# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CRIMINAL DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal Action

: No.: M4113-03

 $\mathbf{v}$ .

ELENA SASSOWER,

Defendant.

Washington, D.C. April 19, 2004

The above-entitled action came on for jury trial before The Honorable BRIAN HOLEMAN, Associate Judge, in Courtroom Number 218.

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Government:

JESSIE LIU, Esquire AARON MENDELSOHN, Esquire Assistants United States Attorney

On behalf of the Defendant:

ELENA SASSOWER, Pro Se MARK GOLDSTONE, Esquire Attorney Adviser

EVA B. RAMOS OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

Telephone: 879-1074

1	MR. MENDELSOHN: Your Honor, just for the
2	record, Aaron Mendelsohn for the United States.
3	MS. LIU: Jessie Liu for the United States.
4	THE COURT: Good morning.
5	MR. GOLDSTONE: Mark Goldstone,
6	Attorney adviser. Good morning, Your Honor.
7	THE COURT: Mr. Goldstone.
8	THE CLERK: I'm sorry, Your Honor, let me call
9	the case.
10	THE COURT: I thought you called it when I
11	first took the bench.
12	THE CLERK: The tape is on but just for the
13	recordUnited States versus Elena Sassower, case
14	number M4113-03.
15	THE COURT: Very well. Counsel, just introduce
16	yourselves for the record.
17	MR. MENDELSOHN: Aaron Mendelsohn for the
18	United States.
19	THE COURT: Yes.
20	MS. LIU: Jessie Liu for the United States.
21	MS. SASSOWER: Elena Sassower, criminal
22	defendant, pro se.
23	MR. GOLDSTONE: Mark Goldstone,
24	Attorney adviser.
5	THE COURT: Very well, thank you. With regard

to your exhibit list, may I see it please? 1 2 MS. SASSOWER: Yes. May I approach the bench? 3 THE COURT: Just hand it. Mr. Mendelsohn, Ms. Liu, have you had an opportunity to review this list? 4 5 MR. MENDELSOHN: We have, Your Honor. And it's apparent to the government that many of these exhibits 6 are not relevant to the case. 7 THE COURT: Very well. Then, and let me just state for the record that I anticipated this to occur. The short of it is that the fact that documents are 10 turned over during discovery does not make them 11 admissible for purposes of trial. 12 13 And so what we have to do essentially is to go through these 87 items identified here and make 14 determinations whether there are any of these that --15 16 MS. SASSOWER: May I --17 THE COURT: -- would not be remotely admissible into evidence. So as not to consume time 18 when the jury is present, offering them, having 19 objections and then reaching the inevitable ruling that 20 they are not admissible. 21 22 Ms. Sassower? 23 MS. SASSOWER: Yes. With all respect, Your Honor, I would like to focus on certain specific 24 documents which I, which would be the focal point of my 25

testimony.

I believe we should commence with those and the rest will be obvious. I was not intending to introduce all of them into evidence, but I had them marked so as to prepare for any cross-examination.

If you would like me to expedite this by going through the most immediate exhibits which I did plan to introduce on my direct case, I think that would expedite things.

THE COURT: I'll hear from you.

MS. SASSOWER: All right. To begin with, I have Defendant's Exhibit 59, 60 and 61 being the diaries that I keep of phone conversations and communications, from which not only my testimony will be drawn as to the relevant fact but on which the correspondence relating to this matter is drawn.

These are the raw untranscribed, these are the raw documents from which the correspondence was, contemporaneous to the event.

THE COURT: Well, it seems to me, Ms. Sassower, that you're able to testify as to what you did or didn't do.

Once we have documents in which you had made entries, and on direct examination you seek to introduce those documents for the truth of what they assert,

that's hearsay. It's inadmissible hearsay.

Now just so the, the record is clear, if on the other hand, you were being cross-examined, having denied that there were any such contemporaneous notes and the prosecution sought to impeach you by using that material, that is appropriate impeachment.

But on direct examination, you can't offer that material for its truth.

MS. SASSOWER: No, I'm not offering it for its truth. I asked each and every one of the witnesses that I crossed, whether they keep logs, diaries, they make entries of phone conversations, communications, and they answered in the negative. By contrast, I do as a regular course and practice.

THE COURT: Very well. Which really is not pertinent to the elements of the offense or a defense to it.

To the extent that you recall the entries made in these diaries and they're somehow germane to the elements or your defense, then that testimony comes. But the actual diary entries themselves or the fact that you have these diaries, I don't see that they're, they're relevant.

MS. SASSOWER: I should mark them for identification and acknowledge that my testimony rests

on contemporaneous logs that were then embodied in the 1 2 correspondence. 3 THE COURT: Well, I don't think that there would be any objection to your saying that you spoke 4 with so and so and you kept a record of that. 5 6 MS. SASSOWER: Yes. And --7 THE COURT: As to the specifics of the record, it will not be entered into evidence. And so 59, 60 and 8 61 are, they will not be offered or admitted into 9 evidence. 10 11 MS. SASSOWER: But they can be used for identification by me in refer -- in making my direct 12 case, I can refer to any entries here that might be 13 14 germane. 15 They have to be marked in order for me to use them at the witness stand. Is that not correct? 16 17 THE COURT: Let me make this clear. You aren't going to use them. You're going to testify as to 18 certain facts. But whether or not you have this 19 material in these diaries, as I said, it is not coming 20 21 It is not admissible in this case. in. 22 I just got through discussing how it might be admitted, if you were being cross-examined and impeached 23 with material that you had previously denied. 24

that's not the case here.

1 What you're asking is you want to tell the jury, on the one hand, this is what happened. And then back 2 it up, support it by saying and I have diaries to prove 3 You tell them that this is what occurred. 4 Nobody is challenging whether you have diaries to 5 prove that. There is no -- as I see it, no one is going 6 to say well, she's not being truthful here. Look in her 7 diary, this is what it says here. This can't possibly be truthful. We're impeaching her because of that. That, that's not going to occur here. 10 11 MS. SASSOWER: I will move on. 12 THE COURT: Thank you. MS. SASSOWER: Taking exception to your ruling, 13 14 15 THE COURT: Very well. MS. SASSOWER: -- needless to say. The next and 16 most important series of exhibits are my correspondence 17 relating to this matter. Beginning with Exhibit 39, my 18 March 14th letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 19 which I expressly request "any written informational 20 materials about the committee's confirmation process. 21 This would include information concerning the 22 committee's investigative procedures upon receiving 23 notification such as this of citizen opposition and 24

25

request --

. 1	THE COURT: You have to slow down so that the
2	
3	MS. SASSOWER: This would include information
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6	opposition and request to testify in opposition.
7	This would also include the Committee's
8	written standards for evaluating the qualifications of
9	federal judicial nominees, including the weight accorded
10	to bar association ratings such as those of the American
11	Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the
12	City of New York.
13	Your Honor will bear in mind that it was
14	represented by Mr. Mendelsohn that I am someone who does
15	not adhere to procedures and rules.
16	And from the outset of my communications I
17	made express request for rules, procedures including as
18	to testify so that I might be guided accordingly. The
19	next.
20	THE COURT: Which exhibit were you just
21	speaking of?
22	MS. SASSOWER: Thirty-nine, Your Honor.
23	THE COURT: Thirty-nine?
24	MS. SASSOWER: March 14, 2003.
25	THE COURT: Let me see the letter.

1	Thirty-nine man
2	Thirty-nine may come in. Next. Well, let's
	100 may offer 39 subject to the manner
3	That's what determines
4	
5	
6	THE COURT: Very well. Let me just say this to
7	everyone concerned. We're going to be through with this
8	process by 10:15. If you haven't made your case or
9	
10	document by 10:15 we will suspend this process at that time.
11	
	This is something that should have been well
12	taken care of. Proceed. We're going much too slowly
13	now.
14	We will not consume a full morning dealing with
15	records that quite frankly have little chance of being
16	admitted into evidence. What's the next document?
17	MS. SASSOWER: Yes. I informed the Court
18	this case was not remotely trial ready. My May 5th
19	hand-delivered letter to Chairman Hatch.
20	THE COURT: What is the exhibit number?
21	MS. SASSOWER: I'm sorry. Exhibit Number
22	15 which in addition to transmitting the five boxes of
23	
4	documentary evidence and one redweld file folder,
	concluded by referencing the March 14th written request
5	to testify and expressing willingness, looking forward

. 1	to answering your questions including under oath.
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3	MR. MENDELSOHN: No objection depending on the
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5	THE COURT: Very well. So it's okay to
6	proffer. Ms. Sassower.
7	MS. SASSOWER: Yes, Your Honor. Excuse me. For
8	immediate purposes to speed things on, okay. The May
9	THE COURT: Exhibit number.
10	MS. SASSOWER: I'm sorry. Let me take them
11	together since they go together. Exhibits 3 and 4,
12	consisting of the May 19th memos to home state senators
13	Schumer and Clinton, two pages, transmitting the 10-page
14	memo of that same date addressed to Chairman Hatch and
15	ranking member Leahy regarding the request to testify
16	and again inquiring as to procedures and what kind of
17	review had been undertaken by the Senate Judiciary
18	Committee.
19	THE COURT: Government?
20	MR. MENDELSOHN: No objection at this time.
21	THE COURT: Very well. So that's exhibit what,
22	four?
23	MS. SASSOWER: Three and four, Your
24	Honor.
25	THE COURT: Very well.

1	MS. SASSOWER: Exhibit 9, Your Honor, my May
2	22nd memo to Chairman Hatch, ranking member Leahy, what
3	took place two and a half hours after sending the May 19
4	fax and e-mail communication to the Senate Judiciary
5	Committee and my unsuccessful attempt to speak with
6	somebody in a supervisory position, counsel, chief of
7	staff, about what was taking place and the request to
8	testify at the hearing.
9	THE COURT: Government?
10	MR. MENDELSOHN: No objection at this time.
11	MS. SASSOWER: The, Exhibits 30, Exhibit 8 and
12	36 are identical. The only difference they are my
13	May 21st fax to Capitol police Detective Zimmerman of 39
14	pages.
15	The only difference between these two documents
16	is that Exhibit 9 was turned over by the Government
17	pursuant to my
18	THE COURT: I think we're talking about 8 and
19	36, are we not?
20	MS. SASSOWER: Yes, we are, Your Honor.
21	THE COURT: Very well. Then 9, 9 is not an
22	issue here.
23	MS. SASSOWER: I'm sorry?
24	THE COURT: You, you
25	MS. SASSOWER: Nine we, we disposed of.

1	THE COURT: Correct.
2	MS. SASSOWER: And now we're on 8 and 36,
3	
4	
5	
6	transmittal to the Capitol police.
7	THE COURT: Or you can make up your mind as to
8	which one of these you're going to offer. I don't
9	see
10	MS. SASSOWER: I want the clean document. But
11	this
12	THE COURT: Well, is that thir
13	MS. SASSOWER: This is the one that was turned
14	over by the Government, that is faxed.
15	THE COURT: The Government doesn't have any
16	issue with whether you use the document originally sent
17	or the one that they returned to you. Which one do you
18	seek to offer?
19	MS. SASSOWER: I, I, the one that shows the
20	well, the one that shows the fax receipt by the U.S.
21	Capitol pol well, it doesn't show the fax receipt.
22	I, I respectfully request to submit both, they're
23	identical documents.
24	THE COURT: And for that reason, we're not
5	going to have submission of both cumulative and

. 1	MS. SASSOWER: Okay. I will submit my clean
. 2	copy since it already has been
3	THE COURT: And which exhibit number is that?
4	MS. SASSOWER: Exhibit 36.
5	
6	MR. MENDELSOHN: No objection at this time.
7	THE COURT: Okay, proffer. Very well, next.
8	MS. SASSOWER: I have 36A, the component pie,
9	the relevant component pieces of the May 21st fax to
10	reflect the receipts, the fax and e-mail receipts by
11	Senator, by, by the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman
12	Hatch, ranking member Leahy, receipts by Senator
13	Clinton, receipts by Senator Schumer.
14	THE COURT: Is there some dispute as to whether
15	these people received it?
16	MS. SASSOWER: I just want to be sure that is
17	understood.
18	THE COURT: Well, I, that's not an issue. So
19	that one's 30, 36A is cumulative. It's not gonna be
20	admitted. Next.
21	MS. SASSOWER: Okay. The, I have marked the
22	May 28th memo that I sent to Chairman
23	THE COURT: Exhibit number?
24	MS. SASSOWER: I'm sorry, Exhibit Number 33.
25	The memo of May 28th that I sent to Chairman Hatch,
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ranking member Leahy with copies to presiding Chairman 1 2 Chambliss as well as --3 THE COURT: Government? 4 MR. MENDELSOHN: We object to Defense Exhibit Number 33. I can't fathom how Defense Exhibit 33 could 5 be relevant to this case because it's dated six days 6 after defendant's act occurred. 7 THE COURT: Let me see the document. MS. SASSOWER: I'd like to clarify how it's relevant, if I may. 10 11 THE COURT: No. You may bring me the document. Next time pass it to Ms. Franklin. Ah, yes. You won't 12 proffer this. 13 14 MS. SASSOWER: May I identify why it's 15 relevant? 16 THE COURT: No, you may not. 17 MS. SASSOWER: I have provided --18 THE COURT: This --MS. SASSOWER: -- contemporaneous recitation as 19 to what took place at the hearing without seeing the 20 transcript, without seeing --21 22 THE COURT: Ms., Ms. Sassower, you're presumably going to testify as to what took place. 23 You've asked for the video to be played yet again so 24 that you can give your analysis of what took place. 25

:	At minimum, this is cumulative. But as I read
2	it, the extent to which all
3	it, the extent to which all manner of opinion is
	this would do nothing except
4	create confusion. It is irrelevant.
5	You'll give testimony, you'll have the
6	videotape. That is sufficient documentation of the
7	events that occurred.
8	MS. SASSOWER: I just want to point out, Your
9	Honor, that it recites what took place in the hallway.
10	THE COURT: Which you will testify to.
11	MS. SASSOWER: Okay.
12	THE COURT: Very well. Quick, quick, what was
13	the number there?
14	MS. SASSOWER: Thirty-three, I believe.
15	
16	THE COURT: Very well, that is out.
	MS. SASSOWER: Okay. In connection with this
17	five boxes and one rel, redweld presentation that was at
18	the Senate Judiciary Committee delivered on May 5th.
19	THE COURT: Do I have, do I have an exhibit
20	number?
21	MS. SASSOWER: Yes, you have. We have, we
22	have already discussed the May 5th.
23	THE COURT: What's the exhibit number?
24	MS. SASSOWER: Fifteen, Your Honor. I have
25	separately marked as Exhibit 11 the March 26th statement

1	summarizing the documentary evidence establishing the
2	unfitness
3	THE COURT: Right.
4	MS. SASSOWER: of Judge Wesley.
5	THE COURT: Statement of opinion, that won't
6	come in. Next.
 7	MR. MENDELSOHN: Your Honor, what number?
8	MS. SASSOWER: Lob one back to me.
9	THE COURT: Eleven.
10	MS. SASSOWER: Lob one back to me, Your Honor.
11	THE COURT: Because
12	MS. SASSOWER: I made a written presentation, a
13	written proffer as to what I wished to testify about and
14	what needed to be investigated.
15	THE COURT: All of which is irrelevant. I mean
16	this isn't going to be a forum as to your opinions on
17	this judge's unfitness.
18	MS. SASSOWER: That's right.
19	THE COURT: The fact, the fact that the, your
20	opinions formed the basis for the action that you took,
21	fine. But we, there may be forums within our society
22	for you to stand up and espouse your opinions. This
23	courtroom is not one of them.
24	MS. SASSOWER: Your
25	THE COURT: So 11 is out. Next, next exhibit.

You've got four minutes. 1 2 MS. SASSOWER: Okay. Your Honor, I would just point out that I did not espouse opinions to the Senate 3 Judiciary Committee and to the home state senators. 4 Ι presented them with a fact specific presentation. 5 6 THE COURT: Which what you stated --7 MS. SASSOWER: Outlining the evidence and I think --8 THE COURT: Absolutely. You said enough, that's what I needed to hear. It's out. 10 11 MS. SASSOWER: I'd like marked, I have marked Exhibit 37 which was hand delivered to Senator 12 Clinton's office, the April 23rd 2003 letter which was 13 acknowledged eventually through the e-mail 14 correspondence that went into evidence. 15 16 THE COURT: Government? 17 MR. MENDELSOHN: No objection at this time. 18 THE COURT: Very well. Okay, proffer 37. 19 MS. SASSOWER: Only because I am being so rushed, I cannot go methodically and properly through 20 21 the documents so that I can defend myself. However, the pivotal portion of my testimony will relate to the 22 23 video. 24 THE COURT: Very well. 25 MS. SASSOWER: I have prepared a written

analysis so that, with copies for the jurors which I 1 will hand up so that they can have the benefit of a 2 narration as to what they are seeing. Because there is 3 no slow down of the video and there is no enhancement of 4 5 the sound. 6 THE COURT: Which, which exhibit is this? 7 MS. SASSOWER: It has been marked by me Exhibit Number 58. I'm ready to hand it up to you so 8 you can see exactly what kind of analysis and narration 10 we have here. 11 THE COURT: Pass it to Ms. Franklin 12 please. 13 MS. SASSOWER: This is a little of a high-tech slow downs and audio enhancements. 14 15 THE COURT: Very well. I'm looking at what has been identified as Exhibit, I don't have it on the back. 16 What's the number? 17 18 MS. SASSOWER: I'm sorry. 19 THE COURT: Fifty-eight. 20 MS. SASSOWER: Fifty-eight. 21 THE COURT: Very well. That's been identified as Exhibit 58. It's dated July 7, 2003. And the 22 essence of this is that it appears to be narration and 23 argument as to the events transpiring on May 22nd, which 24 is reflected in the videotape. 25

This document contains such narration, argument and opinion, that it is not subject to redaction that would result in any meaningful communication.

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Indeed, so much of this would have to be redacted that it would make no sense to, to even attempt that after the, so this document won't even be proffered.

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And what I will state, say to you is that to the extent that you take objection with the prior view of any witness in this case as to what is depicted in the tape, we won't have argument on that issue in front of the jury. What you will be allowed to do is to play the tape and state what is happening.

14

MS. SASSOWER: Uh-huh.

15

16

THE COURT: And that's it. There won't be argument, there won't be references to either of the officers that testified pertaining to the tape.

17 18

They have stated what transpired based upon -- well, actually it was only one officer, stated as to what transpired when the, as the tape played.

20 21

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You will have the same opportunity and you won't refer to the officer's testimony in your statement as to what is occurring.

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The jury will then be free to draw its own conclusion based upon its observation of the tape, the

. 1	officer's testimony as to what was there and your
2	testimony as to what was depicted there.
3	MS. SASSOWER: Now -
4	THE COURT: That's it.
5	MS. SASSOWER: Now, now I of course have a
6	standing objection. Now, are we going to be permitted,
7	is defense going to be permitted to enter into evidence
8	the, the transcript which I sought to have admitted into
9	evidence during the testimony of Officer Jennings?
10	THE COURT: The tape is the evidence.
11	MS. SASSOWER: No, the transcript was turned
12	over by the Government.
13	THE COURT: As a discovery document. The tape
14	is the evidence, the transcript is out. All right.
15	What, what
16	MS. SASSOWER: The, the transcript, you cannot
17	discern unless it were enhanced, you cannot properly
18	discern from the video, but the transcript gives
19	material clarification of what it is I said.
20	THE COURT: Government, I'll hear from you on
21	this.
22	MR. MENDELSOHN: Your Honor, it's the
23	Government's position that it's exactly the opposite.
24	It's the video that's the best evidence. The manuscript
25	is secondary. We are opposed to its introduction

THE COURT: Very well. Any other documents, 1 2 Ms. Sassower? 3 MS. SASSOWER: Absolutely. MR. GOLDSTONE: Your Honor, I didn't understand the ruling on 53, or not 53, the use of the transcript, 5 6 I'm sorry. THE COURT: Just a minute, I'll give it to you. 7 8 [Pause] MS. SASSOWER: Oh, yes, my legal adviser wishes 9 me to highlight, and I certainly would agree, that the 10 transcript further reflects that I spoke after the 11 hearing had been declared adjourned by the presiding 12 chairman, Saxby Chambliss. 13 THE COURT: Very well. My ruling is as 14 follows, Mr. Goldstone, and I have to believe that you 15 anticipated this. And this will be the last matter. 16 We're already at 8 minutes beyond the time that I stated 17 I would give to this. 18 19 Jury instruction 2.3 addresses transcripts and tape recordings. Even when transcripts are allowed into 20 the juryroom, the purpose is to help to identify 21 speakers, clarify portions of the tape which are 22 difficult to hear. 23 24 The tapes, however, are the evidence in the 25 The transcripts are not evidence. case.

perceive any variation between the transcripts and the tapes, you must be guided solely by the tapes and not by 2 the transcripts. 3 If you cannot determine from the tape that 4 particular words were spoken, you must disregard the 5 transcript so far as those words are concerned. Very 6 well. 8 MS. SASSOWER: Now I, --9 THE COURT: We will now bring in --MS. SASSOWER: I had in hand a written, written 10 notes from which I read when I rose and stated what I 11 stated on May 22nd. It was conceded by the Government 12 in their May 23rd letter, which extended no plea and purported to make --14 15 THE COURT: What is your proffer with regard to 16 the notes? 17 MS. SASSOWER: The notes say exactly what it is that I said when I rose. 18 THE COURT: And presumably you're going to say 19 that when you're explaining the tape, correct? 20 MS. SASSOWER: The Government acknowledged when 21 22 they --23 THE COURT: I don't, I don't much care what the Government acknowledged. -24 25 MS. SASSOWER: I'd like -

. 1	THE COURT: Answer my question please.
2	MS. SASSOWER: I'd like this to go in.
3	THE COURT: Answer my question. Are you going
4	to testify as to what you said as the tape is playing
5	for the jury? You'll pause it and then you'll state
6	what you said.
7	In some way you're gonna get in front of the
8	jury the information that came out of your mouth at the
9	time these events took place, correct?
10	MS. SASSOWER: Yes, but it was
11	THE COURT: All right.
12	MS. SASSOWER: corroborated by the
13	Government -
14	THE COURT: The notes
15	MS. SASSOWER: when they turned
16	THE COURT: offered for the truth of the
17	matter are hearsay. They will not be admitted. All
18	right, we're going.
19	MS. SASSOWER: I wanted to impeach the
20	witnesses.
21	THE COURT: You've got, you have no other
22	witnesses to impeach. And your notes as to what you
23	said at the time aren't the appropriate vehicle for
24	impeachment of another witness.
25	Therefore, we will proceed with the trial and

1	the exhibits that are open to your proffer are the ones
2	
3	MS. SASSOWER: Excuse me.
4	THE COURT: Three, four, 9, 15, 36, 37, 39, and
5	
6	MS. SASSOWER: Excuse me, I have Defendant's
7	
8	first became aware that Officer Jennings was being
9	
10	And it's so reflected by this contemporaneous document
11	from Capitol Police
12	THE COURT: Irrelevant.
13	MS. SASSOWER: on May 22nd.
14	THE COURT: Irrelevant, and it won't be
15	proffered. We're about to bring the jury in. I think
16	you should prepare for your testimony.
17	MS. SASSOWER: Could I have 10 minutes to put
18	my things in order?
19	THE COURT: You'll have five minutes. We'll
20	call them in at 10:30.
21	(Thereupon, the Court recessed at 10:25 a.m.)
22	(Thereupon, the Court recessed at 10:30
23	a.m. and the jury was brought to the courtroom.)
24	THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and
25	gentlemen. Thank you for returning and doing so