am concerned  
14 about the way everything has happened to date, given the Second  
15 Circuit's kind of, it seems to me, obvious displeasure with the  
16 fact that this whole thing has been litigated under seal. So  
17 grand jury material, absolutely. But let's be sure that there  
18 is a docket, you know, that we don't have something that's off  
19 the radar screen.

20 MR. [REDACTED]: Totally understood, your Honor, and I  
21 appreciate that, and we're grateful to the Court for that.

22 THE COURT: Great. Okay. And you'll get your answer  
23 by early next week. I have to go to the annual meeting of the  
24 chief district judges.

25 MR. [REDACTED]: I don't envy the Court that.

Xj3qlgra

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1 THE COURT: It would be fine, but my biggest problem,  
2 frankly, is I don't know when Judge Sweet's funeral is and I'm  
3 trying to figure out when I need to be here for Judge Sweet's  
4 funeral.

5 MR. [REDACTED]: We're very grateful --

6 THE COURT: This goes to the top of the pile. I  
7 appreciate that this should have been dealt with sooner, and  
8 I'm sorry that it wasn't dealt with a week sooner or you would  
9 have had an answer.

10 MR. [REDACTED]: We're grateful for the Court's  
11 attention and certainly appreciate the opportunity to explain  
12 how we ended up here.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. [REDACTED]: Thank you, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I appreciate it, Mr. [REDACTED].

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