IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal No. 09-cr-369-DMC v. :

TRANSCRIPT OF
PAUL W. BERGRIN, : TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME 1

Newark, New Jersey
January 22, 2013

BEFORE:

THE HON. DENNIS M. CAVANAUGH, U.S.D.J.

Reported by: CHARLES P. MCGUIRE, C.C.R. Official Court Reporter

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S/CHARLES P. MCGUIRE, C.C.R.

## APPEARANCES:

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PAUL W. BERGRIN, ESQUIRE
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BY: LAWRENCE S. LUSTBERG, ESQ., AMANDA B. PROTESS, ESQ., JENNIFER MARA, ESQ., and BRUCE LEVY, ESQ.
Standby counsel for Defendant
(Defendant present)
(Jury out)
THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
THE COURT: Be seated.
Mr. Bergrin, how are you feeling?
THE DEFENDANT: I'm doing all right, Judge.
THE COURT: All right.
I've got two requests from jurors having problems already, asking to be excused.

I'm going to want to see counsel in this room here to discuss these two, these excuses. Would you please come in?
(The following takes place in an anteroom)
THE COURT: All right. Would you just close the door when the last -- have a seat.

This is the letter I received from the juror, one of the jurors.

What number?
THE COURT CLERK: Juror number five.
THE COURT: Let me have it, please.
(The letter was passed to Government's counsel.)
THE COURT: I am not going to be quick to let any juror off this jury. This juror was asked all kinds of questions. He was asked if he had any medical conditions, mental conditions, any other conditions. He said no. I
asked him again, again, and again. We let them know when we had the final jury.

I'm going to tell him that he's going to stay on this jury, and we'll see how things go. He might have gotten himself a little worked up just worrying about it, thinking over the illness and our little hiatus there, but once he gets going, he'll probably see that it's not going to be as stressful as he might think. If he does, we'll deal with it when it comes along.

Does anybody disagree with my approach? MR. GAY: No objection from the Government, Judge. MR. LUSTBERG: No, Your Honor. We agree. THE COURT: All right. The second juror -THE COURT CLERK: Seat six. THE COURT: -- is seat six, and she called to request a financial hardship, saying that her husband was laid off on the 15th, and she's the sole breadwinner, and she wanted off.

I'm not letting her off. She, too, was told about this. And it's an unfortunate situation. She didn't mention anything about financial hardship or anything about her job. I don't know what her husband being laid off means. She didn't say that she wasn't being paid or anything else, and I have no intention of letting her off.

Does anybody disagree?

MR. BERGRIN: Judge, the issue that $I$ have and the problem that $I$ have is, if she was dependent on her husband's financial income, and --

THE COURT: No, that's not what she said. She called and said because her husband has been laid off of work on Tuesday, the 15th, and she has become the sole breadwinner of the family that she has to get off. So she obviously was not just depending --

MR. BERGRIN: With all due respect, sir, it's obvious that she's suffering a financial hardship, and I've found in my past that jurors are individuals that have all kinds of issues, problems - suffering financial hardships, problems with their children. Their minds wander into wondering, you know, how they're going to meet their debts, how they're going to meet their financial burdens as compared to paying close attention to the case; but, more importantly, more importantly, there's going to be somebody that's going to have to bear the burden for her hardship, and most of the time they take it out on the Defendant as compared to the Government.

THE COURT: Well, that hasn't been my view. I haven't seen that.

I did everything $I$ could to try to get a fair and impartial jury here. I made it clear to them once they're
chosen, they're on this jury.
I'm going to have a long case here. I am not taking a chance on losing these jurors now. She's on this jury, and she's staying on this jury.

MR. BERGRIN: Yes, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Okay. Next --
MR. GAY: Judge, just to clarify that as well, I mean, $I$ think she hasn't established financial hardship.

THE COURT: No.
MR. GAY: So let's make that clear up front. And, secondly, I agree with the Court that we can -- this, as it goes on, we can deal with it. We have alternates.

THE COURT: That's another problem, that's another point that $I$ should make clear on the record. We've just begun. If these jurors think that somebody's going to come in with some kind of a simple excuse and I'm just going to let them off, they are wrong. I am going to be very difficult about this.

And I am not satisfied that either of these excuses are enough so far.

The first guy, juror number five, worries me because he mentions that -- or his doctor mentions that --

MR. BERGRIN: Essentially, the doctor says he suffers from --

THE COURT: -- he may have a manic episode. I
don't know what that is, a manic episode.
But I think what we should do is call him down here and explain that he's going to stay, that he's going to -- hopefully he's going to find this not to create as much anxiety as he thinks, and that we're going to go forward.

Would you get him, please?
Knock before you come in.
In the meantime, I wanted to expand just a bit on my ruling on the Batson. I was going to do this that day that we were here. Unfortunately, Mr. Bergrin became ill and we had to put the case off.

But did you want to say anything further?
MR. GAY: Well, Judge, I think Mr. Sanders is going to speak briefly on that.

THE COURT: Go ahead.
MR. SANDERS: And, Your Honor, just to augment I think what Mr. Gay said at sidebar when the challenge was first made, the initial -- and I'm just talking about the 12 jurors, not the alternates right now.

THE COURT: Yes.
MR. SANDERS: The initial 12 who were picked, there were two African-Americans on that panel, and they stayed there for the duration. They weren't struck by the Government, they weren't struck by Mr. Bergrin.

We exercised only four challenges. We removed two

Caucasians and two African-Americans. Juror 26, who we struck first, is someone we had challenged for cause unsuccessfully because we thought she had some cognitive issues. Your Honor overruled that challenge, but I think the record reflects we reviewed the notes of her individual voir dire when we made that challenge.

Juror 39, whom we struck, was an African-American female as well, expressed a visceral reaction to cooperator testimony.

MR. GAY: And just to augment that, too, Judge, I mean, her reaction was strong, it was immediate, it was visceral, and she was not moving off that. I know that the Court continued to question her and eventually she did say that she would evaluate the testimony, but her reaction was visceral, strong, immediate, and very heartfelt, in my opinion. So that's the reason why we struck her. And I will say this, too, Judge --

THE COURT: I'm not looking to reargue this. I'm just augmenting the record and making sure it's understood. What were you going to say? MR. GAY: At the time, the Government did -- the Government did express concern. Although we didn't ask for a for-cause challenge because she said the magic words, we did express our concern at the time.

THE COURT: Okay.

As I stated briefly on the record when Mr. Bergrin made the challenge, a trial court must determine whether the Defendant has made a prima facie showing that the prosecutor exercised a preemptory challenge on the basis of race, which I don't think he did.

Second, if the showing is made, the burden shifts to the prosecutor to present a race-neutral explanation for striking the juror in question, which I think the prosecutor did.

And although the prosecutor must present a comprehensive reason, the second step of the process does not demand an explanation that is persuasive or even plausible. So long as the reason is not inherently discriminatory, it suffices.

Third, the Court must then determine whether the Defendant has carried its burden of proving purposeful discrimination. This final step involves evaluating the persuasiveness of the justification proffered by the prosecutor, but the ultimate burden of persuasion rests with and never shifts from the opponent to strike.

I looked at all of this. I also recall much of what the prosecutor said as to these two individuals when we were conducting the personal voir dires upstairs in the jury room prior to trial. I got a copy of the transcript. The transcript supports exactly what the prosecutor said, and it
also had my note showing that one of the witnesses seemed somewhat confused and she was kind of borderline, but she eventually said she could be fair and impartial, which was the most important thing to me, and the second one absolutely in the last two questions that $I$ asked whether or not she could be fair and impartial in evaluating the witnesses who were testifying through an agreement with the Government, she said at first she could not, then after further questioning, she said she could.

I find that there was no pretext here. I find that there are nondiscriminatory reasons, and again, I'm overruling any objection regarding Batson.

Okay. Come on in, Scott.
(The juror enters)

THE COURT: Come on in, sir.

A JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: Sorry to bring you in with all of these -- I didn't want to do this in front of everybody.

All right. I've got your letter, and I'm going to deny your request, and let me tell you why.

A JUROR: Okay.

THE COURT: I can understand where perhaps, as you're thinking about this, we had time off, gave you a little more time to think about it, that was due to the influenza, we apologize for that, it was no one's fault, but

I'm convinced once this case gets started and once you start hearing things, you're going to find that it's not -- you won't be as anxious as you might think. I'm going to do everything $I$ can to make this move along. I think you're going to find this to be interesting. We're going to let you take notes. You're going to have a lot of other jurors there also, and I think it's going to be less stressful than you might think. If I'm wrong and down the road other problems arise, you let me know, and we'll deal with it. But to start with, $I$ can't just let people off the jury.

I want it also known you didn't make any mention to us previously about having any kind of a problem. I would have certainly considered that in our initial discussions. But now the jury's picked, and I can't go and get more jurors to come over here and sit into it. So it's a real problem for me.

So hopefully -- we'll watch it, see how we're doing, and you let Scott know how you're doing, and then we'll move along. All right?

A JUROR: All right.
THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.
Scott, did you want to bring down the other juror? THE COURT CLERK: Yes.
(The juror exits)
THE COURT: How long do we think we're going to
be?

MR. GAY: I'm going to be about two hours and 15 minutes, Judge.

THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin?
MR. BERGRIN: Two or three hours, Judge. I
haven't gone through it.
THE COURT: No, I'm just trying to get an idea so I know when to break and things like that.

Okay. We'll let you go, we'll take a break.

I don't want to break in the middle of an opening.
MR. GAY: Maybe an early lunch, Judge?

THE COURT: Well, let's see, because he's got to order them lunch. That's a bigger problem than you think.

MR. GAY: Okay.

THE COURT: The other problem is, of course, if you have jurors sitting there too long listening, they start to drift off, so sometimes it's better to break.

Come in.
(The juror enters)
THE COURT: Hello.

A JUROR: Hello.

THE COURT: We have your request, and this is unfortunate about your husband. I'm sorry. I hope it works out. But $I$ cannot let you off for this reason.

A JUROR: Okay. I understand.

THE COURT: So, I'm sorry. If this had happened right before we chose --

A JUROR: I totally understand.
THE COURT: -- I might have been able to do something, but I just can't do it at this time.

A JUROR: That's fine, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Thank you very much.
A JUROR: Thank you.
(The juror exits)
THE COURT: Okay. I think that's all we have to do. We're ready to go?

All right. Everybody can go back.
MR. SANDERS: Judge.
THE COURT: Yes.
MR. SANDERS: One issue. We had sent a letter yesterday about the preliminary instruction.

THE COURT: What about it?
MR. SANDERS: We had sent a letter in.
THE COURT: You send a letter in every day, for God's sake. You don't have to do this, you know.

Go ahead. What about the preliminary instruction?
MR. SANDERS: There's a preliminary instruction about pro se representation and we would ask that it be included in Your Honor's instructions, just saying that it's not testimony.

THE COURT: I didn't see it. When did you send that?

MR. SANDERS: I sent it yesterday.
MR. BERGRIN: We haven't seen it, either.
MR. LUSTBERG: No, we got it.
MR. BERGRIN: I haven't seen it.
THE COURT: Do you have a copy?
MR. LUSTBERG: What it is, it's not typically a preliminary instruction. It was the instruction that was given to the jury at the conclusion of the evidence in the last trial that basically said that what pro se's do should not be considered as evidence.

I suspect that Your Honor's going to instruct the jury prior to openings that none of the statements that anybody makes are evidence --

THE COURT: Correct.
MR. LUSTBERG: -- and that the evidence comes from the stand.

THE COURT: Yes.
MR. LUSTBERG: This says that, but then it brings -- you know, it focuses particular attention on Mr. Bergrin. So we object to that as a preliminary instruction. I think that the Court should say, at it would always do, that this is a -- that, you know, that the openings are not evidence, they're just, you know, however you describe them, which I'm
sure is in accordance with the law.

And this is part of this whole paranoia that Mr. Bergrin's going to testify. If that happens, you'll instruct the jury.

THE COURT: Well, first of all, Mr. Bergrin has already been warned about that.

Secondly, this jury has already been told when they were first -- when we first met them, when we went across the street on the first day, when everybody introduced themselves, and Mr. Bergrin certainly stood up and said who he was, that he was the person charged, and I let the jury know what was going on. So they already know that he's an attorney, he's pro se. I don't think there's any necessity to go any further.

The one other thing $I$ did do as $I$ got that letter last week with respect to the stipulations, is there any issues about these stipulations?

These were the ones already stipulated to in the last case.

MR. BERGRIN: There is, Judge. I'm not going to stipulate to a lot of materials that we stipulated to in the first trial. The first trial, we were dealing with --

THE COURT: You know what? We'll deal with them, then, after we talk to the jury, because I'm not going to make this jury wait. Let's go.
(The following takes place in open court)
THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
(The jury enters)
THE COURT: Be seated.
Be seated.

Well, good morning.
THE JURY: Good morning.
THE COURT: As you can see, things happen that we don't expect all the time. Sorry there was a brief bout of influenza, and through no one's fault, obviously, but that's why there was a slight delay.

Now I'm going to give you some brief preliminary instructions. Then you're going to hear the openings.

Now that you've been sworn, I will give you these instructions to guide your participation in the trial.

It will be your duty to find from the evidence what the facts are. You and you alone will be the judges of the facts. You will then have to apply those facts to the law as the Court will give it to you at the end. You must follow that law whether you agree with it or not.

Nothing that I may say or do during the course of this trial is intended to indicate or should be taken by you as indicating what your verdict should be. The evidence from which you will find the facts will consist of the testimony of witnesses, documents, and other things received
into the record as exhibits, and any facts that the lawyers agree to or stipulate to or that the Court may instruct you to find.

Certain things are not evidence and must not be considered by you. I'll list them now.

Statements, arguments, and questions by the lawyers are not evidence. Objections to questions are not evidence. Lawyers have an obligation to their clients to make objections when they believe the evidence being offered is improper under the Rules of Evidence. You should not be influenced by the objection or by my rulings on it. If the objection is sustained, ignore the question. If it is overruled, treat the answer like any other. If you are instructed that some item of evidence is received for a limited purpose only, you must follow that instruction.

Testimony that the Court has excluded or told you to disregard is not evidence and must not be considered. Anything that you may see or hear outside the courtroom is not evidence and must be disregarded. You are to decide this case solely on the evidence presented here in the courtroom.

There are two kinds of evidence, direct and circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony of an eyewitness. Circumstantial evidence is proof of facts from which you may infer or conclude that
other facts exist. I'll give you further instructions on these as well as other matters at the end of the case, but keep in mind that you may consider both kinds of evidence.

It will be up to you to decide which witnesses to believe, which witnesses not to believe, and how much of any witness' testimony to accept or reject. I'll give you some guidelines for determining the credibility of witnesses at the end of the case.

As you know, this is a criminal case. There are three basic rules about a criminal case that you must keep in mind.

First, the Defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The indictment against the Defendant brought by the Government is only an accusation, nothing more. It is not proof of guilt or anything else. The Defendant, therefore, starts out with a clean slate.

Second, the burden of proof is on the Government until the very end of the case. The Defendant has no burden to prove his innocence or to present any evidence or to testify. Since the Defendant has the right to remain silent, the law prohibits you from arriving at your verdict by considering that the Defendant may not have testified.

Third, the Government must prove the Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

I will give you further instructions on this
point, but bear in mind that in this respect, a criminal case is different from a civil case.

Now, you've already heard a summary of the case when we first talked, so I'm not going to go over that again.

I will also instruct you again that during this trial, you are not to discuss the case with anyone or permit anyone to discuss it with you. Until you retire to the jury room at the end of the case to deliberate on your verdict, you simply are not to talk about the case.

Second, do not read or listen to anything touching on the case in any way, and if anyone should try to talk to you about the case, bring it to the Court's attention immediately.

Now, this case is going to receive a fair amount of notoriety in the newspaper. The reporters have an absolute right to do their job and to do that. But you are not to read it or to listen to it, because you are just to decide this case based upon what happens here in the courtroom. That's why I instructed you that way the other day.

Third, do not try to do any research or make any investigations about this case on your own. I read you that long charge at the beginning about the Internet and the like. We have a different world now. I think up in the
jury room you have some further instructions that are there on the jury table, again reminding you not to conduct any research and not to listen to outside reports about the case.

Finally, do not form any opinion until all of the evidence is in. Keep an open mind until you start your deliberations at the end of the case.

Now, as you noticed, you have notebooks. If you wish, you may take notes, but if you do, you will have to leave them with us in the jury room at the end of each day, and remember that they are only for your own personal use. We will take them, lock them in a cabinet, nobody will look at them, and give them back to you each morning so you can take further notes if you so desire.

The trial will now begin. First, the Government will make an opening statement, which is simply an outline to help you understand the evidence as it comes in. Next, the Defendant will make an opening statement. Opening statements are neither evidence nor arguments.

The Government will then present its witnesses, and counsel for Defendant, the Defendant, may cross-examine them.

Following the Government's case, the Defendant may, if he wishes, present witnesses, who the Government may cross-examine.

After all the evidence is in, the attorneys will present their closing arguments to summarize and interpret the evidence for you, and the Court will instruct you on the law. Then you will retire to deliberate, with as much time as you need.

Okay?
Mr. Gay.
MR. GAY: Thank you.
Judge, if we can just move that screen out, we'll appreciate it.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
On December 8th, 2008, criminal defense attorney Paul Bergrin was celebrating his birthday along with his girlfriend, Yolanda Jauregui, his law partner, Thomas Moran, and a very special guest. That special guest was a Latin Kings gang member who had flown in from Chicago specifically to meet with Bergrin about their very important business.

That very important business related to a client of Paul Bergrin's named Vicente Esteves. Esteves was a large drug trafficker who had been arrested in Monmouth County, and in order to get Esteves off on crimes he had clearly committed, Paul Bergrin and Esteves enlisted this Latin King from Chicago to kill witnesses who were supposed to testify against Esteves.

Now, at this meeting, ladies and gentlemen, you'll
hear that the Latin King hitman told Paul Bergrin that he had located one of the witnesses, that he was prepared to kill the witness, but that he was awaiting Paul Bergrin's blessing before doing so.

And at that meeting, Paul Bergrin obviously did not want himself, Vicente Esteves, or the hitman to get caught murdering this witness, so he gave specific instructions to the hitman on how to kill the witness. Paul Bergrin told the hitman, quote, "Put on a ski mask and we'll fuckin' rob him 'cause there's got to be a lot of money in the house."

And when the hitman questioned why they needed to take the money, Paul Bergrin told him, "We gotta make it look like a robbery. It cannot under any circumstances look like a hit."

Now, ladies and gentlemen, Paul Bergrin also told the hitman that if he followed Bergrin's instructions, they, meaning law enforcement, will never figure it out.

Now, unbeknownst to Paul Bergrin, the hitman, the Latin King from Chicago, was cooperating with the Government, and he was wearing a recording device during this meeting. So you're going to hear Paul Bergrin speak the words that I have just spoken, because we will play that tape for you at this trial.

Now, let's talk about how we got to the point
where a criminal defense attorney, Paul Bergrin, is instructing a Latin Kings hitman on how to kill a witness.

When he gave those instructions, he was a criminal defense attorney. But Paul Bergrin was not always a criminal defense attorney. Early in his career, he worked as a prosecutor, first with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and later with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. He also spent some time working as a lawyer for the Army, but the bulk of his career he spent as a criminal defense attorney.

But Paul Bergrin was not the ordinary criminal defense attorney, because after he became a criminal defense attorney, he made a decision that he was not simply going to represent people charged with crimes, he was going to commit crimes along with them.

And the evidence will show that Paul Bergrin did not commit those crimes randomly; rather, he did so as part of his Attorney Services Business, what is commonly referred to as a law practice.

Paul Bergrin could have chosen to practice law like lawyers have done for hundreds of years and simply represent people when they were charged with crimes. But that's not what he decided to do. Instead, he decided to become what can best be described as a full-service provider for his clients. But since his clients were criminals and
criminal organizations, that meant that he provided illegal services to those clients.

So Paul Bergrin's business model was based on two simple principles. The first was that he would provide all of the services that a traditional lawyer would provide. Second, he would provide illegal services that other lawyers would not provide, services like witness tampering and supplying kilograms of cocaine.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, as I said, one of the things that Paul Bergrin did was tamper with witnesses. If a client wanted to win a case, Paul Bergrin would do whatever it took to win that case. If he believed he could win the case using only traditional legal means like cross-examining witnesses or filing motions, then that's what he would do. But if he did not believe he could win a case using those traditional means, he would resort to witness tampering, and if a witness had to be killed in order for Paul Bergrin to win the case, he had no qualms about assisting his clients to do so.

Now, you'll hear that this witness tampering was not a one-shot deal but rather a regular way Paul Bergrin practiced law.

The witness tampering was not the only illegal thing that Paul Bergrin did for his clients. He also assisted his clients' illegal businesses. So, for example,
if Paul Bergrin represented a drug dealer, that drug dealer may need kilograms of cocaine to supply to his customers. So Paul Bergrin would supply those kilograms of cocaine to his drug-dealing clients.

And again, just as with the witness tampering, this was not a one-shot deal but rather a regular way Paul Bergrin conducted business.

Now, you'll hear that Paul Bergrin built a very successful business using this model of providing both legal and illegal services to his clients. After all, why would a drug dealer go to a regular lawyer when he could go to Paul Bergrin and obtain not just legal services, but also kilograms of cocaine?

Now, the true beauty of Paul Bergrin's business model was that to the outside world, it appeared as if he was simply running a legitimate law practice. In what other profession could you meet with the biggest drug dealers in New Jersey and not raise an eyebrow?

But, in fact, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Bergrin was not running a legitimate law practice. He was providing illegal services to his clients, and he was running a criminal enterprise.

You'll hear that Paul Bergrin's criminal enterprise was not a one-man show, that he had other people, like any other business, who assisted him in providing these
services. Since he provided both legal and illegal
services, you'll hear that some of the people who worked for Paul Bergrin only dealt with legitimate things, and they were completely legitimate. But for the illegitimate services, Paul Bergrin assembled a special team of workers, most of whom had criminal records, and all of whom were trusted criminal associates. And so the paralegal who assisted Paul Bergrin in delivering services through the law practice also assisted Paul Bergrin in trafficking in drugs or running a prostitution business. The lawyer who helped Paul Bergrin in court also helped Paul Bergrin tamper with witnesses. And we're going to talk about some of these special workers.

The first one you're going to hear about is his girlfriend, Yolanda Jauregui. She was also his business partner, and she assisted him with witness tampering and drug trafficking.

You're also going to learn about Alejandro Castro. He was a client of Paul Bergrin's law practice. He also assisted Paul Bergrin with drug trafficking.

You're going to learn about Thomas Moran. He was a lawyer who worked for Paul Bergrin's law practice, and he assisted Paul Bergrin with witness tampering.

You're going to hear about Ramon Jiminez. He was a client of Paul Bergrin's law practice. He was also
employed by Paul Bergrin's law practice, and he assisted Paul Bergrin with drug trafficking.

You're going to hear about Abdul Williams. Abdul Williams was a client of Paul Bergrin's law practice. He was also employed by Paul Bergrin's law practice, and he assisted Paul Bergrin with drug trafficking and witness tampering.

You're also going to hear about James Cortapassi. James Cortapassi was a client of Paul Bergrin's law practice. He was also employed by Paul Bergrin's law practice, and he assisted Paul Bergrin to operate a prostitution business.

You're also going to hear about Norberto Velez. He was a client of Paul Bergrin's law practice. He also worked for Paul Bergrin's law practice, and he assisted Paul Bergrin with witness tampering and drug trafficking.

Now, you're going to hear that in addition to using these special employees, Paul Bergrin also used corporations to assist in his criminal enterprise. Two of the main corporations he used were the ones that he practiced law through, first, Pope Bergrin \& Verdesco, and then when that dissolved, he started another corporation through which he practiced law called Law Office of Paul Bergrin.

You're also going to hear about another
corporation that he used, named Isabella's International Restaurant. That was a restaurant that he owned with his girlfriend and partner in crime Yolanda Jauregui, and you're going to hear that in addition to doing restaurant business, that was also a front for storing and distributing kilograms of cocaine for Paul Bergrin's enterprise. And not only a few kilograms of cocaine, ladies and gentlemen - many, many, many kilograms of cocaine. In fact, you're going to hear how Drug Enforcement agents on May 21st, 2009 seized 54 kilograms of cocaine that were stored inside Paul Bergrin's restaurant.

Now that we've briefly discussed what Paul Bergrin's business looked like, the business in which he provided both legal and illegal services through his law practice, let's talk a little bit about some of the criminal acts that he participated in through that business. Now, ladies and gentlemen, these acts as charged in the indictment occur between November of 2001 and May of 2009, and we'll discuss them now more or less in chronological order.

The first crime you're going to hear about Mr. Bergrin participating in is the witness tampering for Norberto Velez. That relates to Mr. Bergrin's representation of a client named Norberto Velez. On November 19th, 2001, Norberto Velez viciously
stabbed his wife, Mary Lou Bruno, more than a dozen times with a sharp knife. You'll hear that at the time, Mary Lou and Norberto were going through a divorce and they were living separately. Norberto wanted to reconcile, but Mary Lou did not. And so on the day of the stabbing, Norberto Velez took a sharp knife from his kitchen and stalked Mary Lou as she was dropping her nine-year-old daughter car Carolyn off at school, and when Carolyn got out of the car, Norberto Velez got into Mary Lou's car. He asked her to go out for coffee and discuss reconciliation, and when she refused, he pulled out that knife and stabbed her over and over and over and over again.

Norberto Velez was arrested and charged in Essex County with attempted murder, assault, and Paul Bergrin represented Norberto Velez on those charges.

Paul Bergrin's defense of Norberto Velez relied on him proving that Mary Lou Bruno, not Norberto Velez, brought that knife to the stabbing, that Mary Lou Bruno, not Norberto Velez, was the aggressor during the stack, and that Mary Lou Bruno was a violent person who beat her children.

The problem for Paul Bergrin was that each of those claims was completely false, and Paul Bergrin knew that because after he interviewed their nine-year-old daughter Carolyn, she told him that those claims were false. So after that interview, ladies and gentlemen, Paul Bergrin
understood that if Carolyn Velez told the truth at Norberto's trial, Norberto Velez would be convicted, and Paul Bergrin would lose the case.

So what did he do? Did he act like a legitimate lawyer and follow the rules?

No.
Instead, he rigged the system, and rigging the system meant getting nine-year-old Carolyn to lie on the witness stand.

So let's talk about what happened.
Well, the first thing you're going to hear is that Paul Bergrin was not alone in getting nine-year-old Carolyn to lie. He had the assistance of Norberto Velez and also of Paul Bergrin's girlfriend, Yolanda Jauregui.

The other thing you're going to learn is that getting nine-year-old Carolyn to lie was not as simple as asking her to do so. She was nine years old. Her parents were going through a divorce, and she was living with that drama. Daddy had just stabbed Mommy almost to death, and now Bergrin, Velez, and Jauregui were asking her to lie and say terrible things about her mother, things that were not true.

You can imagine she was a little reluctant to go along with their plan.

So what did they do?

Well, over the course of many months, they engaged in manipulation designed to brainwash Carolyn into telling their lie. They coerced Carolyn, they bribed Carolyn, they isolated Carolyn, and they repeated the lie they wanted her to tell over and over again.

Now, these coercion sessions, you'll hear, at least initially played upon Carolyn's feelings for her father. Paul Bergrin told her this is not the kind of case you can tell the truth, and that if she didn't want her daddy to be taken away from her, she had to lie. Norberto Velez even threatened to commit suicide if Carolyn did not lie.

And, of course, during those coercion sessions, they repeated the lies that they wanted her to tell over and over again.

To give you an idea of what some of these sessions were like, ladies and gentlemen, during one session, Bergrin, Velez, and Jauregui were each pressuring Carolyn to tell the lie that they wanted her to tell. She couldn't take it any more at one point. She broke down in tears and ran and hid in her room. Jauregui followed her in and consoled her, rubbing her back. She told Carolyn that they needed her to help her father out, and that all she had to do was say what Paul Bergrin wanted her to say and everything would be okay.

After that, she went back out and rehearsed the lies that they wanted her to tell.

Now, interspersed with these coercion sessions were also bribery sessions in which Paul Bergrin and Jauregui took Carolyn on trips to New York or to the New Jersey shore and bought her gifts, and of course, during these bribery sessions, they repeated the lies that they wanted her to tell over and over again.

As I said, they also isolated Carolyn. They told Carolyn that she was not allowed to discuss with anybody outside of their little circle what was going on during these sessions.

Now, even at nine, Carolyn understood what they wanted her to do was wrong, but there's only so much a nine-year-old could do in the face of the attempts of the adults to manipulate her, and, of course, since she had nowhere to turn except to the very people who were manipulating her for help, when she did so, they simply reinforced that telling the lie was the right thing to do.

Now, all seemed to be going well for this group until, unbeknownst to them, the prosecutor called Carolyn down to his office for an interview. You'll hear that when Carolyn went down, she was not with Paul Bergrin, she was not with Yolanda Jauregui, she was not with Velez.

Now, the prosecutor, of course, had no idea about
the brainwashing scheme that they were engaging in. And he took a statement from Carolyn Velez. And since Bergrin, Jauregui and Velez were not there, Carolyn felt safe, and so instead of telling the lie that she had rehearsed with them, she told the prosecutor the truth.

Now, unfortunately, she did not reveal to the prosecutor the brainwashing scheme that they were engaging in, and so the prosecutor was completely unaware that what he was about to do next was going to cause serious problems for Carolyn. You see, he had made a recording of her statement, and a couple of days after he took the statement from Carolyn, he turned a copy of that statement over to Paul Bergrin, and when Bergrin and Velez learned that Carolyn had told the truth to the prosecutor, they were furious, so much so that all pretense of subtlety evaporated. Norberto Velez picked Carolyn up from school that day and unleashed a tirade upon her, yelling at her for telling the truth to the prosecutor, and to drive his point home, he choked her as he told her she'd better not do that again.

But you're going to hear that Norberto was not the only one to unleash his fury upon Carolyn that day. During his tirade, he got Paul Bergrin on the phone, and he put Paul Bergrin on the phone with Carolyn, and when Bergrin got on the phone with Carolyn, he, too, yelled at Carolyn for
telling the truth to the prosecutor and told her in no uncertain terms she had better not do it again.

Now, after that, Carolyn understood the consequences of telling the truth, and she fell back in line, and she continued to rehearse the lies in preparation for Norberto Velez's trial, and when she took the stand at Norberto Velez's trial, she told the lie exactly as coached. And as a result, Norberto Velez was acquitted on all counts.

Now, Carolyn felt terrible about what she had done after the trial, and she confided in her mother about what had happened, the lies and the manipulation, and later she went down to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and provided them with a statement, a video recorded statement.

Now, you're going to hear that Carolyn is no longer nine years old. She's now 19 years old. She's going to take this witness stand and tell you all about the lies and manipulation that occurred between November of 2001 and 2003. You will learn the truth that the Essex County jury never heard when they acquitted Norberto Velez of viciously stabbing his wife.

Now, let's talk about the next crime that Mr. Bergrin was involved in. That is the drug trafficking operation.

You're going to hear that many of the crimes

Mr. Bergrin was involved in were related to drug trafficking, and that this drug trafficking operation was connected to his law practice, as all the crimes were.

In order to understand a little bit about Paul Bergrin's role in the drug trafficking, you're going to learn a little bit about the background of drug trafficking in the United States, how they're imported in large quantities into the United States, how wholesale suppliers received those drugs and distribute them to large-scale retail distributors, how those large-scale retail distributors distribute them to lower level and lower level and lower level and so on down until ultimately, the drug user gets the drugs.

You'll hear that Paul Bergrin operated at the top of the food chain, hooking up large-scale retail distributors he met through his law practice with a wholesale supplier he knew.

Now, you're going to hear that through his law practice, Paul Bergrin represented many large-scale retail drug dealers. He represented them not only when they were arrested with crimes, but also their workers when their workers were arrested for crimes, and through that, he gained an intimate knowledge of their drug business and developed an intimate relationship with these drug dealers. Paul Bergrin also knew a wholesale supplier,
fellow enterprise member Alejandro Castro. And so the idea for the drug trafficking operation was quite simple:

Bergrin would hook wholesale supplier Alejandro Castro up with his retail distributors that he met through his law practice. The business was off and running.

You're going to hear that it was not simply Bergrin and Castro that was involved in this business, however. Bergrin also got other members of the enterprise involved. His girlfriend, Yolanda Jauregui, was involved. Client and employee of his law practice Ramon Jimenez was involved. Client and employee of his law practice Abdul Williams was involved, as well as client and worker Norberto Velez.

Now, you're going to hear that over the course of the time charged in the indictment, this operation distributed hundreds of kilograms of cocaine, and we're going to discuss in a little more detail later some of those distributions, but now I want to turn to the next crime we're going to discuss, and that is the Kemo murder.

In order to understand the whos, the whats and the whys of the Kemo murder, you're going to learn a little bit of background. You're going to hear that one of the persons that Paul Bergrin's enterprise serviced was a man named Hakeem Curry. Hakeem Curry was a large-scale retail distributor of drugs who operated primarily in Essex County,

New Jersey. Curry had a very large organization with many underlings who sold drugs for him. And you're going to hear that one of the things that Paul Bergrin did for Hakeem Curry and his organization was, he provided what is called house counsel legal services, and that simply means that Paul Bergrin did not just represent Hakeem Curry when Curry was arrested with crimes, but he represented Curry's drug organization as a whole. So that meant that he represented underlings of Curry when they were arrested selling Curry's drugs, and the primary reason you will hear that he represented those underlings was to make sure that they did not cooperate with the Government and give up their boss, Hakeem Curry.

Now, in addition to house counsel services, you're going to hear that Paul Bergrin provided something else for Hakeem Curry. Hakeem Curry was a large-scale retail distributor of drugs. He needed cocaine to supply to his customers, and so Paul Bergrin hooked Hakeem Curry up with a wholesale supplier so that the wholesale supplier could supply Curry with drugs that Curry would then sell to his customers.

Now, you're going to hear that between 2002 and early 2003, Hakeem Curry was distributing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine that he received from Paul Bergrin's supplier.

Now, as I said, Hakeem Curry had a large operation, and he had many underlings, and one of the underlings you're going to hear about is a man named William Baskerville.

Hakeem Curry supplied William Baskerville with drugs, included cocaine that he had received from Paul Bergrin's supplier.

Now, what does this have to do with the Kemo murder?

Well, ladies and gentlemen, you're going to hear that in early 2003, the F.B.I. began to investigate William Baskerville's drug trafficking, and that although he was the target initially, they hoped to go up the chain and get to his bosses and suppliers, even though at the time they did not know who that was.

You'll hear that the primary method the F.B.I. used to investigate William Baskerville was called a confidential informant, and that was a man named Kemo Deshawn McCray. Kemo did two things for the F.B.I. First, he provided information about William Baskerville to the F.B.I. The second thing he did was, he made what are called controlled purchases of cocaine from William Baskerville. That simply means that Kemo bought cocaine from William Baskerville under the supervision of the F.B.I. The F.B.I. outfitted him with a recording device to record what would
happen during the transactions. If they could do so safely, they would stay in the area and try to watch the transaction as it occurred, and, of course, once the transaction was done, Kemo would return to the F.B.I. agents, give them the drugs he had purchased from Baskerville, and also give them the recording device.

You'll hear that between March of 2003 and October of 2003, Kemo purchased drugs from William Baskerville on six separate occasions.

On November 25th, 2003, William Baskerville was arrested and brought to Federal Court, and when he arrived in Federal Court, his lawyer, Paul Bergrin, appeared in Federal Court as well, and both Bergrin and Baskerville learned on that day that Baskerville was charged with a serious Federal drug crime, one for which he faced 40 years' imprisonment, one for which he was not going to be getting out on bail.

Now, you'll hear that William Baskerville's arrest on serious drug charges was obviously a problem for Will Baskerville, but it was also a problem for Hakeem Curry and other persons associated with Curry's drug business, and that included Mr. Paul Bergrin as well, since he had hooked up Curry with a supplier for kilograms of cocaine.

Since Baskerville was facing 40 years in jail, the incentive for him to cooperate was enormous, and

Paul Bergrin understood exactly what William Baskerville's cooperation would have meant, not just to Hakeem Curry, but also to Paul Bergrin himself.

As a former Federal prosecutor, Paul Bergrin understood exactly how the Federal Government built its cases, how they arrest underlings in a drug operation, how they get them to flip and cooperate against their bosses, and how the Federal Government does not stop until they get to the top of the food chain.

And that food chain obviously involved Paul Bergrin.

Now, Bergrin also no doubt understood that if William Baskerville won his case, the incentive for him to cooperate goes away, and therefore, he had no danger of exposing Bergrin's own drug trafficking activity.

Bergrin also understood that if the truth were told at William Baskerville's trial that William Baskerville would be convicted.

So faced with that situation, what did Paul Bergrin do? Did he act like a legitimate lawyer and follow the rules?

No. That's not what he did.
He rigged the system. And rigging the system this time meant killing the cooperator against William Baskerville, killing Kemo.

So let's talk about what happened.
Well, when they appeared in court on the 25 th, Bergrin, Curry, and Baskerville had a problem. They realized that somebody was cooperating against Will Baskerville, but they did not know who that was. Most of the information they had about the case at that time was what was contained in a criminal complaint. That's simply a two-page document that William Baskerville received when he appeared in court. That document talked about the charge against William Baskerville. It also provided a brief summary of some of the evidence against William Baskerville.

And you'll see that the Government took pains not to conceal the identity of Kemo. They didn't mention Kemo Deshawn McCray by name, but referred to him as confidential witness or $C W$. Unfortunately despite the Government's attempts women was better skill was able to determine that Kemo was the cooperator against him based on other information contained in the complaint. So on the day he appeared in court, William Baskerville determined Kemo was the cooperator.

But that didn't do him much good because William Baskerville was in jail and he himself could not do anything to prevent Kemo from testifying against him. He had to communicate that information to his gang members on the outside, and that's where Mr. Bergrin came in.

In court that day, after court that day,

Paul Bergrin met with William Baskerville in a private attorney-client visit room, and in that visit, William Baskerville told Paul Bergrin that the cooperator against him was Kemo. As soon as Paul Bergrin left that meeting with William Baskerville, he called Hakeem Curry, drug boss, on the phone, and told the drug boss Hakeem Curry that the cooperator against William Baskerville was Kemo.

Now, why was that important, ladies and gentlemen? Well, for at least two reasons.

The first is, by identifying Kemo to Hakeem Curry as the cooperator, he put Kemo in the gun sights, and he identified Kemo to the very person, Hakeem Curry, who would be responsible for making sure Kemo was killed.

The second thing, the second reason this is important is because Paul Bergrin provided a secret conduit of information between William Baskerville in jail and Hakeem Curry out of jail. And let me explain a little bit more about what $I$ mean about that.

William Baskerville's in jail, and when you are in jail, all of your meetings with outside persons are monitored by law enforcement and are subject to being recorded. So if one of the gang members came in and talked to William Baskerville, they couldn't exactly freely discuss Kemo or what they wanted to do to Kemo.

That's where Paul Bergrin's status as a lawyer was so invaluable to this plot, ladies and gentlemen, because you'll hear that as a lawyer, there's a special exception. Lawyers can meet with their clients in private attorney-client visit rooms, and those conversations cannot be monitored by law enforcement, and they cannot be recorded to preserve the attorney-client privilege.

And so William Baskerville was free to pass on information to Paul Bergrin in that private setting knowing that it would not be disclosed to law enforcement.

Paul Bergrin could then take that information and secretly provide it to Hakeem Curry on the outside.

Now, you'll hear that passing on the name of Kemo was not the only thing that Paul Bergrin did to ensure that Kemo was murdered. Several days after this conversation, he met Hakeem Curry and other members of Curry's drug gang outside of relatives of William Baskerville's house. At that meeting was Paul Bergrin, Hakeem Curry, fellow gang members Jamal Baskerville, Rakim Baskerville, Jamal McNeil, and Anthony Young.

Now, by the time of that meeting, William Baskerville's situation had grown even more dire. He had been indicted for a charge for which he now faced life in prison, and Paul Bergrin's attempts to get him out on bail had failed.

And so Paul Bergrin told Curry and the other members of his gang at that meeting that William Baskerville was in serious trouble in his Federal case. He told them that if they did not kill Kemo that William Baskerville would spend the rest of his life in jail. But he also told them if they did kill Kemo, Paul Bergrin would win the case and William Baskerville would go free.

And before he left that meeting, he told them, Remember what I said, no Kemo, no case.

Now, why was this important?
Well, ladies and gentlemen, as I said, Paul Bergrin was house counsel for Curry's organization. His specialty was winning criminal cases. So when he told them that the only way for him to win William Baskerville's case was to kill Kemo, they didn't ask questions. They just did it.

And so as surely as if he had pulled the trigger himself, Paul Bergrin set in motion a chain of events he knew would lead to the murder of Kemo Deshawn McCray.

So what happened next?
Well, ladies and gentlemen, after those explicit instructions, Curry's gang went out and looked for Kemo to kill him to prevent him from testifying against William Baskerville.

You're going to hear that they searched for a few
months unsuccessfully, but that on March 2nd, 2004, one of the gang members spotted Kemo as he was renovating a house with his stepfather, Johnnie Davis, on South 18th Street right here in Newark. That gang member reported back to his fellow gang members, and they all gathered to finalize their plans to kill Kemo.

It had previously been decided that Anthony Young was going to be the shooter. At that meeting, they decided Rakim Baskerville was going to drive the getaway car, that Jamal McNeil and Hakeem Curry were going to act as lookouts to make sure that Kemo did not escape.

They drove to the vicinity of South 18th Street in two different cars and waited for their chance to strike. That chance came a little before two o'clock that day, when Kemo and Johnnie Davis left the house they were renovating and headed to a store a couple of blocks away. You'll hear that Anthony Young and Rakim Baskerville realized that Kemo and Johnnie Davis would likely retrace their steps back to the house at South 18th Street, and so they went to a spot to intercept them. Anthony Young got out of the car and ducked into a doorway of a building near South 19th Street and South Orange Avenue. He had his gun in his pocket, hand on his gun. He was in the doorway, and he waited for Kemo to come.

Now, Johnnie Davis and Kemo left the store and
began to walk back to the house. As they did so, they were walking side by side, completely oblivious that they were walking towards the man that was about to kill Kemo.

As they approached, Anthony Young left the doorway. He began to walk towards Kemo and Johnnie Davis. And when he passed by Johnny -- by Kemo, he grabbed Kemo, pulled out his gun, put it to the back of Kemo's head, and fired shots. Kemo collapsed to the ground.

Johnnie Davis, who had heard the shots erupt next to him, turned around to see what happened. He saw in the distance the shooter get into the getaway car and the getaway car drive away. And when he looked to the spot where seconds earlier he and Kemo had been peacefully walking, he saw a sight no father should have to see. On the ground, lying -- lying, dying, was Kemo.

As soon as it had begun, it was over. From the time it took to shoot four rounds from an automatic pistol, Kemo went from living to dead. And all Johnnie Davis could do was stand there watching as his son lay dying in a pool of his own blood.

And so on March 2nd, 2004, Kemo Deshawn McCray was gunned down in the middle of the street in broad daylight in front of his father so this man sitting here could win a criminal case.

Let's talk about the next crime Mr. Bergrin was
involved in. That is the solicitation to murder a witness against Richard Pozo.

Now, you're going to hear that while he was plotting to kill Kemo with William Baskerville and Hakeem Curry, he began to represent another drug dealer named Richard Pozo. Richard Pozo was not connected to Curry. Richard Pozo was a large-scale wholesale supplier of kilograms of cocaine. Pozo's operation was that he would get drugs in Texas and transport them up to New Jersey for distribution.

Pozo had a partner in the drug business named Pedro Ramos.

Now, all was going well for Pozo and Pedro Ramos when in February of 2004, Federal authorities in Texas arrested Pedro Ramos, and Pedro Ramos decided to cooperate against Richard Pozo.

Of course, Pozo was arrested shortly thereafter on those Federal charges in Texas.

Now, although the charges against Pozo were out of Texas, Pozo was a New Jersey guy, so he was initially arrested in New Jersey.

Pozo retained Paul Bergrin to represent him on that case.

But you're going to hear that that interaction was not the first time Pozo and Bergrin had done business.

Months earlier, Bergrin solicited Pozo as a client, and although Pozo had no outstanding charges at the time, he hired Paul Bergrin to be house counsel for his drug organization.

You're going to hear that through that representation as house counsel, Paul Bergrin learned a number of details about Pozo's drug operation, and he also learned about his partner, Pedro Ramos. You're going to hear that Paul Bergrin offered to launder money for Richard Pozo and that on one occasion, he asked Pozo if Pozo would supply another one of Paul Bergrin's clients with kilograms of cocaine.

So by the time he began to represent Richard Pozo on those Texas charges, he knew full well that Richard Pozo was a big-time drug dealer and no doubt understood he was guilty of the crime he was charged with.

He also understood that if the truth were told at Pozo's trial, Pozo would be convicted.

So what did Paul Bergrin do? Did he decide to act like a legitimate lawyer and follow the rules?

No. Once again, he decided to rig the system. And rigging the system at this time meant advising Richard Pozo to kill Pedro Ramos to prevent him from cooperating. So what happened?

Paul Bergrin met with Richard Pozo in a private
attorney-client visit room in jail because Pozo was in jail at the time, and in that private attorney-client visit, he told Richard Pozo that Pedro Ramos was cooperating.

He asked Richard Pozo if Pozo knew where Pedro Ramos lived, and when Pozo asked him why he wanted that information, Bergrin said, because if we can get to him and take him out, your headache will go away.

Now, Pozo understood exactly what Bergrin was talking about, and he told Bergrin he was not going to be involved in murdering anyone.

Now, there were no further discussions about murdering Pedro Ramos after that. But you will hear that sometime after that conversation, Pozo fired Bergrin and hired a new lawyer.

And because Richard Pozo rejected Paul Bergrin's advice, Pedro Ramos, unlike Kemo Deshawn McCray, is alive today.

Let's talk about the next crime Mr . Bergrin was involved in. That is the New York prostitution business.

This relates to Mr . Bergrin's representation of a man named Jason Itzler. Jason Itzler ran a prostitution business in New York City. Itzler's problem was that he was on parole in New Jersey. He lived in New Jersey, and because he was on parole, he had restrictions that would not allow him to leave his house in New Jersey and travel to

New York during the hours he needed to run his prostitution business. So he went to see Mr. Bergrin for help.

Now, Paul Bergrin understood that in order to get parole to lift the restrictions, he had to give Parole a good reason. He obviously also understood that he could not tell Parole the truth because they're not going to let Jason Itzler travel to New York to run a prostitution business. That would be a parole violation.

So what happened? What did Mr. Bergrin do when faced with this situation? Did he act like a legitimate lawyer and follow the rules?

No. Once again, he rigged the system, and rigging the system this time meant lying to New Jersey Parole so that they would lift the restrictions on Jason Itzler and he could travel to New York to run his prostitution business.

So what happened?
Well, you'll hear that Paul Bergrin knew full well that Jason Itzler was running a brothel in New York. In fact, he frequented that brothel on multiple occasions.

You're also going to hear that Bergrin understood that if he could get -- convince New Jersey Parole that Itzler was going to leave his house to work a legitimate job that they would lift the restrictions. So Paul Bergrin lied to New Jersey Parole and told them Itzler was working as a paralegal for his law practice when, in fact, he knew full
well Itzler was traveling to New York to operate his brothel.

Now, you're going to hear that New Jersey Parole did lift the restrictions and did allow Itzler to travel based on the lie Bergrin had told them, but they continued to demand proof, and so Bergrin had to lie over and over again to New Jersey Parole.

One of the things that they required was that Itzler show proof that he was being paid by Paul Bergrin. And so Bergrin cut a check from his corporate account of one of his corporations called Premium Realty Investment to Itzler.

Now, that check was just for show. You're going to hear that Itzler never cashed that check, he never deposited that check, he never otherwise negotiated that check. But it did fool New Jersey Parole, and they continued to allow Itzler to travel to New York to operate the prostitution business.

Now, let's be clear: Itzler never did a single lick of paralegal work for Paul Bergrin.

What else did Paul Bergrin do?
Well, he enlisted James Cortapassi, who at the time was working as a paralegal for Paul Bergrin's law practice, to assist in this scheme. Cortapassi helped Bergrin and Itzler fool New Jersey Parole.

Now, unbeknownst to Bergrin, Itzler, and Cortapassi, New York City police began to investigate Itzler's brothel, and they eventually gathered enough information, they arrested Itzler, and they charged him in New York State Court, and Itzler was detained in jail pending the charges on that case.

And because Itzler was in jail, he could no longer run the brothel. So Paul Bergrin, every ready to help a client out, took over, and while Itzler was in jail, he managed the brothel himself, and he also got James Cortapassi to help him do that.

Now, you're also going to hear that unbeknownst to Paul Bergrin and Cortapassi, the N.Y.P.D. continued to investigate that brothel even after Itzler was in jail. And so in January of 2007, Paul Bergrin and James Cortapassi were arrested by N.Y.P.D. and charged in State Court in New York. You're going to hear that Paul Bergrin pled guilty to the misdemeanor charge of conspiracy to promote prostitution in connection with those charges.

So let's talk about the next crime, and this is actually going to be a series of crimes relating to the drug trafficking operation.

You're going to hear that one of the clients that Paul Bergrin distributed drugs to was a man named Rondre Kelly. Rondre Kelly was a client of Paul Bergrin's law
practice, and through his legal representation of Kelly, he learned that Kelly was a large retail distributor of kilograms of cocaine.

And so in early 2005, Bergrin approached Kelly and offered to supply him with kilograms of cocaine. And Kelly agreed. So after that, Kelly began to receive kilograms of cocaine directly from Paul Bergrin.

The arrangement they had was that they would prearrange a date that Kelly was going to pick up the kilograms of cocaine and an amount that Kelly was supposed to pick up. Kelly would then drive to the vicinity of Paul Bergrin's law office, then located at 572 Market Street, he would call Bergrin on the phone, and Bergrin would send down employee of his law practice Ramon Jimenez, who would give Rondre Kelly bags containing kilograms of cocaine.

Now, you're going to hear that this part of the operation, this scenario, didn't last too long, because there were conflicts in the schedule between Paul Bergrin and Rondre Kelly, and this was not an efficient way for them to conduct business. And so after those problems, Paul Bergrin introduced Rondre Kelly to two other members of the enterprise, girlfriend Yolanda Jauregui, and Alejandro Castro, and after that, Castro and Jauregui distributed the kilograms of cocaine to Rondre Kelly.

Now, you're going to hear that although Bergrin stepped back from the direct distribution, he and Kelly continued to maintain contact. And you're going to hear that Kelly was a very good customer for the drug trafficking operation, that between early 2005 and early 2007, he received hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Bergrin, Jimenez, Jauregui, and Castro.

Rondre Kelly was not the only client that Paul Bergrin distributed to. You're also going to hear about another client named Eugene Braswell.

Eugene Braswell was a client of Paul Bergrin's law practice. Eugene Braswell was a New Jersey state corrections officer, and Eugene Braswell was a drug dealer. You'll hear that Braswell had discussed his drug business with Bergrin and that on one occasion, he told Bergrin that his supplier had cut him off and that he could no longer get cocaine from his supplier. So Bergrin, again ever ready to help out a client, told Braswell he would hook him up with a new supplier.

And so he brought Braswell down to his office and introduced him to Ramon Jimenez, the same Ramon Jimenez who was an employee of Bergrin's law practice, the same Ramon Jimenez who had earlier helped Bergrin distribute to Rondre Kelly. And after this introduction, Ramon Jimenez did supply Braswell with kilograms of cocaine on two occasions.

You're going to hear that sometime after the second occasion, Ramon Jiminez was arrested on an unrelated charge having nothing to do with his distributions to Braswell, but Jimenez was detained in jail, so Braswell stopped dealing with him. And although Braswell stopped dealing with Ramon Jimenez, you'll hear that he continued to maintain contact with Paul Bergrin, and we'll get to that a little later. At the same time that this is going on, ladies and gentlemen, Bergrin also hooked up another client of his named Abdul Williams with Ramon Jimenez so that Jimenez could supply Williams with cocaine, and you're going to hear that just like Braswell, Jimenez did supply Williams with cocaine on two occasions.

You're going to hear that after the second occasion, Williams got arrested on an unrelated charge having nothing to do with his transactions with Jimenez, but Williams was in jail, and therefore, he stopped getting drugs.

Around this same time, you're going to hear Bergrin also began to deal with another drug dealer named Shelton Leverett. Now, Shelton Leverett had been arrested by the F.B.I. for trafficking crack cocaine. Leverett decided to cooperate with the F.B.I., and one of the things that he did was, he agreed to wear a secret recording device and meet with Paul Bergrin. You're going to hear that in
the early meetings with Paul Bergrin, they discussed hiring Bergrin to represent Shelton Leverett on the Federal drug charges, but they discussed other things as well, including, on one occasion, Leverett asked Paul Bergrin to hook him up with a supplier for cocaine, a connect, in common drug parlance. And Bergrin agreed to do that. And you're going to hear that over the course of several recorded conversations, Bergrin not only agreed to introduce them, but, in fact, did, to a supplier none other than Abdul Williams.

Now, at this point, Abdul Williams was out of jail and he was in what's called a halfway house. You'll hear that Leverett met with Abdul Williams and asked Williams to supply him with kilograms of cocaine. At that time, Williams told Leverett that he was in a halfway house and he was laying low and temporarily not -- not supplying drugs any more. And so Williams never did supply Leverett with any kilograms of cocaine, but they did have those discussions, and you will hear those because they're recorded.

Even though Williams didn't supply any cocaine to Leverett at that time, he did reunite with Paul Bergrin. Williams, as I said, was in a halfway house, and in order to get out during the day, he needed to show he had legitimate employment, so Paul Bergrin hired Abdul Williams to work at
his law practice.
You'll hear that Williams did very little legitimate work for Paul Bergrin, but what he did do for Bergrin was assist Bergrin in distributing kilograms of cocaine.

Bergrin approached Williams and asked Williams to become a short-range delivery service driver for Bergrin, picking up kilograms of cocaine from either Bergrin, Jauregui, or Castro, usually at a stash house. Williams would then deliver those kilograms of cocaine to one of Paul Bergrin's customers, give them the drugs, get the money in exchange, and bring the money back to either Jauregui, Castro, or Bergrin. Williams was paid a fee for each time he did this delivery service.

You're going to hear that after that, Williams delivered drugs on behalf of Bergrin on multiple occasions.

Now, all was going well for Williams and the delivery service when, on June 8th, 2007, Williams got arrested for illegally possessing a handgun in Newark.

And that brings us to the next crime, the witness tampering for Abdul Williams.

You're going to hear that Williams was on a street in Newark along with a group of other people. He had a gun in his pocket, and when police approached, he did not want to get caught with that gun in his pocket, so he stealthily
removed the gun from his pocket, dropped it on the ground, and walked away. You'll hear that a Newark police officer went to the spot where Williams had been standing, recovered the gun, and placed Williams under arrest.

Now, Williams made bail on that gun charge, and he went down and spoke to Bergrin, and he told Bergrin that he, in fact, was in possession of that gun that the police recovered on June 8th, 2007. You'll hear that Williams was also on parole at the time, and that gun arrest generated a parole violation. So even though he made bail on the charge itself, the gun charge, he was detained in jail on the parole violation a couple weeks later.

And since he was detained in jail, he could no longer do the delivery service for Paul Bergrin.

Now, Bergrin, because he had discussed with Williams the case, understood that Williams was guilty as charged, and he represented Williams on both the gun charge and the patrol violation. Bergrin no doubt understood that if the truth were told, Williams would be convicted of both the parole violation and the gun charge.

So faced with that situation, what did Paul
Bergrin did? Did he act like a legitimate lawyer?
No, he didn't. He rigged the system. And rigging the system this time meant helping Abdul Williams get a friend of his, named Jamal Mohammad, to falsely confess to
possessing the gun that Abdul Williams had possessed.
So what happened?
Well, Williams agreed to pay Mohammad in exchange for Mohammad falsely confessing possessing the gun. After that, Bergrin got an investigator to take a written statement memorializing Mohammad's false confession to the gun. After that, Mohammad went to Newark police, a different group of Newark police officers, not the ones who had arrested Williams, and he falsely confessed to them as well, and that confession generated a police report.

After that, Paul Bergrin took the written statement from the investigator and the police report and he presented those at Abdul Williams's parole violation hearing knowing full well they were false, and he argued that since Jamal Mohammad had confessed to possessing the gun that Abdul Williams was innocent. The parole violation officer bought the lie, and Williams was acquitted on those charges. Since he was acquitted, he was released from jail, and he then went back to helping Paul Bergrin distribute kilograms of cocaine.

You're going to hear that between the time he started in late 2006 until the time he stopped in about May of 2009, Williams distributed hundreds of kilograms of cocaine for Paul Bergrin, Yolanda Jauregui, and Alejandro Castro.

Now let's talk about the next crime Mr. Bergrin was involved in, the witness tampering for Edward Peoples. You'll hear that while this drug trafficking was going on, Paul Bergrin continued to run his law practice, and in connection with that, he represented a man named Edward Peoples. Edward Peoples was arrested and charged in Essex County with murdering a man named Rahman Jenkins. Now, the state had strong evidence against Edward Peoples. They had a number of witnesses implicating him in the murder. And Paul Bergrin knew that Edward Peoples was guilty of the crime. He also understood that if the truth were told at Peoples's trial, Peoples would be convicted. So what did Paul Bergrin do? Did he act like a legitimate lawyer?

Of course he didn't. He rigged the system one more time, and this time, rigging the system meant getting witnesses to lie and say that they saw somebody else, not Edward Peoples, kill Rahman Jenkins.

You'll hear that Peoples was in jail at the time, and so Peoples recruited one of his fellow inmates named Greg Smith to lie, to falsely say that Smith was a witness to the crime, and that he had seen someone other than Peoples kill Rahman Jenkins. You'll hear that Peoples offered to provide Smith with bail money in exchange for the lie.

You'll also hear that, of course, Smith was not a witness to the crime. Indeed, Smith was not even there the day that Peoples killed Rahman Jenkins. You'll hear that Smith also met with Paul Bergrin to go over the lie in preparation for the testimony.

You'll hear that during that meeting, Paul Bergrin met with Smith in a private attorney-client visit room in Essex County Jail, and there, he went over the lies that he wanted Smith to tell, and at that meeting, Smith told Bergrin that he was not a witness to the crime, that he was not even there that day. And Bergrin told him, That's not a problem, just follow the script that Peoples was about to give him.

And what you're going to hear, ladies and gentlemen, is that Peoples did give Greg Smith a script, including handwritten notes and a hand-drawn map, detailing what Smith was supposed to lie about on the stand.

Now, you're going to hear that Smith decided to cooperate with the prosecution, and so he never provided false testimony at that trial.

But Smith was not the only person that they recruited to lie on the stand. Bergrin also recruited a second person named Marvin McCloud to lie, and for that, Bergrin enlisted the assistance of one of his other clients, named Rasheem King. Rasheem King was a drug dealer of
considerable influence in the Baxter Terrace Housing Project in Newark. That housing project is the spot where Edward Peoples killed Rahman Jenkins.

Bergrin called King down to his office and told King he wanted King to find a witness who was going to lie and say that they saw somebody else, not Peoples, kill Rahman Jenkins. King delivered on that promise and he told Bergrin he had a witness. That witness was Marvin McCloud.

After that, Bergrin went down to Baxter Terrace and coached McCloud on the lie he wanted him to tell on the witness stand, and at Edward Peoples's trial, McCloud took the stand and told the lie exactly as he was coached.

Let's talk about the next crime Mr. Bergrin was involved in, the plot to murder witnesses for Vicente Esteves. You're going to hear that after the Peoples trial, Bergrin began to represent a very large drug dealer named Vicente Esteves. Esteves had been arrested in Monmouth County. He was facing serious charges, and he was detained in jail.

You're going to hear that Bergrin met with Esteves a number of times in an attorney-client private meeting room, the same way he'd done with a number of his other clients, and that during those meetings, he learned all about Esteves's drug business. You're going to hear that around that same time, Bergrin also learned things from the
prosecution about the case against Esteves, and based on what he understood and he knew, Bergrin knew that Vicente Esteves was a big drug dealer and was guilty as charged. He also understood that if the truth were told at Esteves's trial, Esteves would be convicted. And so he instructed Esteves that the only way for Esteves to win the case was to make sure no one cooperated against Esteves.

Now, you're going to hear that Paul Bergrin had a special incentive to win this case against Esteves because, as I said, he had many attorney-client-privileged meetings with Esteves, and during those meetings, they discussed Esteves's drug trafficking operation, including how Esteves could obtain cheap-priced kilograms of cocaine directly from a source of supply in Columbia. Paul Bergrin wanted cheap-priced kilograms of cocaine for his operation, and so he asked Esteves if Esteves would introduce him to the Colombian supplier so Bergrin, too, could get cheap-priced kilograms of cocaine, and Esteves agreed to do it.

You'll hear how Bergrin expected to make millions of dollars once he was in business with Esteves. But there was one catch. Esteves told Bergrin he would only do so after he was out of jail. So Paul Bergrin had to win Vicente Esteves's case and get Esteves out of jail in order to make those millions of dollars.

So faced with that situation, what did Paul

Bergrin do? Did he act like a legitimate lawyer and follow the rules?

I think you know the answer to that by now, ladies and gentlemen. Of course he didn't. Once again, he rigged the system. And rigging the system this time meant killing witnesses against Vicente Esteves.

So what happened?
Well, first, Esteves and Bergrin met together and they planned to kill the witnesses, and they identified the witnesses to be killed.

The second thing they did was they enlisted a Latin King gang member from Chicago to kill those witnesses.

And that brings us back to the beginning of the opening statement, because, as you now know, that Latin King was cooperating with the Government, but Paul Bergrin and Esteves did not know it at the time.

And Bergrin engaged in six months' worth of conversation with this hitman, all of which are recorded, in which they talked about killing the witnesses. You're going to hear that Paul Bergrin acted as a secret conduit of information between Esteves in jail and the hitman on the outside. You're going to hear that Bergrin told Esteves that -- Bergrin told the hitman that Esteves wanted witnesses killed. You're going to hear how Bergrin identified the particular witnesses to be killed.

You're also going to hear that Paul Bergrin enlisted fellow enterprise member and law partner Thomas Moran to assist in the plot, and that after that, Moran, too, acted as a secret conduit of information between Esteves in jail and the hitman on the outside, and that at one point, Moran actually snuck a cell phone into Esteves in jail and provided another cell phone to the hitman so they could have a secret conversation about the plot to kill the witnesses.

And, of course, you're also going to hear that the other thing Paul Bergrin did was that he met with the hitman and instructed him on how to kill a witness. This particular witness was a man they knew as Junior, his true name was Danilo Chen-Pui, and that brings us back to the December 8 th meeting.

At that meeting at the restaurant during Paul Bergrin's birthday, the hitman told Bergrin that he had located Junior, one of the witnesses, that Junior was living with his girlfriend in The Bronx, that he was prepared to kill Junior, but he was awaiting Paul Bergrin's blessing.

And Paul Bergrin pulled the hitman aside and in a soft voice told -- had the following conversation.

The hitman asked if killing Junior was going to hell Vicente Esteves win the case, and Bergrin told him it would. Bergrin said, quote, "They will never figure it
out," meaning law enforcement will never figure it out. He told the hitman, quote: "Put on a ski mask and we'll fuckin' rob him because there's got to be a lot of money in the house." And when the hitman asked why they needed to take the money, Paul Bergrin said, quote, "We gotta make it look like a robbery. It cannot under any circumstances look like a hit."

Paul Bergrin told the hitman: "We have to make it look like a home invasion robbery. We have to hit him when his girlfriend is at work. We don't want her around, just want him."

And when the hit man asked why not kill the girlfriend, too, Paul Bergrin said, quote: "She is nothing to the case," meaning she was not a witness against Esteves and that killing her, quote, "doubles the pressure," meaning doubles the pressure on law enforcement to solve the crime.

Bergrin said that if they just killed Junior alone, law enforcement will say, quote, "Fuck him, he's a drug dealer."

Now, the hitman left that meeting on December 8th with clear instructions, not just that he should kill Junior, but on how he should do so without having himself, Bergrin, Esteves, or Moran caught.

Now, you're going to hear that plotting to kill witnesses against Esteves was not the only crime that

Bergrin discussed with the hitman, that he discussed drug trafficking with him as well, that he discussed obtaining how they were going to go into business together selling Esteves's drugs once Esteves got out of jail. And you're going to hear that Bergrin told the hitman that he would hook the hitman up with a different supplier for kilograms of cocaine.

The other thing they talked about related to another client named Eugene Braswell, and that's the same Eugene Braswell that Paul Bergrin had earlier introduced to Ramon Jimenez so Jimenez could supply drugs to Braswell. You're going to hear that this was a few years later, and that Braswell was continuing to sell drugs, and that Braswell at this time had an operation in which he received drugs in Texas, transported them to New Jersey and distributed them in New Jersey, and that part of that plan was that Braswell would then take the money he earned in New Jersey and ship it back to Texas to pay for the next shipment, and that was a continuing cycle.

One of the things that Braswell wanted to do, of course, was to make sure that the money did not get intercepted by law enforcement when it went back to Texas to pay for the drugs, and in order to make sure that it wasn't, he wanted to conceal it in as small a package as possible. So what he did was, he hired what's called a money
changer. A money changer simply takes small bills and turns them into large bills. As you can imagine, a hundred dollars in singles takes up a lot more space than a single one-hundred-dollar bill.

So Braswell employed this money changer, and on one occasion, he gave the money changer approximately half a million dollars. The problem with Braswell is that the money changer never gave him the money back. Braswell believed that the money changer had stolen the money, but, of course, since it was drug money, he couldn't exactly report that theft to the police, so instead, he went to visit Paul Bergrin and told Bergrin about his problem.

And Bergrin told Braswell that he had a Latin King from Chicago that would collect the money from the money changer. Of course, he was referring to the hitman.

And you'll hear that in a separate conversation with the hitman. He enlisted the hitman to collect the money from the money changer.

Around this same time, ladies and gentlemen, you're also going to hear that Paul Bergrin solicited Braswell and said he would supply him with kilograms of cocaine. He called Braswell down to his office and introduced him to Alejandro Castro. And at that meeting, Bergrin told Braswell that Alejandro Castro had high-quality kilograms of cocaine, that Castro had good prices, and that

Castro could provide Braswell with as much cocaine as Braswell wanted, and at Bergrin's behest, Braswell began to sample Castro's product. He met with Braswell at a McDonald's in Newark, and they traveled to Bergrin's restaurant, Isabella's, 710 Summer Avenue, and at an apartment that Castro rented from Bergrin above the restaurant, he showed Braswell a kilogram of cocaine. Braswell sampled it, thought it was good product, but Braswell did not want to deal with Alejandro Castro because of a language barrier: Castro spoke Spanish, Braswell spoke English. So he went back to Bergrin and told Bergrin was interested but said he would only get kilograms of cocaine if Bergrin dealt with him directly, and Bergrin agreed to do so.

You'll hear that after that, Bergrin himself handed kilograms of cocaine to Braswell on four separate occasions. The first two times, he handed them to Braswell at Paul Bergrin's law office, then located at 50 Park Place. The second two times he gave Braswell drugs was at a hotel room in the same building as Bergrin's law office at 50 Park Place.

Now, you're going to hear that Braswell and Bergrin stopped doing business together because Bergrin was arrested on May 20th, 2009 in this case. You're going to hear that a number of other persons involved with Bergrin's
operation were arrested on that day, too. But one of the persons who wasn't arrested was Alejandro Castro, and the reason Castro was not arrested is because Drug Enforcement agents had information he was about to receive a large shipment of cocaine, and, in fact, the following day, May 21st, he did receive a large shipment of cocaine, and he stored that shipment of cocaine, 54 kilograms, inside Paul Bergrin's restaurant, Isabella's Restaurant.

Drug Enforcement agents observed one of Castro's underlings sell a kilogram of cocaine to a client. They arrested that customer, seized the kilogram of cocaine, went back to Isabella's, arrested Castro. They obtained a warrant and searched Isabella's and recovered the additional 53 kilograms of cocaine from inside Paul Bergrin's restaurant.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, that's a summary of what happened in this case, and I'm going to discuss with you now the charges.

You're going to hear that Paul Bergrin was indicted by a grand jury on multiple charges, including conspiring to murder Kemo Deshawn McCray to prevent him from testifying against William Baskerville, drug trafficking conspiracy, operating a prostitution business, tampering with witnesses for Abdul Williams, and conspiring to murder witnesses for Vicente Esteves. The Judge is going to
instruct you on the law on all of those charges, and I'm not going to discuss them further now, but $I$ do want to discuss with you some of the other charges in this case, what are known as the racketeering charges.

The first one we're going to discuss is
Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, or RICO for short.

Now, RICO doesn't focus only on the individual crimes we discussed; rather, it focuses on the criminal organization and the series of crimes that that organization commits.

In this particular case, we're talking about Paul Bergrin's business, the one in which he used his law practice to provide legal and illegal services to clients, and the crimes we've just discussed, the series of crimes.

So we will prove, ladies and gentlemen, that Paul Bergrin, first, was a member of a criminal organization called an enterprise, and, second, that he participated in the operation of that enterprise by committing a series of crimes, and again, those are the crimes that we just discussed.

Now, the Judge is going to instruct you on the term "enterprise," and he's going to instruct you that an enterprise can be a formal organization like a corporation or a union, but it doesn't have to be. The enterprise
charged in this indictment is what is known as an association in fact enterprise, and that simply means a group of people associated together for the common purpose of engaging in a course of conduct. That's a bit of a mouthful, $I$ understand, but it's really fairly simple in practice. It's a group with a purpose. So if you got together with a bunch of your neighbors and formed a book club, the group of individuals associated together would be the members of the book club, and the common purpose and course of conduct would be reading and discussing books. Now, obviously, a book club is not a criminal enterprise, but the concept of an enterprise is just that simple.

So the enterprise in this case, Paul Bergrin's enterprise, the common course of conduct was operating the business, the business we discussed, in which Paul Bergrin used his law practice to provide both legal and illegal services to clients, and the group of individuals associated together would be Paul Bergrin and that special group of workers we talked about before: Yolanda Jauregui, Alejandro Castro, Thomas Moran, Ramon Jimenez, Abdul Williams, James Cortapassi, and Norberto Velez.

Now, you're going to hear that one of the things that Bergrin's enterprise had that the book club analogy didn't is that Bergrin's also used corporations, and again, although that may seem a little foreign at first, it's
really fairly simple in practice. Like many small
businesses, Paul Bergrin did business through corporations, and he practiced law through two: First, Pope Bergrin \& Verdesco, and then when that dissolved, he formed a second corporation, Law Office of Paul Bergrin. And that's really no different than many of the businesses you may patronize. The local auto mechanic doesn't do business as Jim Jones but rather as Jim's Auto Repair, Incorporated. So in that same way, Paul Bergrin practiced law through two corporations. You'll hear that he used other corporations as well. Isabella's Restaurant, we've already discussed how that was a restaurant that he owned with his girlfriend, Yolanda Jauregui, that it was used to store and distribute drugs. The other corporation was Premium Realty Investment, and that was one that he also owned with his girlfriend and partner in crime Yolanda Jauregui, and he used that to launder money for drug client Rondre Kelly and also to cut checks to help fool New Jersey Parole and allow Itzler to operate the brothel.

Now that we've discussed briefly what the Bergrin enterprise looked like, I'm going to tell you about the proof that Bergrin was part of the enterprise.

Now, we're going to prove that Bergrin was part of that enterprise, but we're going to prove that he wasn't simply part: He was actually the leader.

Since the enterprise was based on Paul Bergrin's law practice, his role in the law practice was the same role he had in the enterprise. So just as he was the leader of his law practice and operated and controlled his law practice, he, too, was the leader of the enterprise. He formed and controlled the corporations that were used in the enterprise, he controlled the employees of the enterprise, and he chose what clients his enterprise would service and the types of services they got. So in the same way any small business owner is part of and controls the business he owns, the same way is the way Paul Bergrin controlled the enterprise.

The other thing we're going to prove is that Paul Bergrin participated in the criminal activity of the enterprise. Now, again, we've already been through this, so I'm not going to go through it in detail now, but just to remind you, he participated in the Kemo murder by passing the name of Kemo from William Baskerville to Hakeem Curry and then instructing the drug gang to kill Kemo so that William Baskerville could win his case.

He participated in the drug trafficking operation by obtaining customers to purchase kilograms of cocaine by getting a supplier to supply those customers, by distributing kilograms of cocaine himself, by getting employees like Ramon Jimenez and Abdul Williams to assist in
supplying kilograms of cocaine, and by using the places he controlled through his corporations to store and distribute drugs.

How he operated -- how he was involved in the New York prostitution business: By lying to New Jersey Parole so they would lift the restrictions, by cutting the checks to fool New Jersey Parole, by enlisting James Cortapassi to assist him, and also by operating the prostitution business while Itzler was in jail.

How he participated in the witness tampering for Abdul Williams: By helping Williams secure false statements from Jamal Mohammad and then presenting those statements to the Parole Violation Board so that Williams could be acquitted of the charges.

How he participated in the plot to murder witnesses against Esteves: By meeting with Esteves and planning the murder, by interacting with the hitman and instructing the hitman to kill the witnesses, by enlisting Thomas Moran to assist in the plot, and obviously by instructing the hitman to make the murder of Junior look like a home invasion robbery.

Now, I want to talk about two other charges briefly. They're also racketeering charges. Those are Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering, or VICAR for short. VICAR is very similar to RICO. We're going to prove there
was an enterprise, the same enterprise we discussed. We're also going to prove that Paul Bergrin participated in two violent crimes. The first is the Kemo murder, and the second is plot to murder witnesses against Esteves.

Now, again, we've already discussed the proof of the enterprise and discussed proof of Bergrin's involvement in both of these crimes, so I'm not going to go into it further now, simply say there will be overwhelming proof of his guilt with respect to these charges.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, those are the charges, and I want to discuss with you the types of evidence you're going to hear in this case, the evidence that you're going to hear that will prove both Paul Bergrin's enterprise and the criminal acts he committed through that enterprise.

You're going to hear from three primary sources: The first will be eyewitnesses, the second will be recorded conversations made during the crime, and the third will be documents and other physical evidence.

And when you listen to the evidence, I want you to consider not just each individual piece, but how they fit together, how one piece supports another.

So, for example, you may hear testimony about a witness who participated in a meeting with Mr. Bergrin, but you may also hear a tape recording of that same meeting and the recording will support what the meeting says. You may
hear two witnesses describe a similar incident, and those witnesses will support each other.

You may hear a witness' testimony that will be supported by physical evidence. For example, you're going to hear many witnesses testify that Isabella's was used to store and distribute kilograms of cocaine, and you're going to see the 54 kilograms of cocaine that Drug Enforcement agents seized from Isabella's on May 21st, 2009.

The eyewitnesses you're going to hear from, ladies and gentlemen, are going to be in a number of forms. Some of them will be law enforcement, some of them will be victims, and some of them will be what I'm going to term criminal insiders. These are people who actually committed crimes along with Paul Bergrin.

Now, you're going to hear the insiders' perspective, and they're going to give you details that only an insider can give about what Paul Bergrin did and what they did. You're going to learn about the drug trafficking operation because you're going to hear from customers and people who helped Paul Bergrin distribute those drugs to the customers. You're going to hear about the Kemo murder because you're going to hear from Anthony Young, the person who shot Kemo after Bergrin instructed Curry's crew to do so.

Now, as you can imagine, these people have
criminal records, and you can obviously take that into account when you consider their testimony. But when you do so, also remember that the very reason Paul Bergrin chose to commit crimes with these people was because they had criminal records. Paul Bergrin did not go to the local convent and recruit nuns to join his criminal enterprise. He recruited trusted criminal associates. So it should come as no surprise that the people who are going to talk to you about the crimes they committed with Paul Bergrin have a history of committing crimes.

I want to talk to you about a related topic, and that is the cooperating witness. You're going to hear that many of these persons, these insiders, are what are known as cooperating witnesses, and that simply means that they have pled guilty to a crime and that they've signed an agreement with the Government to provide truthful testimony at trial, and in exchange, they're hoping to get a more lenient sentence. And you will hear that these cooperators signed a written agreement, sort of like a contract, and that as part of that written agreement, again, they're agreeing that they will provide truthful testimony at trial. And what the Government is agreeing to do is write what's called a 5 K motion asking the Judge who sentences these witnesses to give them a lesser sentence because of their truthful testimony.

Now, you're going to hear that if this witness -any of these witnesses do not provide truthful testimony, if they lie either when I'm questioning them or Mr. Bergrin is questioning them, that agreement gets ripped up, and they get no benefit.

You're also going to hear that although it's the prosecutor who makes the motion requesting the reduction in sentence, it's the judge who decides what, if any, reduction in sentence that cooperator gets.

So the cooperator has to cross two hurdles, the Government hurdle, and the Judge hurdle, in order to get benefit. And in that way, the cooperation agreement provides a powerful incentive for them to tell the truth. Otherwise, they get no benefit.

Now, I want to talk to you about another provision in the cooperating agreement. That is a provision in which a person who signs a cooperation agreement agrees that they will not commit further crimes. And this relates to one of the witnesses you're going to hear from, named Eugene Braswell.

Braswell was arrested for a drug crime. He agreed to plead guilty, and he signed a cooperating agreement, and again, as part of that agreement, he agreed he was not going to commit additional crimes. He was supposed to provide truthful testimony at this trial pursuant to that agreement.

But before he could provide that testimony, Braswell continued to sell drugs, and as a result, the Government found out that he was selling drugs, and the first thing they did was, they ripped up that agreement. So Braswell gets no credit, no reduction in sentence for that first crime.

But the Government also arrested him and charged him with a second drug trafficking crime, and because he's charged with that second crime, he faces life imprisonment.

Now, you're also going to hear that part of the agreement that the Government has with Braswell is that his sentence on his first crime must run consecutive to his sentence on the second crime. So that means that he has to serve the entirety of his first crime before he can even begin serving a single day on his second crime.

You're going to hear that Braswell signed a cooperation agreement with respect to the second charge only, he can never get a benefit on the first charge, and that he agreed to provide truthful testimony at this trial in exchange for the Government asking the Judge to reduce his sentence on the second crime only.

And like all cooperators, if he does not tell the truth, his agreement gets ripped up. And like all cooperators, although the Government will make the motion, it's up to the Judge to decide what, if any, benefit

Braswell will get.
Now, obviously you can take into account the fact that Braswell committed a second crime after he signed the cooperating agreement. But when you take that into account, you should also consider that Eugene Braswell, perhaps better than any other cooperator, understands exactly what will happen if he violates that agreement and doesn't tell the truth on this witness stand. His agreement will be ripped up, and he will face life imprisonment.

Now, in addition, when you're considering Braswell's testimony, I want you to also consider what other evidence will support his testimony, and I'm just going to give you one brief example now.

You may recall the money changer incident in which Braswell gave half a million dollars to the money changer and the money changer stole the money, and how Braswell went to Bergrin and asked for help, and how Bergrin told Braswell he was going to enlist the Latin King from Chicago to collect the money, and how Bergrin then after that had conversations, recorded conversations with the hit man about collecting that money.

Now, when Braswell went to talk to Bergrin about that, he was not cooperating with the Government. He was a drug dealer looking for help. Braswell never met the hitman, never had a conversation with him, had no idea the
hitman was cooperating, had no idea there was a recorded conversation made between Paul Bergrin and the hitman. And yet you're going to see that every single important thing that Braswell's going to tell you about that incident is also contained on the recorded conversations between Bergrin and the hitman.

So when you consider his testimony, consider that as well.

I want to talk to you briefly about the hit man. The hitman is a different kind of cooperator. The hitman is not working off a case. He is what's known as a paid cooperator. The hitman approached law enforcement early on in the plot to kill witnesses against Esteves. And so when he was interacting with Bergrin, he was working on behalf of law enforcement. He agreed to meet with Paul Bergrin, he agreed to make recordings of Paul Bergrin in the meetings as others as well, and in exchange for that, the Drug Enforcement agents paid the hitman a sum of money to make the recordings and to do the meetings. That's why the hitman was paid.

Now, you're going to hear that although he wasn't working off a case, the hit man does have a criminal history. He is, in fact, a Latin King from Chicago, and obviously you can take that into account when you evaluate his credibility. But when you do so, also remember that the
fact that he is a Latin King from Chicago is precisely the reason Paul Bergrin enlisted him to kill witnesses for Esteves.

Now, you're going to hear that the hitman was no angel, that he did not always follow the rules that the D.E.A. agents laid down for him. He went out and got drunk with enterprise member Thomas Moran on multiple occasions. On one occasion when he was out partying with Moran, he also snorted cocaine. He slept with a number of women that Paul Bergrin sent to his hotel room, and on one occasion when Paul Bergrin visited him in Chicago, he paid for a woman to visit Paul in Paul's hotel room.

Now, you're going to hear that he didn't have authority to do any of these things from the Drug Enforcement agents or the Government, but he did them anyway.

You may not like some of the things the hitman has done or some of the things you're going to hear him say on the tapes. But, ladies and gentlemen, the question is not going to be do you want to invite him home for dinner. The question is going to be, can you trust what he's telling you when he tells you about what Paul Bergrin did and what Paul Bergrin said?

And for that, you will have the recordings. Every single important thing that the hitman is going to tell you
about the meetings he had with Paul Bergrin will be contained in those tape recordings. So you yourself will be able to hear that.

I want to go through some of the proofs of the individual crimes, and I'll try to be brief. I know you've been here a long time, and I appreciate your patience.

With respect to the Kemo murder, the primary insider you're going to hear from is a man named Anthony Young.

Anthony Young came in to the F.B.I. before anyone was charged in the Kemo murder and voluntarily confessed to involvement in conspiring to kill Kemo Deshawn McKay. You'll hear that Anthony Young got no benefit from his initial confession to the F.B.I.; in fact, quite the opposite. That confession is what led to him being charged with conspiring to kill Kemo Deshawn McCray, the crime for which he faced life imprisonment.

Now, you're going to hear when he came in to the F.B.I., he provided them with a number of details about the plot to kill Kemo and the murder of Kemo. You're going to hear how he told the F.B.I. that Kemo was killed to prevent him from testifying against William Baskerville and that he described the roles of Paul Bergrin, of William Baskerville, of Hakeem Curry, of Jamal Baskerville, of Rakim Baskerville, of Jamal McNeil and himself in that plot.

But you're also going to hear that the first time he came in to talk to the F.B.I., Anthony Young minimized his role. He did not tell the entire truth to the F.B.I. And the way he minimized his role was that he switched his role with the role of Jamal McNeil, claiming that Jamal McNeil was the shooter and he was the lookout.

You're going to hear that after that, Anthony Young got a lawyer, and when he met with the F.B.I. the next time, he was aware that he could be charged with conspiring to murder Kemo Deshawn McCray for his first confession. And so he minimized his role even further at the next meeting and told the F.B.I. that he was not even present for the Kemo murder.

But you're going to hear after that, Anthony Young came in and told the entire truth to the F.B.I. He admitted to them that he was the one who killed Kemo and that Jamal McNeil was the lookout.

You're going to hear that in each of his statements to the F.B.I., he was consistent about the roles of Paul Bergrin, Hakeem Curry, William Baskerville, Jamal Baskerville, and Rakim Baskerville. You're going to hear that he pled guilty to conspiring to murder Kemo Deshawn McCray, and that he faced life in prison on that charge. So, briefly, what is Anthony Young going to tell you?

Well, he's going to tell you all about the insider's perspective on what happened. He's going to tell you how Kemo was killed to prevent him from testifying against William Baskerville. He's going to tell you about the conversation that he was present for, the telephone call that he was present for with Hakeem Curry when Paul Bergrin called Hakeem Curry on the phone and passed the name of Kemo on to Hakeem Curry. He's going to tell you he was present for the meeting outside of William Baskerville's relatives' house between Paul Bergrin, Curry, and the other members of Curry's crew, and how Paul Bergrin told them at that meeting that if they did not kill Kemo Deshawn McCray, William Baskerville would spend the less of his life in jail, but if they did kill Kemo, Paul Bergrin would win the case and William Baskerville would go free. And he was present when Paul Bergrin said, Remember what $I$ said, no Kemo, no case.

He's also going to tell you about how after that they went out, searched for Kemo, found him, and he's going to tell you how he himself fired the shots that killed Kemo. Now, obviously, when you consider Anthony Young's testimony, I want you to also consider some of the other evidence in the case that will support what he's telling you. I'm going to give you a couple of examples right now. The first relates to a conversation between Hakeem Curry and Paul Bergrin, the telephone conversation. You're
going to see phone records of Paul Bergrin's phone and Hakeem Curry's phone, and they will confirm, just as Anthony Young said, that that phone call took place.

You're also going to have witnesses that will confirm the content of that call, exactly the way Anthony Young will tell you.

You see, sometime after Kemo was murdered, Paul Bergrin was interviewed by two newspaper reporters, and he admitted to those newspaper reporters that he had obtained the name of the informant from William Baskerville and he provided that name to Hakeem Curry, exactly as Anthony Young will tell you.

You're also going to hear about other evidence in the case, other statements that Mr . Bergrin made to other people, and I'm just going to go into one of those now.

You may recall that about four years after he plotted to kill Kemo with Curry and Baskerville, he plotted to kill witnesses with Vicente Esteves, and while he was discussing killing witnesses with Esteves, they first identified the witnesses, and once they had identified the witnesses to be killed, they then turned the discussion to actually killing the witnesses and who was going to take care of that.

And in this conversation with Esteves, Esteves told Bergrin that Esteves would handle killing the
witnesses. But Bergrin told Esteves, no, Bergrin told Esteves that Bergrin himself would handle killing the witnesses.

And when Esteves expressed doubt over whether lawyer Paul Bergrin could handle that job, Paul Bergrin told him, Don't worry, this is not the first time I've done this, meaning kill witnesses.

Now, he didn't mention Kemo by name during that conversation, but it's just as obvious that he was referring to Kemo, because the prior time he was involved in killing witnesses was the time he was involved in killing Kemo. Now, let's talk about the drug trafficking operation.

Again, as $I$ said, you're going to hear from numerous insiders, from people who had assisted Bergrin as well as people who -- customers of the service, and they're going to provide you a consistent picture of the drug trafficking operation, about everybody's role in the operation, and how Isabella's was used to store and distribute kilograms of cocaine.

But you're also going to hear tape-recorded conversations between the hitman and Paul Bergrin in which they discuss drug business. You're going to hear tape-recorded conversations between Paul Bergrin and Shelton Leverett in which Bergrin agrees to hook Shelton Leverett up
with a supplier for kilograms of cocaine. You're going to see a tape recording, a videotape of Paul Bergrin meeting with associates of Alejandro Castro in a strip mall in New Jersey. And, of course, you're going to see the 54 kilograms of cocaine that were seized out of Isabella's Restaurant.

As far as the New York prostitution business, you're going to hear that the primary insider will be James Cortapassi, and he's going to tell you all about his role and Bergrin's role, and how Itzler never worked as a paralegal.

You're also going to see the letters that Paul Bergrin sent to parole, lying that Itzler was working as a paralegal. You're going to hear from parole officers to whom Paul Bergrin told those lies.

You're going to see the checks that he cut from Premium Realty to fool New Jersey Parole, and you're going to see the bank records that will demonstrate that Itzler never cashed, deposited, or negotiated those checks.

And, of course, you're also going to see the transcript of Paul Bergrin's guilty plea in State Court in which he admitted the involvement in the New York prostitution business.

The witness tampering for Abdul Williams.
You're going to hear from Abdul Williams himself,
and he's going to describe his role, Bergrin's role, Jamal Mohammad's role. You're also going to hear tape-recorded conversations between Bergrin and Abdul Williams when Williams was in jail in which Bergrin expressed concern over whether Jamal Mohammad was a stand-up guy, meaning would he cooperate with law enforcement, and how he was concerned that Mohammad might fold under the pressure and cooperate with law enforcement and reveal the plot.

You're also going to see statements, the false statements of Jamal Mohammad, and you're going to see the letter that Paul Bergrin sent to New Jersey Parole containing those statements and arguing that Abdul Williams was innocent of the charges.

As far as the plot to murder witnesses against Esteves, you're obviously going to hear from Vicente Esteves. I told you about that. He's going to tell you all about the plot to kill, how he and Bergrin had those private meetings and what they discussed there, how he discussed not only killing witnesses but going in the drug business together. You're going to hear from Thomas Moran, who is going to tell you all about what he did in connection with the case under the direction of Paul Bergrin. You're obviously also going to hear from the hitman, and the hitman is going to tell you about the six months of meetings he had with Paul Bergrin and everything that happened during those
meetings.

You're not just going to have the hitman's testimony. You're obviously going to have the recordings. You're going to have the recordings in which Paul Bergrin tells the hitman that Esteves wants him to kill witnesses. You're going to have the recordings in which Paul Bergrin identifies for the hitman the specific witnesses to be killed. You're going to have the recordings in which Paul Bergrin agrees to help the hitman locate the witnesses. And of course, you're going to have the recording in which Paul Bergrin tells the hitman to make the murder of Junior, one of the witnesses, look like a home invasion robbery. Now, these recordings are going to corroborate not only what the hitman is going to tell you but also what Esteves is going to tell you and what Moran is going to tell you. And these tapes are going to go beyond simply proving the plot to kill witnesses against Esteves, because you're going to hear that there were multiple other crimes that the hitman and Bergrin discussed. You're going to get an insider's view into Paul Bergrin's enterprise through these tape recordings - almost a slice of life, ladies and gentlemen.

Now, that's the type of evidence you're going to hear in this case. And before I sit down, I want to discuss one other thing with you.

Throughout the time of the charges in this case, Paul Bergrin was a licensed lawyer. But a license to practice law and the fact that he had one does not change anything that he said or anything that he did in this case. A license to practice law is not a license to tamper with witnesses. It is not a license to sell drugs. It is not a license to run a prostitution business, and it's not a license to commit murder.

This case is not about a lawyer who inadvertently got mixed up in crimes committed by the clients he represented. This case is not about a lawyer who stepped his little toe over the line in the name of zealously representing his clients or righteously defending the Constitution.

This case is about a lawyer who used his law license to disguise the fact that he was a drug dealer, a pimp, and a murderer.

Providing the name of a cooperator to a drug gang and instructing that drug gang to kill the cooperator is not zealously representing your client. It's aiding and abetting murder.

Selling drugs to the clients of your law practice is not zealously representing your clients. It's trafficking in drugs.

Lying to New Jersey Parole so that your client can
operate a prostitution business is not zealously representing your client. It's aiding a prostitution business.

Getting witnesses to lie on the stand is not zealously representing your clients. It's witness tampering.

And instructing a hitman to make the murder of a witness look like a home-invasion robbery is not zealously representing your client. It's conspiring to commit murder.

Paul Bergrin did not do the things he did in this case out of some duty to his profession or some duty to a noble cause. Instead, he did the things he did in this case to satisfy his personal lust for wealth and success. He chose to pursue success at any cost, success not earned through hard work, fair play, but rather through cheating the system and sacrificing others.

Paul Bergrin's path to success is paved with the hundreds of kilograms of cocaine he dumped on the streets of New Jersey, with the emotional scars he inflicted upon Carolyn Velez, and with the dead body of Kemo Deshawn McCray. And but for fortunate circumstances that prevented his will from being fulfilled, it would have been paved with the dead bodies of Pedro Ramos and each of the witnesses in the Esteves case.

In a civilized society, ladies and gentlemen, you
either take responsibility for your actions or you're held accountable for them.

The Government cooperators in this case have accepted responsibility for their actions, and at the end of this trial, it will be time to hold Paul Bergrin accountable for his.

The evidence in this case will be powerful. The implications will be clear. And there will be only one verdict that will be consistent with that evidence: Guilty on all charges.

Thank you.
THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Gay.
Well, ladies and gentlemen, you've been sitting here a long time, so what we're going to do now is take about a 15-minute break. Then you'll come back, and we'll have Mr . Bergrin make his opening or at least a portion of it, depending on how far we get before lunch.

Please don't discuss the matter.
THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
Please place your notebooks on your chairs, please.
(The jury exits)
THE COURT: You may be seated.
Mr. Bergrin, it may be necessary to take a break in the midst of your opening. I don't normally like to do
that, but I don't know if I'm doing you any favors by making the jury sit there through their lunchtime, so you might want to consider a point that you might think would be an appropriate point to let me know.

MR. BERGRIN: Yes, Your Honor.
THE COURT: We can come back around 11:15. I think their lunch is going to be delivered around 12:30. So perhaps sometime around there, but whatever is the best spot for you rather than me interrupting you. Okay? MR. BERGRIN: All right, Judge. Thank you. THE COURT: Fifteen minutes.
(Recess taken)
(Defendant present)
THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
(The jury enters)
THE COURT: Be seated.
Okay. Mr. Bergrin.
MR. BERGRIN: Thank you, Judge.
May it please the Court.
Counsel.
Ladies and gentlemen of the jury:
It is very difficult, as difficult as you could imagine, to sit there and listen to an opening argument that's rife and full of fabrications, false statements, inconsistent with the credible, logical, and believable
evidence that you'll hear in this case.
You cannot imagine what it's like to sit there and know that the witnesses that they talk about, that the recordings that they talk about, that the evidence that they discuss is as far inconsistent and fabricated and will make no sense to you with your God-given common sense when you compare it and look at the testimony in this case and scrutinize it with logic and your God-given common sense.

It will be impossible for you as jurors in this case to separate fact from fiction. It will be impossible for you as jurors to determine where the truth lies.

And from the beginning of this case until the end of this case, all I ask of you is to determine where the truth lies. That's all I ask for you. You are the judges of the facts, not them. You will determine where the truth lies. And only when you determine where the truth lies will justice ever be done.

And that's all I'll ask from you at the beginning of this trial, during this trial, and at the end of this trial: For you to search for the truth, for you to search and determine where the truth lies. Demand it. Seek it. And I beg for you to determine the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, because just as they seek justice, I seek justice.

I have pled not guilty in this case. I have pled
not guilty from the day that I was arrested on May the 20 th of 2009. And I've pled not guilty for one reason and only one reason, and that's because $I$ am not guilty.

The lack of quality evidence in this case, the lack of credible and believable evidence in this case will create a reasonable doubt in your mind as to my guilt.

That seat right there does not have my name on it. My name is not written on it. On any given day, anybody could be accused of committing offenses. On any given day, anybody could be sitting in that seat. And I only ask to be judged and looked at the exact same way you would want one of your loved ones looked at if they sat in that seat.

The lack of quality evidence in this case, the lack of logical, credible, believable evidence in this case in your minds at the end of this case will render a not-guilty verdict on each and every count. There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind.

The investigation and the lack of investigation in this case will be an affront to what you believe is right and will appall you.

Since May 20th of 2009 at approximately seven o'clock in the morning, as $I$ was preparing to go to work and take my daughter to school, I have said the words, I am not guilty. I have never equivocated. I have never hesitated. And you, we spent a lot of time selecting this
jury in this case. We asked a lot of questions. And all we're looking for is a fair and impartial trial. And I know, and the defense knows, that if you give me a fair and impartial trial, if you come in here without any preconceived beliefs, because I sit at that table, that there's a scintilla of evidence that I'm guilty, because I'm indicted for offenses and accused of crimes, if you come in here believing where there's smoke, there's fire and the United States Government wouldn't charge anybody unless they believed they were guilty, if you come in here and believe for one second that the indictment is any evidence of guilt, then there's no way that you can meet your solemn oath that each and every one of you have taken, and that's to render a true verdict, a just verdict based upon the evidence, the logical, credible, and believable evidence in this case.

I have waited a long time for this day, a very long time, well over three years for this black cloud to be lifted from my head, for this black cloud that's lingered over me for over three years, that has destroyed and taken away everything I believe in, everything I've ever worked for, for the evidence to come forth and either prove me guilty beyond a reasonable doubt or stop accusing me.

That's what I've asked, and that's what I will ask each and every one of you: To determine where the truth lies. That's all I ask. I want justice.

This jury, based upon the evidence in this case, based upon the lack of evidence, based upon the lack of quality of evidence, based upon the investigation, based upon the lack of investigation, will render a not-guilty verdict because it will create a reasonable doubt. And that not-guilty verdict will echo from this courtroom to every courtroom in this courthouse, to every courthouse in this state and throughout the United States, where you as jurors, as the finders of the facts and as the judges of the facts, when a case is not proven to you beyond the exclusion of every reasonable doubt, will send a message that you will not under any circumstances convict an innocent man.

That's all I ask.

In this particular case, the Government believes by throwing a lot of stuff against the wall, by throwing a lot of garbage against the wall that something will stick, something will stick in the minds of the jurors, something will stick, and you'll adjudge me guilty based upon that.

But just think, using your God-given common sense. Each and every one of you comes in here with experience. You're from all walks of life, from all sections of the community, from all parts of the state. Analogize it to everyday life, when you go out to buy a car. The car dealer polishes the car. They use Armorall on the inside. They use Windex on the outside. They put new tires on the car.

It's Simonized. But when you look at the engine, you see that the engine's been replaced, you see that the transmission's leaking, you see that the car doesn't run properly. When you look under the hood of the prosecution's case and you evaluate the evidence, and you look at the comparison of one witness to the other, the grave inconsistencies from one person to the other, the lies, the motivation to fabricate, you'll know right away where the truth lies, and you'll know right away whether Paul Bergrin is guilty of these accusations.

Do not allow one accusation to spill over into the other accusations and pollute the other accusations. Look at each and every witness individually. Judge each and every witness individually. Look at every single accusation alleged against me individually. Do not allow the spillover of evidence from one accusation into the other, because it will pollute the case, and that's exactly what they want. That's exactly what they want.

When you hear a witness, wait until the cross-examination. Wait till you compare what the witness said at previous times. Wait till you compare one witness to the other on major events, major things. People don't forget. People don't have to lie and create evidence and scheme evidence if they're telling the truth.

And you will see that repeatedly in this
particular case. You will see the complete fabrication of evidence. You will see individuals scheming to get the benefits of cooperation. You will hear and see about individuals deliberately and intentionally lying to get the benefits of cooperation.

Wait till you hear all the case. Wait till you hear the defense case. Wait till you hear the cross-examination. Scrutinize every single word of every witness. Ask yourselves, ask yourselves, why would someone lie? Why would someone continue to lie? Why will someone make up facts and then, in the middle or in the end, say he's telling the truth, this is what really said -- this is what really happened, unless they have something to hide, unless they can't be trusted, unless they're lying from the inception and lying continually and give -- want to give the prosecution what the prosecution wants to hear so they get the benefits of cooperation.

You'll learn in this case that it's simple to spit out facts and to make statements. But wait until they're scrutinized. Wait until they're cross-examined. Wait till they're confronted with prior statements that they've made. Wait till logic takes over, and then you'll determine whether Paul Bergrin is guilty or not guilty or not. You're going to ask yourself, and when you look at a witness and you try to judge a witness' credibility and
believability, you're going to use your life experiences.
You're going to say to yourself: Do I trust this individual? Do I believe what they're saying? Would I trust this individual if $I$ was to make a life-changing decision? Would I believe them if I needed an opinion from someone to have surgery or where my children go to school or if I need an opinion on something important in my life? And you'll find, you'll find in this case conclusively that you could not trust the witnesses against me.

And the prosecution came before you in the opening, and we tell you that the evidence will prove exactly the opposite of what they're saying.

You will wonder, and reach one conclusion: Why are there so many major inconsistencies? Why are there such grave differences between one witness and the other witness? Why does a witness lie previously, lie in the past?

And there's only one conclusion you'll be able to reach, and that's that that witness' testimony, judgments, facts, what they testified to can't be believed, and that's what you're going to hear in this particular case.

I'm a human being. I bleed red blood. I make mistakes. I'm an individual who says things sometimes that they don't mean, like everybody in this jury room, everybody in this courthouse.

But under no circumstances did I ever under any
circumstances suggest, intend, give the capacity or want the head of the hair of one person hurt in any of these allegations against me. Not one time did Paul Bergrin ever intend for one grain of drugs to be sold, pass hands, nor did Paul Bergrin ever get involved in drug distribution, and the evidence will prove that conclusively, beyond any doubt.

The Anthony Young, the Kemo case is a one-witness case - a one-witness case. And when you hear that witness's testimony, if you could sit there without scratching your head and believe for one second, a millimeter of a second that Paul Bergrin had anything to do with the Kemo case or Paul Bergrin intended anything to happen to Deshawn McCray, also known as Kemo, then it will defy logic.

I say things, and I've said things in the past, and I've made mistakes in the past. It's human nature to make mistakes. It's human nature to say things that sometimes you don't mean. It's human nature to be touched by emotions and affected by emotions. But that doesn't mean I committed any crimes. That doesn't mean I ever intended any crimes to be committed. And you'll see in this case that I never did. I never did.

The prosecution comes in here and tells you that they represent the United States of America: We represent the Government.

But, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you
represent the Government. The Judge represents the Government of the United States. I represent the United States. We are a country governed by the people and for the people. Everybody in this courtroom represents the United States of America.

For over 20 years, I wore the uniform of an American soldier and served in the United States Army. I did 13 oversea tours. I went to Iraq and Kuwait six times when my fellow soldiers summoned me and asked me to go over there. I was trained in infantry, military intelligence, as a JAG officer. I graduated the commanding general staff college of the United States Army. I never left a fellow soldier behind on the field of battle.

And they talk about the prostitution case, and they talk about the letters to the Parole Division, and that Jason Itzler never worked for me as a paralegal.

I got involved with a case called the Abu Ghraib case. It was a small prison, the crematorium of Saddam Hussein. And six military police officers were accused of torturing and violating international law and the rights of prisoners at Abu Ghraib. I was inundated with over 20,000 pieces of material, papers because I had a secret security clearance and could go through documents. I'm the one who want to court and stopped President Bush from razing and destroying the Abu Ghraib prison when he accused six
military police officers of committing atrocities against war criminals. I ran over to Iraq when my fellow soldiers called me, who were being scapegoated by the United States Government.

And I needed help. I needed help. I was fighting the White House - Bush, Chaney, Rumsfeld. I'm the one who tried to get them to take the witness stand, because I knew the orders from Abu Ghraib of what these military police officers did at that small prison and crematorium in Fallujah, Iraq came from the White House. The orders came from the White House.

MR. GAY: Objection. Your Honor, is there going to be evidence of this?

MR. BERGRIN: Yes, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Well, even if there is evidence, what's the relevancy of that on the case before us?

I'm going to have to ask you to move on, Mr. Bergrin. I have no problem with you letting it be known about your military service. That's fine. But I think you've done that.

Let's move on.
MR. BERGRIN: Can I be heard briefly on that, Judge?

THE COURT: No. Move on.
MR. BERGRIN: I served as an assistant prosecutor
in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and rose to the homicide squad. I prosecuted hundreds of cases for the Prosecutor's Office of this state.

I went to the United States Department of Justice and was in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office. I prosecuted for them until I testified on behalf of two detectives who were accused of crimes, and then I left the office after that.

At the time of my arrest, $I$ was a criminal defense attorney, defending those accused of crimes in the military, in Federal Courts, in State Courts throughout the United States. I have been an attorney for 33 years. I made and built my reputation representing Federal agents, police officers, sheriff's officers, correction officers, and my fellow soldiers.

The evidence will show not only did I get involved in Abu Ghraib, but I was also involved in Object Iron Triangle, and I took on the highest levels of the Justice Department, the F.B.I., the C.I.A. in that case also when they accused members of the 101st Airborne Division of committing murders over in Iraq. I went back to the worst part of Iraq, the Sunni triangle, to defend these soldiers.

I went back a third time when they accused a tank commander of the First Armored Division, Staff Sergeant Leon Parker, a hero. I took on the White House, the Justice

Department, the Central Intelligence Agency to defend my fellow soldier a third time.

Six times I returned to Iraq and multiple times. And while I went to Iraq, individuals involved in this case were forging relationships, like Yolanda Jauregui and her brother Ramon Jimenez, with individuals to commit crimes. And the evidence will prove that Ramon Jiminez was hired as a paralegal in my office, was going through my files. He was going through my files while I was away in Iraq defending soldiers, giving information to his sister Yolanda, who was involved in an illicit and intimate relationship with Alejandro Castro behind my back. She was a woman that $I$ loved. Meeting with people like Abdul Williams and Rondre Kelly to supply drugs behind my back, without my knowledge. Ramon Jimenez was questioned. He admitted that he went through my files. He admitted that he provided the information on who was charged with drug dealing to his sister and to Alejandro Castro, who she was involved with, behind my back.

There's a lot more to this evidence than meets the eye that will come out. I just ask that you keep an open mind, that's all I ask, because, as the evidence unfolds, it will become clear to you, it will become apparent to you that I was never involved in drug-dealing and never, ever intended, nor did anybody have the capacity to harm the head
of the hair of anybody, especially under the guise of Paul Bergrin.

You'll see and you'll hear and the evidence of the prosecution will consist of individuals who are opportunists, individuals who used the opportunities that I gave them to work in my office.

Abdul Williams was in a halfway back program. He needed a job. I gave him that job.

Ramon Jimenez was coming out of state prison after doing a 10-year bid. His sister and his mother begged with me to give him an opportunity to make something of himself and watch over him, Paul, so he doesn't commit any parole violations, end up in state prison again. I gave him that job and opportunity. And they used that opportunity against me, and now they're using the opportunity against me again.

The prosecutor's case will consist primarily of men and women who are career and professional criminals, who know the system, who know how to use the system to manipulate it.

My job as a defense counsel and as a soldier was to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States, to make sure under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution that anybody that comes to me for services, for me to represent, that I pour my heart and soul into it, that I represent them with all my heart and soul pursuant to
their constitutional right to have effective representation. That's what this case is about. That's what this case is about. That was the motto of the Bergrin law firm: To give everything that we have legally to the client, to not sell them out to the Government, to not sell them out to anybody, whether it's the most minute case or the grandest case, the ultimate crime, to defend them like they're our own children, our brothers and sisters. That's the exact same way that you would want anybody to represent your children or yourself if you were accused of anything, and that's all I ever did. I gave it all. But I didn't violate the law.

You will hear in this particular case and you will learn about witnesses who turned their crimes and the fact that they're facing a multitude of years in prison, most of them facing life in prison, so they're confronted with life, they're confronted with so many years that they will need a walker, probably, when they get out in order to walk, never to be with their families again, and they know, they know what to say, they know how to read, they know how to learn. They talk to each other. You'll hear about witnesses in this particular case who used -- professional liars, professional scammers, professional schemers who used what they were taught by others for their benefit, who used what they learned from others for their benefit, to use what they
read about this case, about Paul Bergrin, about what was going on to their benefit.

That's what this case is about: Individuals who were coached to lie.

You're going to hear and you're going to see in this case the darkest side of justice that any human being could ever hear, see, or experience. It's going to turn your stomach. But you're going to see it. I guarantee you that. The evidence will show you that.

You're going to hear and see about individuals that were coached to lie. You're going to hear about individuals who completely fabricated evidence, statements against Paul Bergrin. That is fact. That is not fiction. You will never be able to determine fact from fiction and separate them in this case. You will never be able to separate truth from lies in this case. That's why I ask you to keep an open mind. The prosecutor opened with a lot of innuendoes. They opened with a lot of promises. But the line is drawn in the sand. The line is drawn in the sand. Let them prove with credible, logical, believable evidence the accusations that they made. Let them disprove the fact that witnesses were brought forth that fabricated, completely schemed and lied, and created evidence in this case.

You will hear that the first step to be a
cooperating witness, the first step to be a cooperating witness is to be accepted as a cooperating witness by the prosecution. If they don't accept you as a cooperating witness, then you never get your foot in the front door and you'll never get the benefits of your cooperation.

You'll hear from the mouth of their own cooperating witnesses caught on tape, caught on recording: You have to tell the prosecutors what they want to hear and about who they want to hear about, about what they want to hear, about who they want to hear about. You'll hear the prosecution's key and vital witness, Anthony Young, saying, you have to keep them in amazement, you have to keep them in amazement, tell them what they want to hear, not the truth, tell them who they want to hear about if you want the benefits of cooperation.

You'll hear him say anything but the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. You'll hear him on a secret recording that he has no idea he was being recorded, coaching his friend, his confidant in jail. This is their only witness in that Kemo case. You hear him on recording, being secretly recorded, telling another witness how to lie, how to fabricate evidence. He's teaching another witness that he doesn't know is recording him to make up facts against somebody, accuse somebody who's innocent of murder, the ultimate crime, with potentially the
death penalty and the ultimate sentence. He's teaching that person and telling him: It doesn't matter that you did the shooting, it doesn't matter that you're the one who killed the person; say that this other person did it. They'll give you witness protection. You'll go home. They'll give you money.

That's what this case is about. And they left that out of their opening. Why do you think they left that out?

You'll hear Anthony Young coaching, instructing on the benefits of cooperation, how to take another human being's life, to put him in prison for the rest of his life for something he didn't do, had nothing to do with, because that's who the prosecution wants to hear about - that person. Keep them in amazement. Tell them what they want to hear. Tell them who they want to hear about.

You'll hear how Anthony Young used the name Paul Bergrin to open that door for him - to open that door for him. He had read the article about me being over in Iraq and begging the judge to put Bush, Chaney, Rumsfeld, the Justice Department, Ashcroft, their boss, Alberto Gonzalez, on the witness stand. He read that article that came out in the Star-Ledger on November the 30th about me and what I was doing over in Iraq, and how these military police officers were being scapegoated. And he went in there and he used my
name, and that got him in the front door of the Prosecutor's Office.

The evidence will be full of men and women who are facing a plethora, so much time that you couldn't even count it, in prison, many of them, most of them facing life, some of them facing two and three life sentences. And the question is, do we live a life of misery in prison, or all we have to do, our get-out-of-jail-free card is Paul Bergrin. It doesn't matter whether there is the truth, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

That's what this case is about. That's what this case is about. Think of it: Paul Bergrin and my freedom, or Paul Bergrin and a life in prison? Paul Bergrin and my freedom, or Paul Bergrin and a long prison sentence?

You'll hear about the motives of the individuals that are testifying before you. The prosecution talked about in their opening statement, $O h$, they have to sign a cooperating plea agreement or else -- and if they don't tell the truth, then it gets ripped up.

You will hear and you will see during the course of this case how witnesses completely committed perjury as cooperating witnesses, and they're still cooperating witnesses on behalf of the Government. You will hear and you will see how witnesses deliberately and intentionally lied, and they're still cooperating witnesses.

Let me give you a short and small example: Abdul Williams, the individual they said that he was selling, dealing drugs for me as a taxi server. Abdul Williams, while he was locked up at the Hudson County Jail, did a seven-kilogram cocaine deal with Yolanda Jauregui and the family of Alberto Castro, completely unknown to me, completely behind my back. Abdul Williams was on the phone, making arrangements. Yolanda met Alejandro Castro's brother. They went to Abdul Williams's father. The deal was set up with Abdul Williams, his father, and his cousin. They know all about it. These individuals knew about it. The F.B.I. knew about it. Abdul Williams completely denied it. Yet he's still a cooperator on that witness stand, when they know he was involved in it. That's one example. They know about Anthony Young lying over 135 times. And you could count them. You all have notebooks. Start to write down how many inconsistencies. Anthony Young testifies -- and this is just a small example; I'm going to get into it in further detail -- that if he had been told by his lawyer to tell the truth and the whole truth, then he would not have switched roles and falsely implicated somebody else in a murder.

Their F.B.I. agent was sitting next to the lawyer who told Anthony Young on multiple times when he was still
lying and continued to lie that you must tell the truth. He gets on the witness stand and says. No lawyer ever told me to tell the truth because if they did, I would have told the truth.

It gets better. They know that Anthony -- Anthony Young is lying repeatedly about different things. He says, for instance, that every gun that he used and members of his association or organization used was altered to automatic. Well, they knew that he was arrested and he had lied about that it was a semiautomatic weapon, that no gun that was seized in this case with anybody associated with Anthony Young was an automatic.

Those are only two small examples.
They knew, for example, that Anthony Young completely and deliberately lied about an individual by the name of Horatio Joines. He implicated him in a murder when they knew that Horatio Jones was not at the scene because he was at the hospital with his wife, who was having trouble with her pregnancy at University Hospital. But they allow him to implicate the individual, testify to it on the witness stand, swear to it as a cooperating witness when he pled guilty.

Those are three examples. When I go into Anthony Young's testimony, I'm going to show you example after example after example how this cooperating witness
deliberately and intentionally lied, multiple, almost every single one that they have while cooperating witnesses, deliberately and intentionally lied, right under their nose, with their knowledge and with their approval.

You're going to experience, see and hear the darkest side of justice that any human being could experience in their life.

You will know that the prosecutor in their plea agreements put in the words, We as prosecutors in our sole discretion - sole discretion, that means it's up to them determine where the truth lies.

But you will see how warped that determination is.
But you know what, ladies and gentlemen of the jury? From this day forward, they don't determine where the truth lies. You will hear how witness after witness expect after they testify against Paul Bergrin, even though they're facing long prison sentences, some of them life in prison, every single one of them have announced that they expect to get time served and go home.

You'll hear about a witness, Lachoy Walker, career criminal, facing life in prison, gets time served after he testifies and goes home.

You'll hear about Yolanda Jauregui, who's facing life in prison, who's told her entire family as soon as she testifies, she's coming home.

You'll hear about Ramon Jimenez, who is facing just about life in prison, expects to go home.

You'll hear about deals with the devil where individuals are facing all kinds of charges, but they don't get charged. Family members don't get charged. They buy testimony.

You'll hear about, example, for example, Abdul Williams dealing thousands and thousands of kilograms of heroin for years and years, involved in shootings and murders. They don't charge him with not one grain of the heroin. They don't charge his father, his sister for committing offenses.

You'll hear about Yolanda Jauregui, who got her mother and her retarded niece involved, who has cerebral palsy, in drug dealing behind my back, and our nine-year-old daughter behind our back in drug dealing, and they don't charge her mother or anybody else.

They bought testimony. And these witnesses, it will be proven to you beyond a shadow of a doubt, knew exactly what they had to say to save their family members and to save themselves.

All I ask is that you demand the truth, you seek it, and you find it, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

The evidence will conclusively prove beyond any
doubt whatsoever that the integrity of the entire
investigation and the integrity of this entire case is undermined, because there will be evidence presented to you for you to hear from a witness and multiple witnesses who have nothing to do with me, witnesses that have no motive whatsoever to fabricate for me. A lot of them have never even met me in their life, have no reason to give me any benefits based upon their testimony.

But you'll hear from a witness who actually coached another witness to lie and completely fabricate evidence against me. You'll hear from this witness that these people knew about it and yet allowed that witness to offer sworn testimony. That witness was taught what to say, how to say it. That witness was taught to give incriminating evidence against me if they want to save themselves from a heavy prison term, from a heavy prison term with lots of years in prison. Completely fabricated - made up every single fact that they said against me.

That's why I'm asking you to keep an open mind until all the evidence is in in this particular case.

You will witness and you will experience the darkest side of justice that any human being could experience.

You'll hear how one witness was in contact with
other witnesses. You'll hear about attorneys that represented multiple witnesses who cooperated. You'll hear about individuals who didn't cooperate until they had the discovery in their hands, read the indictment, read the accusation against me, read the discovery against me and knew exactly what was being sought and looked for.

You'll hear about an individual who paid, who paid a lawyer to represent a witness with money that she stole and embezzled as a cooperating witness from the F.B.I. The F.B.I. knew that she stole and embezzled money, over 20,000, and she used this money to pay for another witness, and how that witness was coached and fabricated evidence against me, and how they used this witness, and that witness testified on the witness stand and expected to come home and go free from a 15-year prison sentence.

You'll hear about this witness who testified in a prior trial, took that witness stand, put their hand on the bible, a witness who completely was coached, and lied about every single word that came out of that witness' mouth. And they knew it, but they put the witness on the witness stand anyway.

You'll hear about that witness who was facing 15 years in New Jersey State Prison who allegedly came forward six years later, after he allegedly had a conversation with me, a witness who tried to convince his
own daughter, his flesh and blood, daddy's little girl, to plead guilty to kilograms of cocaine that there was that witnesses, and said that the cocaine was hers. So his own flesh and blood, his own daughter, who is innocent, goes to state prison, and he stays out.

You'll hear about that same witness who put a gun underneath the vest of a police officer, pulled the trigger, the gun misfired, was charged with attempted murder, who, on the eve of sentencing of up to a 15-year prison sentence, comes forward with fabricated testimony, and how they accept that person.

You'll hear about this witness who was facing 15 years in state prison, a career criminal, has 15 prior felony convictions - 15 prior felony convictions - who comes forth, has done state prison, county jail time, parole, probation, who's been locked up with cooperating witnesses, and how they allowed that witness to take the witness stand and say that he didn't know that when he met with the U.S. Attorneys, he was going to get any benefits for cooperation.

That's what this case is about.
You'll hear about a witness, Ramon Jimenez.
You'll hear about Ramon Jimenez, who sent a letter to the ethics committee on his attorney, saying that his attorney is working with the Government, a sworn affidavit, because he said that after he told the prosecutors, these
individuals and the agent in this case, the lead agent, Brokos, that Paul Bergrin is innocent, that he has no knowledge about Paul Bergrin, with his attorney and with this man sitting right here, John Gay, four times, four times, his attorney is running back and forth to the room with Mr. Gay, coercing him is the words he used, intimidating him, and asking him the same question 30 times about Paul Bergrin, suggesting the answer to him.

That's what this case is about.
Ramon Jimenez, who repeatedly went, repeatedly cooperated with them, talked to the F.B.I., talked to the U. S. Attorney's Office, told them that what I did, I did behind Paul Bergrin's back -- he thought that the truth would set him free; little did he know, like Anthony Young's recording, you didn't give them what they want to hear and about who they want to hear about -- repeatedly gave up his own sister, his flesh and blood.

Alejandro Castro, members of the Mexican cartel that he was dealing with, told them that Paul Bergrin had no knowledge, I have no knowledge of Paul Bergrin; I did this while Paul Bergrin was out of the office; I got numbers, I contacted and made drug contacts without Paul Bergrin's knowledge. They promised him that they wouldn't charge him with any criminal offenses. When he refused to give them information on Paul Bergrin, they then charged him and drew
up a complaint where he's facing life in prison.
Four times, 30 minutes at a time, John Gay and the attorney on behalf of Ramon Jiminez is running back and forth, asking the same question over and over again.

Each and every one of you who have read the bible know that our prophets say to question a witness carefully, but make sure that you don't give the information to the witness that will allow the witness to become a false witness and to testify falsely against someone, because God doesn't like false testimony, either.

That prophecy is going to repeat itself in this case over and over and over again. The power of suggestion: Oh, you saw Paul Bergrin do this, didn't you? You heard Paul Bergrin say that, didn't you? Paul Bergrin did this, didn't he?

The way the question was asked, Ramon Jimenez crushed and gave in. And now he's a cooperating witness who is facing more than life in prison.

They talk about Rondre Kelly, and Paul Bergrin dealing drugs at his law office. None of the other people that ever worked in my law office except Ramon Jimenez comes forth. Nobody even suspects anything's going on. Rondre Kelly is dealing thousands and thousands of kilograms before he even meets Paul Bergrin, has his own contacts, is running his own organization, has all kinds of people involved.

He's shipping heroin, large amounts of heroin to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I have nothing to do with it. They can't accuse me of that, thank God.

Rondre Kelly gets caught in New York. Nothing about Paul Bergrin. He gets caught in Pennsylvania. He's a cooperating witness. Doesn't mention Paul Bergrin's name, until after this attorney that's paid with the illegal money two months later, after this attorney, who turns the witness that is completely coached and fabricates against me and scams and schemes against me, then he comes forth, and Rondre Kelly has information.

But you've got to realize that Rondre Kelly is facing two life sentences. Two life sentences. He knows what they want to hear. He knows who they want to hear about.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, just keep an open mind, because there's a lot more to this case than what the prosecution has given you in their opening statement. There is a lot more to this case that will allow the truth to evolve and be heard in this particular case.

Paul Bergrin was the get-out-of-jail-free card. Paul Bergrin is their step toward liberty. Paul Bergrin is and was their way to get the benefits of cooperation. And the evidence will prove this.

I want to run through some of the witnesses that
the prosecution alluded to.
He talked about Abdul Williams.
You're going to realize and learn that Abdul Williams is a career criminal. Abdul Williams admits that he really had no relationship to me, only met me very briefly on a case that $I$ couldn't represent him on because I was representing the police officers that were accused of committing the offense against his brother.

The first time he essentially met me was in 2006. By that time, Abdul Williams was engaged in illegal sales of heroin, thousands and thousands of kilograms, and again, I told you he's never charged with. He should be doing life on the heroin alone. How many individuals took their lives and committed overdoses based upon Abdul Williams, not Paul Bergrin? He was involved in murder. He was involved in shootings. He's never charged with the heroin. He's never charged with the shooting.

In 2006, I was engaged full time in representing the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division over on the island of Samarra, the Muthana chemical plant. They were accused of murder. I didn't have a lot of time to spend with Abdul Williams and run any drug organization.

Abdul Williams never gets charged with almost anything that he does that will give him the time that he deserves in this particular case. They never charge his
family members. They never charge his father, who's involved in heroin trafficking and cocaine trafficking with him. They never charge his sister, who bribes and attempts to bribe and prepare Jamal Mohammad for bribery.

In this particular case, you will hear recordings with me and Abdul Williams. But you have to realize the following: I represented Abdul Williams on the parole hearing. I never represented Jamal Mohammad. Jamal Mohammad, the individual supposedly bribed to take the weight on the gun, was represented by another attorney, and that other attorney, Cliff Minor, had nothing to do with me, never spoke to me, never planned with me, never engaged with me that Jamal Mohammad was going to go into the Newark police department and give a statement.

The facts of the case were the following: A police sergeant pulled up on the scene. When he pulled up on the scene, there were five individuals, and there was a gun on the floor, a gun on the floor. He originally had written in his police report that he saw Abdul Williams throw the gun, but under sworn testimony, at the parole hearing, he admitted that he never saw Abdul Williams throw the gun. He said that when he pulled up, there was a gun on the floor and five individuals.

Abdul Williams never admitted to me that he threw the gun on the floor. As a matter of fact, Abdul Williams
told me, and I provided evidence of it, that he was coming back from the wake of his aunt, that there's no way that he could have had a gun on him, wouldn't have a gun, wouldn't take a gun to a funeral parlor to disrespect his aunt.

I pulled the obituaries. I pulled the actual showing of the wake of his aunt because I believed him. Not only that. You'll hear recordings where Abdul Williams is telling his family members to make sure this individual, Jamal Mohammad, is prepared when he goes to Paul and tells him that the gun is his.

You'll hear Paul, just like Mr. Gay said, telling Abdul Williams on the phone, make sure this guy -- is this guy a stand-up guy, is the words that I used. What does that mean? That he's willing to accept responsibility for the gun being his. That's what stand-up means. Not that he's willing to lie for you, because I would have said, make sure he's willing to take the weight for you or lie for you. I say, Make sure this guy is stand-up, meaning that he's accepting responsibility, the evidence will prove. I tell Abdul Williams, make sure this guy knows the fact in this case, because if he doesn't, I had an investigator, licensed by the New Jersey State Police, interviewing him, and I was going to scrutinize him and make sure that he's telling the truth.

That's the facts about the Abdul Williams case.

But Abdul Williams gets caught, not only on the gun case, but with drug trafficking. And what's Abdul Williams going to do if he's facing life in prison?

But here is the important fact that I really want you to remember in this opening that the evidence will prove on Abdul Williams. Abdul Williams is in a car with his baby sister. They get pulled over by the Newark police. All Abdul Williams has to do, they ask him to admit that the gun is his and they wouldn't arrest his sister, his flesh and blood.

What does Abdul Williams do? He denies that the gun is his. He watches his own flesh and blood, he watches his own sister get patted down by two male police officers, cuffed behind her back, taken to the Newark cellblock, one of the dirtiest, most disgusting places there are on earth, put into a cell, kept there until she can make bail. He allows his own flesh and blood, his own sister to get indicted for unlawful possession of weapons, facing 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. For over a year, he refuses to come forth to free his sister.

Do you think Abdul Williams is going to care about Paul Bergrin if he's willing to take away the liberty of his sister?

They talk about Vincent Esteves, Vincent Esteves. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I want you to
consider the following: For a year and a half, Vinnie Esteves pled not guilty - not guilty, said I am not guilty of doing anything with Oscar the hitman, and neither is Paul Bergrin, $I$ am not guilty of conspiracy with Paul Bergrin. For a year and a half, he went back and forth in court. Vinnie Esteves has all the recordings in the case. He has all the discovery in the case. His wife is involved with drug dealing with him, heavily involved in drug dealing.

Vinnie Esteves has a state case, the state case that $I$ originally started to represent him on. The judge gives him a 25-year sentence. The judge gives Vinnie Esteves a 25-year sentence. He's got a prior conviction. Not until he gets the 25-year sentence does he have all these recollections about Paul Bergrin.

But you will hear from the recordings, one dated August the 18th of 2008, and one dated September the 26 th of 2008, how Vinnie Esteves first gave Oscar his blessing but then told Oscar, Don't do anything until I get out. He said that on August 18 th and he said that on September the 26 th. And Vinnie Esteves was completely surprised about Oscar saying that he was going to do anything to the hitman, which clearly proves that he had no discussions with Paul Bergrin. But there's going to be recordings that these people didn't even transcribe, because they tried to hide it. There's going to be a recording dated November the 18 th
of 2008 where I have a meeting in my office and I put Vinnie -- I tell Vinnie to call in because I want him to be part of it on the speakerphone. Oscar, the alleged hitman, is there; Jason Nieves, who is Vinnie's first cousin, who is very close with Vinnie; Michael Lopez, an individual who is very close with Vinnie, and Vinnie's own brother, Nelson Esteves. And on that recording, I tell Vinnie, Oscar, everybody that's there: All I want to do is take statements and interview witnesses. And you know what Vinnie Esteves responds? That's all you ever say. That's all you ever want to do is take statements from individuals and interview individuals. It's clear 'cause he's screaming it at me in the speakerphone.

But you know what's important also during this conversation? Oscar, the alleged hitman, is told, You keep saying this stupid stuff about killing people and doing things. What that's going to do is that's going to hurt us. You're going to make matters worse.

That's why you need to listen to all the recordings. That's why you need to scrutinize the evidence very carefully to determine where the truth lies.

They talk about Thomas Moran.
Let me go back to Vinnie Esteves.
Oscar says that Vinnie Esteves committed four
murders. Oscar says that Vinnie Esteves solicited him to
commit four murders. So not only is Vinnie Esteves facing the 25 years that he's already sentenced to, and he's going to probably do 20 to 25 years on that because he has a prior heavy narcotic conviction, but he's also potentially facing four life sentences for four murders that he did. Not only that, but he's worried about his wife being charged with all the cocaine Federally.

They don't charge his wife. They don't charge him with all the cocaine he's distributing. They never charge him with any of the murders, the solicitations to commit murder with Oscar. Vinnie Esteves doesn't come forward, like $I$ said, until a short time after he's sentenced from the judge before he has any recollection about Paul Bergrin. That's what the evidence will show in this case. They talked about Tom Moran. Tom Moran, you'll find out, shared space on the floor of the building that $I$ rented at 50 Park Place in Newark, the 10th floor. You'll learn about Tom Moran, who got drunk, drove at a high rate of speed, hit a van with an off-duty -- excuse me, a retired police officer and his three children, knocking the van over, and was indicted in Monmouth County, New Jersey. You'll learn about Tom Moran, who approximately a month after that gets into a high-speed chase with Hudson County detectives, striking cars, going over 90 miles an hour while he's drunk, an open case in Hudson County, facing
second-degree eluding charges, up to 10 years in state prison, how, until this day, until this day, because he's cooperating with these people, the case is not resolved. They leave it open.

You'll hear about how Tom Moran got probation in Monmouth County for striking that vehicle with three children and a police officer, retired, and knocking it over. You'll hear about how Tom Moran solicited his father, who was a correction officer, to use his influence and try to contact police unions to talk to these police officers into not prosecuting Tom Moran, and how his father is never charged.

You'll hear about Tom Moran as a severe alcoholic and using drugs, who parties with Oscar and tells Oscar behind my back, Make sure Paul doesn't know what we do 'cause he's too straight.

You'll hear about Tom Moran who was put into -when he was arrested on May the 20th, 2009, was put into the Special Housing Unit at the Hudson County Jail. He was in a cell approximately eight by 10, locked up for 33 hours at a time in a small, tiny cell, 33 hours at a time; that while he's locked up, before he gets out for one hour, one hour after 33 hours, how he's telling people he's losing his mind, he needs to get out, he'll say and do anything. And that's the words that came out of Tom Moran's mouth.

You'll hear about Tom Moran, who while he's locked up in the cell for 33 hours at a time, the mother of his child commits suicide.

He has to get out. He needs the benefits of cooperation. He knows that he's an attorney. He knows -has the discovery in his hand. He knows what everything says.

They talk about this individual Oscar, this Latin King. I'm going to go into that in ad nauseam detail because you have to know about Oscar, and you have to know in this particular case what was done with Oscar.

But here's an individual who lies as an informant, a paid informant, lies from the beginning of the first time that he meets agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and is on will payroll for, he tells them that he committed 15 murders. Oscar says that, that he committed 15 murders. Then he says, $O h$, no, $I$ don't -- I didn't commit 15 murders. He lied to them. He says, I have information on 15 murders. But he had no information at all. How Oscar lies about his family, how Oscar lies about his background, the repeated crimes that he's committed, even that he committed a parole violation while working for them by using drugs, by not following rules and regulations. You'll hear recordings, but I want you to listen to all the gaps in the recordings. I want you to listen to all the pauses in the recordings. I
want you to hear all the unintelligible conversations, the long periods during strategic times in the recordings.

You'll hear about Oscar, who even lies while being recorded and recording and tells his handlers, the D.E.A. agents that are working with him, for instance, he says that Jason Nieves agreed to kill two witnesses, when Jason Nieves never said that. I'm going to play that tape for you to make sure that you hear that he's completely lying to them.

And they say, Shut off the tape, shut off the tape, Oscar.

How many informants based upon your life experience and cases that you've known know and learn and are taught how to turn off a recorder and turn on a recorder?

He says that Michael Lopez wanted to kill the prosecutor, James Jones. There is no such innuendo, suggestion, or statement ever done by Michael Lopez.

He continually and continuously lies, does things that are in violation of the law, but continues as a cooperating witness on behalf of them.

You're talking about Richard Pozo. They talked about Pozo and the fact that that I supposedly said to him, Pedro Ramos, why don't we take care of and get rid of that headache?

You'll learn, and this is a important fact for you to remember in the opening statement, Richard Pozo was arrested in New Jersey for a Texas case. He was running a \$150 million a year cocaine business. Paul Bergrin had nothing to do with it. Paul Bergrin didn't even know him during that particular time period. You'll hear about lies that he made about Paul Bergrin that could not have been true.

But, most importantly, Richard Pozo was facing life in Texas. Life in Texas. He has a prior drug conviction, drug trafficking conviction. Richard Pozo was also facing 25 to life in New Jersey in Union County, where he's indicted for being a leader of a narcotic organization. Richard Pozo gets time served.

Time served.
His brother is laundering money for him. His mother and father are laundering money for him. They're running multiple businesses that he started with drug proceeds. They're still in operation today. They're still in operation today, the cigar store, the automotive and body shop.

You'll hear about Richard Pozo, who, when he went to Texas authorities, agreed to cooperate. They questioned him, Federal officials, U.S. Attorneys, state officials that flew there from New Jersey, and they asked him, at a time, at a time when he's begging to be a cooperator, pleading for
cooperation, when he needs to tell them anything that he can possibly tell them, they ask him about Paul Bergrin, in Texas, by Texas authorities: Does Paul Bergrin -- do you know anything about Paul Bergrin doing anything to any witnesses or Paul Bergrin's involvement with witnesses?

And what does he answer to Texas authorities, when he's begging them to accept him as a cooperator, because he hasn't been coached and hasn't been suggested to him because these people aren't there with him at the time? He says no. Not until he gets the Federal prison time does this man right here, Minish, and his cohort, the agent in this case, go down approximately a year later, and they question Pozo while he's in Federal prison: Tell us about Paul Bergrin. And Pozo has a recollection a year later, a year later, when he had said nothing to Federal authorities that he didn't know anything about Paul Bergrin.

But we will prove to you conclusively, with credible evidence, believable witnesses, that there's no way Paul Bergrin ever could have at the Passaic County Jail said anything about Pedro Ramos. We'll prove that to you.

That's why I ask you to keep an open mind until everything is heard in the case.

Pozo's facing multiple life sentences, 25-year minimum. Based upon his charges, he has to do at least 25 years in New Jersey state prison as a leader of a narcotic
organization until he's eligible for parole. The man gets time served - time served, by this man writing him a letter to the Court.

You're going to hear about how the system is manipulated. You're going to hear about how individuals know what to do, what to say, when to say it, how to say it in order to get their benefits of the cooperation.

Truth doesn't fit in this equation at all.
They talk about Eugene Braswell. He's a correction officer running a major narcotic organization, shipping drugs from Texas to New Jersey. I have nothing whatsoever to do with it. He has his own drug connections, he has his own drug networks. I represented him. He was involved in a bad shooting as a correction officer. His union president came to me. I represented him in a bad shooting. I represented his brothers. I represented his uncles and his cousins. I had nothing whatsoever to do with his drug dealing, his drug business. He was caught in Warren County, driving back from Texas with multiple kilograms of cocaine. I had nothing to do with that. He has his own connections, his own contacts. He doesn't need Paul Bergrin. He's facing 25 to life in Warren County, as a police officer going into prison. Imagine that. Imagine what's going through his mind.

He then gets out on bail in Warren County facing

25 to life. He commits a Federal offense, gets arrested by the Feds, is facing life in prison, so he's facing life with 25 years, as a police officer.

That's when he gets put into the Hudson County Jail. This is important for you do know, and the evidence will prove this. He gets put into the Hudson County Jail.

Who does he meet in the Hudson County Jail?
Abdul Williams. Abdul Williams. Not until he meets Abdul Williams, not until he speaks to Abdul Williams does he then become a cooperator with all of this information about Paul Bergrin. When he was caught in Warren County, facing 25 to life, he knows nothing. When he's arrested by the Feds, he doesn't know anything. When does he come forth with this knowledge? After he's in the Hudson County Jail, meeting with Abdul Williams.

That's what this case is about.
Then he gets out. The Feds led him out. The Feds let him out because he gives information about Paul Bergrin. And then he gets arrested again.

Do you think he cares about consecutive time when the 25 years in New Jersey is going to run concurrent, which means he's getting a free ride, when he should be given 25 years in the State of New Jersey alone? Do you think he cares about something running consecutive when he's going to get no time on that third arrest because of his cooperation?

It wasn't running consecutive to nothing.

It's almost an insult to your intelligence to listen to some of the stuff that you heard from the prosecution in the opening statement.

The prosecution in this case opened about the recordings that you will hear.

Well, I'm glad that you're going to hear those recordings, because action speaks louder than words. The intent of an individual is shown, proven and is elicited based upon the actions that they take. If an individual never has the capacity to do anything, if the individual takes no action, if an individual has no intent, then you have no crime, and that's what the evidence and recordings will show in this particular case.

The evidence will conclusive prove beyond any doubt whatsoever that $I$ never, never under any circumstances trusted Oscar Cordova from Chicago. You will be brought forth facts in evidence that the first time that $I$ met Oscar, Oscar is talking to me about the fact that his father -- and they left this out of the opening, conveniently -was Lord Gino, the head of the Latin Kings for the whole United States. He's telling me about his father running the Latin Kings. He's telling how his father and how the Latin Kings are in 50 states and 10 nations. He's telling me that his father sent him here to help Vinnie out, to get Vinnie

Esteves out of jail so that he could meet Vinnie Esteves's connections. That's what he told us.

He's saying that he has contacts directly with the head of the Ochoa organization that took over for Pablo Escobar, the largest organization of the Colombian cartel. He's telling me that the Mexicans that Vinnie Esteves does business with sent him here. Large cartel members, the head of the cartel, individuals that Vinnie doesn't even deal with; he's way, way below that.

So you have to scratch your head from day one. I've got 29 years of experience. I've been a Federal prosecutor, state prosecutor, a defense counsel for 18 years. Anybody hearing that evidence, the evidence will prove, would say to themselves: Why does this guy here, why does he need to meet Vinnie Esteves's connections when he's directly linked and being sent by the heads of the Mexican cartel? Why does he need to meet Vinnie's connections, a low-level, a mid guy who has no connections anywhere near Oscar with the Ochoas directly?

He's telling me that he can get kilograms of cocaine from the Ochoas. This is meeting him the first meeting - doesn't even know me. I know Vinnie Esteves less than a month. I know Oscar for 15 minutes. He's telling me that he gets kilograms of cocaine for $\$ 3,500$ from the Ochoas, Marta Ochoa in Florida. He has a direct cell phone,
he can get it all day long.
Does Paul Bergrin ever, Paul Bergrin, this big drug dealer with people dealing all kinds of drugs for him, and the evidence in this case will show you that according to the Government's evidence, Paul Bergrin's paying 20, $\$ 25,000$ a kilogram, if $I$ get kilograms for 3,500 , I'm going to be on my hands and knees to Oscar. Never, do I ever ask him for any. Never, ever do I exchange telephone numbers, try to meet these individuals. Never, ever do I set up anything wherein Oscar could deliver cocaine to me or to anybody else. He says he has contacts directly with the Ochoas, the highest level of drug dealing on earth.

The next day, we have a meeting. He's such a bad alcoholic and drug addict, and you can tell it from day one, the way he acts, his mannerisms, the way he dressed, the wear he acted. He tells me -- comes into my office the next day after telling me about the $\$ 3,500$ kilograms and the Ochoas, and I tell him that I don't want anything, he comes in the next day and says, Paul, I got a great deal for you, Paul. My friend, a good buddy of mine -- his exact words on the recording -- went to Mexico, and he's bringing back a hundred kilograms at $\$ 15,500$.

He forgot what he had told me the day before.
Anybody hearing this would know that this guy is full of shit -- excuse me. Anybody hearing this would know
that this guy is a phony.
I independently ask and I tell several of the prosecution's own cooperating witnesses, this guy is out of his mind; this guy is a informant. This guy is not Lord Gino's son, we knew that from the beginning. If he's lying about that, then he was sent here, and if he's lying about that, then there must be something wrong. He says he comes from the Latin Kings.

I ask Vinnie: Vinnie, did you ever do business with the Latin Kings?

No.
Do you know Oscar's father?
No.
Oscar says -- Vinnie says that the individuals in the Mexican cartel that he's dealing with is a guy by the name of Pepe and a guy by the name of Patty. And what happened, one of the ways this case started, the investigation of Vinnie started was, there was 75 kilograms of cocaine seized that was destined for Vinnie Esteves, and it was sent by these Mexicans, Patty, it was sent by these Mexicans, Pepe, the same individuals that supposedly sent Oscar Cordova to help Vinnie out. The same people that this individual Junior is working for.

I asked Oscar: Do you know Pepe?
Oh, yeah, I know Pepe, I'll speak to him.

Then in the next conversation, you'll hear he denies knowing Pepe. He forgets what he says.

I ask Oscar, he tells me he has no idea who Patty is.

Anybody hearing Oscar speak would know that he wasn't sent by the people he said he was sent by, the Mexicans if he doesn't know the leader of the organization, if he doesn't know Pepe, if he doesn't know Patty, if he doesn't know Junior. He didn't know that the truck driver with the 75 kilograms of cocaine was arrested. He didn't know the truck driver's name. These are people that he supposedly worked with and for. He didn't know that the truck driver was in jail in Louisiana.

I'm bluffing him, role-playing with him, lying to him and saying, Hey, Oscar, do you do know that the truck driver, you know, he called me, he's out. And he's believing what I'm saying. He doesn't know that the guy is locked up. I say, Hey, Oscar, do you know that the truck driver called Vinnie on the day that he was arrested?

He's believing everything that's said to him. He tells me that he spoke to the truck driver. I know that that's an impossibility because he doesn't know the truck driver's in jail. He doesn't know the truck driver was arrested months before he ever came on the scene.

I did a case by the name of State $v$. Jeffrey

Castro. I represented an individual who was charged with murdering the second crown of the Latin Kings. I put them on trial. I put the Latin Kings on trial. I know about the Latin King Nation, the evidence will prove. I'll present to you the transcript of my summation in that particular case.

I know that anybody associated with the Latin King Nation will never, ever, ever, under any circumstance discuss Latin King business, especially to a schlepp like me that he doesn't even know, he hasn't met in his life. He's telling me about territories the Latin Kings are going to take over and about how I'm going to help him. He's telling me about who they drug-deal with, who they do business with. He's telling me about who they know.

He's telling me about his father, Lord Gino, who's locked up at the supermax facility, supermaximum prison called the ADX in Colorado. It's underground. It's built into the dirt, it's so secure. He's telling me about the fact that his father from the supermax, the most restrictive facility on earth, $I$ don't care if you compare it to the Russian gulag, they know how many pieces and sheets of toilet paper a person uses. Every sound is recorded that they make. Every word is recorded and scrutinized, telephone calls. They don't even have any human contact. They use robots to deliver food. Their mail comes up on a screen. That's how scrutinized and how restrictive it is,
the ADX. He's telling me that his father, who is locked up at the ADX, is running the Latin King Nation from the ADX.

He's telling me that his father is communicating with him, they snuck cellphones into the ADX and his father is communicating with him. He's telling me that his father is ordering murders, they're taking over territories.

This is when $I$ first meet him. Who is going to believe one word that he says? Who is going to believe one word that he says? He's threatening, the first time I meet him, to take a life, to kill someone.

Anybody, anybody that would talk to him is going to know not to believe one word, not to trust one word of him.

Your Honor, can we take our break now?
THE COURT: Continue on for a few minutes. I don't know if their lunch is here yet.

MR. BERGRIN: Yes, Your Honor.
He's telling me that his father has a cook in his cell, single-man cells at the ADX.

I go to Chicago because my daughter has blessed me with a brand-new grandchild, my first grandbaby, on August the 5th of 2008. I tell my daughter that I'm going to meet with Oscar, we're going to have dinner, and that he's supposed to pay me money because that's what he was there for, to help Vinnie with finances, to help Vinnie finance
the case. We needed accountants to show because Vinnie had a building company, a building corporation, taking mortgages, over a million dollars of those. Essentially, I was going to show how he made purchases, so I needed a forensic accountant to show that it didn't come from drug proceeds, that it came from the mortgages and the selling of the houses from his corporation, so I needed forensic accountants. I needed investigators to take statements.

Every time I told Oscar all I want to do is take a statement or interview somebody, he would completely change the topic and suggest, We're going to kill that person. And someone's not going to know from the first time you meet him that something's wrong with this guy, that he's not an informant?

Oscar threatened and told me that he's going to kill everybody in the case. He's going to kill the truck driver, who he doesn't know and doesn't know is incarcerated. He's going to kill the truck driver's helper that he doesn't know the name or is incarcerated or where he is, and Paul Bergrin never gives him that information. He tells us he's going to kill Pepe. He tells us he's going to kill Junior. He says he's going to kill the judge's son the judge's son. He tells us he's going to kill Jose Tapia, he tells us he's going to kill Arsenio Alejo.

I'm role-playing; I'm lying; I'm bluffing him. He
comes to pick me up at the airport on August the 5th, Friday night, in a -- in a limousine that had to be used as a hearse 20 years ago. I'm in the limousine. I tell him, Hey, Oscar, I just met with the accountant - completely fabricating and lying to him. It shows I'm role-playing. I tell him, Hey, Oscar, you know what? I just met with the accountant, and I had to threaten him and tell him I'm going to kill him and his family in order to get tax returns.

It's a complete fabrication - I have nothing but a complete professional and personal relationship with the accountant.

I tell him that I'm going to use that accountant, that I need money to pay that accountant as a forensic accountant, when we know that we're never going to use that accountant as a forensic accountant.

He tells me that he's the big Latin King leader, okay, he's running, now, the nation for his father, 50 states, internationally.

I called his phone, and I get: Oscar's Landscaping Service.

I say, Oscar, what's the landscaping service?
He plants trees and does lawns, running an
international organization. But Paul --
THE COURT: Whenever you want to break.
MR. BERGRIN: We can break now, Judge.

THE COURT: All right.
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience. I understand that your lunch has finally arrived, so we're going to take an hour for lunch.

Please don't discuss the case.
THE COURT CLERK: All rise. Just place your notebooks on your chairs, please.
(The jury exits)
THE COURT: You may be seated.
Mr. Bergrin, do you know how much longer you're going to be?

MR. BERGRIN: A couple hours, sir.
THE COURT: A couple hours?
I think we're going into a lot of detail that might be getting close to the line in an opening statement. I'm not hearing any objections, so I'm letting it go, but I would think we're getting into some -- you're getting into some detail that I think is questionable. So I don't know -- we've already been going over an hour.

MR. BERGRIN: I'll try to cut it down, Judge.
THE COURT: Well, I don't know if I'm going to allow it to go into that much detail if we go on with this. We've got to move along.

Do we have witnesses today, Mr. Gay?
MR. GAY: Yes, Judge.

CHARLES P. MCGUIRE, C.C.R.

THE COURT: Okay. One hour.
(Luncheon recess taken)

AFTERNOONSESSION
(Defendant present)
(Jury out)
THE COURT: All right. Mr. Gay?
MR. GAY: Thank you, Judge.
I just wanted to briefly say that with respect to Mr. Bergrin's opening statement so far, there have been a number of occasions in which he has been testifying, and I know we talked about that before.

THE COURT: And that was also in part of your pretrial --

MR. GAY: Yes. And, Judge, I understand that there were a number of instances in which the Government could have objected to certain things. We're kind of in a difficult position --

THE COURT: I understand.
MR. GAY: Because I don't want the jury to think we're hiding something.

THE COURT: I understand, and I realize that, and I recognize it. I wasn't saying that so much as a criticism.

MR. GAY: Yes.

CHARLES P. MCGUIRE, C.C.R.

THE COURT: But when there's not an objection on the other part, it's difficult -- I don't like to impose myself.

MR. GAY: Yes.
THE COURT: But $I$ will say this. Mr. Bergrin, I do think you are going very far afield in your opening. I'm trying to give you a lot of latitude, and I think I already have. But $I$ want it clear that the opening statement is to be limited to a general statement of facts which are intended to be or expected to be proved. An opening statement is not designed to be an evidentiary recitation which minutely describes in detail rather than generally outlines or foreshadows the testimony to be produced.

Many years ago, Chief Justice Burger said the following: "An opening statement has a narrow purpose and scope. It is to state what evidence will be presented to make it easier for the jurors to understand what is to follow and to relate parts of the evidence and testimony to the whole. It is not an occasion for argument."

Now, I understand the importance of this trial and I understand what you're facing here, so I've tried to be very, very fair in letting you go. But you've gone now for a long time, and your comment that you might have two more hours is just not going to fly. I am not allowing two more hours of opening statements. I want you to get to the
point, stop with the minute recitations, and end this opening so we can get on with the case. Okay?

I didn't want to say that in front of any jurors, but I'm letting you know I don't want to have to interrupt you.

So, please, let's move forward. Chuck, will you ask them to come in? THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
(The jury enters)
THE COURT: Okay. Let's be seated.
Okay. Let the record reflect the jurors are back, looking relaxed and well fed.

Mr. Bergrin?
MR. BERGRIN: Thank you very much, Judge.
Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.
I've gone into what the evidence will show on the recordings, so you can take everything in context and understand that from the beginning to the end, from the first time Oscar from Chicago, the alleged Latin King hitman, was met until this smoking-gun conversation on December 8th, it was just a matter of lies upon lies between me, between him, immaturity, role-playing. When it was determined that Oscar was not a Latin King, when the evidence had proven that Oscar did not come from where Vinnie said, Vinnie Esteves said he had come from, the

Mexicans, when the tapes and recordings and words out of Oscar's own mouth clearly reflected and proved that Oscar did not know the individuals, the Mexican individuals that Vinnie Esteves vowed and said that had sent Oscar, whether it be Junior, whether it be Pepe, whether it be Patty, whether it be the truck driver, whether it be the seizing of the drugs, that he did not know anything about anything related to them, did not know the individuals, then anybody hearing the evidence from day one would have known that Oscar is there for a purpose, a different purpose than what he alleged. It was clear as could be, and the recordings in this particular case will prove that unequivocally.

And when you look at it in context, from day one of Oscar talking about his father and talking about being able to obtain drugs on the tapes for certain prices, knowing the Ochoas, being able to get kilograms for 3,500, changing his testimony from day to day, from recording to recording, anybody listening to that, it didn't take rocket scientists to know that Oscar was an informant and that Oscar was not who he says he alleged he was. It was just one ludicrous lie after the other, and the icing on the tape -- the cake was all the statements that he made about his father, all the statements that he made about the supermax facility, all the statements that he made about his father ordering him to kill Junior or to kill witnesses on behalf
of Vinnie Esteves. Anybody hearing that, anybody hearing that would know it's a complete fabrication and lie.

That's why when they talk about and get to the December 8th conversation, you have to take everything in large context. Oscar claimed on the recordings that he was there to pay Vinnie's legal fees and to help Vinnie get out of jail. The recordings will show that Vinnie had a bail. Yet Oscar came up with not a dime for Vinnie's bail. Oscar promised at least 20 times on the recordings to bring money, said he has it with him, it's at his hotel, he's coming back with it. He comes up with nothing. After over -- after three months of meeting Oscar, on September the 4 th, when we met for the first time at the end of June, he comes up with $\$ 20,000$ in large bills in a heat-sealed bag.

Anybody that's been involved in the criminal justice system knows where heat-sealed bags come from and large bills.

In this particular case, it was role-playing at the maximum and role-playing at the worst. It was at fault, but nobody ever intended nor believed one word out of Oscar's mouth. It was physically impossible, the intent wasn't there, and he never had the capacity.

Oscar alleged on the recordings that --
THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin, come on, now, I've warned you. You're going too far in the opening statement. Now,
please. That's not the purpose of the opening.
Now, please, let's move on.
MR. BERGRIN: The evidence will show that on August the 5th, I traveled to Chicago, and there was recording, there was a recording about that. And every time that I told Oscar on that recording that all we want to do is take statements from the individual, especially Junior, meet Junior and meet him and interview him with an investigator, he would change the topic. Oscar said and claimed that he came from Chicago and claimed that he was the leader of the Latin Kings in Chicago. Yet, when I got there, he couldn't get a hotel room for me. I was actually traveling the streets and walking, wheeling a luggage from hotel to hotel, trying to find a hotel. He had no contacts. Oscar claimed he was the leader of the Latin Kings, originated in Chicago, owned Chicago. He didn't know the names of any restaurants and I had to ask the limo driver. We went to a restaurant. We had to wait two hours. He couldn't afford to pay for drinks and dinner. It became ludicrous and became absurd.

They're talking about the smoking-gun conversation of December 8th. That's what they're essentially basing this case upon. But what you have to realize and what the most important thing is, when we first met on December the 8th, in the recording, Oscar promised money, said his father
said deliver us money on that date for Vinnie because he knows we need investigators and he knows we need accountants. Never came up with a dime throughout that entire conversation, never came up with a dime on December the 8 th, never came up with a dime on December the 9 th.

This is the most important thing. Oscar told us on December 8th, he said statements like, he's killed hundreds of times.

Anybody hearing that would know that's an absurdity. Oscar said that he cannot do the murder in this case unless -- here's a Latin King leader with hundreds of thousands of Latin Kings all over the United States, he says that he can't do anything, it's contingent, he cannot complete the job or do anything unless either I or Thomas Moran provide him with a gun.

Who is not going to know when they hear that the absurdity and the ludicrousness of that?

And Paul Bergrin never, ever attempted, there's no evidence whatsoever, not a shred of evidence that Paul Bergrin ever attempted to get him a gun.

Tom Moran wanted him to meet with a contact that night by the name of Tito, Justino Cepeda. But when Oscar met with Justino Cepeda that night, he was never asked anything about a gun.

Somebody had to put a stop to that, the absurdity
and the ludicrousness.
Oscar said that he located Junior the Panamanian on this smoking-gun conversation through the Mexicans, through the Mexicanos and the Ochoas. But in previous recordings, he had forgot what he said. He had said in previous recordings that the Mexicanos don't know Junior, that he has no way to locate Junior, he needs my help in finding Junior.

So there was never any intent because I never made any effort to find Junior, as the evidence will prove. There was never any intent because $I$ never even attempted to try to get him a gun, and neither did Thomas Moran. There was never any capacity because he couldn't do it without the guns. From December the 8th until my arrest on May 20th, there is no follow-up telephone conversations where I say, Oscar, what are you doing? What's your intent? What are you going to do? What's happening with Junior?

Nothing. The only conversation is from December the 11th, where I say, Oscar, where's the money that you promised on December the 8 th? Or words to that effect.

I meet with Oscar, as the recordings will show, on December the 9 th, the next day.

THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin, I'm going to stop you again.

You're going too far in an opening statement.

Now, move on. This is not a summation.

MR. BERGRIN: The evidence will show based upon the context of the conversations, based upon what's contained in it, that Oscar had no idea whatsoever who Junior was, where Junior was, and Paul Bergrin never had the intent whatsoever to do anything to Junior or anybody else.

I'm just going to shoot through my notes to make sure I get the seminal parts.

I was Vinnie Esteves's attorney. And the evidence will prove that, as you listen to the recordings, and you listen very, very carefully to recordings, you'll find that the defense has the smoking gun in this case. When you look at the facts and the evidence as it comes forward in this case, you'll see the defense has the smoking gun. And the reason why is because when Vinnie -- evidence will prove and show that when Vinnie Esteves was arrested on May the 29 th of 2008 -- this is a very important point for you to remember -- Vinnie Esteves confessed to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the police officers that arrested him. When Vinnie Esteves was arrested on May the 29th of 2008, Vinnie gave up all the people that he was doing business with. When Vinnie Esteves was arrested on May the 29 th of 2008, he gave up Pepe and Patty and all his connections, and delineated with specificity what he did and what he was doing.

I knew this as his attorney, the evidence will show.

You have to ask yourself, when you look at the evidence, what attorney, what anybody, who would ever do business with Vinnie Esteves in either drugs or attempt to kill somebody, especially a witness, for someone who confessed to the police on the day that they're arrested, gave up all his connections, which means he has no connects, which means we're bluffing Oscar from the beginning about meeting Vinnie's connects when he gets out because he has none, he gave them up to Federal law enforcement officers. What attorney or anybody with any criminal law experience, the evidence will show, would talk to Vinnie about doing a homicide or selling drugs when Vinnie gave up his own brother, who was married to his wife's sister, the day that he was arrested? They had no idea who he was. He gave them up.

That's why you'll know based upon the evidence and as the evidence unfolds that this was nothing but role-playing, gamesmanship at its worst.

You listen to the tapes and you listen to the words. They're words without meaning, what we call idle chatter, idle banter.

You'll know that Oscar was not there to help Vinnie Esteves, because Vinnie Esteves had a one-year-old
child that was essentially starving, had no food, had no electric at the house, had no water. And if Oscar's there to help him or his connections are there to get Vinnie out so that Vinnie could continue to do business, wouldn't you expect them to help his child or pay his bail or pay his attorney fees?

That's why we knew from the beginning that Oscar was a liar and had no connections and he wasn't sent by the people he was sent by to get Vinnie out to meet Vinnie's connections, because if Oscar was sent from the people he was sent by, they would have gotten Vinnie out because they would have expected to make billions of dollars on Vinnie. Not one dime came into the case.

Proof, proof to you, based upon your God-given common sense and your workings of the world. They never helped get Vinnie's wife out of jail, they never paid Vinnie's bail, which was reduced down to $\$ 2$ million. THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin. Mr. Bergrin, we're now not just going beyond an opening. You're also repeating. Sir, please -MR. BERGRIN: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: -- either bring this to a close, or I'll bring it to a close.

MR. BERGRIN: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you are my last line of defense in my quest for justice. I
have nowhere else to turn. There is no tomorrow for me.
The racketeering part of this indictment, violent crimes in aid of racketeering, the Bergrin Law Firm was to represent individuals pursuant to the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution, to pour our heart and soul into this representation.

And you'll see that when I received the call on November 25 th to represent William Baskerville, the evidence will show that I received a call from his wife and I received a call from Hakeem Curry. Hakeem Curry, the evidence will show, grew up in the same house and was raised by the same grandmother as William Baskerville. They were friends.

But the evidence will prove that no one believed under any circumstances that William Baskerville would ever cooperate. Anthony Young swore to that fact in his testimony. Not only that, but Anthony Young swore that Hakeem Curry and William Baskerville did very little business if any business together. It was separate and apart from their personal relationship.

They talked about the Kemo murder in this case. What you have to realize is that when I received the call to represent William Baskerville, I called Assistant United States Attorney John Gay, who sent me over a copy of the criminal complaint. The criminal complaint alleged very
small amounts of hand-to-hand sales, as was shown to you on the screen. I presented it to William Baskerville, as any defense counsel would, and I represented him as any defense counsel would pursuant to the Sixth Amendment. And as I went through the complaint with William Baskerville, William Baskerville knew based upon the small amounts of drugs, the evidence will show, that were sold to Mr. McCray, right away that Mr. McCray was the informant - right away. He never sold those small amounts except to Mr. McCray. So William Baskerville knew. He didn't need anybody to tell him that. And the evidence will prove that William Baskerville called his family the first chance he had to tell them that McCray was the informant.

The evidence in this particular case will prove without a doubt whatsoever that all I did was my job, as any attorney would do under the facts and circumstances of this case. I appeared in court. I tried to get William Baskerville a bail, but the judge put off and delayed and adjourned the bail hearing from November the 25 th until December 4 th. The bail statute that $I$ was going to argue says that I could argue the weight of the evidence and the believability of witnesses. You have to know that in this particular case, Mr. Gay informed the Court and represented to us that there were videotapes, several, at least four transactions were videotaped. They watched William

Baskerville make a hand-to-hand sale to Mr. McCray. There were recordings. Every single transaction, all six of them by Baskerville to McCray, was recorded. Setting up the meetings between Mr. McCray and Mr. Baskerville were recorded. Law enforcement officers watched them. The evidence will show in this case that Mr. McCray was searched, given buy money by Federal agents, and when they watched him meeting with Mr. Baskerville, they immediately searched him, and he had the drugs on him. They did not need Kemo McCray. To believe that Kemo McCray was killed because he was a witness is ludicrous, and it's a fallacy to you.

The underlying theory of their case is that William Baskerville killed Kemo McCray or ordered his murder because he was a witness against William Baskerville. Kemo McCray, the evidence will prove, was not needed. They had videotapes and they had recordings. The underlying theory and basis of what they say has no basis and has no underlying theory.

The evidence will prove that on February the 23rd of 2004, a GPS tracking device was placed on the car of Hakeem Curry. The evidence will further prove that on February 25th, two days later, and four days before Kemo was killed, Hakeem Curry discovered it. He knew that he was under intense Federal investigation.

You'll hear testimony from Anthony Young saying that Hakeem Curry placed himself at the scene, at the scene of the murder, while he's under intense Federal investigation.

There was 33,000 intercepted conversations in the Hakeem Curry case - 33,000. They talked freely and openly. There is not one conversation setting up any meeting or talking about any meeting on the date William Baskerville was arrested or any date thereafter with Paul Bergrin or Hakeem Curry or any of these individuals. There was no chatter about a meeting with Paul Bergrin and these individuals. 33,000 conversations intercepted.

Anthony Young has given several different versions that you'll hear. He's given over 135 inconsistencies, committed perjury over 20 times. He says that on November 25th, the first statement he says, he says that Paul Bergrin said while he was in the car, No Kemo, no case, that there was never any meeting, that Paul Bergrin said it while he was in the car.

The second time he says it, he says that on November 25 th, the second statement he gives, he says that Paul Bergrin came to a meeting at nine o'clock in the evening on 16 th Street and Avon Avenue in Newark, talked to Hakeem Curry, and said as he was leaving and going back to the car, No Kemo, no case.

Every time he opened his mouth, he gave grave inconsistencies. He talked about November 25th, the day William Baskerville was arrested, and you'll hear this testimony as it unfolds in this Court. He says on November 25 th of 2003 that he went to a meeting on 17 th Street and Avon Avenue at Jamal Baskerville's house. Every time he talked about that meeting, he changed who was there and what was said. He first says that Diedre Baskerville was there in the morning. Then during trial and sworn testimony, he's confronted with the fact that Diedre Baskerville could not have been there because her phone records show that she was on the phone with me at her house in Roselle, New Jersey, so he changed his testimony.

He then says that he was in a car when Hakeem Curry received a call from me, and he swore multiple times that Rakim Baskerville was in the front seat of the car with him. Then he's confronted with the fact that Rakim Baskerville could not have been in the car with him and completely changes his testimony and says, Okay, Rakim wasn't in the car.

He says that all Paul Bergrin did to Hakeem Curry was read off the complaint, says that William Baskerville made a sale on this date of this amount, William Baskerville made a sale on this day of this amount, and that instead of Paul Bergrin saying CW, confidential witness, that's on the
complaint, Paul Bergrin mentioned the name Kemo.

But William Baskerville already knew that, the evidence will show. The evidence will prove that, and that William Baskerville had already called his family or called his family that night to tell them who the informant was.

The evidence will prove that on November 25th, as an obligation and for me to know anything about what to argue on a bail hearing, you have to find out the background of individuals, especially Kemo. How can you argue to a judge about the credibility of a witness if you don't ask people about it?

The evidence will prove all I did was what any defense counsel will do is try to represent to the best of my ability.

Every time Anthony Young talked, he lied. Every time he gave a version, it changed. The inconsistencies are mind-boggling.

The evidence will prove and it will be unveiled before you that on November 25th --

THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin. Mr. Bergrin, again --
MR. BERGRIN: Could I be heard at sidebar, please, Your Honor?

THE COURT: No, you can't be heard at sidebar.
You are going beyond what an opening is supposed to do. I've been warning you. Now, please. You're not
supposed to go into the recitation such as this. You will be able to prove this or do this at trial. This is an opening. You're beyond the scope, way beyond it. Now, please.

MR. BERGRIN: Anthony Young swore before a jury just as yourselves that Paul Bergrin used the word "murder" in 2007, that Paul Bergrin said to murder Kemo. And you'll hear how he retracted that and said those words never came out of Paul Bergrin's mouth.

You'll hear how for a year and a half, a year and a half, just about, multiple meetings with the Prosecutor's Office, Anthony Young accused another person of murder, his friend, Jamal McNeil. For almost a year and a half, he wanted Jamal McNeil arrested, charged with murder for something he didn't do, and he was willing to take the witness stand and testify against Jamal McNeil.

You'll hear that Anthony Young then gave a second version stating that he wasn't at the scene and that he didn't see anything.

You will hear he gave a third version. But the important fact for you to know that will be revealed from the evidence in this particular case is that Anthony Young never expected to do one day in jail no matter what he said. He's caught on tape saying that, and we have witnesses that will be presented before this jury that will testify to
that.

You will hear one inconsistency after another. You will hear one lie after another. You will hear one changed testimony that doesn't make sense after another.

Anthony Young said that on the date of the Kemo murder of March the 2nd of 2004 that a drug kingpin, Hakeem Curry, not only was at the scene while under intense Federal investigation, but that he drove up to the body with a police officer outside. Anthony Young said that Hakeem Curry let him put the gun, the murder weapon, and the bloody clothing of Kemo in his car with Kemo's DNA on it, and Hakeem Curry drove all the way from West Orange to Newark.

Anthony Young says that he has a girlfriend named Rashidah Tarver, and he gave a statement about what he did with the gun. And this is very important for you to understand. There's going to be testimony that's revealed in this particular case.

Anthony Young said, first told the F.B.I. that he melted the murder weapon the day after the Kemo shooting, March 3rd of 2004. He then says that it happened on the day, March 2nd, that Kemo was killed.

The F.B.I. goes to Ben Hahn, who owns Ben's Garage, where Anthony said that the melting went down, and Ben says that that's a lie, Anthony Young --

MR. GAY: Objection, Your Honor. Is there going to be evidence of this?

MR. BERGRIN: Yes.
MR. GAY: Because I don't believe there will be. MR. BERGRIN: I believe there will be.

THE COURT: Well, this is another one of the problems when you get into such minute detail in an opening, which is totally improper.

Now, Mr. Bergrin, I've warned you. I've given you wide latitude. I am directing you to listen to me and to conclude in a reasonable time.

I'll sustain the objection.
Go.
MR. BERGRIN: On March the 2nd of 2004, at about two o'clock in the afternoon, the evidence will show, Kemo Deshawn McCray was shot and killed. Standing next to Mr. McCray was his stepfather, Johnnie Davis.

At the time that Kemo McCray was killed, there will be evidence and testimony that Johnnie Davis said that the person that killed my son had dreadlocks down to his shoulder.

Anthony Young was bald on that particular day. There will be testimony to show that Johnnie Davis said that he had a confrontation with the shooter the next day, March the 3rd, the shooter with the dreadlocks down to his shoulders, and the shooter threatened him. Johnnie

Davis identified this person with the dreadlocks down to his shoulder, Malik Lattimore, on July the 23rd of 2004.

Christopher Spruel, another friend of Kemo McCray, was coming from a memorial from where Kemo was shot on South 19th Street and South Orange Avenue on March the 6th, had a confrontation with Malik Lattimore. Malik Lattimore made statements to him about him being out there on that day.

There will be evidence presented to you from a Roderick Boyd, an individual cooperating witness from the United States Government, who says that Malik Lattimore confessed to the murder of Kemo Deshawn McCray.

This case started with a very aggressive F.B.I. agent who told McCray falsely that he's going to be charged with the unlawful possession of a shotgun and that if he doesn't admit to it that they're going to arrest his mother, Delphine Smith, for possession of the shotgun, knowing that's a complete fabrication.

And Kemo was failed -- they failed to protect him. And now somebody has to pay the costs for their negligence.

The prosecution talked about the Norberto Velez case. You're going to hear evidence, and what I need you to do, I need you to listen carefully, because, you know why? You're going to make a determination based upon what you hear in the Norberto Velez case with Carolyn Velez, a
nine-year-old girl who they say was threatened, intimidated, and coerced. It doesn't matter what Carolyn Velez says now, because back when she testified, you'll see and you'll hear she was queried very carefully by the presiding judge, queried her very, very carefully. There's no way a nine-year-old could have been coerced to testify the way she did. And there was three trials, three trials, and each time, the judge told her about the oath and told her about putting her hand on the bible.

But when you listen to the physical, forensic, and scientific evidence and the version given by Mary Lou Bruno, you'll know it could not have happened the way she says. You'll know it right away. Listen to the cross-examination. When you hear the cross-examination, you'll know that Carolyn Velez is not telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and Mary Lou Velez isn't, either. When you compare that to the scientific evidence, the evidence of the doctor who will testify, you'll know that Carolyn Velez and Mary Lou Velez are not telling the truth and the whole truth.

They talk about the Edward Peoples case and the murder of Rahman Jenkins. You'll see that Gregory Smith was questioned by investigators from the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. He was questioned and asked if Paul Bergrin suggested anything to him or was involved in
any type of improper conduct, and he said no. You'll know that Gregory Smith is a paid informant who knows how to contact the Prosecutor's Office, and he doesn't contact them to ever say that Paul Bergrin did anything wrong.

You'll hear about Judge Rosenberg, who questioned and read statements about each and every witness and concluded in a judicial opinion that Paul Bergrin did nothing wrong in the Edward Peoples case.

They talked about 710 Summer Avenue, the kilograms of cocaine that were found there. You have to realize, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that those kilograms were brought there on May the 21st of 2008 -- excuse me, May 21 st of 2009, Paul Bergrin was under arrest. The evidence will show and prove that there was a pole camera up on that building for at least 30 days, and not one time did Paul Bergrin ever go there. They were under surveillance, Alejandro Castro and his brother. Not one time did Paul Bergrin ever meet with them.

You'll learn that Yolanda Jauregui was introduced to Alejandro Castro behind my back and began -- she was someone I fell in love with. She began an intimate relationship with him within two weeks of meeting him and did drugs and drug dealing behind my back with him and his family. I had absolutely nothing to do with it, and there will be no evidence whatsoever to prove to you by logical,
credible, and believable evidence that I had any knowledge whatsoever that either Alejandro or his brother was living at that building and that drugs were being brought there at any time. No evidence whatsoever, not a scintilla of evidence.

You'll learn in this particular case, the prostitution case, that the witness that's testifying on behalf of the Government -- just listen to what he has to hide or what he has to lose, James Cortapassi, and his motive, his motive, how he was working with the owner of New York Confidential, Jason Itzler, behind my back; how he was living in Jason's apartment behind my back without my knowledge; that an individual by the name of Ron Pearlman, a producer, was doing a show, a reality TV show and was there 18 hours a day, filming New York Confidential, and not one time in all the months that he was there filming for nine months, 18 hours a day, did he ever see me there.

They say that Paul Bergrin used Jason Itzler -- or never used Jason Itzler to help him as a paralegal. But we'll have evidence that will be presented before you that there was multiple documents from the Abu Ghraib case that was brought to Itzler and an attorney by the name of Mel Sachs, who agreed to help me organize the files in the case and write summaries on that, and that's the letters that were sent to the parole board that Itzler's helping me on
the case.

Everything that they've alleged we could prove is not true. And we don't have to prove anything. We have no burden whatsoever to you.

I wanted to go into much greater detail, but obviously I'm not going to -- obviously I'm not going to be allowed to in reference to Anthony Young and the blatant inconsistencies and how you'll be able to tell that he's not telling the truth about Paul Bergrin. All I ask you to do, please, listen to the versions. Listen to how illogical what he says happened. Listen to the fact of how he says that he committed the homicide and how the physical and forensic and scientific evidence prove that he's lying.

For instance, he says that he shot Kemo on the sidewalk of South 19th Street and South Orange Avenue. Physically impossible.

He says that he shot him with an automatic weapon and that all the guns that he had were altered.

Untrue.

He says that after he shot Kemo McCray, he jumped into a car.

No evidence of that.

Everything that he says, everything that he talks about is completely incredulous, and he's changed his testimony one time after another.

But the one fact $I$ want you to remember is,

Kemo McCray on March the 2nd of 2004 was wearing a do-rag on his head and had a bandanna on his head. That's going to be proven to you by the medical examiners and the investigators from the medical examiner's office who were at the scene and did the autopsy on Mr. McCray, as well as the police officer at the scene. Anthony Young when he was questioned and said that he did the shooting had no knowledge and he swore to a jury such as yourself that he had no knowledge and didn't remember that Kemo's wearing a bandanna or a do-rag on his head. Anybody that did the homicide in this case would immediately know that, especially somebody that approached Kemo McCray and stood right behind him and shot him.

Anthony Young said that he was able to sneak up to Kemo that he knows since he's 12 years old because it was freezing, bitter cold outside, so he was able to wear gloves and $a$ half a block on South Orange Avenue sneak up and walk up to him because he was able to pull his fleece jacket up high and pull his hat down low because it was bitter cold outside.

It was 70 degrees outside when Kemo was shot.
All I ask you to do is to scrutinize the evidence the same way you would want it looked at and scrutinized and meticulously dealt with if you or any of your loved ones were on trial.

Thank you.
THE COURT: Thank you.
Who's your first witness?
MR. GAY: Your Honor, we have Lachoy Walker, but we need a brief sidebar on that before we call him.

THE COURT: You need a sidebar?
MR. GAY: Yes.
THE COURT: On your witness.
MR. GAY: Yes, on the witness, Judge.
(The following takes place at sidebar)
MR. GAY: Judge, I raised this with Mr. Lustberg before, but this next witness is in the Witness Protection Program. At the last trial, we agreed we would not bring it out because Mr . Bergrin was not going to bring it out, but I haven't had that discussion with him yet now, so I just want to find out whether or not Mr . Bergrin intends to question this next witness on anything having to do with the Witness Protection Program, because if he is, you know, we have to make some applications.

MR. BERGRIN: I'd like to see a recitation, because you've never provided it, of the --

MR. GAY: Recitation of what?
MR. BERGRIN: Of the benefits that he has received.

MR. GAY: Did you give that to Larry?

MR. LUSTBERG: I did. I gave it to Paul.
MR. GAY: Approximately $\$ 114,000$ over the past, since 2006, for --

MR. BERGRIN: ExCuse me. Let me just --
MR. GAY: Well, I'm trying to answer your
question, Paul -- for living expenses, relocation expenses, things of that nature.

MR. BERGRIN: I would like --
THE COURT: I'm going to let the jury go .
MR. GAY: All right.
(The following takes place in open court)
THE COURT: We're going to take a short break.
THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
just place your notebooks on your chairs, please.
(The following takes place in open court)
THE COURT: Be seated.
So you just want to know whether Mr. Bergrin is going to bring that up in cross-examination?

MR. GAY: Yes, Judge, because if he is, we intend to bring it out on direct.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Bergrin?
MR. BERGRIN: Judge, I just received this. May I please have a chance to read it, sir? I mean, I've never seen this before.

THE COURT: I don't even know what it is you have.

MR. BERGRIN: It's a documentation in reference to the financial -- financial benefits, essentially, that he has received since 2006.

THE COURT: Go ahead.
(Pause)

MR. GAY: I don't know -- do we want the witness on the stand yet?

THE COURT: I didn't even know he was being brought out.

MR. GAY: I'm sorry, Judge.

Just one minute.
(The witness left the courtroom.)

MR. BERGRIN: Judge, I'm going to go into this.
I'm going to go into this.
THE COURT: Okay. I'm not going to stop you.

Mr. Gay?
MR. GAY: Okay, Judge. I will -- can $I$ just have two seconds with my witness, because I told him before --

THE COURT: Yes, because I gave the jury until 10 of.

MR. GAY: Okay.
(Recess taken)

THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
(The jury enters)
THE COURT: Be seated.

Mr. Gay, call your first witness.
MR. GAY: The Government calls Lachoy Walker, Your Honor

THE COURT: Please have him sworn.
THE COURT CLERK: Placing your left hand on the bible, raising your right hand:

LACHOY W A L K E R, called as a witness on behalf of the Government, and having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE COURT CLERK: Please be seated.
Just keep your voice up.
Please state your name, spelling it for the record.

THE WITNESS: L-a-c-h-o-y, Walker.
MR. GAY: May I inquire, Your Honor?
Thank you.
DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. GAY:
Q. Sir, how old are you?
A. Thirty-eight.
Q. When were you born?
A. December 21st, 1974.
Q. Where were you born?
A. Union, New Jersey.
Q. Where were you raised?

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A. Newark, New Jersey.
Q. Can you tell the jury what the highest grade you completed in school was?
A. Eleventh grade.
Q. Can you briefly describe what if any legitimate employment you had prior to March 4th of 2004 ?
A. I had a painting job, and I worked at a company called Century Distribution.
Q. What else did you do to make money prior to March 4th, 2004?
A. I sold drugs.
Q. Now, prior to that, were you part of a drug organization?
A. Yes.
Q. Who was the boss of that drug organization?
A. Mr. Hakeem Curry.
Q. On March 4th, 2004, did you get arrested by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration?
A. Yes.
Q. Were you in possession of drugs at the time of your arrest?
A. Yes.
Q. Who were you working for when you were arrested?
A. Hakeem Curry.
Q. Who did the drugs you possessed belong to?

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A. Mr. Curry.
Q. On the day of the arrest, did you decide to cooperate?
A. Yes .
Q. Soon after that, did you appear in court and get a lawyer?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you later plead guilty to conspiracy to distribute drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you also sign a cooperation agreement at that time?
A. Yes.
Q. What was your understanding of what your obligation was under the cooperation agreement?
A. To tell the truth.

MR. GAY: I'd like to show the witness Exhibit 7005.
Q. Mr. Walker, do you recognize what that is?
A. Yes.
Q. What is that?
A. The cooperation agreement.
Q. Is that the one that you signed?
A. Looks like the one.
Q. Okay.

MR. GAY: Your Honor, I'd ask that this be entered

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into evidence at this time.
THE COURT: Well, is there a signature page on it? THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. GAY: There is.
THE COURT: Is that your signature?
THE WITNESS: Yeah. Yeah, it's my signature.
THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. BERGRIN: No objection, Judge.
THE COURT: Into evidence.
(Government Exhibit 7005 marked in evidence)
Q. Now, Mr. Walker, you can keep that up there for now. What was your understanding of your obligations under the agreement?
A. To tell the truth.
Q. And did you -- after you cooperated with the Government -- let's set aside the agreement for now for a second.
A. Yeah.
Q. After you began to cooperate with the Government, did you provide information about Mr . Curry and Mr. Curry's organization?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you eventually testify at a trial against Hakeem Curry and William -- and, excuse me, Rakim Baskerville?

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A. Yes.
Q. Do you recall approximately when that trial was?
A. It was in 2006.
Q. Now, what was your understanding of what would have happened to you if you lied at that trial?
A. I wouldn't have got the cooperation agreement.
Q. And what happened -- what was your understanding of what would happen if you lied under the prosecution's questions?
A. Same thing.
Q. What about with the defense questions?
A. Same thing.
Q. What was your understanding of who was responsible for determining what sentence you would receive?
A. Ultimately, it was up to the judge.
Q. Now, the judge that was the sentencing judge in that case, was that this judge, or a different judge?
A.
A different judge.
Q. Was the judge that sentenced you the same judge that heard the testimony you gave in the Hakeem Curry and Rakim Baskerville trial?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, do you recall what sentence you were facing without cooperation?
A. Anywhere from 185 months to two-thirty-five, I
believe.
Q. And after you testified at the trial, did the Government write a motion on your behalf?
A. Yes.
Q. And do you recall what sentence you actually received?
A. Time served. I served about 46 months.
Q. Now, after you served that sentence, did you start a new life?
A. Yes.
Q. And since that time, have you committed any crimes? A. No.
Q. Have you maintained legitimate employment since that time?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, let's briefly talk about your life prior to your arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Approximately when did you begin selling drugs?
A. When I was about 14 years old.
Q. And when was it that you stopped selling drugs?
A. The date of my arrest on March 4th, 2004.
Q. Now, on or about September 16th of 1993, were you arrested for distributing a controlled substance?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you later plead guilty to that charge and receive a sentence of probation?
A. Yes.
Q. On or about April 6th, 1994, were you arrested for distributing a controlled substance?
A. Yes.
Q. On or about February 1996, were you arrested for aggravated assault and criminal restraint?
A. Yes.
Q. On or about October 28th of 1996, did you plead guilty to both of those charges, the 1994 drug charge and the 1996 assault charge?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you receive a combined sentence of approximately four years on those charges?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you remember about how long you actually served in prison on those charges?
A. It was about 14 months.
Q. On February 4th, 1999, were you arrested for possession of a controlled substance and conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance?
A. Yes.
Q. Were you on parole at the time from those 1996 convictions?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you go to jail on a parole violation?

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A. Yes.
Q. Do you recall approximately how much time you spent in jail?
A. It was about six months.
Q. Did you also plead guilty to the 1999 drug case --
A. Yes.
Q. -- on or about March of 2000?
A. Yes.
Q. And were you supposed to report to court to be sentenced on that case?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you fail to appear in court?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you remain a fugitive on that case until your March 4th, 2004 arrest?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. Now, you mentioned that you were arrested then on March 4th by the Drug Enforcement Administration; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, did you ever use any false names when you were arrested during your lifetime?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ever give a false date of birth when you were arrested?

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A. Yes.
Q. You indicated that you had sold drugs since approximately the age of 14 until March 4th, 2004; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And during that time, did you spend the majority of time distributing drugs for a particular organization?
A. Yes.
Q. What organization was that?
A. The Hakeem Curry Organization.
Q. And in that time, did you become familiar with the way drugs are sold on the streets?
A. Yes.
Q. And are you familiar with the term "connect"?
A. Yes.
Q. And what does that term mean?
A. A connect is a -- a connection the boss have to distribute drugs.
Q. Somebody who supplies drugs to the boss?
A. Yes.
Q. And you mentioned the term "boss." What is a drug boss?
A. He is the head of the organization.
Q. And is there anyone, particularly in Mr. Curry's organization, was there anyone under the boss?
A. Yes.
Q. And who was that be?
A. That would be lieutenants or managers.
Q. And what were they responsible for in Mr. Curry's organization?
A. They was to manage whatever spot they have, whatever block they have, they was to manage that particular area.
Q. Are you familiar with the term "pitcher"?
A. Yes.
Q. And in relation to drugs, what does a pitcher do?
A. A pitcher deals directly with the users. They are right up under the managers.
Q. Are you familiar with the term "consignment" as it relates to drug dealing?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you describe what that means?
A. Consignment is, you get the drugs up front, no money, and you filter the drugs back to the person that gave the -gave it to you on consignment.
Q. Okay. So does the boss get the drugs from the connect on consignment?
A. Yes.
Q. And what about the managers from the boss?
A. Yes.
Q. And what about the pitchers from the managers?
A. Yes.
Q. And what about the end user; does the end user get it on consignment, or do they pay?
A. No, they pay for it up front.
Q. Can you briefly describe what the goals of a drug trafficker are, drug dealing?
A. Not to get caught.
Q. And what if any methods are you familiar with that drug traffickers use, that you used and Curry's organization used not to get caught by law enforcement?
A. Fake IDs, disposable cell phones, rental cars, vehicles with secret compartments in them called traps. That's about it. That's all I can remember right now.
Q. Are you familiar with the term "lookout"?
A. Yes.
Q. And what is a lookout?
A. Lookout is a person who looks out for the police, whichever block you have, whichever set you have, they look out for the police. They usually have walkie-talkies, and they let everybody know if the police is coming, or they call "five-oh," which is a name for the police.
Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Walker, you mentioned throwaway or prepaid cell phones. How does that assist the drug trafficker in not getting caught?
A. It's no name attached to them. You can just use them, throw them away, buy another one, and then -- they're -basically, the object is is no name attached to it.
Q. Okay. Now, what about rental cars?
A. Usually you get a user or somebody that's not associated with yourself to get the car for you, and then you can -- you can either change it out every week, a different color, or this way nobody would know if it was you coming, they can't get a bead up on you.
Q. What about the -- you mentioned traps or secret compartments. How are those used?
A. They usually -- they usually use -- you can store guns, you can store money, you can store drugs in them. Q. Now, you mentioned that drug traffickers do use cell phones; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And based on your experience when you were using phones, did you talk openly about drugs over the phone? A. Not necessarily. I just tell a person to meet me, where to meet me at. We would meet face-to-face, and I'd talk to them face-to-face, or you can talk in code usually, but mainly you want to meet that person face-to-face.
Q. And what's the reason for that?
A. This way, you -- nobody can -- nobody can record your conversation unless that person was wearing a wire. But you
pretty much want to talk face-to-face 'cause the phones -afraid the phones will be tapped.
Q. You mentioned tapped. What does that mean?
A. That law enforcement can -- can record your conversations.
Q. Okay. Now, you testified that you sold drugs with Mr. Curry and his organization since you were approximately 14 years old.

Can you briefly describe at its height what the Curry Organization was like?
A. At its height? We pretty much, we sold cocaine and heroin. At its height when? Give me a --
Q. Well, when it was -- well, let me ask you the question a little differently.
A. Yeah.
Q. At some point, did the Curry Organization grow from being something small to something larger?
A. Yes.
Q. So what I'm asking you is, when it was at its largest point, can you describe, again, just briefly, what it was like? Very briefly.
A. We mainly -- it was -- it was mainly him as the boss.

He pretty much, instead of just -- just being in Georgia King Village, he had several different areas of Newark, New Jersey, Union, New Jersey, several different areas
instead of that, just that one area. He filtered the drugs down to those particular areas, and the managers filtered the -- filtered the money back to him, he filtered the money back up to the connect.
Q. All right. Now, based on your years of dealing with the Curry Organization, did you become familiar with other members of the organization?
A. Yes .
Q. Okay. I want to show you first what's been marked Government Exhibit 2258.

MR. GAY: Judge, if you don't mind, I'm going to approach the witness.

THE COURT: All right.
Q. Do you recognize who that person is?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. Hakeem Curry.
Q. Does that fairly and accurately depict Hakeem Curry?
A. Yes.
Q. What was Mr. Curry's role in the organization?
A. He was the head of that organization. He was the boss.
Q. Did you know Mr. Curry by any other names besides Hakeem Curry?
A. We called him Dough Boy, ET, Eddie.
Q. How long did you know Mr. Curry?
A. Since I was about eight years old.

MR. GAY: Judge, I'd like to publish 2258 for the jury.

THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. BERGRIN: No, Judge.
THE COURT: Go ahead.
Q. I want to show you Government Exhibit 3512 for identification.

Do you recognize that individual?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. Yes. Alquan Loyal.
Q. What was his role in the organization?
A. He was -- he was pretty much equal to Mr. Curry.
Q. Another boss?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Did you know him by any other names?
A. We called him Sheik, Sheik Ali.
Q. Okay.

MR. GAY: If we can publish 3512.
THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. BERGRIN: No, Judge.
THE COURT: Go ahead.
Q. I want to show you 3500 , ask you if you recognize that person.
A. That's Ishmael Pray.
Q. And what was Ishmael Pray's role in the organization?
A. He was a manager.

THE COURT: Are there any objections to any of these pictures, Mr. Bergrin?

MR. BERGRIN: No, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.
Q. I'm going to show you 3502 and ask you if you recognize that idea.
A. Alkadil (ph) Clarke.
Q. Did you know him by any other names?
A. We called him Punkin.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. He was affiliated, he was up under Mr. Ishmael Pray.
Q. Okay. How about Exhibit 2255?
A. Mr. William Baskerville.
Q. Was he a member of the organization as well?
A. Yes.
Q. What was his role?
A. He was a manager.
Q. When you say a manager, can you describe -- do you know where he managed?
A. 21st Street on the Irvington-Newark borderline.
Q. I'm going to show you 2257. Do you recognize that person?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. That's Mr. Rakim Baskerville.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. Did you know him by any other names or any nicknames?
A. We called him Rak.
Q. How about 3517; do you recognize this individual?
A. It's Al-Hamid Baskerville.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. Also a manager.
Q. Okay. The next one I'm going to show you only on your screen for a moment and ask you whether you recognize that individual.

MR. LUSTBERG: Can we just get exhibit numbers? MR. GAY: Oh, sure. This is 3061. Sorry, Mr. Lustberg.

MR. BERGRIN: Can I see the rest of those photographs, please?

THE COURT: The ones he hasn't shown him?

MR. BERGRIN: Yes.

MR. GAY: Sure.
(Documents were handed to the Defendant.)

THE COURT: Okay. Can we proceed?

MR. GAY: I think Mr. Bergrin is still looking at the photos, Judge.

THE COURT: Were these turned over previously?
MR. GAY: Yes, they've been previously turned over.

MR. LUSTBERG: But, Judge, we don't always know ahead which exhibits are going to be introduced to which witness, so it would be helpful if we were shown the exhibits before they're introduced.

THE COURT: That's a fair request. MR. GAY: I will absolutely do that, Judge. I apologize.

MR. BERGRIN: Thank you.

BY MR. GAY:
Q. Mr. Walker, if you can take a look at the next photo, who is that?
A. It's myself.
Q. Okay. And what was your role in the organization?
A. I was a manager.
Q. Where did you manage?
A. Georgia King Village.
Q. What is Georgia King Village?
A. It's a housing complex in Newark, New Jersey.
Q. I'm going to show you the next one, it's 3521.

Recognize that person?

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A. That's Mr. Taheed Mitchell.
Q. Was he part of the organization?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you remember what his role was in the organization?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. Where did he manage?
A. He managed in Georgia King Village.
Q. So you guys worked together?
A. Yes.
Q. Somewhat?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. I'm going to show you 3523 and ask you whether you recognize that individual.
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. That's Kenneth Malik Sutton.
Q. And was he part of the organization?
A. Yes.
Q. What was his role?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. I'm going to show you 3511. Do you remember where it was that Malik Sutton managed?
A. Third Street in Newark.
Q. How about the next photo: Do you recognize that person?

1
A. Maurice Lowe.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. Do you remember where it was that he managed?
A. Ninth Street in Newark.
Q. Okay. If we could put that up.

Okay. What about 3050? Do you recognize that person?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. That's Abdul Williams, called him Mutalib.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. Do you know where it was that he managed?
A. Bradley Court in Newark.
Q. Is that another housing --
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. How about 3519; do you recognize that person?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. I know him as Keet.
Q. Okay. And do you know what his role was in the organization?
A. He was up under Mutalib, Abdul Williams, in Bradley Court.
Q. I'm going to show you 3515 and ask you whether you recognize that individual.
A. This is Jarvis Webb.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. Do you know where it was that he managed?
A. He pretty -- he pretty much freelanced. Prince Street in Newark; Jersey City.
Q. I'm going to show you the next two photos in a combination, 3505 and 3506, and ask whether you recognize those two persons.
A. Jason and Justin Hannibal.
Q. Okay, and did you have any particular names for these two?
A. We called them the Dummies, Beavis and Butthead.
Q. Do you know whether -- what relationship they had to each other?
A. Oh, they was brothers.
Q. Do you know whether or not they were twins?
A. Yes, they were.
Q. What was their role?
A. They was managers also.
Q. And were they under a particular person?
A. Yes, they was up under Jarvis.
Q. Okay. I want to show you 3503 and ask you whether you
recognize that person.
A. That's Norman Sanders.
Q. And what was his role in the organization?
A. He was a manager also. He managed Seymour Avenue in Newark.
Q. And now I'm going to show you 3507 and ask whether you recognize that person.
A. Atif Amin.
Q. And what was his role?
A. He was a manager also.
Q. And finally, I'm going to show you 3510 and ask you whether you recognize that person.
A. He go by the name of Rashid Prior.
Q. Do you know any nicknames for him?
A. We call him Akmon.
Q. Okay, and what was his role?
A. He was a manager also. He was pretty much up under Mr. Loyal.

MR. GAY: That's all I have for this for right now.
Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Walker, based on the chart that you see up here, can you tell the jury briefly, the individuals in that second row you mentioned as managers, where did they get their drugs from?
A. They got them from the boss.
Q. Okay, and that was?
A. Mr. Curry or Mr. Loyal.
Q. Okay. Now, specifically, is there anybody on that list that was more associated with either Mr. Loyal or Mr. Curry that you're aware of?
A. Well, the majority of them was -- well, almost all of them was associated with Mr. Curry. Only one of them on the screen was associated with Mr. Loyal.
Q. And which one was associated with Mr. Loyal?
A. Mr. Rashid Prior.
Q. Now, with respect to the individuals Al-Hamid Rakim and William Baskerville, are you aware whether or not they had any familial connection to Mr. Curry?
A. Supposedly, they were supposed to be cousins. I don't know what the relationship was, but on the street, they called each other cousins.
Q. Now, Mr. Walker, was Mr. Curry's organization always this large?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Can you briefly, and again, briefly, just describe, were you there in the beginning when Mr . Curry started the organization?
A. Yes.
Q. And can you briefly describe what it was like in the beginning, and then again, briefly, its evolution?
A. Basically, in the beginning, we pretty much sold drugs ourselves hand-to-hand. After '96, after I went to jail and came home in '97, it pretty much evolved into almost what it is now -- or what it was then as it began to get larger.
Q. Okay. Now, let me just say, before, when you initially said you did hand-to-hands, was there a particular spot you and Mr. Curry did hand-to-hands?
A. In Georgia King Village.
Q. Now, you mentioned after your arrest and you came back in 1997 that the organization had changed.
A. Yes.
Q. How had it changed?
A. He was making more money. He controlled different areas besides Georgia King Village. He was introduced to another connect, which pretty much grows into what it was at that point.
Q. Okay. Now, do you know how he was introduced to that other connect?
A. He was introduced to that connect from Mr . Alquan Loyal.
Q. Now, what drugs did Mr. Curry and his organization sell?
A. Well, then, it was heroin.
Q. Okay. Also sell cocaine as well?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Now, I want to ask you a couple of questions about, first of all, with respect to -- you said you were arrested in 1999, is that correct, on a drug charge?
A. Yes.
Q. And you also had a parole violation connected to that charge?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you obtain a lawyer on that charge?
A. Yes.
Q. And who was that lawyer?
A. Mr. Bergrin.
Q. Okay. Do you know his full name?
A. Mr. Paul Bergrin.
Q. Okay. Do you see Mr. Bergrin in court today?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you please point him out and describe an article of clothing he's wearing?

MR. BERGRIN: I'll stipulate identification, Judge. I have no problem

THE COURT: For the record. Thank you.
BY MR. GAY:
Q. Now who paid Mr. Bergrin to represent you in that case?
A. Mr. Curry.
Q. Can you describe based on your knowledge of the Curry

Organization and based on your knowledge of drug trafficking what is the role of the drug boss when it comes to paying for lawyers for persons who are arrested in their organization?
A. Well, once you get arrested and locked up, you get your bail paid and you get referred a lawyer, which was Mr . Bergrin at the time for me.
Q. Okay. And when you say you get your bail paid, who pays the bail?
A. The boss.
Q. And that's Mr. Curry?
A. Yes.
Q. And who refers the lawyer?
A. Mr. Curry.
Q. And who pays for the lawyer?
A. Mr. Curry.
Q. Now, what is the reason that Mr . Curry paid for your lawyer?
A. He wanted -- he pretty much want to keep tabs on what is going on with the underlings, make sure nobody's cooperating, make sure they doing the right thing, get information about the case as far as whether it's going to trial or if you gonna plead out.
Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned keep tabs to see whether or not the underling was cooperating. How would the lawyer
assist in keeping tabs like that?
A. Well, he -- he -- they usually call the lawyer or the lawyer call Mr. Curry.
Q. And describe -- I'm not clear on that. What would that mean?
A. Well, he -- Mr. Curry would call the lawyer and ask him what's going on, what's going on with the case, or if -if he's cooperating, this way he can -- he can pretty much know what's going on with that person.
Q. Okay. Now, how would a lawyer know whether or not his client was cooperating?
A. When you have a lawyer, you pretty much got to tell him what's going on, tell him what's going on with the case or on -- tell him what -- what you decide that you gonna do far as if you gonna plead out or if you gonna cooperate, things like that.
Q. Now, what would Mr. Curry do if he learned that somebody was cooperating?
A. Cooperation is a no-no. You in danger. You can get killed by cooperating.
Q. Okay. Now, are you aware of whether or not what if any relationship Mr. Bergrin had with Mr. Curry other than simply representing you?
A. He represented Mr. Curry. Matter of fact, he represented Mr. Curry --
Q. Are you aware of whether or not he arrested -- he represented any other underlings in the organization besides you?
A. He represented a couple other people. I can't remember right now.
Q. Now, were you ever present with Mr. Curry when he discussed Mr. Bergrin's representation of other members of the organization?

## A. Say that again?

Q. Were you ever present with Mr. Curry when he discussed Mr. Bergrin representing other members of Curry's organization?

Do you understand the question or not? Did you ever hear Mr. Curry ever speak about Mr . Bergrin representing another member of the organization? A. Once, he -- he talked about Al-Hamid one time. MR. BERGRIN: Judge, who? Could we hear that again?

THE WITNESS: Al-Hamid Baskerville.
Q. Now, Mr. Walker, at some point, did you temporarily stop selling drugs and get a legitimate job?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you recall approximately when that was?
A. That was 2002, maybe.
Q. Okay, and do you remember how long -- well, first of
all, what was the job?
A. I had a painting job.
Q. And how long did you maintain that painting job, approximately?
A. Probably about four or five months.
Q. Did there come a time after that that you started selling drugs with Mr. Curry again in approximately the summer of 2002?

## A. Yes

Q. Okay. Can you describe how that came about?
A. I seen him one day by Georgia King Village. We -- I stopped and talked to him. He asked me where I been. I told him, you know, I just was -- I just was chilling out, I fell back from the business. He -- we talked about my coming back to the business. We talked about, he told me he was -- he was selling kilos of cocaine now. We talked again, and he asked me to come back to the business, and after that, I agreed to.
Q. Okay. Can you briefly describe what, if anything, you did in connection with the business at that time?
A. Well, I -- I helped him distribute kilos of cocaine.

I helped him -- basically, I helped him distribute and deliver kilos of cocaine.
Q. Okay. And can you describe briefly what the operation was like at that time that you were assisting Mr. Curry
with?
A. You want me -- say that again?
Q. Okay. Let me rephrase the question.
A. Yeah.
Q. You talked about what you did.
A. Yeah.
Q. Do you know what amounts of cocaine was Mr. Curry getting around that time?
A. Anywhere from 25 or 50 kilos at a time.
Q. And how often was Mr. Curry getting those kilos?
A. Every 10 to 12 days.
Q. And were you assisting him once he got those kilos?
A. Yes.
Q. And was there a particular place that he stored the kilos?
A. At his stash house in Orange, off Center Street. We called it the dungeon.
Q. Okay. So just describe the typical, when Mr. Curry would receive cocaine, what would happen and what did you do.
A. Usually, when he -- he would call me, tell me he getting ready to go purchase -- well, get the cocaine. He'd tell me to meet him at the dungeon. I'd meet him at the dungeon. Once he get there, we take the cocaine in the house, separate the cocaine from who getting what, make the
phone calls. Certain individuals would come to the dungeon to get theirs. Certain individuals, we would deliver to. Q. Okay. Now, do you remember specifically any of the persons that would get -- would get cocaine from Curry at that point, any of the managers in particular?
A. I can't hear you.
Q. Okay. I'm sorry. Usually my voice is up so high. I apologize for this.

Do you remember any managers or persons that obtained cocaine from Mr. Curry at that time in your presence that you were assisting him with?
A. That came up or we delivered to?
Q. Well, let's talk about came up first.
A. Okay.
Q. Do you remember any of the persons?
A. We got Jarvis Webb, Al-Hamid Baskerville, Ishmael

Pray, Abdul Williams, Taheed Mitchell, Maurice Lowe, Malik Sutton, Jason and Justin Hannibal.
Q. And what about, did you deliver cocaine to anybody, you yourself?
A. Yes .
Q. And who was it that you delivered cocaine to?
A. Rakim and William Baskerville, Keet.
Q. Just to be clear, the cocaine you were delivering was the cocaine -- was Mr. Curry's cocaine at that time; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Did you ever have any discussions with Mr. Curry about who he was getting the cocaine from?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you briefly describe those conversations?
A. Well, one day we was in the dungeon, the stash house, and we had a brief conversation while we were separating kilos of cocaine, and just in general conversation, he just -- he blurted out, he was like, Guess who I got -- guess who I got this connect from? I'm like, Who? And he said, Paul. I'm like, Paul who? I'm like, Paul Paul? And he said, Yeah, Paul. And I just -- I just shook my head, like...
Q. Okay. Now, when he said Paul, did you know who he was referring to?
A. Yes.
Q. Who was he referring to?
A. Mr. Bergrin.
Q. And is there any other Paul that you were aware of that Mr. Curry could have been referring to at that time?
A. No.
Q. How long, approximately -- you said that you started
about the summer of 2003 -- or, excuse me, 2002 that you started with Mr. Curry with these kilograms of cocaine, -A. Yes.
Q. -- sometime around then?
A. Yes.
Q. Let me back up and ask you one more thing. Did you also, when you were in the dungeon with Mr. Curry, did you ever count money for him?
A. Yes.
Q. And can you describe, do you remember what the largest amount of money you ever counted with Mr. Curry in the dungeon?
A. It was $\$ 850,000$.
Q. Can you briefly describe the circumstances of that?
A. Well, I met him at the dungeon. I got there before him. He called me again, told me he was outside. I walked out to the vehicle. I helped him carry the large laundry-like bag inside the house. Once we got the money inside the house, we recounted it to make sure the money was straight, and then he left again, said he'll be right back.
Q. Okay. Did there come a time when he came back?
A. Yes.
Q. And briefly describe what happened then.
A. He came back. He came back to get the money. I helped him back outside, to put the money back in the
vehicle. He pulled off, he went to see the connect. Then he came back, called me again. Came back outside, helped him inside the house with the drugs.
Q. Okay. And did you see what -- do you recall approximately how much drugs he picked up at this point? A. It was about 40 kilos.
Q. Now, did there come a time when you stopped selling cocaine with Mr. Curry?
A. Yes.
Q. And do you recall approximately when that was?
A. After -- after we came from the All-Star game, which was February 2003, after that point, I stopped selling with Mr. Curry.
Q. Okay. Now, the All-Star game would refer to what? Which All-Star game would that be?
A. It was the basketball All-Star game.
Q. The N.B.A. basketball All-Star game?
A. Yes.
Q. To your knowledge, did Mr. Curry continue to get kilograms of cocaine from Paul's connect after that time?

MR. BERGRIN: Objection, Your Honor.
THE COURT: What's the objection?

MR. BERGRIN: His testimony was that he heard Hakeem Curry blurt out these words, but that's the only connection he's ever heard, the only time he's ever heard
it. To allow him to testify to this $I$ believe is pure speculation and conjecture.

THE COURT: No, no, I'll overrule the objection. Go ahead.

MR. GAY: I'll rephrase. I'll ask the question again.

BY MR. GAY:
Q. To your knowledge, did Mr. Curry continue to get kilograms of cocaine from Paul's connect after you came back from the All-Star game in February of 2003?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. Now, did Mr. Curry continue to distribute drugs after that?
A. Yes.
Q. And what drugs was he distributing after that?
A. Heroin.
Q. Did you -- who took over the cocaine business at that point?
A. At that point, Ishmael Pray.
Q. Did you assist Ishmael Pray with the cocaine business?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, did there come a time in early 2004 when

Mr. Curry asked for your help in distributing drugs again?
A. Yes.
Q. And do you recall briefly or explain briefly what was

1 the circumstances of that.

At that time, Jason and Justin had gotten arrested with his drugs. He was kind of frantic about using the dungeon, the stash house. He was kind of frantic about giving Jason and Justin large quantities of heroin. So I was living on the other side of town. He asked me to store -- store -- store the drugs for him, and we pretty much came up with a plan whereas though Mr. Mitchell would come to my house and get the drugs and give them -- give Jason and Justin Hannibal small quantities at a time.
Q. Okay. Now, where were you living at the time, if you remember?
A. Smith Street in Newark.
Q. And did there come a time when Mr . Curry actually gave you drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. And what were the drugs that he gave you, heroin, cocaine? In what form was it in, if you recall?
A. Heroin.
Q. And what quantities were there?
A. The quantity at that time?
Q. Yes.
A. It was about -- it was a hundred bricks.
Q. What is a brick of heroin?
A. A brick is five bundles of heroin. Ten -- 10 bags of
heroin equals a bundle, and five bundles of heroin equals a brick.
Q. Do you remember approximately how many bricks he delivered to you on the first occasion?
A. It was about a hundred bricks.
Q. And was there anything else at that time that

Mr. Curry gave you besides the bricks?
A. It was three guns.
Q. Do you remember what kind of guns they were?
A. Nine-millimeters.
Q. Now, did there come a time when Mr. Curry retrieved any of those guns from you?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you briefly describe the circumstances of that?
A. One day we was -- myself and Mr. Curry was together, we met up with Mr. -- both of the Baskerville brothers, Rakim and Al-Hamid. Al-Hamid wanted -- I guess one of those guns was Al-Hamid's. He wanted the gun back. I couldn't get to the gun at that point in time, I couldn't get in the house, so we waited until later. Mr. Curry came back and got the gun from me and gave it to Al-Hamid Baskerville. Q. Okay. Now, I want to try to put this in the context of time.

You were arrested on March 4th of 2004. Do you recall approximately how long before your arrest that this
incident you just talked about happened?
A. It would be a week or two prior.
Q. You mentioned that the plan was that Mr. Mitchell would come and pick up heroin from you and deliver it to the Hannibals; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And did he do that in this case --
A. Yes.
Q. -- at this time? And at some point, did all of the bricks that Mr. Curry had given you, did Mr. Mitchell come and pick them up?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, at some point, do you remember having any conversations with Mr. Curry in the vicinity of 22 McKay Street in East Orange, New Jersey?
A. Yes.
Q. And can you briefly describe what happened?
A. Mr. Curry called my cell phone, told me to meet him on the vicinity of 22 McKay Street. I met him over there. He parked on one side of the street, I parked on the other. I got out my car, got in the passenger seat of his vehicle, and he started telling me about he went to the spy store and got this wand that detects like wires and that such, and then he told -- he go into telling me about he found a tracker up under his -- his vehicle.
Q. When you say a tracker, what is that?
A. I guess a tracker is the -- what law enforcement used to -- to track whoever they following.
Q. And did he say which vehicle it was he found the tracker on?
A. It was his white Range Rover.
Q. Continue. What, if anything else, did he say at the time?
A. He told me he found the tracker, he called Mr. Bergrin and asked him what it was. Mr. Bergrin told him what it was, told him to get rid of his cell phone, told him don't talk on the phone. This is what he telling me in the van. Q. Okay. And you mentioned he had a wand, I think you described it?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you describe what that was?
A. It was a wand that detects wires or like recording devices.
Q. What, if anything, did he tell you to do at that time?
A. He told me to get a new cell phone, throw away my -the cell phone that I had, to get a new one.
Q. And did you do that?
A. I already had another prepaid cell phone. I just started using that one.
Q. Now, on the day before your arrest, March 3rd of 2004,

1 did you do any drug business with Mr. Curry?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you briefly describe what happened?
A. Mr. Curry called me. He said he was coming to pick me up. Once he picked me up, we went to -- we went to go see the connect. Once we -- it was by a park in Orange. Once we got up there, we pulled behind the connect. Mr. -- Mr. Rakim Baskerville pulled in front of the van or the vehicle that the connect was in. Mr. Curry got out -- out the vehicle, he got into the vehicle with the connect. They talked maybe about five, five to seven minutes. He got out the vehicle, he walked -- he walked to the vehicle where Rakim was at, gave him half -- half of the drugs, got back in the vehicle that he was driving, and then we pulled off. Q. Okay. And what did you do with the drugs at that point?
A. Once -- once we left there, he drove me to my house, I got out the car with the drugs, which was the other half, and walked in the house.
Q. And did you store those drugs inside the house ?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you remember where it was you stored the drugs?
A. It was up under my bed in a Timberland box.
Q. Do you remember approximately how much drugs it was?
A. The whole quantity was 200 bricks. One hundred bricks
went to Mr. Baskerville. I kept the other hundred.
Q. Now, referring you to the morning of March 4th, 2004, can you describe what happened briefly on the day of your arrest?
A. Once I came -- once I came out the house, I got -- I got in the car -- I got in the car, and law enforcement just came from everywhere, arrested me, put me in the back of a police car, and -- until I gave them the consent to search the house.
Q. Okay.
A. And then they found the drugs.
Q. Okay. Now, you said you gave them consent to search the house?
A. Yeah, I told -- I told my girlfriend at the time to give them consent to search the house. She gave them consent, and then they searched the house. I told them where the drugs were.
Q. Okay. And did you see -- do you know what, if anything, they recovered inside the house? They recovered the drugs. Did they recover anything else?
A. They recovered the drugs and the gun.
Q. Okay, and that was the gun that Mr . Curry had given you previously?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, after you were arrested, did you decide to cooperate with law enforcement?
A. Yes.
Q. And after you decided to cooperate, do you remember when was that in relation to the time of your arrest that you told -- that you decided to cooperate? Was it the same day, or a different day?
A. It was the same day.
Q. And did you tell Drug Enforcement agents where you had gotten the drugs that they had recovered inside your house?
A. Yes.
Q. What did you tell them?
A. I told them I was storing the drugs for Mr. Curry.
Q. And what about the gun? Did you tell them about the gun?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you tell them anything else about Mr. Curry's organization at that time --
A. Yes.
Q. -- without getting into specifics?

Okay. Now, based upon your discussions with Drug Enforcement Administration, was a plan developed?
A. Yes.
Q. And briefly describe what that plan was.
A. The plan was to return the drugs back to Mr. Curry.
Q. And can you describe what your understanding was of
what you were supposed to do pursuant to that plan?
A. I was -- I was supposed to return the drugs back to Mr. Curry wearing a recording device.
Q. And prior to returning them, were you supposed to give him a phone call, call him as well?
A. Yes.
Q. And briefly describe what that was about.
A. I called Mr. Curry, told him I need to speak to him. He agreed. He came to the -- he came to where I was at. I got in the vehicle, I dropped -- I put the drugs in the console, in the middle of us, told him to take the drugs back, I couldn't hold onto the drugs. I told him me and my girlfriend got into a argument, she didn't want the drugs there, I didn't have anywhere to keep the drugs, so I told him to take the drugs back.
Q. Okay. Now, let me back up. You said you had a telephone conversation with Mr. Curry, is that correct, and was that recorded as far as you understood?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay, and what about, were you wearing a recording device when you met with Mr. Curry to deliver the drugs back to him?
A. Yes, I was.
Q. Okay. And now can you briefly describe again the conversation you had with Mr. Curry -- well, let me back up
and ask you this. How did Mr. Curry get to the location that you met him?
A. He was driving his van.
Q. Okay. So you said you got into the van with him?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Describe what happens once you get inside the van.
A. Once I got into the van, I dropped the drugs in the console, I told him to take the drugs back. He told me -he told me just to hold onto them. I told him no, I was like, you gonna have to take the drugs back. He told me it was a -- my car was sitting there, he told me to put them in the trunk of my car so he can go get the -- get the Dummies or Justin and Jason Hannibal, which we called the Dummies, he was like, I'm going to go get the Dummies' Cherokee, it's faster than this, $I$ can't drive this -- well, I can't pretty much say what he said, but he said, I can't drive this piece of shit. He was like -- he was like, I just -- I'd rather walk than to drive this and get caught.
Q. Okay. Now, was there anything else besides the drugs that Mr. Curry talked with you about at that time?
A. And then he asked me -- he asked me where the gun was.

I told him I left the gun at my girlfriend house and I didn't want to travel with the gun, $I$ was just worried about the drugs.
Q. Now, at some point during this conversation, did you notice whether or not law enforcement agents descended on Mr. Curry's vehicle?
A. Yes.
Q. And briefly describe what happened.
A. Yes. Once we -- we gone doing the back and forth, about him taking the drugs, law enforcement just -- just came from everywhere. He got out the van and ran, and I ran -- I ran the other way.
Q. Okay. And when you say you ran, what was the reason you ran?
A. I just ran just to -- just to make it look good.
Q. Okay. You had no intention of trying to escape from the police at that point --
A. No.
Q. -- is that correct?
A. No.
Q. So, now, did you see agents recover the drugs from the van at that point?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Now, do you remember whether or not after that you made any additional phone calls?
A. Yes.
Q. And do you recall calling Taheed Mitchell?
A. Yes.
Q. And do you remember what it was that you discussed with Mr. Mitchell?
A. I told Mr. Mitchell, I was like -- made the phone call, I told him to meet me at the dungeon, it's important. He said okay. Once -- yeah. Yeah, I told him to meet me at the dungeon, and he said, Okay, I'm on my way right now. Q. And then are you aware of whether or not law enforcement arrested any other members of the Curry Organization at the dungeon that day after your phone call?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, Mr. Walker, I want to ask you a couple of questions.

You said that after you got out of jail serving time on this 2004 arrest that you started a new life.
A. Yes.
Q. Did you enter into the Witness Protection Program?
A. Yes.
Q. What was the reason that you entered into the Witness Protection Program?
A. There was a threat on my life.
Q. From whom?
A. Mr. Curry.
Q. And do you recall whether or not that happened during your testimony at that -- Hakeem Curry's trial?
A. Yes, it did.
Q. And were you aware of whether or not that plot had continued from the time that you were arrested all the way up until the time you testified at trial?
A. Certainly.
Q. And that was a threat on your life?
A. Yes, it was.
Q. And that's the reason you went into the Witness Protection Program?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. Okay.

MR. GAY: No further questions at this time. THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin?

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. BERGRIN:
Q. Now, you were asked questions in reference to Hakeem Curry's connections; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. During your debriefings; right?
A. Correct.
Q. As a matter of fact, you were asked specific question about who supplied Hakeem Curry with cocaine. Wasn't that the question that you were asked specifically?
A. Say that again?
Q. Weren't you asked specifically who supplied Hakeem Curry with cocaine?

MR. GAY: Your Honor, I'm going to object. Could we have a time frame about this? He had a number of discussions. Is he talking about testimony, is he talking about --
Q. May 23rd of 2006 , when you testified under oath before a jury in your sworn testimony.

MR. GAY: Your Honor, I'm going to object to this.
THE COURT: Wait.

What's the objection?

MR. GAY: He wasn't asked about this at that
trial. That's the question -- that's the objection. So he's trying to impeach him with testimony, with questions he was not asked about at a prior trial.

THE COURT: Well, let him answer. Then let him answer it.

MR. GAY: Okay.
THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Bergrin.
BY MR. BERGRIN:
Q. Were you asked when you testified at the Hakeem Curry trial about who supplied Hakeem Curry with drugs?
A. Repeat the question, please?
Q. Yes.

When you testified at the Hakeem Curry trial in 2006, were you asked who supplied Hakeem Curry with drugs? A. It was a -- it was a long time ago. I don't think I
was -- I was asked who was the supplier of Hakeem Curry.
Q. But you were asked that question specifically when you pled guilty as a cooperating witness on November the 10 th of 2005, you were asked the specific question, who supplied Hakeem Curry with cocaine; correct? Do you remember being asked that question?
A. I mean, if you -- if you show it to me, I can answer it.
Q. I asked you a question. Do you remember being asked that question?

MR. GAY: He answered the question. THE COURT: Hold it. Wait a minute. If you don't know or you don't recall, you can say that.

THE WITNESS: Yeah.
A. I don't recall. If you can show it to me, I can -- I can -- I can answer the question.
Q. Who is Kareem Hurrell?
A. Kareem -- who, Kas (ph)? I know a Kas.
Q. Kas, also known as Kareem Hurrell?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is Atif Amin?
A. Atif Amin.
Q. You said -- you just testified a few minutes ago that Atif Amin worked for Hakeem Curry and was a manager. Isn't
that what you testified to before the jury a couple minutes ago?
A. Yes. You didn't say which -- I mean, you just asked me who was he. That's his name.
Q. Isn't it a fact, sir, that when you pled guilty on November the 10th of 2005, you said and you were asked the question, who supplied Hakeem Curry with cocaine, and isn't it a fact you said Kareem Hurrell, the name, not Kas, and you said Atif Amin?

MR. GAY: I'm going to object to this, Judge. If he's reading from something, he should be reading from it, not from his notes. I don't believe that's actually what was said there.

THE COURT: No, I'm sorry, he doesn't have to do that. He can ask the question. Can you answer the question? Would you like it read back? THE WITNESS: Yeah, read it back. (Record read)
A. That was -- that was a long time. I mean, I can't recall.
Q. You can't recall individuals that sold cocaine to the person that you worked with and were with since you're nine years old; is that what you're telling us?
A. Say that -- I mean, you -- you trying to cross me up
here. Say that again?
Q. You worked for Mr. Curry; correct? Isn't that what you said?
A. Correct.
Q. You said that you were a manager for Mr. Curry; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. You were able to remember a specific conversation, blurted out, correct, in 2002; right?
A. We had a conversation. We had a lot of conversations.
Q. You had a lot of conversations, but as you just testified, you were able to remember that Hakeem Curry said Paul, and you said Paul Paul, and Hakeem Curry said yes.
A. Exactly.
Q. You were able to remember that conversation; right?
A. Exactly.
Q. But you didn't remember telling the judge in 2005, three years later -- which is closer to today's date; right?
A. You can say that.
Q. You didn't remember saying the words or the name Kareem Hurrell; correct? You acted surprised when I asked you, and you said you mean Kas?
A. That's his name.
Q. So you're telling us that you didn't know the name Kareem Hurrell? Is that what you're telling us?
A. I know a Kas.
Q. You're telling us that you don't know a Kareem Hurrell; is that what you're testifying to?
A. That's his -- that's his -- that's his name, Kas.

That's what $I$ know him by. We don't call him Kareem Hurrell in the street.
Q. So you didn't know the name Kareem Hurrell, and you didn't know Kas was known as Kareem Hurrell; is that what you're telling us?
A. I did know that.
Q. Now, you said that Atif Amin, you described him a couple minutes ago when Mr. Gay was asking you questions, you said he was a manager for Hakeem Curry; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And my question to you is, when you were asked a specific question under oath in front of the judge as a cooperating witness that you pled guilty to, isn't it a fact that you told him that the suppliers of cocaine to Hakeem Curry was Kareem Hurrell and Atif Amin?
A. I don't believe it was in specifics like that. I mean, if you show it to me, $I$ mean -- it's all well and good, I mean.
Q. I'm going to show it to you.
A. Yeah, you show it to me, I mean...
Q. Now, you worked with Ishmael Pray; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And you worked with Ishmael Pray as he dealt cocaine; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And you were with him every single day; correct?
A. Not every day.
Q. Well, you spent a lot of time with him from 2003 until you were arrested in 2004; correct?
A. No, because he wasn't on the street up until 2004.
Q. How much time did you spend with Ishmael Pray from after the basketball game when you left Hakeem Curry and stopped dealing cocaine?
A. I spent -- I spent time all the way up until probably right before he got shot.
Q. So approximately a year, a year and a half with him?
A. About eight months, nine months. Whatever time from
-- from February 2003 up until maybe to December 2003, somewhere around there.
Q. So approximately 10 months with him; correct?
A. You can say that, yes.
Q. And you had frequent contact with him; right?
A. Yes.
Q. And he was dealing cocaine and took over essentially for Hakeem Curry; correct?
A. I wouldn't say he took over. I mean, he had his own
thing going on.
Q. He had his own thing going on. But Hakeem Curry and him were very close; right?
A. Correct.
Q. Isn't it a fact that you have never heard me have one conversation with Ishmael Pray? Correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Isn't it a fact that Ishmael Pray never mentioned getting cocaine from Paul Bergrin's connect to you; correct? A. Correct.
Q. And this is an individual that essentially continued the cocaine business that was connected to Hakeem Curry; correct?
A. You can say that.
Q. Now, you have never seen Hakeem Curry bring me a dime,
a penny; correct?
A. A penny of what?
Q. Any money at all, any money.
A. Any money?
Q. Yes.
A. As far as legal fees or what?
Q. As far as anything, legal fees or anything.
A. No.
Q. And isn't it a fact that you, besides this one conversation you testified to, you never heard Hakeem Curry

1 bring up my name again in reference to drugs; right?
A. He didn't need to. That was -- I mean, that was in general conversation. He told me that, and that was the end of the conversation.
Q. He never brought up my name in reference to drugs; correct?
A. He -- he brought up your name saying that you gave him the connect, yes.
Q. In one conversation according to you one time; correct?
A. Yeah, that conversation was enough.
Q. One conversation, one time, according to you; right?
A. I mean, he didn't need to -- he only need to say it one time, I mean, he didn't have to -- I knew he told me. He didn't have to say it again.
Q. You never saw Hakeem Curry meeting with me to discuss drugs; correct?
A. No.
Q. You have never been in a conversation where Hakeem Curry's on the telephone talking to me about drugs; correct? A. No.
Q. You have never brought money to me on behalf of Hakeem

Curry; correct?
A. Me ?
Q. Yes.

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A. Personally? No.
Q. And you were picking up money for Hakeem Curry; right?
A. Yeah, I picked up a lot of money for him.
Q. You have never, ever, under any circumstances seen me meeting with Hakeem Curry and any connections for drugs; correct?
A. No.
Q. Describe the connect that Hakeem Curry said he got from Paul.
A. What do you mean?
Q. Describe his physical appearance.
A. I never met him.
Q. You never met him? And you were working with Hakeem

Curry as a manager almost on a daily basis; correct?
A. I would say I never got a chance to meet him.
Q. You never met him; correct?
A. No.
Q. Did Hakeem Curry ever describe him?
A. No.
Q. Did Hakeem Curry ever give you a name?
A. No.
Q. Did you ever hear Hakeem Curry talking on the phone and saying, This is Paul's connect that I'm talking to?
A. No.
Q. You had been present with me and Hakeem Curry when
we've had conversations; correct?
A. What conversations?
Q. Well, you said that Hakeem Curry introduced to me -you to me as an attorney; correct?
A. He referred me to you.
Q. Referred you to me.
A. Um-h'm.
Q. Were you ever present with me and Hakeem Curry when we've had a conversation?
A. May have. I can't remember. I mean, it's been a long time
Q. But you never heard me under any circumstances ever talking to Hakeem Curry about drugs; correct?
A. No.
Q. Now, you talked about your plea agreement. At the time that you pled guilty, you were facing life in prison; isn't that a fact?
A. Was facing anywhere from 185 months to 235, I believe.
Q. The statute that you pled guilty to, you were facing up to life in prison; right?
A. 185 to 285 months is what -- what I believe I was facing.
Q. That was your Guideline level; right?
A. Yeah. Yeah.
Q. The statute that you pled guilty to -- are you telling
us that you don't know what statute you pled guilty to?
A. Yeah, it was 185, that was the Guideline, 185 to 235. Q. The statute that you pled guilty to, isn't it a fact that in your plea agreement, it says that you can receive life in prison?
A. Yes. Yeah, I could have.
Q. So then why did you just argue with me and say that you would plead guilty to only 185 months?
A. That was the -- that was the Guideline. You could get anywhere from 185 to 235. That was the Guideline.
Q. But the judge doesn't have to sentence you within the Guidelines; right?
A. No, he don't.
Q. So you can receive life in prison; right?
A. Whatever the judge -- whatever the judge -- that's in that Guideline, that's what the JUDGE gonna give you.
Q. My question to you is, you could receive up to life in prison; right?
A. It's up to the judge.
Q. Under the statute that you pled guilty to -- why don't you answer my question -- you can plead guilty up to life in prison; correct?
A. It's ultimately -- it's ultimately up to the judge, am I right?
Q. But you could have received a life sentence; right?

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A. I could have received a significant amount of time, yes.
Q. And you walked out of jail the day of your sentencing; right?
A. No, I didn't.
Q. How much time, additional time did you serve?
A. Maybe a month.
Q. A month. Facing 185 months minimum under the Guidelines, the statutory facing life in prison, and you do another month; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. With -- how many felony convictions did you have?

Ten?
A. I don't remember. It's been a long time.
Q. But you can remember a conversation that you heard, right, in 2002, but you can't remember how many convictions you had.
A. It's two different -- two different instances.
Q. Now, isn't it a fact that you received over $\$ 100,000$
as a Witness Protection person?
A. I don't know how much I received.
Q. You don't remember how much you received?
A. I don't. It's not -- it's not a specific amount of money that they just give you.
Q. But you can remember the conversation that you had,
right, the words that you heard in 2002.
A. Say that again?
Q. But you can remember the words that you heard in 2002; right?
A. Yes, I can.

MR. BERGRIN: Can I have an exhibit marked, Your Honor, so-called witness financial information?

THE COURT: Go ahead. Scott?
MR. BERGRIN: And mark it $\mathrm{D}-1$ ?
THE COURT: Okay.
(Defendant's Exhibit 1 marked for identification)
MR. BERGRIN: May I approach the witness, Your
Honor?
MR. GAY: Judge, I just want to -- this is not a document this witness has ever seen before, so I'm not sure what the question is or --

THE COURT: Well, I think I know what this document is, and we discussed it before. Is there any question but that this is an accurate and appropriate document as the amount?

MR. GAY: No, it's not, but this witness has never seen the document and has no idea what's contained in the document. So I just don't know what --

THE WITNESS: I mean, I can look at it, I mean, if it's accurate information, I can --

THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin, what is that document?
MR. BERGRIN: It's the financial information that shows that he received $\$ 118,077$.

THE COURT: This is the document that you received from the Government telling you how much this witness received --

MR. BERGRIN: Exactly, Judge.
THE COURT: And this is over what period of time?
MR. BERGRIN: Essentially, it was received within three years, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. If you want to show it to him, you can show it to him.

Do you understand what that is, now?
THE WITNESS: Yes. I can look at it.
MR. BERGRIN: May I approach, Judge?
(Defendant's Exhibit 1 was placed before the witness.) THE COURT: Mr. Bergrin, how long are you going to be with this witness?

MR. BERGRIN: A while, Judge.
THE COURT: Half hour, an hour?

MR. BERGRIN: Yes.
THE COURT: All right.
Ladies and gentlemen, I promised you about our times, so we're going to break for the day, and this gentleman will come back tomorrow, and we will continue with
the cross-examination.
I want to tell you again: Please don't discuss this case with anyone.

You have to be here tomorrow no later than quarter of nine. We will start promptly at nine.

Also, don't do any Internet searches or read anything or listen to anything about the case. Enjoy the evening.

THE COURT CLERK: All rise.
Just place your notebooks on your chairs, please. THE COURT: Leave your notebooks there. They will be back in the morning.
(The jury exits)
THE COURT: All right. Counsel, 8:30 tomorrow morning.
(Matter adjourned until Wednesday, January 23, 2013, commencing at 8:30 a.m.)

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