

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff)

v.)

Civil Action No.: 1:24-CV-

APPROXIMATELY \$143,586.44 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX8228;)

APPROXIMATELY \$4,896.51 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX7633;)

APPROXIMATELY \$5,240.00 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX3817;)

APPROXIMATELY \$4,335,334.38 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX5552;)

APPROXIMATELY \$581,529.79 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX1310;)

APPROXIMATELY \$183,546.26 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX5592; and)

APPROXIMATELY \$61,612.91 SEIZED)
FROM TEXAS BANK AND TRUST)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XX6064)

Defendants *in Rem*.)

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE *IN REM* AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

The United States of America (the “United States”), by and through the undersigned attorneys, in a civil action of forfeiture *in rem* pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(A) and (C) alleges that:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United States brings this action to forfeit assets that constitute the proceeds of wire fraud, property involved in money laundering, and/or property traceable to such property. Specifically, the United States seeks the forfeiture of approximately \$5,315,746.29 seized from six bank accounts at JPMorgan Chase and one bank account at Texas Bank and Trust, to wit:

- a. approximately \$143,586.44 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX8228 (“DA-1”);
- b. approximately \$4,896.51 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX7633 (“DA-2”);
- c. approximately \$5,240.00 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX3817 (“DA-3”);
- d. approximately \$4,335,334.38 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX5552 (“DA-4”);
- e. approximately \$581,529.79 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX1310 (“DA-5”);
- f. approximately \$183,546.26 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX5592 (“DA-6”); and
- g. approximately \$61,612.91 seized from Texas Bank and Trust account number XX6064 (“DA-7”)

(collectively, DA-1 through DA-7 are the “Defendant Accounts”).

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355(a). The Defendant Accounts have been seized and are in the custody of the United States.

3. Venue for this action is appropriate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1355(b)(1) because acts and omissions giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in the District of Massachusetts.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Introduction

4. Business email compromise (“BEC”) is a type of fraud in which perpetrators obtain unauthorized access to email accounts that a business uses to send information about commercial, real estate, and other financial transactions. Perpetrators impersonate business employees to target victims who will soon send a wire transaction as part of a business transaction or investment. The perpetrators then send a fraudulent email requesting that payments be sent to a network of bank accounts that are actually controlled by the perpetrators. Perpetrators then move those funds quickly before the victims and their banks can recall the payments.

5. Foreign perpetrators of such scams sometimes recruit witting or unwitting persons (“mules”) to open bank accounts that the foreign perpetrators use to receive proceeds of the scam. Alternatively, the perpetrators transfer illicit funds to the mules’ account, and then provide the mule with a dubious explanation for the source of the funds, such as—an inheritance, a foreign lottery, a gift, funding for a business project, and others.

6. The perpetrator then asks the mule to immediately wire a portion of the funds for any number of reasons, including as part of a business transaction or payment of government taxes and administrative fees.

7. Victim-1 was a workers union based in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

8. Witness-1 was the investment manager for Victim-1 and was employed by an investment consulting firm located in Massachusetts.

9. “Signatory DA-1&2” had signature authority on DA-1, which was held in the name of “Entity DA-1.”

10. “Signatory DA-1&2” had signature authority on DA-2, which was held in the name of “Signatory DA-1&2.”

11. “Signatory DA-3” had signature authority on DA-3, which was held in the name of “Entity DA-3.”

12. “Signatory DA-4” had signature authority on DA-4, which was held in the name of “Entity DA-4,” a JPMorgan Chase account ending in x1478 (“JPMC x1478”), and a JPMorgan Chase account ending in x3057 (“JPMC x3057”).

13. “Signatory DA-5” had signature authority on DA-5, which was held in the name of “Entity DA-5.”

14. “Signatory DA-6” had signature authority on DA-6, which was held in the name of “Signatory DA-6.”

15. “Signatory DA-7” had signature authority on DA-7, which was held in the name of “Entity DA-7.”

B. Fraud Scheme

16. According to “Signatory DA-1&2,” in or around September 2022, “Signatory DA-1&2” began receiving messages via Google Chat and WhatsApp with instructions from an unknown perpetrator. These messages told “Signatory DA-1&2” that a European bank was holding a “gift” of over \$17 million for “Signatory DA-1&2.”

17. Between September 2022, and January 2023, “Signatory DA-1&2” received numerous messages from the unknown perpetrator discussing the “gift” that could be transferred to his account. “Signatory DA-1&2” became a “mule” in the fraud and money laundering scheme when funds were later deposited in his account.

18. Witness-1 managed Victim-1’s assets. Witness-1 often communicated with employees of Victim-1 by email, and, in the regular course of business, Victim-1 sent wire transfers at Witness-1’s direction.

19. On or about January 27, 2023, the unknown perpetrator effected a BEC scam

against Victim-1. Victim-1's employees received an email that appeared to be from Witness-1, but was in fact a spoofed email, different from Witness-1's email address by one letter. The initial email correspondence between Victim-1 and Witness-1 concerned previously arranged payments. The email from the spoofed email address changed the beneficiary bank account of a \$6,400,000 payment to DA-1. The spoofed email falsely and fraudulently created the impression that the message was legitimate and had been sent from Witness-1's account.

20. At the time, Victim-1's employees were unaware that the spoofed email came from someone who was not Witness-1. On or about January 30, 2023, in reliance on the spoofed and fraudulent email, Victim-1 sent a wire in the amount of \$6,400,000 from a bank account in its name to DA-1, as instructed by the spoofed email.

21. Thereafter, between January 30, 2023, and February 2, 2023, the unknown perpetrator instructed "Signatory DA-1&2", who had received the wired funds into his account, to transfer the funds from DA-1 in the following amounts:

- a. \$900,000 to DA-3;
- b. \$4,460,800 to JPMC x3057, where the funds were ultimately transmitted to DA-4;
- c. \$740,000 to DA-5; and
- d. \$200,000 to DA-6.

22. The unknown perpetrator instructed "Signatory DA-1&2" to keep the remaining approximately \$100,000.

23. Between January 30, 2023, and February 2, 2023, "Signatory DA-1&2" did, in fact, make these transfers to other mule accounts in compliance with the instructions he received, and deposited the funds into the accounts via check.

C. Laundering Transactions

24. As set forth below, the financial transactions of fraud proceeds using money mules (account holders for DA-1 through DA-7), the rapid transfer of funds between individual accounts (such as between DA-1 and DA-2), the flow of funds initially to DA-1 followed by the dispersion of funds to multiple accounts (DA-2 through DA-7), and the transfer of funds to overseas bank accounts, reflect an intent to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the fraud proceeds.

DA-1 and DA-2

25. Immediately after receiving the \$6,400,000 wire, “Signatory DA-1&2” sent the following wire transfers from DA-1 to DA-2 and then immediately back to DA-1 between on or about January 30, 2023, to on or about February 2, 2023:

Approximate Date	Amount	Originator	Beneficiary
January 30, 2023	\$5,000,000	DA-1	DA-2
January 30, 2023	\$5,000,000	DA-2	DA-1
January 30, 2023	\$5,000,000	DA-1	DA-2
January 30, 2023	\$100,000	DA-2	DA-1
January 30, 2023	\$1,000,000	DA-2	DA-1
January 30, 2023	\$2,000	DA-2	DA-1
January 31, 2023	\$100,000	DA-1	DA-2
January 31, 2023	\$3,900,000	DA-2	DA-1
February 2, 2023	\$1,000	DA-2	DA-1

26. This money movement displays the hallmarks of intent to conceal or disguise the source of funds: the account holder did not know the source of the funds, was being directed by the unknown perpetrator, and moved the funds rapidly between multiple accounts, with no discernible purpose. For instance, on January 30, 2023, in a single day, \$5 million moved from DA-1 to DA-2;

then back to DA-1; and then back to DA-2. And then later that day, \$1 million moved from DA-2 to DA-1, and the next day, \$3.9 million moved from DA-2 to DA-1. These rapid movements did not appear to have any legitimate business purpose, and reflect an intent to conceal the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the fraud proceeds.

27. On or about January 30, 2023, the starting balance of DA-1 was \$2,982.44. Following execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-1 was \$4,896.51. The \$4,896.51 seized is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and is property involved in the laundering of the funds.

28. On or about January 30, 2023, the starting balance of DA-2 was \$46,136.00. Following execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-2 was \$143,586.44. The \$143,586.44 seized is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and is property involved in the laundering of the funds.

DA-3

29. Immediately after the deposit of the \$900,000 check drawn from DA-1 on or about January 30, 2023, “Signatory DA-3” sent the following wire transfers from DA-3 between on or about February 1, 2023, to on or about February 6, 2023:

Approximate Date	Amount	Originator	Beneficiary:
February 1, 2023	\$495,000	DA-3	Foreign bank account held by the Bank of China
February 2, 2023	\$380,000	DA-3	Foreign bank account held by the Bank of China
February 6, 2023	\$20,000	DA-3	Foreign bank account held by the Bank of China

30. Moving funds overseas is a tactic used to avoid detection, seizure, and forfeiture by United States law enforcement, and is a hallmark of a BEC scam such as this.

31. On or about January 30, 2023, the starting balance of DA-3 was \$335. Following

execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-3 was \$5,240. The \$5,240 seized is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and is property involved in the laundering of the funds.

DA-4

32. Immediately after the deposit of the \$4,460,800 check drawn from DA-1 on or about January 31, 2023, to JPMC x3057, “Signatory DA-4” – who had signature authority on bank accounts JPMC x3057, JPMC x1478, and DA-4 – sent the following wire transfers from JPMC x3057 to JPMC x1478 and DA-4 between on or about February 2, 2023, to on or about February 3, 2023:

Approximate Date:	Amount:	Originator	Beneficiary:
February 2, 2023	\$223,040	JPMC x3057	DA-4
February 2, 2023	\$4,237,760	JPMC x3057	JPMC x1478
February 2, 2023	\$1,000,000	JPMC x1478	DA-4
February 2, 2023	\$1,000,000	DA-4	JPMC x1478
February 3, 2023	\$50,000	DA-4	JPMC x1478
February 3, 2023	\$100	DA-4	JPMC x1478
February 3, 2023	\$50,000	JPMC x1478	DA-4
February 3, 2023	\$4,237,760	JPMC x1478	DA-4

33. “Signatory DA-4” also attempted to send the following transfers from DA-4 between on or about February 2, 2023, to on or about February 6, 2023, but JPMC reversed the wires shortly thereafter:

Approximate Date	Amount	Originator	Beneficiary
February 2, 2023	\$500,000 (reversed)	DA-4	Cryptocurrency exchange located in New York, New York
February 6, 2023	\$4,237,710 (reversed)	DA-4	Foreign bank account held by the Standard Chartered Bank of Hong Kong

34. On or about February 2, 2023, the starting balance of DA-4 was \$5.16. Following

execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-4 was \$4,335,334.38. The \$4,335,334.38 seized is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and is property involved in the laundering of the funds.

DA-5

35. Immediately after the deposit of the \$740,000 check drawn from DA-1 on or about February 2, 2023, “Signatory DA-5” sent, or attempted to send, the following wire transfers from DA-5 between on or about February 6, 2023, to on or about February 7, 2023:

Approximate Date	Transfer	Originator	Beneficiary
February 6, 2023	\$49,872.88	DA-5	Foreign bank account held by United Overseas Bank in Singapore
February 6, 2023	\$102,968	DA-5	DA-7
February 7, 2023	\$196,320 (reversed)	DA-5	Domestic bank account held by Piermont Bank

36. On or about February 2, 2023, the starting balance of DA-5 was \$100. Following execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-5 was \$581,529.91. The \$581,529.91 seized is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and is property involved in the laundering of the funds.

DA-6

37. Immediately after receiving the \$200,000 check drawn from DA-1 on or about February 2, 2023, between on or about February 6, 2023, to on or about February 7, 2023, there was *de minimis* activity in DA-6, primarily consisting of ATM withdrawals in Houston, Texas.

38. On or about February 2, 2023, the starting balance of DA-6 was \$44.26. Following execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-6 was \$183,546.26. The \$183,546.26 seized is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and property involved in the laundering of the funds.

DA-7

39. Immediately after the deposit of the \$102,968 wire transfer from DA-5 on or about February 6, 2023, “Signatory DA-7” sent the following wire transfer from DA-7 on or about February 7, 2023:

Approximate Date	Transfer	Originator	Beneficiary
February 7, 2023	\$43,900.00	DA-7	Foreign bank account held by Access Bank in Nigeria

40. On or about February 6, 2023, the starting balance of DA-7 was \$4,229.91. Following execution of the seizure warrant on or about February 28, 2023, the balance seized from DA-7 was \$61,612.91. The \$61,612.91 is traceable to the wire fraud proceeds and is property involved in the laundering of the funds.

IV. BASIS FOR FORFEITURE

41. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A), “[a]ny property, real or personal, involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of [18 U.S.C §§ 1956 and 1957], or any property traceable to such property” is subject to forfeiture to the United States.

42. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), “[a]ny property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to any violation of . . . any offense constituting ‘specified unlawful activity’ . . . , or a conspiracy to commit such offense” is subject to forfeiture to the United States.

43. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i), it is a federal crime to, “knowing that the property involved in a transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, conduct[] or attempt[] to conduct such a financial transaction which in fact involves the proceeds of specified unlawful activity . . . to conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, or the control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity.”

44. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1957, it is a federal crime to “knowingly engage[] or attempt to engage in a monetary transaction in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000 and is derived from specified unlawful activity.”

45. A “specified unlawful activity” is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(7)(B)(iv) to include, among other things, “any act or activity constituting an offense listed in section 1961(1) of [Title 18],” including wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

46. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1343, it is a federal crime to “devise[] or intend[] to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communications in interstate or foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice[.]”

FIRST CLAIM
Proceeds of Wire Fraud
(18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C))

47. The factual allegations in paragraphs 1 to 40 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference herein.

48. As set forth above, the Defendant Accounts constitute or are derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, Wire Fraud.

49. Accordingly, the Defendant Accounts are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C).

SECOND CLAIM
Property Involved in Concealment Laundering Transactions
(18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A))

50. The factual allegations in paragraphs 1 to 40 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference herein.

51. As set forth herein, the Defendant Accounts were involved in transactions or attempted transactions designed, in whole or in part, to conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, or control of proceeds of specified unlawful activity in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i), and/or constitutes property traceable to such property.

52. Accordingly, the Defendant Accounts are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A).

THIRD CLAIM
Property Involved in Laundering Transactions Greater than \$10,000
(18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A))

53. The factual allegations in paragraphs 1 to 40 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference herein.

54. As set forth above, the Defendant Accounts were involved in transactions in property of a value greater than \$10,000 that was derived from specified unlawful activity in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957, and/or constitutes property traceable to such property.

55. Accordingly, the Defendant Accounts are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A).

WHEREFORE, the United States of America requests:

1. That a Warrant and Monition, in the form submitted herewith, be issued to the United States Secret Service, or their designee, commanding seizure of the Defendant Accounts, and to give notice to all interested parties to appear and show cause why the forfeiture should not be decreed;
2. That judgment of forfeiture be decreed against the Defendant Accounts;
3. That thereafter, the Defendant Accounts be disposed of according to law; and
4. For costs and all other relief to which the United States may be entitled.

JURY DEMAND

The United States demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA S. LEVY
Acting United States Attorney

By: /s/ Matthew M. Lyons
MATTHEW M. LYONS
Assistant United States Attorney
U.S. Attorney's Office
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, MA 02210

/s/ Jasmin Salehi Fashami
JASMIN SALEHI FASHAMI and
ADRIENNE E. ROSEN, Trial Attorneys
U.S. Department of Justice
1400 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dated: June 5, 2024

VERIFICATION

I, ALAN OTTARSON, hereby verify and declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service (“USSS”) and that the foregoing factual allegations are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

The sources of my knowledge and information and the grounds of my belief are the official files and records of the United States, information supplied to me by other law enforcement officers, as well as my investigation of this case, together with others, as a Special Agent of the USSS.

Executed on this 5th day of June, 2024.



Alan Ottarson
Special Agent
United States Secret Service

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff)

v.)

Civil Action No.: 1:24-CV-11467

APPROXIMATELY \$143,586.44 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX8228;)

APPROXIMATELY \$4,896.51 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX7633;)

APPROXIMATELY \$5,240.00 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX3817;)

APPROXIMATELY \$4,335,334.38 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX5552;)

APPROXIMATELY \$581,529.79 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX1310;)

APPROXIMATELY \$183,546.26 SEIZED)
FROM JPMORGAN CHASE)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXX5592; and)

APPROXIMATELY \$61,612.91 SEIZED)
FROM TEXAS BANK AND TRUST)
ACCOUNT NUMBER XX6064)

Defendants *in Rem*.)

WARRANT AND MONITION

To: The United States Secret Service

1. You Are Hereby Comanded to give notice to all persons concerned that a Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *in Rem* (the “Complaint”), a copy of which is attached hereto, has been filed by the United States of America against the following defendant property, described as:

- a. approximately \$143,586.44 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX8228 (“DA-1”);
- b. approximately \$4,896.51 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX7633 (“DA-2”);
- c. approximately \$5,240.00 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX3817 (“DA-3”);
- d. approximately \$4,335,334.38 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX5552 (“DA-4”);
- e. approximately \$581,529.79 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX1310 (“DA-5”);
- f. approximately \$183,546.26 seized from JPMorgan Chase account number XXXXX5592 (“DA-6”); and
- g. approximately \$61,612.91 seized from Texas Bank and Trust account number XX6064 (“DA-7”)

(collectively, DA-1 through DA-7 are the “Defendant Accounts”).

This Court has found probable cause for forfeiture of the Defendant Accounts. Accordingly, you are hereby directed to serve, and give notice of the Complaint by:

- (1) Publishing notice of the United States’ intent to forfeit the Defendant Accounts via the government website, www.forfeiture.gov, for thirty (30) consecutive calendar days; and
- (2) Mailing or emailing, as appropriate, a copy of this Warrant and Monition, together with a copy of the Complaint to:

Victim-1
Boston, MA 02114

Signatory DA-5
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Signatory DA-1&2
Gresham, OR 97030

Signatory DA-6
Birmingham, AL 35226

Signatory DA-3
Arlington, VA 22207

Signatory DA-7
Dallas, TX 75235

Entity DA-4
ATTN: Signatory DA-4
The Woodlands, TX 77380

Witness-1
Boston, MA 02109

by certified mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested, or by serving such copies on the above-

listed parties by hand.

You Are Further Commanded to arrest, attach, inspect, and retain the Defendant Accounts in your custody until further order of this Court.

You Are Further Commanded to give due notice by appropriate service of process, as provided herein, to all persons who claim an interest of the Defendant Accounts, or assert that the Defendant Accounts should not be condemned or disposed of pursuant to the prayer of the Complaint. Upon execution of this process, you are directed further to file the execution in this Court with your return thereon.

ALL CLAIMS TO THE DEFENDANT ACCOUNTS MUST BE FILED WITH THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS AND SERVED UPON ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY MATTHEW M. LYONS, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ASSET RECOVERY UNIT, 1 COURTHOUSE WAY, SUITE 9200, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210, WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION ON THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FORFEITURE WEBSITE OR WITHIN THIRTY-FIVE (35) DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF ACTUAL NOTICE, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER. ALL ANSWERS TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE FILED WITH THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS AND SERVED UPON ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY MATTHEW M. LYONS, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ASSET RECOVERY UNIT, 1 COURTHOUSE WAY, SUITE 9200, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210, WITHIN TWENTY ONE (21) DAYS AFTER THE FILING OF THE CLAIM. CLAIMS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR ADMIRALTY OR MARITIME AND ASSET FORFEITURE CLAIMS. THE PROCEDURES FOR FILING A PETITION FOR REMISSION OR

MITIGATION ARE SET FORTH IN 28 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 9. IN ADDITION TO THE PROCEDURES MANDATED BY THOSE REGULATIONS, A COPY OF ANY PETITION FOR REMISSION OR MITIGATION SHOULD BE FILED WITH THE SEIZING AGENCY, WHICH IS THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE, 10 CAUSEWAY STREET, SUITE 447, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02222, ATTENTION: ASSET FORFEITURE GROUP.

Robert M. Farrell, Clerk
United States District Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Date: _____, 2024

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED:

United States District Judge

Date: _____, 2024

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. a) PLAINTIFFS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

AUSA Matthew M. Lyons, United States Attorney's Office
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200, Boston, MA 02210

DEFENDANTS

Approximately \$143,586.44, seized from JPMorgan Chase Account Number XXXXX8228, et al.,

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
PTF DEF
1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State
2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State
3 3 Foreign Nation
4 4
5 5
6 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories and checkboxes.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
18 U.S.C. sections 981(a)(1)(A) and 981(a)(1)(C)

Brief description of cause:
Forfeiture of property involved in violations of specified unlawful activity and forfeiture of criminal proceeds

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 06/05/2024 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Matthew M. Lyons

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) United States of America v. Approximately \$143,586.44, seized from JPMorgan Chase Account Number XXXXX8228, et al.,

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

- I. 160, 400, 410, 441, 535, 830*, 835*, 850, 891, 893, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- II. 110, 130, 190, 196, 370, 375, 376, 440, 442, 443, 445, 446, 448, 470, 751, 820*, 840*, 895, 896, 899.
- III. 120, 140, 150, 151, 152, 153, 195, 210, 220, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 367, 368, 371, 380, 385, 422, 423, 430, 450, 460, 462, 463, 465, 480, 490, 510, 530, 540, 550, 555, 560, 625, 690, 710, 720, 740, 790, 791, 861-865, 870, 871, 890, 950.

*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121. for patent, trademark or copyright cases.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES NO

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES NO

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES NO

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES NO

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES NO

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division Central Division Western Division

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division Central Division Western Division

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES NO

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Matthew M. Lyons, Assistant United States Attorney

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TELEPHONE NO. [REDACTED]