LODGED FILED RECEIVED COPY 1 ELIZABETH A. STRANGE OCT 17 2017 Acting United States Attorney 2 District of Arizona MONICA EDELSTEIN CLERK U S DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA 3 Assistant U.S. Attorney Arizona State Bar No. 023098 DEPUTY monica.edlestein@usdoj.gov 4 KEVIN M. RAPP 5 Assistant U.S. Attorney Arizona State Bar No. 014249 6 kevin.rapp@usdoj.gov JENNIFER A. GIAIMO 7 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney New York Bar No. 2520005 jennifer.a.giaimo@usdoj.gov Two Renaissance Square 40 N. Central Ave., Suite 1200 8 9 Phoenix, Arizona 85004 10 Telephone: 602-514-7500 Attorneys for Plaintiff 11 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 12 13 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA 14 United States of America, CR- 17-00680-1-PHX-GMS 15 Plaintiff, 16 PLEA AGREEMENT VS. 17 Yomtov Scott Menaged, 18 19 Defendant. 20 Plaintiff, United States of America, and the defendant, YOMTOV SCOTT 21 MENAGED, hereby agree to dispose of this matter on the following terms and conditions: 22 1. **PLEA** 23 The defendant will plead guilty to Count 1 of the indictment charging the defendant 24 with a violation of 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 371, Conspiracy to Commit Bank 25 Fraud, a class D felony offense, and to Count 10 of the indictment charging the defendant 26 with a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028A, Aggravated Identity Theft, a class E felony offense. 27 The defendant will also plead guilty to a one-count information charging the defendant

with a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), Money Laundering Conspiracy, a Class C felony offense.

2. <u>MAXIMUM PENALTIES</u>

- a. A violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 is punishable by a maximum fine of \$250,000, a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years, or both, and a term of supervised release of 3 years. A maximum term of probation is five years.
- b. A violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028, is punishable by a maximum fine of \$250,000, a mandatory term of imprisonment of 2 years consecutive to any other term of imprisonment imposed, or both, and a term of supervised release of not more than one year.
- c. A violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) is punishable by a maximum fine of \$500,000, a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, or both, and a term of supervised release of 3 years. The maximum term of probation is five years.
- d. According to the Sentencing Guidelines issued pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the Court shall order the defendant to:
- (1) make restitution to any victim of the offense pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663 and/or 3663A, unless the Court determines that restitution would not be appropriate;
- (2) pay a fine pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3572, unless the Court finds that a fine is not appropriate;
- (3) serve a term of supervised release when required by statute or when a sentence of imprisonment of more than one year is imposed (with the understanding that the Court may impose a term of supervised release in all other cases); and
- (4) pay upon conviction a \$100 special assessment for each count to which the defendant pleads guilty pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013.
- e. The Court is required to consider the Sentencing Guidelines in determining the defendant's sentence. However, the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, and the Court is free to exercise its discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum set

by statute for the crime(s) of conviction, unless there are stipulations to the contrary that the Court accepts.

3. AGREEMENTS REGARDING SENTENCING

- a. Stipulation-Fraud Loss for Money Laundering Conspiracy. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), the United States and the defendant stipulate that the loss associated with the defendant's unlawful conduct as it relates to the money laundering conspiracy in the information is \$34,000,000.00.
- b. Stipulation-Sentencing Cap. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), the United States and the defendant stipulate that the defendant shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of no less than 120 months' incarceration, but that the term of imprisonment cannot exceed 204 months' incarceration.
- c. Stipulation-Bankruptcy Case. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim P. 11(c)(1)(C), the United States and the defendant stipulate that the defendant shall execute a permanent waiver of discharge of debts in connection with his bankruptcy case currently pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona (2:16-BK-04268-PS) pursuant to the terms included under Section 8b of this agreement.
- d. Restitution. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663 and/or 3663A, the defendant specifically agrees to pay restitution of \$2,112,405.97 as it related to Count 1 of the indictment, to all victims directly or proximately harmed by the defendant's "relevant conduct," including conduct pertaining to any dismissed counts or uncharged conduct, as defined by U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, regardless of whether such conduct constitutes an "offense" under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2259, 3663 or 3663A. Specifically, the defendant agrees to restitution in the amount of \$1,145,392.81 to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., and \$967,013.16 to Synchrony Bank. In addition, the defendant understands that restitution is mandatory with respect to Count 1 of the information filed in this case. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663 and/or 3663A, the defendant specifically agrees to pay restitution as ordered by the Court to all victims directly or proximately harmed by the defendant's "relevant conduct," including conduct pertaining to any dismissed counts or uncharged conduct, as defined by U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3,

regardless of whether such conduct constitutes an "offense" under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2259, 3663 or 3663A, but in no event more than \$34,000,000.00. The defendant understands that restitution will be included in the Court's Order of Judgment and that an unanticipated restitution amount will not serve as grounds to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea or to withdraw from this plea agreement.

- e. Assets and Financial Responsibility. The defendant shall make a full accounting of all assets in which the defendant has any legal or equitable interest. The defendant shall not (and shall not aid or abet any other party to) sell, hide, waste, spend, or transfer any such assets or property before sentencing, without the prior approval of the United States (provided, however, that no prior approval will be required for routine, day-to-day expenditures). The defendant also expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to immediately obtain a credit report as to the defendant in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court. The defendant also shall make full disclosure of all current and projected assets to the U.S. Probation Office immediately and prior to the termination of the defendant's supervised release or probation, such disclosures to be shared with the U.S. Attorney's Office, including the Financial Litigation Unit, for any purpose. Finally, the defendant shall participate in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program to fulfill all financial obligations due and owing under this agreement and the law.
- f. Acceptance of Responsibility. If the defendant makes full and complete disclosure to the U.S. Probation Office of the circumstances surrounding the defendant's commission of the offense, and if the defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for this offense up to and including the time of sentencing, the United States will recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a). If the defendant has an offense level of 16 or more, the United States will recommend an additional one-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b).

4. AGREEMENT TO DISMISS OR NOT TO PROSECUTE

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WAIVER OF DEFENSES AND APPEAL RIGHTS 6.

The defendant waives (1) any and all motions, defenses, probable cause determinations, and objections that the defendant could assert to the indictment or information; and (2) any right to file an appeal, any collateral attack, and any other writ or motion that challenges the conviction, an order of restitution or forfeiture, the entry of

- Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A), the United States, at the time of a. sentencing, shall dismiss the following charges: Counts 2-9, and Counts 11-24 for the indictment.
- This office shall not prosecute the defendant for any offenses committed by b. the defendant, and known by the United States, related to additional activity associated with the defendant's conduct outlined in the indictment and information.
- This agreement does not, in any manner, restrict the actions of the United c. States in any other district or bind any other United States Attorney's Office.

COURT APPROVAL REQUIRED; REINSTITUTION OF PROSECUTION 5.

- If the Court, after reviewing this plea agreement, concludes that any a. provision contained herein is inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement and give the defendant the opportunity to withdraw the guilty plea in accordance with Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(5).
- b. If the defendant's guilty plea or plea agreement is rejected, withdrawn, vacated, or reversed at any time, this agreement shall be null and void, the United States shall be free to prosecute the defendant for all crimes of which it then has knowledge and any charges that have been dismissed because of this plea agreement shall automatically be reinstated. In such event, the defendant waives any and all objections, motions, and defenses based upon the Statute of Limitations, the Speedy Trial Act, or constitutional restrictions in bringing later charges or proceedings. The defendant understands that any statements made at the time of the defendant's change of plea or sentencing may be used against the defendant in any subsequent hearing, trial, or proceeding subject to the limitations of Fed. R. Evid. 410.

judgment against the defendant, or any aspect of the defendant's sentence, including the manner in which the sentence is determined, including but not limited to any appeals under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 (sentencing appeals) and motions under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2255 (habeas petitions), and any right to file a motion for modification of sentence, including under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c). This waiver shall result in the dismissal of any appeal, collateral attack, or other motion the defendant might file challenging the conviction, order of restitution or forfeiture, or sentence in this case. This waiver shall not be construed to bar an otherwise-preserved claim of ineffective assistance of counsel or of "prosecutorial misconduct" (as that term is defined by Section II.B of Ariz. Ethics Op. 15-01 (2015)).

7. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

- a. The United States retains the unrestricted right to provide information and make any and all statements it deems appropriate to the U.S. Probation Office and to the Court in connection with the case.
- b. Any information, statements, documents, and evidence that the defendant provides to the United States pursuant to this agreement may be used against the defendant at any time.
- c. The defendant shall cooperate fully with the U.S. Probation Office. Such cooperation shall include providing complete and truthful responses to questions posed by the U.S. Probation Office including, but not limited to, questions relating to:
 - (1) criminal convictions, history of drug abuse, and mental illness; and
- (2) financial information, including present financial assets or liabilities that relate to the ability of the defendant to pay a fine or restitution.

8. FORFEITURE, CIVIL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

a. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant from administrative or civil forfeiture proceedings or prohibit the United States from proceeding with and/or initiating an action for civil forfeiture. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613, all monetary penalties, including restitution imposed by the Court, shall be due immediately upon judgment, shall be subject to immediate enforcement by the United States, and shall

- b. The defendant agrees to a permanent waiver of discharge of debts in connection with his bankruptcy case currently pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona under Case Number 2:16-bk-04268-PS (hereinafter the "Pending Bankruptcy Case") pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 727 and 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(10) in accordance with the following terms:
 - 1. The defendant understands and agrees that, as result of this waiver of discharge, he will permanently be denied a discharge in the Pending Bankruptcy Case or any other or future bankruptcy, of all of his debts, whether sole and separate or community, which were or could have been listed or scheduled by the defendant in the Pending Bankruptcy Case (for example, debts that arose or were incurred before the date of the order for relief in the Pending Bankruptcy Case).
 - 2. The defendant expressly waives his rights to a community discharge under the provisions of 11 U.S.C. § 524(a)(3). The defendant's community property, if any, shall remain subject to collection for payment of community debts.
 - 3. The defendant agrees that in light of his waiver of discharge, any and all creditors shall be entitled to pursue the collection of any and all debts claimed to be owed for the defendant's debts and for community debts as to which there has been a waiver of discharge as provided herein.
 - 4. The defendant acknowledges that he is knowingly and voluntarily consenting to and agreeing to a permanent waiver of discharge in the Pending Bankruptcy Case and in any later filed bankruptcy of all of his sole and separate and community debts and claims that are listed on the Schedules in this case or that could have been listed

on the Schedules in this case (for example, debts that arose or were incurred before the date of the order for relief in the Pending Bankruptcy Case).

- 5. The defendant fully understands that by agreeing to the waiver of discharge, the debts and claims as to which the defendant is waiving discharge are and shall forever be non-dischargeable in bankruptcy and that all of the defendant's property and assets will forever be subject to collection to satisfy all such non-discharged debts and claims.
- 6. The defendant fully understands and agrees that the debts and claims as to which the defendant is waiving discharge will forever be barred from discharge in any subsequent filed bankruptcy under 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(10) and that, for the purposes of any later filed bankruptcy case by, or on behalf of or for the benefit of, the defendant, this waiver of discharge shall be deemed a denial of discharge under 11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (10) within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. 523(a)(10).

9. ELEMENTS

Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud

In or about September 2015, and continuing through in or about January 2017, in the District of Arizona:

- 1. There was an agreement between two or more persons to commit the crime charged in Count 1 of the indictment;
- 2. The defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of its object and intending to help accomplish it; and
- 3. At least one member of the conspiracy performed at least one overt act for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy.

Aggravated Identity Theft

On or about December 23, 2015, in the District of Arizona:

1. The defendant knowingly used without legal authority a means of identification of another person;

- 2. The defendant knew that the means of identification belonged to a real person; and
- 3. The defendant did so during and in relation to an enumerated felony, namely 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud).

Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

In or about January 2014, through in or about June 2016, in the District of Arizona:

- 1. Two or more people agreed to try to accomplish a common and unlawful plan to commit a violation of Section 1956 and 1957; and
- 2. The defendant knew about the plan's unlawful purpose and voluntarily joined in it.

10. FACTUAL BASIS

- a. The defendant admits that the following facts are true and that if this matter were to proceed to trial the United States could prove the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:
- b. From in and around 2011, Yomtov Scott Menaged ("Menaged") owned and operated retail furniture stores including a store known as Furniture King located in the Phoenix metropolitan area. On or about September 8, 2015, Menaged established a merchant dealer account with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells Fargo") in the name of Furniture King that allowed the store to offer customers instant access to a line of credit to make furniture purchases. The deposit account utilized by Furniture King was located at JP Morgan Chase Bank ("Chase"). Beginning in or around December 2015, the defendant submitted false and fraudulent credit applications to Wells Fargo using the names and personal identification information of deceased individuals and caused Wells Fargo to deposit payments to the Furniture King merchant account located at Chase. The defendant and others created false and fraudulent credit applications and receipts, also listing the names and personal identification information of the deceased individuals to submit to Wells Fargo after the payments had already been issued to Furniture Kings' merchant bank account. In fact, no furniture purchase transaction ever took place between the listed

customer and the Furniture King store and the false paperwork was created to conceal the fraud scheme from Wells Fargo.

- c. On or about December 23, 2015, one of the fraudulent credit applications was submitted in the name of C.S. The defendant obtained C.S.'s name online from the Obituary Section of the newspaper and discovered that an individual with the name C.S. had passed away. The defendant then ran a credit check for C.S. to obtain C.S.'s personal identification information to use to submit the fraudulent credit application to Wells Fargo. C.S. is not deceased, but has never set foot into Furniture King nor has he made any purchases from the defendant at any time. As a result of the fraudulent credit application, which utilized accurate personal identification information for C.S., including his name and social security number, a credit for \$13,747.50 was sent via wire transfer to the Furniture King Bank account at Chase controlled by defendant. In the same way that defendant defrauded Wells Fargo, the defendant also defrauded Synchrony Bank using a similar scheme. The loss associated with the defendant's bank fraud schemes as charged in the indictment totals \$2,112,405.97.
- d. The defendant perpetrated the bank fraud and stolen identity schemes largely to obtain cash quickly after a prior real estate fraud, as described in the information, no longer provided the defendant with a source of cash. In addition to operating furniture stores, the defendant was also involved in real estate investing. The defendant was the sole owner and manager of a number of real estate investing businesses including Arizona Home Foreclosures ("AHF"), a company that the defendant utilized to purchase foreclosed properties at Trustee's Sales to quickly rehabilitate and sell at a profit.
- e. From January 2014, and continuing until about June 2016, the defendant and AHF continued to utilize hard-money lender DenSco Investment Corporation ("DenSco") to obtain short-term, high interest loans to make home purchases. During the same time, the defendant, with the assistance of others, including his employees and associates, defrauded DenSco by embezzling millions of dollars without purchasing properties with the loans obtained from DenSco. The defendant identified properties to purchase at

Trustee's Sales and listed the properties and sales prices in email messages from defendant's email account, or an employee's email account, to DenSco's principal, D.C. D.C. and DenSco then electronically transferred the funds by electronic wire directly from DenSco's bank account to the defendant's bank account held in the name of AHF. D.C. and DenSco required the defendant to provide a copy of the bank cashier's check that was intended to be used in the real estate purchase and Trustee's Sales Receipts to document any successful real estate purchases. For each purported purchase, the defendant utilized his email account, or directed his employees to email, an image of a bank cashier's check and a copy of a Trustee Certificate of Sale Receipt to D.C. and DenSco. The documentation sent to DenSco, however, was completely fabricated. Instead of utilizing the DenSco funds to make real estate purchases, the defendant, with the assistance of his employees and associates, created bogus Trustee Certificate of Sale Receipts purporting to support legitimate real estate purchases when in fact, no sale had ever taken place. In addition, the images of cashier's checks sent to D.C. and DenSco were never transacted or utilized to purchase property; instead, the defendant requested a cashier's check be drawn on his bank account, took an image of the cashier's check to transmit to D.C. and DenSco, and then simply redeposited the check into his own bank accounts.

f. Between January 2013 through June 2016, the defendant obtained approximately 2,712 loans from DenSco totaling approximately \$734,484,440.67. Of the 2,712 loans made by DenSco, only 96 involved actual property transactions, the remaining 2,616 represented phantom real estate purchases. After embezzling the funds, the defendant used the money for personal expenses including, among others: car payments; trips to Las Vegas; gambling; personal mortgage payments; and large transfers of funds to family members and associates. The defendant further utilized new loans from DenSco to pay back outstanding DenSco loans in order to conceal the embezzlement. As a result of the phantom real estate fraud scheme, the defendant defrauded DenSco out of at least \$34,000,000.00.

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g. The defendant shall swear under oath to the accuracy of this statement and, if the defendant should be called upon to testify about this matter in the future, any intentional material inconsistencies in the defendant's testimony may subject the defendant to additional penalties for perjury or false swearing, which may be enforced by the United States under this agreement.

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEFENDANT

I have read the entire plea agreement with the assistance of my attorney. I understand each of its provisions and I voluntarily agree to it.

I have discussed the case and my constitutional and other rights with my attorney. I understand that by entering my plea of guilty I shall waive my rights to plead not guilty, to trial by jury, to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses, to present evidence in my defense, to remain silent and refuse to be a witness against myself by asserting my privilege against self-incrimination, all with the assistance of counsel, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

I agree to enter my guilty plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement.

I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charges to which I am entering my guilty plea. I have further been advised by my attorney of the nature and range of the possible sentence and that my ultimate sentence shall be determined by the Court after consideration of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines.

My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurances, or promises, other than the promises contained in this agreement. I voluntarily agree to the provisions of this agreement and I agree to be bound according to its provisions.

I understand that if I am granted probation or placed on supervised release by the Court, the terms and conditions of such probation/supervised release are subject to modification at any time. I further understand that if I violate any of the conditions of my probation/supervised release, my probation/supervised release may be revoked and upon

10-17-17 Date: October 16, 2017

Date: October 16, 2017

such revocation, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, I may be required to serve a term of imprisonment or my sentence otherwise may be altered.

This written plea agreement, and any written addenda filed as attachments to this plea agreement, contain all the terms and conditions of the plea. Any additional agreements, if any such agreements exist, shall be recorded in a separate document and may be filed with the Court under seal; accordingly, additional agreements, if any, may not be in the public record.

I further agree that promises, including any predictions as to the Sentencing Guideline range or to any Sentencing Guideline factors that will apply, made by anyone (including my attorney) that are not contained within this written plea agreement, are null and void and have no force and effect.

I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent manner.

I fully understand the terms and conditions of this plea agreement. I am not now using or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or other intoxicant or depressant that would impair my ability to fully understand the terms and conditions of this plea agreement.

YOMTOV SCOTT MENAGED Defendant

APPROVAL OF DEFENSE COUNSEL

I have discussed this case and the plea agreement with my client in detail and have advised the defendant of all matters within the scope of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, the constitutional and other rights of an accused, the factual basis for and the nature of the offense to which the guilty plea will be entered, possible defenses, and the consequences of the guilty plea including the maximum statutory sentence possible. I have further discussed the concept of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines with the defendant. No assurances, promises, or representations have been given to me or to the defendant by the

Case 2:17-cr-00680-GMS Document 135 Filed 10/17/17 Page 14 of 14

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1	United States or any of its representatives that are not contained in this written agreement.
2	I concur in the entry of the plea as indicated above and that the terms and conditions set
3	forth in this agreement are in the best interests of my client. I agree to make a bona fide
4	effort to ensure that the guilty plea is entered in accordance with all the requirements of
5	Fed. R. Crim. P. 11.
6	
7	71 11 1101
8	10/17/2017 Date MOLLY BRIZGYS
9	Attorney for Defendant Menaged
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11	APPROVAL OF THE UNITED STATES
12	I have reviewed this matter and the plea agreement. I agree on behalf of the United
13	States that the terms and conditions set forth herein are appropriate and are in the best
14	interests of justice.
15	interests of justice.
16	ELIZABETH A. STRANGE
17	Acting United States Attorney District of Arizona
18	95114
19	Date MONICA EDELSTEIN Assistant U.S. Attorney
	Assistant O.S. Attorney
20	A COURT A NOTE BY THE COURT
21	ACCEPTANCE BY THE COURT
22	
23	Date HONORABLE G. MURRAY SNOW
24	United States District Judge
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