The Honorable Richard A. Jones 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE 9 10 ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, et al., on behalf of CASE NO. 2:17-cv-00094-RAJ himself and other similarly situated, 11 **DECLARATION OF LEON B.** Plaintiffs, TARANTO IN SUPPORT OF 12 **DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO** PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO v. 13 EXCLUDE OPINIONS OF DR. JOSPEH R. BIDEN, President of the United BERNARD SISKIN 14 States, et al., 15 Defendants. 16 17 18 I, Leon B. Taranto, do declare and say: 19 1. I am a duly appointed Trial Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, 20 Torts Branch in Washington, D.C., and I am one of the attorneys assigned to represent Defendants in 21 this action. 22 2. Marked as "Exhibit 1" and filed separately under seal is a true and correct copy of 23 excerpts from the transcript of the January 10, 2020 Deposition of Mr. Daniel Renaud; 24 3. Attached hereto and marked as "Exhibit 2" is a true and correct copy of excerpts from the 25 transcript of the January 8, 2020 Deposition of Mr. Matthew Emrich; 26 27 28 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECLARATION OF LEON B. TARANTO IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO EXCLUDE OPINIONS OF DR. BERNARD SISKIN - 1 (Case No. 2:17-cv-00094-RAJ)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL DIVISION, OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION LITIGATION
Ben Franklin Station, P.O. Box 878
Washington, D.C. 20044
(202) 616-4900

# EXHIBIT 1 - FILED UNDER SEAL -

# EXHIBIT 2

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

AT SEATTLE

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, et al., on :

behalf of themselves and others : Case No.:

Similarly situated, : 17-CV-00094 RAJ

Plaintiffs, :

VS.

DONALD TRUMP, President of the : ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY

United States, et al., :

Defendants. :

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Washington, DC

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Videotaped Deposition of MATTHEW EMRICH held at U.S. Department of Justice, 450 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530, commencing at 9:37 a.m., before Sherry L. Brooks, Certified LiveNote Reporter and Notary Public, in and for the District of Columbia.

Henderson Legal Services, Inc.

# Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

			44
1	Q.	Okay. And when did that stop?	
2	A.	I don't recall exactly.	
3	Q.	Was it in the last year?	
4	A.	That to the best of my recollection,	
5	that stopp	ped in late 2011 or early 2012, but, again,	
6	that's to	the best of my recollection right now.	
7	Q.	Okay. Thank you. Was there a division or	
8	a unit ref	Terred to as the CPIA?	
9	A.	There was. I don't recall which division	
10	that unit	was in.	
11	Q.	Was that the unit that did the	
12	prioritiza	ation?	
13	A.	I don't recall exactly.	
14	Q.	Okay. Is CARRP an important policy for	
15	USCIS?		
16	A.	By important it is a policy if by	
17	important	you mean it's a policy that provides	
18	benefits t	to the agency, I would say that it's an	
19	important	policy.	
20	Q.	And why? Why is it important?	
21	A.	It provides the agency with a standard and	
22	a stand	lardized way of identifying, recording, and	

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- adjudicating cases where national security indicators
- 2 are present.
- Q. Why is it important to have a standardized
- 4 way to identify, record, and adjudicate cases where
- 5 national security concerns are present?
- A. In my experience, if there's not a
- 7 standardized way of doing things, individuals will
- 8 attempt to carry out their duties to the best of
- 9 their ability. But because they're individuals, they
- will end up doing things in different ways.
- 11 Q. Do you think that CARRP plays an important
- 12 role in protecting the national security of the
- 13 United States?
- 14 A. I do.
- Q. And why is that?
- 16 A. It -- the agency must not -- the agency
- cannot grant an immigration benefit without
- 18 considering all available information that may impact
- 19 the eligibility of the applicant or impact the
- eligibility of the person for that benefit.
- 21 Additionally, the agency must ensure that
- 22 individuals are eligible for benefits. So the CARRP

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- process provides a standard way that USCIS employees
- 2 can identify national security concerns, can review
- those concerns to see if they -- to review those to
- 4 identify national security indicators, to review
- 5 those indicators to see if they constitute a national
- 6 security concern, and work to obtain all of the
- information that the agency has -- obtain
- 8 information, and ultimately the goal here is to
- 9 adjudicate the case.
- 10 Q. So you said that one reason why CARRP is
- important to protecting national security is because
- 12 you can't grant a benefit without considering a
- person's eligibility.
- 14 Did I get that right?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- Q. And isn't that what the agency does in
- 17 general in considering immigration benefit
- 18 applications?
- 19 A. The agency has to consider all available
- 20 evidence and matters that are reasonably available to
- 21 it that may impact the person's eligibility for the
- benefit.

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

		47
1	Q. And what is what do immigration	
2	benefits have to do with national security?	
3	A. If individuals obtain immigration benefits	
4	who may pose a risk to national security, they may	
5	the immigration benefits may allow them to remain in	
6	the United States to obtain positions of public	
7	trust, to become U.S. government employees with	
8	security clearances.	
9	Additionally, if individuals are involved	
10	in some type of terrorist activity, if they attain	
11	immigration benefits, then they may not be removable	
12	from the United States if they pose a threat to	
13	national security.	
14	Q. I'm sorry. Say that again. They may not	
15	be removable	
16	A. If they pose individuals who pose a	
17	threat to national security may may the	
18	attainment of immigration benefits may mean that	
19	they're no longer removable under various removable	
20	grounds.	
21	Q. You mean if they are made a citizen?	
22	A. Correct.	

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- Q. And when you say positions of public
- trust, what are you referring to?
- A. Many positions, both in local, state, and
- 4 the Federal Government, are based on a person being a
- 5 U.S. citizen. So that could be -- that could be law
- 6 enforcement officers, people who work in sensitive
- government positions, people who hold sensitive
- 8 positions with federal, state, and local government.
- 9 Q. And why is CARRP important for determining
- 10 eligibility, if that's what your testimony -- did I
- 11 get that right, that CARRP is important for
- determining whether a person is eligible for --
- 13 A. CARRP is important in providing the agency
- 14 a standardized way to identify matters that may
- impact eligibility, specifically national security
- 16 indicators.
- 17 It provides a standard way of reviewing
- 18 those indicators to see if they constitute a national
- 19 security concern and provides the agency procedures
- 20 by which to consider, consider that national --
- 21 consider the national security concerns if they do --
- 22 if they are confirmed to be national security

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- concerns and ultimately adjudicate the case.
- Q. In what way did the national security
- 3 indicators laid out in the CARRP policy relate to
- 4 eligibility for immigration benefits?
- 5 A. It is not -- it is my understanding that
- 6 there's no exhaustive list of national security
- indicators that are within CARRP policy.
- Q. What do you mean by that?
- 9 A. There's no -- there is no defined list of
- 10 potential national security indicators.
- 11 O. So how would an officer know whether
- 12 something is a national security indicator?
- 13 A. There are -- there are -- there are sample
- 14 national security indicators, but that list does not
- purport to be exhaustive.
- 16 Q. So an officer adjudicating or reviewing an
- 17 immigration benefit could conclude based on their own
- definition that someone is a national security
- 19 concern?
- 20 A. The process by which an officer would come
- 21 to the determination of a national security concern
- is the -- one or more national security indicators

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- A. So CARRP standardizes the procedures that
- 2 are being followed by the officers. It standardizes
- $^3$  recordkeeping. As far as the cases go, it
- 4 establishes -- it reinforces the standard in the
- 5 process by which indicators are reviewed.
- 6 It provides for training and it outlines
- 7 processes and procedures so that cases where national
- 8 security concerns are identified can ultimately be
- 9 adjudicated. That's the goal.
- 10 Q. Okay. But ultimately the conclusion that
- 11 a person is a national security concern is up to the
- individual officer that's reviewing that case?
- 13 A. It is -- an officer reviews and an officer
- 14 ultimately makes the decision whether or not the case
- is a national security concern, yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. But there are some documents that
- 17 do spell out what national security concerns -- what
- 18 are indicators of national security concerns,
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. Correct.
- O. And one of those documents is what's
- 22 referred to as Attachment A; is that right?

Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- which relates to whether or not the person is on the
- 2 terrorism watchlist and has been nominated to the
- 3 terrorism watchlist and meets the interagency
- 4 criteria for inclusion on the terrorism watchlist.
- 5 So non-KST is defined as it implies, a
- 6 non-KST.
- 7 Q. Correct. But there are certain codes that
- 8 are put into TECS that would indicate that someone is
- 9 a non-KST, right?
- 10 A. It's my understanding that the information
- in TECS would be the basis of whether or not there
- was a national security indicator.
- Q. Okay. You're not answering my question.
- 14 We know that TECS would reveal that -- whether or not
- 15 somebody is a KST. It's also the case that TECS --
- the codes in TECS could reveal that a person is a
- 17 non-KST, correct?
- 18 A. By that -- so -- as I -- the -- TECS may
- include information that -- that is a national
- 20 security indicator that would -- that may cause a
- 21 person to become a national security concern if those
- 22 -- if the indicators in the totality of circumstances

# Emrich, Matthew

January 8, 2020

- question reveals any of that.
- 2 MR. TARANTO: The witness may answer to
- 3 the extent it doesn't reveal details in law
- 4 enforcement information concerning the TSDB.
- 5 A. Could you repeat the question, please?
- 6 BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
- 7 Q. The coding in TECS that indicates that
- 8 someone is a TSDB comes from -- I'm sorry.
- The coding in TECS that indicates that a
- 10 person is a KST comes from the TSDB, correct?
- 11 A. That is my understanding.
- 12 Q. Okay. And sorry if I already asked this.
- 13 You're not familiar with any coding that reflects
- that a person may be a non-KST, correct?
- 15 A. The -- I am -- I am familiar with the fact
- 16 that TECS includes information that may be a national
- security indicator.
- Q. Okay. And who inputs that information
- into TECS, what agency?
- 20 A. That -- I'm not familiar with all of the
- 21 agencies that can put information into TECS.
- Q. Does the FBI put information into TECS?

# EXHIBIT 3 - UNREDACTED VERSION FILED UNDER SEAL -

# Case 2:17-cv-00094-RAJ Document 488 Filed 04/05/21 Page 16 of 36

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Page 1

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

#### AT SEATTLE

-----x

ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, et al., on :

behalf of themselves and :

others similarly situated, :

Plaintiffs, :

-vs- : No.

DONALD TRUMP, President of the: 17-cv-00094 RAJ

United States, et al., :

Defendants. :

-----X

CONFIDENTIAL UNDER THE PROTECTIVE ORDER

30(B)(6) VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF USCIS

BY AND THROUGH KEVIN QUINN

Thursday, September 3, 2020

10:09 a.m.

Job No.: 623013

Pages 1 - 312

Reported by: Tammy S. Newton

		Page	31
1	BY MS. PASQUARELLA:		
2	Q So do you know why the agency decided	d	
3	that it was important to launch the CARRP policy	7?	
4	A We wanted to ensure that we had a		
5	consistent approach for identifying potential		
6	national security concerns for reviewing those		
7	cases, for documenting and working those cases		
8	and for getting those cases to and through		
9	adjudication.		
10	Q And was there something inconsistent		
11	about the way national security cases were		
12	handled prior to CARRP?		
13	MR. KIPNIS: Objection; scope. You		
14	can answer in your personal capacity.		
15	THE WITNESS: Prior to CARRP, those		
16	cases were, as I said, handled at headquarters,		
17	and part of CARRP was returning responsibility of	of	
18	those cases back to the field offices.		
19	BY MS. PASQUARELLA:		
20	Q And why did they want to do that?		
21	MR. KIPNIS: Objection. Go ahead and	d	
22	answer.		

Page 32 Because the -- part of 1 THE WITNESS: 2 the reason was that the local offices would have 3 greater familiarity with the A file, with the case, possibly with the case agents and cases of 5 law enforcement activity, and that coordination of the cases and, again, ultimately working with 6 7 adjudications would be facilitated by having the vetting of the cases done in the local office. 8 9 BY MS. PASQUARELLA: 10 Okay. And who was involved in the formulation of the CARRP policy? 11 12 Within USCIS, it was led -- it was 13 FDNS, Fraud Detection and National Security 14 division, as part of our national security and recordation directorate at the time, as well as 15 16 domestic operations, which oversaw the field offices and service centers, and the refugee 17 18 asylum international operations directorate, as 19 well as our Office of Chief Counsel. 20 Did anyone outside of USCIS Q participate in the formulation of CARRP? 21 22 Α No.

Page 35 1 question? What information did the agency 3 consider when it came up with its definition of national security concern that's contained in the 5 2008 CARRP policy? We reviewed the Immigration and 6 7 Nationality Act for the grounds of inadmissibility and removability to be included. 8 9 The cases involving national security concerns 10 were being worked at headquarters at the time. So the experience gained from working on those 11 cases informed the development of CARRP policy. 12 13 Okay. So the INA and your own 14 on-the-job experience. Was there anything else 15 that was considered? 16 Α No. And in the CARRP -- the 2008 CARRP 17 18 policy defines national security concerns to 19 include known or suspected terrorists, correct? 20 This is correct. Α 21 We'll refer to that as KST, a known or 22 suspected terrorist.

	Page 36
1	Are you aware of any other information
2	that the agency considered in deciding to treat
3	KSTs as national security concerns?
4	A Besides what we discussed?
5	Q Correct.
6	A No.
7	Q Okay. And did USCIS consider
8	information about the accuracy of the KST
9	designation in deciding to include KSTs as
10	national security concerns in the CARRP policy?
11	A What do you mean by "the accuracy"?
12	Q Any information about whether or not
13	the KST designation is accurate.
14	A Besides our experience working on
15	cases involving such individuals, no.
16	Q And when you say "experience", you
17	mean your on-the-job experience, correct?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Did it consider at the time the
20	evidentiary standard that's used by the
21	intelligence community in making the
22	determination that somebody is a KST?

Page 60 1 and security checks. 2 Additionally, there is a small section in the NaBISCOP that describes at a high level 3 some parts of the CARRP policy for those officers 5 who are running background and security checks but may not be otherwise familiar with the CARRP 6 7 policy. 8 Who would those people be who are 9 running the background checks that are not 10 otherwise familiar with the CARRP policy? It might be Immigration Services 11 Α 12 officers who are doing the upfront background and 13 security checks or who are otherwise running 14 background checks on cases prior to adjudication. 15 Okay. And when an adjustment of 16 status or a naturalization application is first filed, at what point are the background checks 17 18 initially run? 19 A number of the background checks are 20 initiated fairly early in the process. The TECS checks are typically done -- TECS is one of our 21 22 background and security checks and is required in

Page 61 1 all adjustment and naturalization cases. That 2 3 receipt of the application. The FBI Name Checks are typically 4 5 implemented sometime shortly after that. A FBI fingerprint check is typically also required for 6 7 those applications, and that would be initiated sometime after we were able to capture the 8 9 applicant's biometrics so those can be submitted. 10 So those are the background checks that are run very early on. Are there other 11 12 background checks that are run at a later point? 13 Α There are other systems that officers may review as part of their adjudication, but 14 those are the mandatory background checks that 15 16 are run on all cases. I see. So the TECS FBI Name Check and 17 18 FBI fingerprint are the mandatory background 19 checks that are run in every case? 20 Actually, I apologize. I will add Α that our officers also review, as part of the 21 22 reviewing the information from the FBI

Page 62 1 fingerprint check, information from the DHS 2 database IDENT, which houses biometric typically 3 entry information, as well as other biometric encounters. So that's part of the biometrics 5 collection. But yes, TECS, FBI fingerprint, FBI Name Check, and IDENT. 6 7 And then other database systems or 8 background check systems may be run depending on 9 the circumstances in a given case; is that right? 10 Α That is correct. 11 Q But there are no other mandatory 12 checks that are required. Am I getting that 13 right? 14 Α That is correct. 15 Okay. While we're on the subject of 16 IDENT, IDENT is the DHS biometric database, 17 correct? 18 A That is correct. 19 And what is USCIS's IDENT for? 20 For biometrically comparing the Α applicant information that we receive to other 21 22 individuals in the system, to identify potential

```
Page 63
1
     fraud, as well as to identify other prior
     collections, encounters with the applicant.
                When you say "encounters", do you
 3
     mean -- what do you mean by that?
 4
5
                Typically, I mean other biometric
          Α
     collections by -- typically by DHS.
 6
7
          Q
               Okay.
                So their entry at the border, for
8
9
     example, or at a port of entry.
10
          Q And are you familiar with the database
11
    ADIS, A-D-I-S?
12
                MR. KIPNIS: Objection; scope. You
13
     can answer in your personal capacity.
                THE WITNESS: I am familiar with ADIS.
14
15
    BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
16
                Is that -- is that database reviewed
          Q
     through TECS?
17
18
                MR. KIPNIS: Objection; scope.
19
                THE WITNESS: No, I don't believe so.
20
     Sorry.
    BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
21
22
                Okay. And what is -- what's the
          Q
```

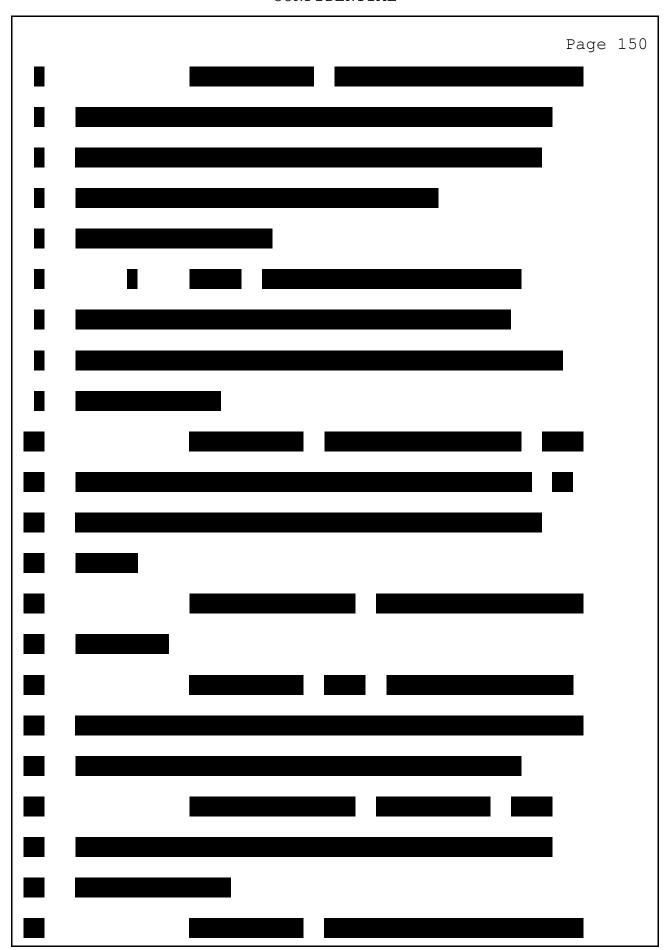
Page 64 1 information that USCIS is looking -- is accessing when it -- when it accesses TECS? 3 Information in TECS would typically include prior encounters with law enforcement 5 agencies. So it may include other encounters with Customs & Border Protection. It might 6 include information about other law enforcement 7 investigations for which the applicant is the 8 9 subject, and it may also include information on 10 whether or not the individual is listed as a known or suspected terrorist. 11 12 Okay. Anything else? 13 It is a general law enforcement lookout communication system. So it may have 14 other types of law enforcement lookouts and 15 16 encounter information. But lookouts and encounters is broadly how I would categorize the 17 rest of the information. 18 19 Okay. And what information is USCIS 20 accessing when it -- when it accesses the FBI fingerprint system? 21 22 The FBI's fingerprint system includes Α

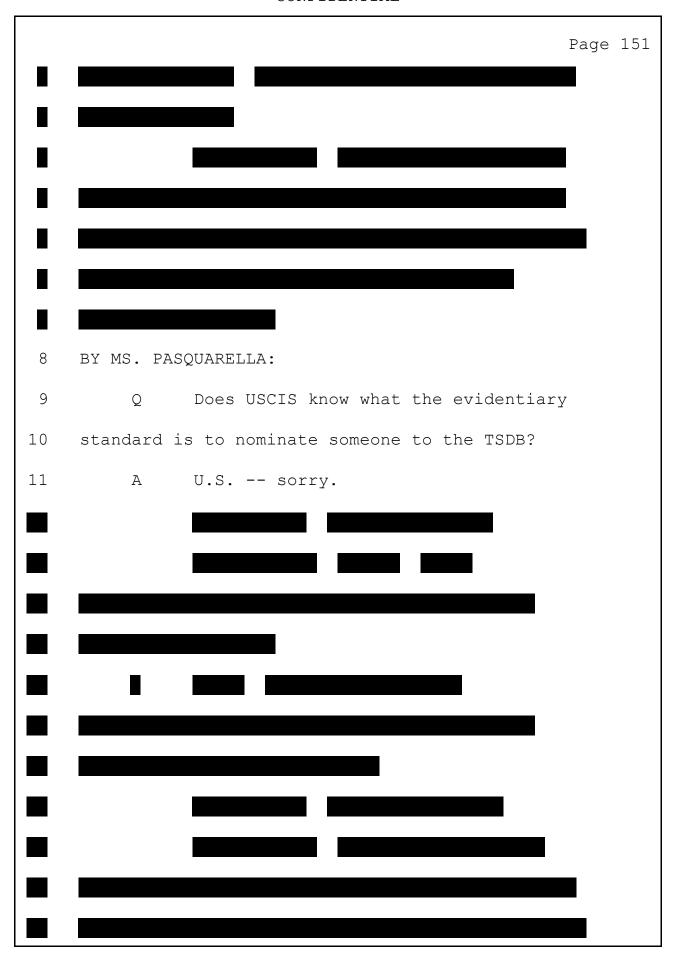
Page 65 1 information from the FBI on arrests, as well as state-level information shared by those states 3 with the CJIS, Criminal Justice Information System. 5 Would that be criminal history Q information? 7 Α Yes. 8 And the mandatory checks that we 9 talked about, IDENT checks, FBI Name Check, FBI 10 fingerprint, are those run at the National 11 Benefits Center? 12 MR. KIPNIS: Objection; scope. 13 THE WITNESS: They are -- yes. 14 National Benefits Center runs -- initiates those -- well, no. I apologize. 15 So they do the upfront TECS checks, 16 and they will submit the FBI Name Checks. 17 18 FBI fingerprint checks are initiated when an 19 individual is -- submits their biometric 20 information at one of our applications support centers, though the NBC may review the results of 21 22 those background checks also.

	Page 6
1	BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
2	Q But the initial checks that we talked
3	about that are run like, for
4	example, TECS, is that typically run by is
5	that the National Benefits Center that's running
6	them or who's running them?
7	A Yes. The National Benefits Center
8	runs those.
9	Q Okay. And when those initial checks
10	flag something that should be investigated, as a
11	potential indicator of a national security
12	concern, who who then investigates those
13	flags?
14	
16	MR. KIPNIS: I'm going to object go
17	ahead and answer. I'm sorry. Objection to
18	scope. You can answer.
19	THE WITNESS: I apologize.
20	MR. KIPNIS: No, it's my fault.
21	

Page 148 1 BY MS. PASQUARELLA: Okay. I want to talk now about KSTs. 3 What's USCIS's understanding of what it means to be a KST? 5 A KST, a known or suspected terrorist, is an individual who is known or is reasonably 7 suspected of being engaged in terrorist activity, of being a member of a terrorist organization or 8 9 planning terrorist activity. And who makes the determination about 10 11 who is a KST? 12 MR. KIPNIS: Based on USCIS's 13 knowledge? 14 MS. PASQUARELLA: Yes. 15 THE WITNESS: Law enforcement and 16 intelligence agencies nominate individuals for placement on the watchlist as a known or 17 18 suspected terrorist. 19 BY MS. PASQUARELLA: 20 And then who decides who actually places them? Who gets to be placed on that 21 22 watchlist?

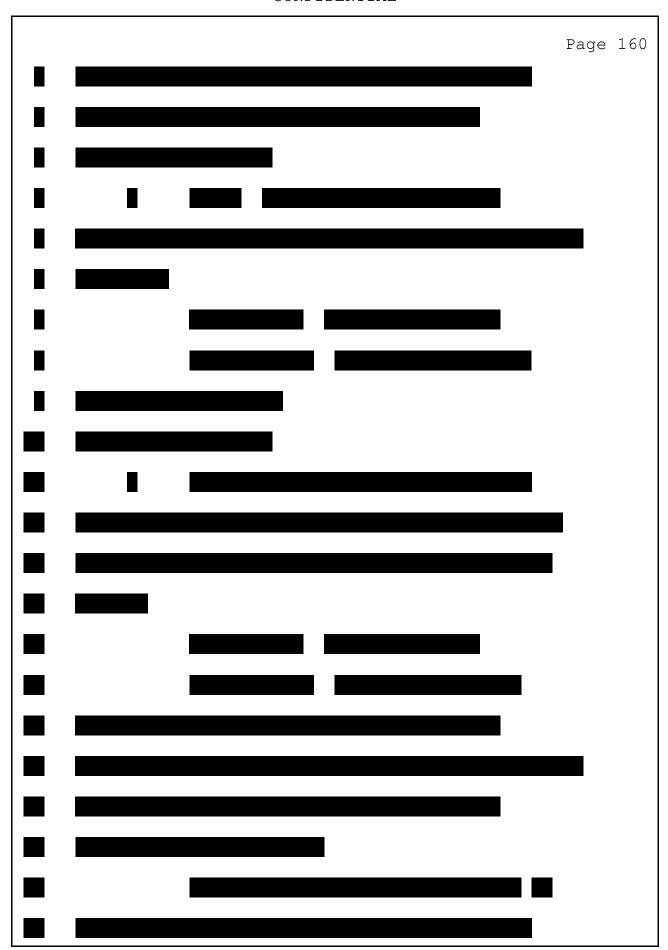
	Page 149
1	MR. KIPNIS: Again, USCIS's knowledge
2	on that question?
3	MS. PASQUARELLA: All of these
4	questions are USCIS's knowledge, yes.
5	MR. KIPNIS: Well you're not framing
6	them that way. So that's the issue. I'll make
7	sure that you're getting the answer to the
8	question you're giving.
9	THE WITNESS: The our understanding
10	is that the nominating agency is responsible for
11	determining that an individual is a KST.
12	BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
13	

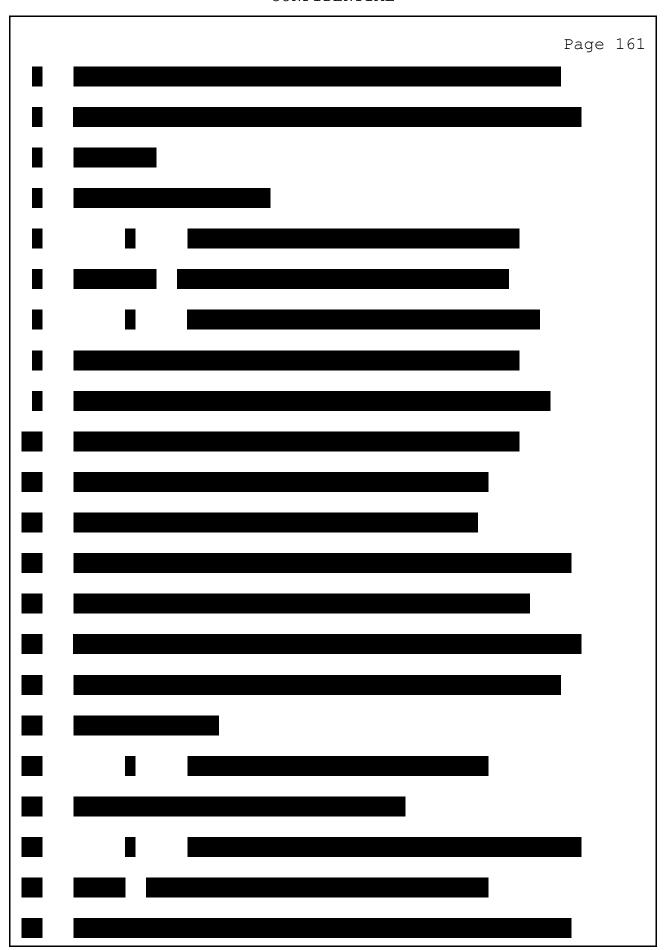




```
Page 152
1
    activity.
    BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
          O And what is the definition that's used
 3
    of terrorist activity in finding that's there's
5
    reasonable suspicion to place someone on the
    watchlist?
7
               MR. KIPNIS: Objection; scope.
                THE WITNESS: I'm not sure --
8
9
                COURT REPORTER: What was that?
10
               MR. KIPNIS: I objected based on the
11
    lack of foundation also.
                THE WITNESS: And I said I'm not sure
12
13
    what that is.
14
    BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
15
               Okay. Does being a KST satisfy
    CARRP's articulable link standard?
16
17
                COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Can you
18
    repeat the question?
19
    BY MS. PASQUARELLA:
                Does being a KST satisfy CARRP's
20
    articulable link standard?
21
                Yes. We consider an individual who is
22
         Α
```

Page 153 1 listed as a K -- is a confirmed KST to have an articulable link to national security across 3 USCIS. Why does USCIS think that being an KST satisfies the articulable link standard? 5 6 Because of the -- the -- a person is nominated as a KST if there is a reasonable 7 8 suspicion, the person has been involved in 9 terrorist activities. Because of that and 10 because terrorist activities are included in INA 212, we consider that to be similar to our own 11 12 articulation of a national security concern for 13 non-KST security concerns. 14 But, again, USCIS doesn't know what definition is applied to terrorist activity when 15 16 an agency nominates someone to the watchlist? 17 MR. KIPNIS: Objection; scope. 18 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I forget 19 exactly what the definition of terrorism is that 20 they use in the watchlist. BY MS. PASQUARELLA: 21 22 So you don't know whether that Q





# EXHIBIT 4 - FILED UNDER SEAL -