To: Mac

From: Betsy Johnston

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Phone conversation with Edgar Thompson, 3/24/97

Date: March 24, 1997

I talked to Edgar today about his feel for what's going to happen with Stocks. Here's what he said:

* The Judge and Larry Cook are in the middle of a nasty name-calling contest. It seems that Judge Hanshaw thinks that Larry's afraid to try cases, and that Cook and his staff are incompetent when they do try them. Apparently too, the Judge and Larry's victim assistance coordinator have had some sort of misunderstanding because the Judge has openly called her a liar which has created another problem between the Judge and Prosecutor.

* In light of the above-mentioned tiff, Edgar thinks that if we'll back off, we'll get a better deal for Heath in the long run. If we try to make something happen before the Judge and Larry get their problems worked out, or before Larry convinces the Judge that it's none of his business which cases he tries, we might not get as good of an offer. He thinks nobody is in a hurry with the Stocks trial, and won't be until Gates is over with.

* Edgar believes that Jason Gates' trial will go first (not anytime soon, though) so that Edgar can be death certified by the time Heath comes up for trial. It seems that Edgar is pretty sure that whatever happens, Gates will go first. I did get assurances from Edgar and Sara that nobody is in any hurry for Gates to get to ASH, and he's apparently a good ways down on the list. I told Edgar we'd be tickled for him to be certified after Gates, and that if that turned out to be the case, he might not even want us around for Stocks. The bottom line is that the Judge (according to Edgar) hates this commission, and wants Edgar certified ASAP so he won't have to fuck with us anymore. Too, Edgar suggests we handle the Judge with kid gloves because there's this whole string of tragic illnesses, deaths, etc. in his family that he's having to deal with, and it's making him a real horses ass. (More so than usual, apparently)