

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	Jacksonville, Florida
Plaintiff,	Case No. 3:23-cr-180-HES-SJH
v.	January 29, 2025
NOAH MICHAEL URBAN,	1:39 p.m. to to 1:50 p.m.
Defendant.	Courtroom No. 10 C

STATUS CONFERENCE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE HARVEY E. SCHLESINGER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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(Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript
produced by computer.)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

January 29, 2025 1:39 p.m.

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THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Case number
3:23-cr-180-HES-SJH, United States of America v. Noah Michael
Urban.

Counsel, please state your presence for the record.

MR. CANNIZZARO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. John
Cannizzaro on behalf of the United States.

MS. SHELDON: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kathryn
Sheldon on behalf of Mr. Urban.

In Mr. Urban's case we have been negotiating a plea
agreement with California. We all had a meeting.

THE COURT: Are they going to do a Rule 20?

MS. SHELDON: Yes, sir.

We all have a meeting -- we all had a meeting to talk
about language that we wanted in and out. We went through the
draft. Mr. Urban is prepared and ready to sign. I just need
them to give me the final copy and then to get the signatures
from California and from here indicating that a Rule 20 is
acceptable.

And so for those reasons, I'm requesting a 60-day
continuance for Mr. Urban.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. CANNIZZARO: No objection, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Was the court -- or the U.S. attorney --
2 or the FBI in touch with you about your client's activities
3 with respect to a hacking incident involving the Court?

4 MS. SHELDON: Mr. Urban?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 MS. SHELDON: No.

7 THE COURT: Are you aware of that?

8 MR. CANNIZZARO: I was advised that there was a hack
9 into a magistrate judge's e-mail account where Mr. Urban's
10 indictment was obtained, an unsealed -- a copy of the sealed
11 indictment --

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. CANNIZZARO: -- which was --

14 THE COURT: They got into the confidential stuff.

15 MR. CANNIZZARO: And my understanding was that that
16 account was then shut down.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MR. CANNIZZARO: And they're trying to figure out
19 what --

20 THE COURT: I think ultimately what had happened was
21 a codefendant in the California case was trying to find out
22 about Mr. Urban's activity in this case.

23 MR. CANNIZZARO: I was not aware of that. All I
24 found out was -- from the FBI, was that there was an e-mail
25 compromised on a magistrate judge here. And then they were

1 going --

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MS. SHELDON: So Mr. Urban has been in custody at the
4 Bradford County Jail. Is there a concern that he hacked --
5 that Mr. Urban hacked --

6 THE COURT: No.

7 MS. SHELDON: No. No. No. Okay.

8 THE COURT: It was just -- let me put this in polite
9 terms without revealing what shouldn't be revealed.

10 Without knowing a lot of what went on, there was a
11 security concern about Judge Horovitz and me, that someone was
12 trying to get personal information on us from this case. What
13 it ultimately turned into was a big faux pas. The Court's
14 password -- business is handled by an outside contractor. And
15 somebody called the outside contractor representing to be Judge
16 Toomey saying, "I need a password change." And they gave out
17 the password change. That's how whoever was making the phone
18 call got into the court.

19 Now -- and then it turned out, "No problem with your
20 safety."

21 I'm going to be 85 this year. And our daughters keep
22 telling me, "You need to write a book about your 50 years on
23 the bench." And the only part they want me to leave out is all
24 of the threats over the years. Because they remember as little
25 kids, I used to have mugshots on the inside cabinet doors of

1 the kitchen. And I would say, "If you see any of these people,
2 call the police immediately."

3 And so we thought we were maybe back in another one
4 of those years, but it turned out not to involve him.

5 So I knew about the California case, but I didn't
6 know you were working on a Rule 20.

7 MR. CANNIZZARO: Yes. Our plan is -- Your Honor, is
8 to get you the --

9 THE COURT: All of them?

10 MR. CANNIZZARO: -- everything.

11 THE COURT: Is he just -- is that the only other case
12 pending?

13 MR. CANNIZZARO: That is the only other case pending.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. MESROBIAN: And I'm pretty sure in the plea
16 agreement that we fashioned, he's not going to be looking at
17 any other charges in either of our districts, because he's
18 going to be pleading to these offenses here.

19 THE COURT: Okay. I'll grant the defendant's request
20 for a continuance and reset the trial until April -- Monday,
21 April 7th, at 9:30, and the status conference Wednesday, March
22 19th at 1:30.

23 MS. SHELDON: Your Honor, I will be out of the
24 country on March 19th.

25 THE COURT: When are you going to be gone?

1 MS. SHELDON: That week is spring break for Duval
2 County Public Schools, so I'm taking my kids somewhere. I'm
3 sure I can have someone appear in my stead --

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MS. SHELDON: -- should we not have it resolved by
6 then.

7 THE COURT: We can leave it that way. If you need to
8 change it again, we'll do that.

9 I used to tell people that you will not find a more
10 accommodating judge than me east of the Mississippi. And then
11 I amended it to east of the Pacific Ocean. And, similarly, my
12 argument about Hawaii -- which reminds me of a great story.

13 You know, sometimes people don't realize the stupid
14 mistakes they make. Maybe about 1993 or 1994, Judge
15 Grassley -- Senator Grassley was very, very concerned that
16 circuits were holding their conferences in places outside of
17 their territory.

18 The Eleventh Circuit used to hold our conferences at
19 the Grove Park Inn in Ashville, North Carolina. It was a great
20 place to go.

21 And so he had a statute pass, because he was mad that
22 the Ninth Circuit continually had their conferences in Hawaii.
23 So he had a statute enacted requiring the circuit conferences
24 be held in the territory of the circuit. Now, if he was
25 concerned about Hawaii, what was he going to do about the Ninth

1 Circuit? They still meet in Hawaii because it's in their
2 territory.

3 So we'll take care of that. Don't worry. I have you
4 down for the March 19th.

5 Enjoy your -- did you say you were going out of the
6 country with them?

7 MS. SHELDON: Yes.

8 THE COURT: It must be a Disney cruise?

9 MS. SHELDON: It actually is, yes.

10 THE COURT: See, I hit it on the head.

11 MS. SHELDON: You hit it on the head. We're going to
12 the British Virgin Islands and Tortola and -- yeah.

13 THE COURT: I will let you in on a family secret. I
14 don't know how many family cruises I've been taking since our
15 40th anniversary.

16 And finally when I took senior status, I said, "Well,
17 I'm going to become very rich, because, in addition to my
18 monthly paycheck, I'm now going to get Social Security, which
19 is going to give me more money. We're going to go on a cruise
20 every year."

21 That was until we had a little emergency, a medical
22 condition, in Ocho Rios with one of my grandchildren and went
23 to three different hospitals to find out it wasn't
24 appendicitis, that we'd have to get her flown to Miami because
25 I wouldn't trust the surgeon over there. But it was just a

1 burst cyst, but it took three hospitals to determine what it
2 was.

3 So fortunately if it's a Disney cruise, you're not
4 going very far.

5 The greatest experience I ever had was watching a
6 Coast Guard helicopter land on the back of a ship years ago.
7 This was before they made ships with the heliport on it. They
8 just took the basketball court fences down and -- to take a
9 child off that had an emergency.

10 So with Disney, you know you're within helicopter
11 range. So enjoy yourself. You'll have -- I've never been on
12 a Disney cruise. You'll have to tell me whether it's worth it.

13 MS. SHELDON: I think it is. My brother used to work
14 for them. He knows.

15 THE COURT: So it is a good cruise?

16 MS. SHELDON: I think so.

17 THE COURT: I've got two great grandchildren that
18 are 3 and 2. And I can't decide whether to try Disney or -- if
19 you go on a Royal Caribbean, you've got 95 things for them to
20 do.

21 MS. SHELDON: I would recommend that you wait until
22 they're at least 4.

23 THE COURT: Oh, yes. It's not going to be now.

24 MS. SHELDON: Because when they're 4, they can go to
25 the little kid zone and do all of the stuff.

1 THE COURT: Do you go out of Cape Canaveral or do
2 you --

3 MS. SHELDON: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Yeah, you don't drive all the way down.

5 All right. Enjoy.

6 (Proceedings concluded at 1:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT)
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct computer-aided transcription of my stenotype notes taken at the time and place indicated herein.

DATED this 19th day of February, 2025.

s/Heather N. Randall _____
Heather Randall, RPR
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