

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 09-20729-CR-MARTINEZ**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

**v.**

**PATRICIA DE PONS,**

**Defendant.**

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**PLEA AGREEMENT**

The United States of America and Patricia De Pons (hereinafter referred to as the “defendant”) enter into the following agreement:

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to count 1 of the indictment, which count charges the defendant with conspiracy to commit mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

2. The United States agrees to seek dismissal of counts 2-19 of the indictment, as to this defendant, after sentencing.

3. The defendant is aware that the sentence will be imposed by the court after considering the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements (hereinafter “Sentencing Guidelines”). The defendant acknowledges and understands that the court will compute an advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines and that the applicable guidelines will be determined by the court relying in part on the results of a Pre-Sentence Investigation by the court’s probation office, which

investigation will commence after the guilty plea has been entered. The defendant is also aware that, under certain circumstances, the court may depart from the advisory sentencing guideline range that it has computed, and may raise or lower that advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant is further aware and understands that the court is required to consider the advisory guideline range determined under the Sentencing Guidelines, but is not bound to impose that sentence; the court is permitted to tailor the ultimate sentence in light of other statutory concerns, and such sentence may be either more severe or less severe than the Sentencing Guidelines' advisory sentence. Knowing these facts, the defendant understands and acknowledges that the court has the authority to impose any sentence within and up to the statutory maximum authorized by law for the offenses identified in paragraph 1 and that the defendant may not withdraw the plea solely as a result of the sentence imposed.

4. The defendant also understands and acknowledges that the court may impose a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of up to twenty (20) years for Count 1, followed by a term of supervised release of up to three (3) years. In addition to a term of imprisonment and supervised release, the court may impose a fine of up to \$250,000 and must order restitution. The defendant agrees that she will make restitution at least in the amount of \$10,600,000 in connection with this conspiracy.

5. The defendant further understands and acknowledges that, in addition to any sentence imposed under paragraph 4 of this agreement, a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00 will be imposed on the defendant. The defendant agrees that any special assessment imposed shall be paid at the time of sentencing.

6. The Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida (hereinafter

“Office”) reserves the right to inform the court and the probation office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses committed, whether charged or not, as well as concerning the defendant and the defendant’s background. Subject only to the express terms of any agreed-upon sentencing recommendations contained in this agreement, this Office further reserves the right to make any recommendation as to the quality and quantity of punishment.

7. The United States and the defendant agree that, although not binding on the probation office or the court, they will jointly recommend that the court impose a sentence within the advisory sentencing guideline range produced by application of the Sentencing Guidelines. Although not binding on the probation office or the court, the United States and the defendant further agree that, except as otherwise expressly contemplated in this Plea Agreement, they will jointly recommend that the court neither depart upward nor depart downward under the Sentencing Guidelines when determining the advisory sentencing guideline range in this case.

8. The United States agrees that it will recommend at sentencing that the court reduce by two levels the sentencing guideline level applicable to the defendant’s offense, pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines, based upon the defendant’s recognition and affirmative and timely acceptance of personal responsibility. If at the time of sentencing the defendant’s offense level is determined to be 16 or greater, the government will make a motion requesting an additional one level decrease pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) of the Sentencing Guidelines, stating that the defendant has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of her own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of her intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the court to allocate their resources efficiently.

The United States, however, will not be required to make these recommendations if the defendant: (1) fails or refuses to make a full, accurate and complete disclosure to the probation office of the circumstances surrounding the relevant offense conduct; (2) is found to have misrepresented facts to the government prior to entering into this plea agreement; or (3) commits any misconduct after entering into this plea agreement, including but not limited to committing a state or federal offense, violating any term of release, or making false statements or misrepresentations to any governmental entity or official.

9. The United States and the defendant agree that, although not binding on the probation office or the court, they will jointly recommend that the court make the following findings and conclusions as to the sentence to be imposed:

a. Loss: That the relevant amount of actual, probable or intended loss under Sections 2B1.1(b)(1) and 1B1.3 of the Sentencing Guidelines resulting from the offense committed in this case is more than \$7,000,000 but less than \$20,000,000.

b. Victim Enhancement: That the defendant should receive a 6 level enhancement under Section 2B1.1(b)(2)(C) in recognition of the involvement of 250 or more victims in the offense of conviction.

10. In the event that the defendant applies with the United States Department of Justice's Office of Enforcement Operations to be transferred to France to serve her sentence in a facility there, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida agrees not to oppose such a request but only at such time that her cooperation with United States Government is complete. For purposes of clarification, the defendant's cooperation encompasses, without limitation, any possible testimony in the grand jury or at trial relating to the offense conduct at issue in the above-captioned

matter. It is further understood by the defendant that the Office of Enforcement Operations retains sole discretion, on behalf of the United States, to approve or deny international prisoner transfer requests. It is also understood by the defendant that a recommendation by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida not to oppose the defendant's application for an international prisoner transfer is not binding on the Office of Enforcement Operations, and that if the defendant's application for an international prisoner transfer is denied, the defendant will not be allowed to withdraw her plea, contest her sentence, or attack or contest the decision of the Office of Enforcement Operations, whether by appeal, collateral attack, or otherwise.

11. The defendant is aware that the sentence has not yet been determined by the court. The defendant also is aware that any estimate of the probable sentencing range or sentence that the defendant may receive, whether that estimate comes from the defendant's attorney, the government, or the probation office, is a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on the government, the probation office or the court. The defendant understands further that any recommendation that the government makes to the court as to sentencing, whether pursuant to this agreement or otherwise, is not binding on the court and the court may disregard the recommendation in its entirety. The defendant understands and acknowledges, as previously acknowledged in paragraph 3 above, that the defendant may not withdraw her plea based upon the court's decision not to accept a sentencing recommendation made by the defendant, the government, or a recommendation made jointly by both the defendant and the government.

12. The defendant is aware that Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 affords the defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed in this case. Acknowledging this, and in exchange for the undertakings made by this Office in this plea agreement, the defendant hereby

waives all rights conferred by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 to appeal the conviction, any sentence imposed, including any restitution order, or to appeal the manner in which the sentence was imposed, or to collaterally attack the conviction, any sentence imposed or the manner in which the sentence was imposed, including any restitution order, pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Sections 2255, 2254, 2241 or any other applicable provision, unless the sentence exceeds the maximum permitted by statute or is the result of an upward departure from the guideline range that the court establishes at sentencing. The defendant further understands that nothing in this agreement shall affect this Office's right and/or duty to appeal as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). However, if this Office appeals the defendant's sentence pursuant to Section 3742(b), the defendant shall be released from the above waiver of appellate rights. By signing this agreement, the defendant acknowledges that she has discussed the appeal/collateral attack waiver set forth in this agreement with her attorney. The defendant further agrees, together with this Office, to request that the district court enter a specific finding that the defendant's waiver of her right to appeal or to collaterally attack the conviction or sentence to be imposed in this case was knowing and voluntary.

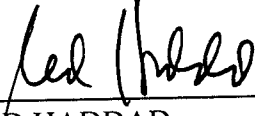
13. This is the entire agreement and understanding between the United States and the defendant. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings unless contained in a letter from the United States Attorney's Office executed by all parties and counsel prior to the change of plea.

JEFFREY H. SLOMAN  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 3/9/10

By:   
PETER A. FORAND  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 3/9/10

By:   
FRED HADDAD  
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

Date: 3/9/10

By:   
PATRICIA DE PONS  
DEFENDANT