# In the Bupreme Court of the Girgin Jilands 

FATHI YUSUF and UNITED CORPORATION, Appellants/Defendants, v.

MOHAMMAD HAMED, by his authorized agent, WALEED HAMED,

Appellee/Plaintiff.

# ON APPEAL FROM THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, DIVISION OF ST. CROIX <br> Super. Ct. No. 370/2012 (STX) HON. DOUGLAS BRADY, PRESIDING 

## JOINT APPENDIX VOLUME II

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

MOHAMMED HAMED By His Authorized )
Agent WALEED HAMED, )

Plaintiff, )
vs. ) INJUNCTIVE AND

FATHI-YUSUE and UNTTED
CORPORATION,

Defendants.

CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

The Hearing in the above-entitled action was heard before the HONORABLE DOUGLAS A. BRADY, JUDGE, in Courtroom No. 211, Kingshill, st. Croix, on Friday, January, 25th, 2013, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

SUZANNE A. OTWAY-MILLER REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS KINGSHILL, ST. CROIX, U.S.V.I.
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## PROCEED I NGS

THE COURT: Good morning.

THE CLERK: Mohammad Hamed by his authorized agent, Waleed Hamed versus Fathi Yusuf and United Corporation.

MR. HOLT: For the record, my name is Joel Holt along with Carl Hartmann. I represent Mr. Mohammad Hamed.

MR. DiRUZZO: May it please the Court, good morning, Your Honor. Joseph DiRuzzo together with Christopher David and Nizar DeWood, we represent the United Corporation and Fathi Yusuf.

THE COURT: The matter is before the Court this morning on plaintiffs' Emergency Motion and Memorandum to Renew Application for TRO, and defendants' Response in Opposition to Plaintiffs' Renewed TRO Application. Those are the -- that is the only matter that's before the Court and that's the only matter that we'll be entertaining today, and we will take evidence as necessary to address that.

So I'll -- I guess I'll ask Attorney Holt on behalf of the plaintiff, is there anything preliminarily before you call your first witness?

MR. HOLT: The only preliminary matter we have, which we would like to do before the first witness is
to ask the Court to take judicial notice of the four items that we submitted to the Court.

One is the transcript of Mr. Yusuf given in another Superior Court case; the second item is the Rule 12 motion filed by the defendants in this case; third item is the Rule 12 Reply Memorandum filed by the defendant in this case. And the fourth matter is a complaint, certified copy of a complaint that was filed by United Corporation against Waleed Hamed, and each of those contains what we assert to be judicial admissions which we would like to use in this proceeding.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, we would object, one in respect to the deposition transcript of Fathi Yusuf. We object under the rule of completeness, especially it appears that plaintiffs intend to selectively cherry pick certain portions of that document. The document speaks for itself, but we would not concede that those qualify as an admission.

In respect to the documents that are filed in this case, the fact that they are filed, if that's a judicial notice that the Court is willing to do that's not a problem, but as far as anything else, I -- we would object.

And as to the certified copy of the complaint filed in a related case at its preliminary matter, that complaint hasn't been served so there is no action ongoing. However, if the Court wants to take judicial notice that it has been filed, we won't object to that because that's the truth, it has been filed.

So although we would anticipate, of course, during the course of discovery in that case to the extent that we get there, that the factual allegations contained in that complaint would be amended as the facts come to light in the court through normal discovery means. We don't take the position that the facts as alleged in that complaint are necessarily the actual facts. Those facts as alleged just put the defendant on notice as is required under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure under those pleadings.

THE COURT: Thank you.
MR. DiRUZZO: Can I briefly respond. As to the first item, we have -- we intend to offer the entire deposition. As a matter of fact, we submitted a certified copy of the deposition before today's hearing, so it's already in the court record.

We have done a summery of the key parts
permitted under Rule 1001, so that the Court doesn't have to guess as to which part we're talking about, and those parts have not only been separated out, Exhibit 1 is a - Deposition Exhibit $1 A$ are the summary excerpts, so the Court can direct its attention to specific matters that we believe to be highly relevant in this case.

Items two and three They've conceded. Item number 4 on the complaint, it's a certified complaint that's in this court so it doesn't matter whether it's served or not. But just for the matter it was served yesterday or the day before.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you for that. Your concern Mr. DiRuzzo, regarding the deposition transcript should be laid by the fact that the entire transcript is presented and now is in the Court's record.

I'll address these evidentiary matters when they are presented. I don't know if the plaintiff is presenting them right now, but $I$ will grant -- I will take judicial notice of those matters.

Yes, sir.

MR. DiRUZZO: As for the -- on the defense side for point of order, another preliminary matter, the defendant would invoke the rule of sequestration and
would ask that all witnesses who are not parties to the case be asked to stay outside the room and not talk about their potential testimony, or to the extent that they have testified that they would -their testimony that they have testified to to other potential witnesses.

And Mr. David will address the Rule 408 motion.

MR. HOLT: I have no objection to sequestration.

THE COURT: Anybody who's going to be a witness in this case, you are excused from the courtroom at this time. Thank you very much for being here, and sorry that you can't participate in the viewing but those are the rules.

Any other persons who are going to be witnesses? Counsel, make sure you don't have any of your witnesses in the courtroom, please.

MR. HOLT: Other than the parties, correct.

THE COURT: Yes, that's Mr. Mohammad Hamed who's here, Mr. Mahar Yusuf is here as the representative of United.

MR. DiRUZZO: Yes, sir, he's the president of United Corporation.

THE COURT: And Fathi Yusuf is not present?
MR. DAVID: Not present, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, counsel has indicated that their moving papers and cited at length in their moving papers a number of statements allegedly made during a mediation settlement conference as proof of liability to establish liability as to the alleged partnership.

They have offered and quoted at length letters from Attorney DeWood to Attorney Holt following up on settlement offers, laying out settlement offers and discussing different possible potential to settle or otherwise resolve of the claim.

Rule 408 explicitly precludes the admission of those type of documents for the purpose they are being offered here today. They are being offered to establish liability, which means the existence of this alleged partnership. They are using Mr. Dewood use of the term nakedly partnership as a fact that there was, in fact, a partnership.

It was clearly a settlement negotiation. It was a follow up, it was a settlement agreement, it has all the ear marks of being protected under Rule 408 , and the plaintiff should not be allowed to use settlement discussions and admissions and statements, or alleged admissions and statements and settlement discussions, which parenthetically are not complete
because they are follow-up letters from Mr. Dewood that would otherwise preclude it.

Your Honor, it would chill the settlement process, it would chill the mediation process, and it would make potentially both Mr. DeWood a witness and Mr. Holt a witness when Rule 408 is designed to prevent such a side show from occurring. So we would ask that any reference -- that the plaintiff be precluded from any reference to any type of -- any of these settlement negotiations.

Now, Your Honor, $I$ anticipate counsel is going to provide you with some case law, because I believe it was in one of their responsive pleadings that suggests that they are allowed to use that. The case law that counsel is relying on, I don't have the case citation, I remember the case law suggests or states when one party -- when the -- you cannot use them offensively, you can use them defensively, so they are using them offensively, and we don't believe that you should be able to allow that settlement communications to be offered as factual predicates for their case in chief, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, there are three exhibits, they've been premarked as Exhibits 10, 11 and 12,
they are dated February 2012 and March of 2012, all well before $I$ was ever in this case so they aren't communications with me at all.

They -- Exhibit Number 10 is an e-mail from Mr. Nizar to Waleed Hamed, and basically it's been proffered because it says that he will be sending a formal notice of partnership disillusion. And then it refers to an attachment, and attached to that e-mail is a letter from Mr. DeWood addressed to Mr. Mohammad Hamed, my client, officially dissolving the partnership, listing the assets of three grocery stores and then talking about discussions how to finish the disillusion.

And so it has nothing to do with settlement. It's a notice of disillusion, it's a listing of the assets, and it's an indication they want to meet to have an orderly disillusion.

The third document, Exhibit 12, is dated March 13th, and that is -- the e-mail, says, "Please sign the attached partnership disillusion agreement." That disillusion has several things that are key here, one it starts off, says, "Whereas the partners that have operated the partnership under an oral agreement since 1986."

Then talks about Mr. Yusuf withdrawing from the
partnership pursuant to the notice of that discussion, and wanting to resolve their differences. And it talks about the parties of shared profits, losses, deductions, credits and cash. And then it goes over on the next page and it lists the three assets again, the Plaza Extra east store, the Plaza Extra west store and the Plaza Extra St. Thomas. And those are the only items that $I$ intend to refer to because $I$ think they are all factual statements of notice of disillusion, listing of assets, and then efforts to try to get the disillusion moving.

THE COURT: Are they not presented in the context of proposed settlement?

MR. HOLT: Not at all. The notice of disillusion, we're dissolving that. That gives you notice.

THE COURT: That's number 10 or number 11?

MR. HOLT: Number 10 is only important one. The e-mail covers number 11. Number 11 is - and this is the notice of disillusion, and it talks about three assets, and then it talks about how well proceed from there. And number 11 is the notice of disillusion. And then number 12 is the proposed partnership disillusion agreement. Whereas the whereas clauses talks about how we got here, and it
lists the assets. And then when this gets to where we're going to go from here, I'm not going to offer any of that.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, as a brief follow up. Your Honor, the dispute preexisted the first letter and was a response and an effort by -- an effort through Mr. Dewood on behalf of the Yusuf family to resolve their differences. Those were words counsel just used, resolve their differences.

If we have to have Mr. DeWood testify that there was a dispute, $I$ don't think that - - there clearly was a dispute at the time they were trying to resolve their issue between them. So we think it is clearly prohibited by 408 and they should be excluded.

THE COURT: And what about if only the whereas clauses are presented?

MR. DAVID: Well, Your Honor, the whereas clauses they are being offered for the -- they are being offered as a fact. There's no context to why the whereas clauses were used. There is no discussion. The documents weren't signed, you know, so you don't have this issue -- you don't have any -you get into the whole issue of why didn't you sign off on the whereas clauses? Why didn't you approve that part of the agreement.

And then we get into all the settlement discussions and why people didn't sign, and why that language was included which is exactly what 408 is designed to preclude and designed to keep us out of this swamp so we don't have to have witnesses and lawyers testifying about why they used words in settlement agreements, Your Honor.

If it's a pink house or magenta house it really doesn't matter want the if we've defined what our agreement is related to the house. So using these words that's the context problem. What they were doing is they are trying to use a -- what's clearly a settlement negotiation is clearly derived to resolve the differences between these people which preexisted these letters.

And they want to use -- cherry picked pieces of them which were never signed or executed out to establish a fact here to say this is, in fact, a partnership, Judge, when to get the context you would have to dig deep into the settlement discussions that were -- that occurred prior to those letters being sent, Your Honor, which is exactly what 408 doesn't want us to do because if you do that you start talking about why people are settling, you start hamstringing people in settlements.

Your Honor, we say a lot of things in mediation conferences, a lot of things in settlement cases to -- conferences to get them solved. Very few of those, and almost none of them aught to be visited upon us in the courthouse. If we don't make a deal then we'll never make settlements. So 408 clearly precludes use of these documents, and it should be excluded.

MR. DeWood: Judge, Nizar DeWood on behalf of Mr. Yusuf. I'd like to address the allegations made by Attorney Holt.

THE COURT: Now, my understanding for the first time that you are the representative of Mr. Yusuf?

MR. DeWood: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: And the other gentlemen are the representatives of United?

MR. DeWood: And co-counsel for Mr. Yusuf.

THE COURT: And you are counsel to Mr. Yusuf but not to United Corporation?

MR. DeWood: I have designated myself as co-counsel for United in this matter and also as counsel in the United versus waleed Hamed matter.

Judge, in all fairness --
THE COURT. As far as I am concerned, that's the first time I've ever understood there may be some distinction about who is representing whom. I thought all three attorney are representing both defendants, if that is not true.

MR. DeWood: That's true.
THE COURT: You want to give the second lawyer's prospective on this motion. If we're going this slowly we're not going to get very far.

MR. DeWood: I'll make it brief. Attorney Holt just made a statement to the Court stating this was not done in settlement negotiations. This is absolutely unbelievable, Your Honor.

This was done because when the default case issue became apparent, Mr. Fathi Yusuf was actually discussing with Mr. Waleed their disputes, the issues that were coming up, and the failure of the parties to an agreement, it is precisely why there was an exchange back and forth of the parties' positions.

As a matter of fact, there was many discussions between myself and Mr. Holt, and I have no problem, Judge, to testify as to what Mr. Holt had said including him and every single attorney for the Hameds if that's the road he wants to go down.

We have many documents, many proposed settlement agreements and many representatives, whether through his office or the office of the defendants'
attorneys. For him to pick an e-mail and letter, an unsigned letter, because neither party could agree, and that's the point that Mr. Holt doesn't seem to bring forth to the Court as to why is it that these parties could not agree.

If, in fact, there was an agreement on his client's part, why doesn't he present a signed agreement? Why wasn't there any communications from Mr. Holt or from Waleed Hamed saying, by the way guys, you've submitted the letter, could you please -- here's our signed version, or here's our comment.

The truth is, Judge, neither party could agree. The parties tried so hard to reach an agreement but they couldn't.

One of the issues that came up was the fact that Mr. Holt himself was telling Mr. Waleed that this was a partnership when the parties have always agreed this was never a partnership. So I'm stating if that's what Mr. Holt wants we -- the Court aught to allow the parties to bring the entire record before it to decide whether or not there was actually settlement negotiations ongoing or not.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. HOLT: If I could just, briefly, Your Honor.

I don't know what he's talking about, an unsigned letter, because the letter from him was signed.

THE COURT: Which exhibit?
MR. HOLT: This is Exhibit Number 11. And it is a very simple letter giving notice of disillusion and listing the assets, then saying we need to decide who's going to take which one. So it is not a negotiation. It is a notice, it's a listing of assets and it talks about where we go to solve this. And they talk about my involvement and all the outrageous things, I wasn't involved when this came along.

But I do find it little funny when one of their lawyers has written a letter saying it is a partnership and lists the assets. We think that is not only not a settlement letter, but it's highly irrelevant.

THE COURT: You're talking about Number 11 now?
MR. HOLT: Yes. Number 10 is only relevant
because it's the e-mail that transmitted number 11. So the content of number 10 is not important. Then number 12 is the proposed disillusion agreement which he is now taking to the next step and putting context in it.

THE COURT: The Motion in Limine is denied as to Exhibit 10 and 11. I'll take 12 under advisement.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, we have a continuing objection.

THE COURT: Yes.

If there's nothing else, why don't I ask the plaintiff to call your first witness, please.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, we're going to call
Waleed Hamed as our first witness.

Before I do that, you've agreed to take judicial notice of four documents, are those things you want to read in chambers as opposed to us reading into the record? They are now part of the record.

I will say this much, while the whole deposition is in, the judicial notice actually just took what we've marked as Exhibit $1 A$, which would be the excerpts.

THE COURT: I don't need to have those read into the record.

MR. HOLT: So the same would be true of the brief. Okay. We call Waleed Hamed.

Thereupon,

WALEED HAMED,
having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, for the record, we marked this as Exhibit 1, was the deposition. Exhibit 2 -excuse me, 1A are the excerpts. Exhibit 2, the Rule 12 motion. Exhibit 3 is the rule 12 reply, and Exhibit 4 is the Complaint. And we move those into evidence since you've taken Judicial notice.

MR. DiRUZZO: Subject to continuing objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Exhibits 1, 1A -- 1, 1A --
MR. HOLT: 2, 3 and 4.
THE COURT: 2, 3, and 4 are admitted.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, 1A, 2, 3 and 4 marked for identification and received into evidence.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION

MR. HOLT:
Q Can you state your name for the record.
A Waleed Hamed.

Q And can you tell me where you reside.
A 7 Southgate, Christiansted.
Q Are you familiar with the Plaza Extra grocery store located in the Virgin Islands?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what is -- When did you first start becoming involved in the operation?

A In 1996.

Q And where did you start your work?
A I started my work in 1986 at the Plaza Extra
Sion Farm location.

Q And what were you doing?
A I was doing everything, bagger cashier, off loading containers. What you call it, cashiers, produce, meat, everything in the store.

Q And why were you working in that store?
A Because my father owned 50 percent of it. He's a partner in it.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay.
THE WITNESS: I'm sorry?
THE COURT: Object is denied.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Who is your father?
A Mohammad Hamed.
Q And you see him in court today?
A Yes.
Q And at that time was he working in the store?
A Yes, he was.
Q Where did he work?
A He worked in the produce department as well as the warehouse.

Q And did there come a time when you began then to do different things in the store from what you started
out?

A Yes.

Q And what -- can you explain to the Court what you started doing as far as the Plaza East Sion Farm store is concerned.

A I was in charge of everything that was happening in the store as far as ordering, sales, dealing with suppliers, running the front end, running the back end, off loading containers, pricing, sales, produce department, meat department, stocking the shelves, changing prices, doing sales.

Q And did there come a time when you became manager of the store?

A Yes.

Q Can you explain to the Court how the Plaza East grocery market operates as far as management was concerned?

A Management would -- we have different store, not store managers, I'm sorry. We have different department managers that are in charge of the different departments and we oversee them, we make sure that they are doing their jobs, making sure they are doing their orders, they are doing --

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor, foundation as to "we".

THE COURT: And put a time frame on it.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q When did you start becoming a manager of the store?

A Probably later on. Probably in '88. '87, '89.
Q Before Hugo or after?

A Before Hugo.

Q And when you talk about "we" just explain how did the manager of the store operate?

First off, who did you understand the store was owned by?

A My father and --

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay. Lack of foundation, and opportunity to voir dire the witness as to how he actually knows this.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I'll give a little foundation.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Did you ever have any conversations with

Mr. Fathi Yusuf?

A Yes.

Q And did he tell you who owned the store?

A Yes.

Q And what did he tell you?

A He told me that it's owned by my father and him,
$50 / 50$.

Q And this is before hurricane Hugo?

A Yes.

Q And when you became a manager of the store, how did the store management work?

Would you -- could you -- Did you run the whole store by yourself?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.

MR. HOLT: I'll rephrase.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you explain the management of the store, how the store was managed with two partners?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Withdrawn.
THE WITNESS: Mr. Yusuf always took care of the office. My dad was in charge of the receiving, and he did also the produce. I was merely taking care of the day-to-day operations of the store, front end, service desk, produce, meat, grocery trailers, ordering, dealing with suppliers.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q And did any of the Yusuf family work in there beside Mr. Yusuf?

A No, sir.

Q Did there come a time that the store expanded?

A Yes, sir, it did.

Q And about when did it begin to extend?
A Well, the store -- We lost the store in 1992 to a fire so we were out of business for about a year, year and a half. And we started the St. Thomas location I believe in late '92 or early '93.

Q All right. And so while you were rebuilding the store here, tell me how did the development and management of the St. Thomas store come about?

A When we start negotiating, meaning Fathi and my father and I, with the Tutu Park people, we were looking at that location to go into, and the individuals were back and forth to our office in St. Croix, that's prior to the fire.

Finally a deal was struck, or a lease was signed, then we lost the store. We continued with the lease.

Q And did there come a time where you went to St. Thomas?

A Yes, sir.
Q And tell me about opening the St. Thomas store.
A I was sent over to the St. Thomas store. We took on another partner in st. Thomas.

Q What was his name?
A Ahamad Idhelleh.
COURT REPORTER: Can you spell that?

THE WITNESS: A-h-a-m-a-d. I-d-h-i-e-l-e or d-e.

MR. HOLT: $\mathrm{I}-\mathrm{d}-\mathrm{h}-\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{l}-\mathrm{l}-\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{h}$.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q And tell me about then. What -- who owned the store in St. Thomas at that point when you had this?

A My father, Mr. Yusuf and Mr. Idhelleh.
Q Did there come a time that he was bought out, Mr. Idhelleh was bought out?

A Yes, he was.
Q After he was bought out who owned the store?
A My dad and Mr. Mohammad at the time, Yusuf.
Q And what percentage?
A $\quad 50 / 50$.
Q And during that time did you manage the St. Thomas store?

A I helped manage the St. Thomas store. I initially set up the store. My brother Willy was over there working. Prior to opening the store I was over there working, and I didn't get paid. Mike Yusuf came over to the St. Thomas store and he helped put the store together with me, then he went back and start working on the St. Croix store.

I continued working in the St. Thomas store, staying in the St. Thomas store, I believe, until probably

April of '94.
Q All right. And you mentioned another name,
Michael Yusuf?
A Mike Yusuf. Mahar Yusuf.
Q And who is he?
A He's the son of Fathi Yusuf.
Q Then I take it -- When you finally left
St. Thomas, where did you go?
A I came back to St. Croix to open the St. Croix store.

Q And who was managing the St. Croix store when you reopened?

A I was managing.
Q Now, did there come a time that --
THE COURT: Excuse me, when you say the
St. Croix store, are you talking about Plaza East? MR. HOLT: Yes. THE WITNESS: Yes, Plaza East.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q And did there come a time that you then opened a third store?

A Yes.

Q And can you tell the Court about that.
A We decided -- we had purchased a property I think in 1988, or probably early '89, I'm not sure what
year it was, which is my dad and Mr. Yusuf bought 107 acres over in Grove Place for future development.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay. Move to strike.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Did you have personal knowledge of the fact that this property was brought?

THE COURT: Okay. Hold on a second. Tell me your objection.

MR. DiRUZZO: It was hearsay. I don't believe the witness testified that he had personal knowledge as to his transaction. I believe he said it was his father and Eathi Yusuf.

THE COURT: Can you --

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Did you have personal knowledge of who owned the property?

A Yes, I had personal knowledge.

Q And who owned that property?

A The property is owned by Mr. Mohammad Hamed and Fathi Yusuf.

Q Did there come a time when a store was placed on that property?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what's the name of that store?

A Plaza Extra West.
Q And when did that store open?
A In 2002.
Q And who owns that store?
A That store is owned by my dad and Mr. Yusuf.
Q Tell me how -- Now you have three stores, tell me how you began to operate the three stores.

A Well, in every store there is one Yusuf and one Hamed. There's four Hameds working in the stores and there's four Yusufs working in the stores. One of the Hameds is me, the other one is my brother Willy the other one is Mufeed and Hisham. On the Yusuf side it's Fathi Yusuf, Mahar Yusuf, Yusuf Yusuf and Najar Yusuf.

And each one, each store has one Yusuf and one Hamed, with the exception of the St. Thomas store and Plaza Extra East. Plaza Extra East it was me, my brother Mufeed and Yusuf Yusuf. In Plaza Extra St. Thomas it's Fathi Yusuf, Najar Yusuf and Waheed Hamed.

Q And that's Willy?
A That's Willy.
Q And when you talk about the Hameds and the Yusufs you're either talking about the two fathers or sons; is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And how did it develop then that you had
one Yusuf and one Hamed? How would they work together?

A They would work together in cooperation. That was the agreement between the Hameds and the Yusufs is one of them would be in there.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: What's your objection, sir?

MR. DiRUZZO: Hearsay. Foundation as to
personal knowledge.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you have personal knowledge?
A Yes, I do, sir. I've been there since 1986.

I've seen this, I've worked in this, I've done this. I lived it, $I$ slept it, I dreamt it, everything.

Q And you do that today?

A Up to today, yes, sir.

Q And what is the management of each of the stores, can you explain it to the Court?

A I'm sorry.

Q Could you explain how the Hameds and Yusufs operate these three grocery stores?

A There is one from each family member that operates the store who's the manager. Every individual has certain management in each department. For instance, I deal with the ordering, with overall general - - overall management of the whole store. I overlook all
departments, ordering, sales, contracts with vendors.

THE COURT: Excuse me, that is the Plaza East store or all three stores?

THE WITNESS: That's the Plaza East, Judge, that's where I work at.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Keep on going.

A Yusuf Yusuf is in charge of the front and he's in charge of the service desk and the safe. Mufeed Hamed is in charge of the groceries, he's in charge of the warehouse, he's in charge of -- the warehouse, he's not the receiving manager we have certain individuals in the receiving department but he oversees those departments.

Q And if a decision has to be made in the store, how is the decision made in the east store?

A We all cooperate together. We all talk together. If we have a situation we confer, we discuss the issues at hand and we come up with a solution.

Q How long have you operated the east, sir?

A I've been in the east store since 1986. It was out due to the fire, and when we open up, I guess from '94 to this time.

Q And as far as the st. Thomas store, how has that always operated between the Hamed and Yusuf family?

A At the time when $I$ was in $S t$. Thomas opening the
store, Mr. Yusuf came over and he was there when we had the situation with the third partner, Mr. Idhelleh, and finally when we bought him out $I$ was going back between the east store and st. Thomas, and the St. Thomas store and Mr. Yusuf also is doing that.

We alternated one weekend, or I believe two weeks in two weeks out, and Mr. Yusuf said, you know what, I'll stay in the st. Thomas store you stay in the east store and you can come over monthly or maybe every two months and you can go ahead and see what these guys are doing. At least train your brother or train the rest of the managers.

And I did that for three, four months, and after that $I$ didn't go over to st. Thomas very often.

Q And did there come a time that another Yusuf son and Hamed son took over the management of the store?

A Willy was always there. Waheed was always there, he was the counterpart to Yusuf from 1993 on.

Q And how does that operate today?

A Operates the same. Well, Najar came take, I'm not sure when. After he finished college he came down and started working in the store.

Q And he works there today?

A He works there, yes.

Q And going to the Plaza West store on st. Croix,
who manages that store? How does that work?
A Well, the store -- when we open the store in 2000 Mike Yusuf is the manager of the store, I was there briefly to help set up the store and work with him in developing the store and getting things right, and at the same time my brother Hisham was there managing the store with him.

Q And how is it operating today?

A It's operating by Mahar Yusuf and Hisham Hamed.

Q And Hisham is also known by another name?

A Sean Hamed.

Q Do the three stores operate independently of each other or do they operate together?

A Each store has separate accounts, they have separate operating accounts. We all have access to the monies. We all have to sign on the checkbooks, one family member from the Yusuf and one family member from the Hameds have to sign on those checks.

Q And that's for each of the stores?

A Yes, sir.

Q And now someone from the west store orders produce, for example, for the store, does he do it in conjunction with other stores?

A No, sir.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Compound.

THE COURT: Ask the question again, please. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me how the stores operate, is it independent or collectively in trying to order produce and other products?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Tell me how the stores operate.
A Each store orders its own produce, its own meat, its own grocery. There might be a time where I would collectively order -- say I make a contract for 15 or 20 containers of sugar and those -- that particular contract would go to the two stores, or three stores, if St. Thomas need it or they are out of it they can always take from that contract.

Or I would do a contract for vegetable oil for a number of containers, it's under Plaza Extra east, it would be shipped to Plaza Extra west because they have a larger warehouse so we keep it there. But everything else they order their own produce, their own meat, their own dairy, their own grocery.

Q And does each store have it's own bank account?
A Yes.
Q And when you say it's own bank account, does it have more than one bank account?

A Yes.

Q What are the bank accounts each store would have?

A Each store would have a tele-check account, it would have an operating account, accounts payable and payroll checks would go out of. It would have a credit card account and that's where all the credit card transactions would go into.

Q What are these banks that you have these accounts at?

A We have Scotia Bank and we have Banco Popular.
Q And in this case you've signed an affidavit submitted with the TRO motion, and I'm just showing you that document. And looking at paragraph 9--

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, counsel is impeaching
his own witness.

MR. HOLT: No, I'm not. I'm asking him to identify the document.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. HOLT: We submitted an affidavit of

Mr. Hamed in support of his TRO motion, paragraph 9, he lists each store, the operating accounts, the numbers and identity of the bank.

THE COURT: And what's your question?

MR. HOLT: I'm just asking him to identify them
specifically. I'll just ask him, he might know this from memory.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q St. Thomas Plaza operating account, which bank is that with?

A Scotia.
Q Payroll account, which bank is that with?
A I believe it's Banco.
Q Tele-check account?
A That's Scotia.
Q And the credit card account?

A Banco.

Q And Plaza Extra east operating account, who's that with?

A Banco.
Q Credit card account?

A Banco.

Q And the tele-check account?

A Scotia.
Q Plaza Extra west, what is the operating account?
A Banco.
Q The credit card account?

A Banco.
Q And the tele-check account?
A Scotia.

Q Now, have these businesses generated profits, these three supermarkets?

A Yes, sir, they have.
Q Now, did there come a time in the early 2000 s that there was a raid by the Federal Government that seized certain books and records of the company?

A Yes, sir.
Q And when was that?
A That was in September -- I'm sorry, that was in October 2001.

Q Okay. All right. Now, I'm going to breakdown this question before and after. Before the raid by the federal government, what would happen when the store would generate profits? How would the profits be distributed from these three stores?

A We've used the profits to buy properties and the properties are -- we've got properties under Pleasant Enterprises which is jointly owned $50 / 50$ by the Hameds and the Yusuf.

And Pleasant Enterprises owns 107 acres where the Plaza Extra west is sitting on, it also owns 150 acres over across from the rum factory in Frederiksted. It also owns Mandela Circle in St. Thomas, two acres. It also owns 10 acres in Fort Milner, and that was bought with the profits from the Plaza Extra store and Plaza Enterprises.

I'm sorry, maybe I left one or two properties out of Pleasant Enterprises.

There's also a company that's called Peter's Farm Investments that's jointly owned by may dad myself and Mr. Yusuf 50/50, and we bought -- we bought properties. It has 147 acres in st. Thomas over by UVI; it has about 300 acres in Frederiksted; it has another 56 acres by Peter's Farm in Christiansted, and it has about 85 acres at the eastern end of st. Croix.

Also another company that we own is 16 Plus, it has that we bought -- it has two -- couple of plots in St. Thomas, I think it's about maybe an acre of each, and there's about 328 acres that the company owned that is over -- it's referred to as Diamond Couture that's owned by the Yusuf and Hamed 50/50.

Q So all of these properties you have described are owned by corporations formed by the two families; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And each one of those corporations is owned 50 percent by the Yusuf family and 50 percent by the Hamed family?

A Yes, sir.

Q And these corporations bought land from using the profits of the three supermarkets?

A Yes, sir.
Q Has the profits of the three supermarkets ever been distributed anything other than 50/50?

A No, sir.
Q And when it comes time to distribute the profits, how is that determination made? Who decides that we're going to do this or we're going to do that?

THE COURT: Are you still talking before the raid?

MR. HOLT: Yes, before the raid.
THE WITNESS: It's always been done jointly, collectively. It's either through my father or through me and Mr. Yusuf. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Okay. Now, since the raid, what has happened with the profits in the store?

A Well, the profits -- we have a TRO in place by the feds, all the profits are put -- we -- actually we had them in the bank accounts and then we recently decided to put them in an investment account in Banco Popular securities.

Q And so since 2000 , since the raid by the federal government, have profits been distributed to either of the Yusuf or Hamad family as part of the profits?

A No, sir.

Q And those profits are where now?
A They are in -- most of -- the majority of which is millions of dollars is over at Banco Popular Securities, or it's called Banco Securities I believe.

Q And are there multiple accounts at Banco Popular Securities?

A Yes.

Q And are there any other accounts?
A There might be a Merrill Lynch account also.
Q And those profits are -- were placed there and are now placed there by -- ordered into the federal criminal case?

A Yes.

Q And that case is still pending against United Corporation?

A Yes.
Q And that order froze those assets?

A Yes, sir.
Q Now, when the store burned down in the east, can you tell me about how that was rebuilt? How did you rebuild that store? From what funds?

A Once the store was burned we lost everything. We had insurance, luckily. Insurance paid us for the supermarket. We took those funds and we reopened the store.

Q Okay. And did the funds come from one partner or both partners?

A Oh, definitely both partners.

Q And why would both partners put up funds to rebuild the building?

A Because they are partners.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading. Foundation as to the actual source of those funds and as to --

THE COURT: Well, that question's already done. The next question is, why did both partners put it up.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay.

THE COURT: If he knows.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you have direct knowledge as to why both partners put up money?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor. The plaintiffs have not alleged that this witness is the partner, they've alleged that Mr. Hamed is the partner.

THE COURT: They've also said he's the general manager and knows the operations of the store very well. If he knows he'll say so, if he doesn't know he'll say so.

THE WITNESS: Could you repeat the question.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me why the two partners would put up money to rebuild the store?

A To operate the store. To open back the stores. They agreed to be in business together and they decided on opening up the store as well as the st. Thomas store.

Q So when they had profits they shared them, when they have obligations they shared them?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.

THE COURT: Okay.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q I'll rephrase the question. Can you tell me whether or not the partners, Mr. Hamed and Mr. Yusuf, shared the profits?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell me whether or not the partners, Mr. Mohammed -- Mr. Hamed and Mr. Yusuf shared the loss?

A Yes, they have.

Q And that's been since you've been involved in the company?

A Yes, sir.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit 7 marked for
identification.)

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, showing you group Exhibit Number 7. Do you
have Exhibit number 7 in front of you?
A Yes, sir.

Q Do you recognize these documents?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell me what these documents are?

A These are letters sent to my dad and there are
also some copies, attached copies to me of demand for rent for the Plaza Extra east store.

Q And who was sending the letter?

A United Corporation.

Q And who's signed for United Corporation?

A Fathi Yusuf.

Q And who are the letters being sent to?

A They are sent to Mr. Mohammed Hamed.

Q And that's your father?

A That's my father, yes.

Q And if you look over on the second page of that exhibit, I see that you're copied at the bottom?

A Yes, sir.

Q When these notices were sent, would you get
copies of them?

A Yes, sir.

Q And why is that?
A I represent my father. I am an agent for my father. I work on behalf of my father.

Q And do you have a power of attorney for your father?

A Yes.

Q And when did he first execute that?
A I believe it's either '95 or 96.
Q And since that time have you acted as power of attorney?

A Yes, I have.
Q And has Mr. Yusuf recognized that fact?
A Yes, he has.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor. I've never
seen this power of attorney that this witness is
talking about. I think we're entitled to see if, in
fact, the document exists and be able to use it for cross-examination purposes.

THE COURT: All right. He didn't say that he has one so we'll find out.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Is there a document that gives you a power of attorney?

A Yes.
MR. HOLT: I'll be glad to supply that.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Has he executed more than one power of attorney?
A Yes, he has.

Q How many has he executed?
A Two.

Q When did he execute the other one?
A Late last year, 2012.
Q And does Fathi Yusuf know that you have a power of attorney to act on your father's behalf?

A Yes, sir.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Is it your understanding that Fathi Yusuf knows that you have a power of attorney?

A Yes.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection to the witness understanding.

THE COURT: Get him to answer, explain why he knows .

BY MR. HOLT:

Q On these rent notices, are they sent directly to your father or to you care of your father?

A They are sent to my father and there is also a letter that goes, I guess it's a postal signature return I guess it's called, also to me. A copy that goes to me.

Q And why did you get a copy?
A Because I represent my father and I have power of attorney for my father.

Q And Mr. Yusuf knows that?
A Yes, he does.

Q And when you look over then on the third page of this document, do you see the certified mail return receipt requested to Mohammad Abdul Quader, Q-u-a-d-e-r?

A Yes.
Q You see that? That's your father?
A Yes.
Q And this is sent by whom?
A Sent by United Corporation.
Q And it's sent to your father where?
A To the Plaza Extra Sion Farm east store.

Q Okay. And that's the address for the east store?

A Yes, sir.
Q And, again, these are rent notices of increases of rent?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And I take it that these -- were these rents ever agreed to?

A These rents were never agreed to.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 8 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Now, showing you Exhibit Number 8. Can you tell
me what this document is. What is this document?
A This is a calculation that United Corporation, Fathi Yusuf, came up with, and his calculation is based on the St. Thomas lease to calculate the rents for the east, for the Plaza Extra east store.

Q And this covers the time period from when to when?

A This covers from 1/2004 to 12-- I'm sorry, from 1/2004 through 12/31/2011.

Q And why did he do this rent calculation? Why did Mr. Yusuf do this rent calculation?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, speculation.
THE COURT: If he knows.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Who gave you this rent calculation?
A Fathi Yusuf.
Q And do you know who prepared it?
A Fathi Yusuf.

Q How do you know that?
A He gave it to me and, obviously, he worked on it.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Objection, speculation.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q I don't need it. Did he give this to you?

A Yes.
Q Did you discuss this with him?
A Yes.
Q And is it your understanding that this is the amount of rent United Corporation wanted Plaza east store to pay?

A Yes, sir.

Q And these calculations are based upon the rent the St. Thomas store paid?

A Yes.
Q And what was the total amount of rent sought for this time period from 2004 all the way up to 2011?

A $\quad \$ 5,408,806.74$.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 9 marked for
identification.)
MR. HOLT: Can I show the witness Exhibit 9,
Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q And what is Exhibit Number 9?
A It's a check that $I$ signed. And my signature is on the bottom as well as Yusuf Yusuf signed it. It's for \$5,408,806.74. It's written out to United Shopping Plaza, which is the landlord in the Plaza Extra east store, and it's written out of Plaza Extra account. Supermarket
account.
Q It's signed by two people. Who's it signed by?
A By Yusuf Yusuf, which is Fathi Yusuf's son, and it's signed by me.

Q And why did the two of you sign this check?
A Because that's the agreement that we have, that each one of the family members sign the check.

Q Okay. And this check is dated what date?
A February 7, 2012.
MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I move Exhibit 7, 8, 9
into evidence.
THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. DiRUZZO: No objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit 7, 8 and 9 received into
evidence.)
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, after this check on February 7, 2012, was sent, did any problems develop between the parties?

A Yes.
Q And what were those problems?
A Mr. Yusuf would come in and he would rant and rave, throwing accusations that we've done this, we stole money, we took money. That he wants us out of the store, that he wants to close the store down, that we have until
the end of the month to get out of the store.

He gave us several notices, and I believe it's in some letters in, I guess in Exhibit 7, where he says he -- the lease is terminated and he wants us out by the end of June 2012. He would do that in our office, he would do that downstairs in front of customers, he would do it in front of suppliers. He would undermine our authority.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 10 and 11 marked for identification.)

MR. HOLT: Okay. Could I have the witness shown Exhibits 10 and 11.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, we renew our 408 objection to Exhibit 10.

THE COURT: 10 is the e-mail?

MR. DAVID: Yes, 10 is the e-mail and 11 is the letter. It was after, the witness just testified, that the problems were developing and its resolution of the differences between them, Judge.

THE COURT: As to 10 and 11, I denied your motion.

MR. DAVID: I'm just renewing it because now the facts are in, the reason why it should be excluded.

THE COURT: Thank you.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Okay. Look at Exhibit Number 10, can you tell me what that is and the date?

A I'm sorry.
Q Can you tell me what that document is and the date of the document?

A That's an e-mail from Nizar DeWood, Mr. Yusuf's attorney, February 10, 2012.

Q And does that refer to an attachment?
A Yes, sir.
Q And look at Exhibit Number 11, is that the attachment?

A Yes, sir.
Q And what did Mr. -- Does that have Mr. DeWood's signature on it?

A Yes, it does.
Q What does that letter tell you?
A It's telling me the disillusion of the partnership of Yusuf and Hamed.

Q And that's a letter directed to who?
A Mohammad Hamed.
Q Who --
A And Waleed Hamed.

Q And what -- Why was the letter directed to you, or care of you?

A Because I have power of attorney. I am an agent
for my father.
Q And it says, stop disillusion of the partnership, Yusuf Hamed?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor, the letter speaks for itself.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q What does it say at the top here?
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: All right, he can ask.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q What does it say on the top?
A It says, Dewood Law Firm.
Q And re: What's the letter about?
A Oh, reference, disillusion of partnership, Yusuf and Hamed.

Q And what is he telling you in the first sentence of the letter?

A "This letter is to confirm the party's desire to dissolve the above-reference partnership. Partnership disillusion would involve appropriate", and so on.

Q And then looking at the second paragraph, does it identify the assets of the partnership?

A Yes, it does.
Q What are those?
A As it stands the partnership has three major

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assets, Plaza Extra west Grove place, including the real
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property; Plaza Extra east Sion Farm location and Plaza
Extra Tutu Park, St. Thomas.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 12 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Okay. Now, showing --
Could I have the witness shown Exhibit Number 12.

Your Honor, we move Exhibits Number 10 and 11 into evidence.

MR. DiRUZZO: Same objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.
(People's Exhibit 10 and 11 received into evidence.)

BY MR. HOLT:
Q And can you identify what Exhibit Number 12 is?
A It's an e-mail from Mr. DeWood.
Q What's the date of it?
A March 13, 2012.
Q And who's it sent to?
A It's sent to me.

Q And what does the e-mail say?
A Partnership disillusion agreement.
Q And was there an attachment to the agreement?

A Yes.

Q And the attachment is a proposed partnership disillusion agreement?

A Yes, sir.
Q On the first page are there whereas clauses?
A Yes, sir.
Q Can you read the second whereas clause into the record.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, document speaks for itself, and we have a witness for that.

THE WITNESS: The second one, sir.
THE COURT: He can read it.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q The second and third.
A "Whereas the partnership was formed for the purpose of operating supermarket in the district of St. Croix and St. Thomas.
"Whereas serious disputes and disagreements between the parties relating to financial matters of the partnership resulting in the partners unable to continue as partners."

Q And then above that, the paragraph -- the first whereas clause?

A The first one?
Q Yes.

A "The partners have operated the partnership under an oral partnership agreement since 1986."

Q And, finally, down at the bottom of the page, the second to the last whereas clause, where it says, "Whereas the partners have".

A "Whereas the partners have shared profits, losses, deductions, credits and cash of the partnership."

Q Do you have direct knowledge that that, in fact, occurred?

A Yes, sir.

Q Has that occurred?

A Yes, it has.

Q And over on the second page of this document, does it identify the assets of the partnership?

A Yes, it does.

Q And are those the same three stores you previously described in the letter marked as Exhibit Number 11?

A Yes, sir.

Q Plaza east, Plaza west and Plaza St. Thomas?

A That's correct.

MR. HOLT: We move Exhibit 12 into evidence for
the limited purpose of identifying what was read into the record.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, we would object and we again renew our objection under Rule 408 because the witness has now established the text of the documents that there was serious disputes, Your Honor, and all of these exhibits, 10,11 and 12 ought to be stricken from the record and the testimony should be stricken from the record, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I'm going to admit it. I think it falls under the -- one of the exceptions under $408(b)$. It's not presented to show anything other than a historical background and the context in which those discussions were taking place rather than to bring in evidence of the discussions themselves.
(Defendants' Exhibit 12 received into evidence.) BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, during the ensuing months, can you describe what effect these discussions had on the operations of the store?

A We tried to resolve the matter within, different settlements with different people, with attorneys, and up to this date we haven't been able to do so. Mr. Yusuf continued taking unilateral decisions on his own. He tried -- he's always threatening to fire us, he's always threatening to close down the stores.

I mean, one day he would say I'm going to close down the east store, you have no part to this east store,
the east store is mine. Even though he received rent, even though he submits, and he continues to submit, even after we filed the lawsuit, he continues to send rent letters or demands.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 13 marked for
identification.)

MR. HOLT: Can I have the witness shown Exhibit Number 13, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me what Exhibit 13 is?

A This is a letter that Mahar Yusuf bought to me at the Plaza Extra east store.

Q And it's addressed to whom?

A It's addressed to my dad by -- through Waleed Hamed, me.

Q So your name is actually on the letter?

A Yes.

Q And what's the date of the letter?

A It's August 15, 2012.

Q And is there some handwritten notations on this
letter?

A Yes.

Q What does that say?

A It says, "received 8/16/2012", by me.

Q Then it goes, "Re: Notice of withdrawal"?
A Yes.

Q And this is from Fathi Yusuf?

A Yes, it's from him.
Q And what did Eathi Yusuf indicate was going to be done when he sent this letter?

A He said the amount of 2 million, 784,706 would be withdrawn from United operating account. Not really United operating account, it's a Plaza Extra account that he's talking about, and that's where the money actually was withdrawn from, effective August 15, even though I received it on August 16.

The amount equals the proceeds you previously withdrew through your agent Waleed Hamed. To ensure full accuracy, attached are the receipts. And he never sent any receipt attached to this letter. And I requested those receipts from Mike at the time that he gave me the letter, and he says -- he didn't even answer.

Q So did he give you a breakdown where the $\$ 2.7$ million was coming from?

A Yes. Past confirmed withdrawals, one million six; additional withdrawals, one million 95. 50 percent of St. Maarten bank account, 44,000 and 50 percent of Cairo Amman bank account of $44,6,96$.

Q And this letter indicates there were things
attached to it?
A Yes, sir.

Q Was there anything attached to it?
A Absolutely not.
Q And turn to the second page, that's a letter
dated what date?

A The same day, August 16.
MR. DiRUZZO: I'm sorry, Your Honor, I don't
have -- this is a one-page document.
(Discussion off the record.)
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Looking at the next page, what's the date of that letter?

A August 16.
Q And that's to whom?
A To Mr. Fathi Yusuf.
Q And who wrote this letter?
A I did.

Q And you wrote it on what type of letterhead?
A Plaza Extra.
Q And what did you tell him in that letter?
A That, "In response to your letter of August 16, or August 15, notice of withdrawal, the figures have not been agreed to. Indeed, there were no attachments as indicated and there are numerous other funds that have to
be included in any such calculations before any disbursements can be made.
"For example, all withdrawal receipts have to be reviewed before any withdrawals are paid. No mention or indication of the amount that the Yusuf family has previously withdrawn. By way of another example is an 800,000 plus due the Hamed family from the sale of the condo property in St. Thomas would have to be included.
"In short while these are just a few examples, no withdrawal will be issued until the full accounting is done and agreed to in writing."

Q Now, up until this time had anyone ever unilaterally withdrawn money from any Plaza Supermarket accounts without the other partner agreeing?

A No, sir.
Q And in this letter you indicated that you don't agree with that withdrawal?

A No, I don't agree.
Q Now, the next letter is dated what?
A August 22.
Q It's from United Corporation?
A Yes.

Q Signed by whom?
A Fathi Yusuf -- by Mahar Yusuf for Fathi Yusuf.
Q And what in this letter, what did he tell you?

A "In response to your letter through your agent -- "

Well, the letter is to my father.
"In response to your letter --"
Q It's to your father but it says by who? Your name is on this?

A Yes. In response to your letter through your agent Waheed Hamed does not deny validity of any amount stated as owing and outstanding to United Corporation. Your letter requests that an accounting be done for other matters, which is a separate issue. Please reduce to writing those other matters you contend are owed, and provide us of supporting documentation."

Q Did you respond to this letter?
A Yes.
Q And looking at this next document, is that your response?

A I sent an e-mail out.
Q What's the date?
A August 25.
Q And who did you send it to?
A I sent it to Mr. Yusuf, and copies went to Mahar Yusuf and Yusuf -- and Mike Yusuf.

Q And what did you tell him in this document?
A What I stated is, "Your suggestion that the

Hamed family agreed to your calculations of any sums due to you is incorrect. The Hamed family dispute those calculations and insist on full accounting. Moreover -- "

Q And the next paragraph, what does it say?
A "Moreover, any unilateral withdrawal of funds would violate the court's order currently in place and it would also violate the agreement between our families."

Q Now, let me talk about those two things. First of all, what is the Court's order you're referring to?

A The federal TRO.
Q And it was your understanding that if he withdrew funds for personal use that that would violate that Court's order?

A Yes, sir.
Q Then you say in the next sentence, "It would also violate the agreement between our families," what are you referring to?

A The agreement is we're supposed to agree on whatever withdrawal, everyone does.

Q And in those you -- the last letter in this exhibit, what is that?

A That is the check that Fathi Yusuf and Mahar Yusuf signed, contrary to the agreement that we have one Hamed and one Yusuf sign the check. And the check is dated 8/15, which leads me to believe that the checks were
deposited.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q The date of the check is August 15th?
A Yes, sir.

Q And when was the date that you got notice that
they were going to be actually withdraw the funds?

A August 16.

Q You got notice the day after this check was
written?

A Yes.

Q And this check is payable to who?

A United Corporation.

Q Is this written on the supermarket account?

A Yes, Plaza Extra east.

Q So this came from the bank account of the Plaza

Extra east store?

A Yes.

Q And can you explain to the Court again about the signatures on this check.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, asked and answered.

THE WITNESS: The signature --

THE COURT: Go ahead, you can answer.

THE WITNESS: The signature are Fathi Yusuf and

Mahar Yusuf.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q And is that the normal practice of checks that are being written in this business?

A No, sir.
MR. HOLT: And, Your Honor, we move Exhibit
Number 13 into evidence.
MR. DiRUZZO: No objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 13 received into evidence.)
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Now, as a result of this withdrawal, what action was taken by the Hamed family?

A We requested -- we requested the funds be returned.

Q Were they returned?
A No, they weren't returned.
Q And as a result, what did you do?
A Filed a lawsuit.

Q You filed this lawsuit?
A I'm sorry.
Q You filed this lawsuit?
A Yes, sir.

Q And in this lawsuit you sought the return of those monies?

A Yes.

Q And you sought -- What other orders do you seek regarding the money?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. The pleading's before the Court, they speak for themselves.

MR. HOLT: You know what, they are. I'll
withdraw.
THE COURT: Thank you.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Now, since the filing of this lawsuit, have there been any other problems in the operation of Plaza Extra that didn't exist before 2012?

A Yes. One simple thing is the lady in the office, accounts payable, the office manager was instructed not to give us any more mail. Normally all the mail that comes into the Plaza Extra goes to my desk, if it's United Corporation it goes to them. If it's personal it goes to whoever.

But once it's the store mail it comes to my desk, I look at it, or -- if I -- if it's personal. If it's for the store $I$ deal with it and then I distribute it to either accounts payable or whomever that is in the office.

Mr. Yusuf went ahead and he started paying his own attorneys out of the supermarket account. His litigation account, his attorneys in this case out of

Plaza Extra account.
Q We'll get to that in a second. Let me ask you, you mentioned United Corporation, who owns the shopping center?

A United Corporation.
Q And that's owned by who?
A Fathi.

Q So your family does not own any part of the shopping center itself?

A No, sir.
Q Your ownership interest is limited to the supermarket?

A Yes, sir. Supermarket, yes, sir.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 14 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. HOLT:
Q And showing you Exhibit Number 14. Can you tell
me what this is? What is Exhibit Number 14?
A That's a letter to Najar Yusuf, reference control and accounts.

Q What type of letterhead?
A Plaza Extra.

Q And what is -- who is Najar Yusuf?
A He's the son of Fathi Yusuf.
Q And what was this letter notifying Mr. Yusuf of?

What was the problem and what was the date again, November --

A November 2, 2012.

Q It's after the lawsuit is filed?

A Yes, sir.
Q Why were you notifying them of a problem?

A Well, it's my brother who's notifying them, it's Willy, Waheed, not me, he's the one who signed it.

Q Right.

A But the problem is they've hired --
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay --

THE WITNESS: It's not.

THE COURT: Hold on. Hold on. Hold on.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Establish how.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Are you familiar with the problem that was going on in the stores of hiring accountants?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. That --

THE COURT: He's not -- he's withdrawn that
question and now he's going another route which I will allow.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you have any direct knowledge of the hiring of the accountants to work at your store?

A Yes, sir.

Q And who were the accountants that were hired?

A One of them is Ayman Al-Khaled and he is the nephew of Fathi Yusuf, and the other one is Mr. John, I'm not sure about his last name.

Q Is that Mr. Gaffney?

A Yes.

Q And Mr. Al-Khaled, he is a relative of Mr. Yusuf?

A Yes, he is nephew.

Q Hiring him violates the TRO in the federal
court?

A To my understanding, yes, sir.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, move to strike. That
calls for a legal conclusion.

THE COURT: That's stricken.

MR. HOLT: I'll withdraw.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q And what stores were they working in?

A Initially Mr. Al-Khaled was hired to do accounting for the st. Croix locations. Came over to the St. Croix store, he says not -- Well, he came over, I was introduced to him and he said --

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay.

THE COURT: He came over and he said.

MR. DiRUZZO: "He" being Ayman.
THE COURT: Well, let's find out what he said.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q When he came over to your store --
A He came over and he told me --
Q Just tell us what he did.
A That he was hired to --

MR. DiRUZZO: I'm -- Objection, Your Honor.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Listen to the question. When he came to St. Croix, what did he start doing?

A He starts working on the accounting.

Q And who was he being paid by?
A Plaza Extra.

Q Not by United Corporation or -- but Plaza Extra supermarket accounts?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did he provide you with the information he generated?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, lack of specificity to
"he". If he could be a little more specific. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Did Mr. Ayman Al-Khaled who was on the supermarket payroll ever provide you with any accounting information he generated?

A I requested it and never got it.
THE COURT: We're talking about Plaza east,
correct?

HE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Now, did there come a time that they then put an office in another store?

A Yes.

Q Which store did they put an office in?
A The west store.
Q And who worked in the office in the west store?
A Mahar Yusuf, Sean Hamed.

Q Those were the managers?
A Those are the managers.
Q Who worked in the office in accounting in the west store.

A Ayman and Mr. John.
Q And did they give access to the Hamed family of their work?

A No, they didn't.
Q What did they do?
A All what they did is lock themself in the room.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, lack of personal
knowledge. Calls for speculation, he wasn't in the room.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Did you ever go down and see the room that they were in?

A Yes.

Q Was the room locked?

A I was told it was locked. To my personal
knowledge $I$ was told it was locked.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay. Move to
strike.

THE COURT: Okay. That's sustained.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Have you ever seen any of the accounting work done by either Mr. Gaffney or Mr. Al-Khaled?

A No. I requested it, it was never provided.
Q So they are being paid from the supermarket but you're not seeing it?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.

THE WITNESS: That's correct.

THE COURT: Okay. I'll let it go.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, has there ever been accounting work done for any of the supermarkets that you -- that the Hamed family was not allowed access to prior to this?

A No.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, we move in --

BY MR. HOLT:
Q This letter was to put them on notice that -Well, What was the purpose of this letter?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor. The document speaks for itself. And he's not the author of the document.

THE COURT: Your objection is that it speaks for itself?

MR. DiRUZZO: One, it speaks for itself. Two, it's hearsay which the author of the document is not on the witness stand.

MR. HOLT: I'll call the author.
THE COURT: All right.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 15 marked for

## identification.)

MR. HOLT: Can I have the witness shown Exhibit Number 15.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, we would object.
This -- these checks were qualified as within -under the scope of attorney/client privilege on behalf of United Corporation.

We also object on the basis of relevance. We think it's highly improper for these documents to even be discussed, let alone made a part of the record.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, proffer. These are checks written on the supermarket account for Mr. Yusuf's private attorneys in this litigation, they are not supermarket or business related activities, that's number one. And, number two, they are signed both by members of the Yusuf family not by one member of the Hamed family and one member of Yusuf.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, I would say one, lacks personal knowledge and two, United Corporation is a defendant in an ongoing federal case. He has been indicted, he has entered a plea agreement with the federal government, has pled to improprieties at the operation, including but not limited to the Plaza Extra grocery stores.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, the -- there's no -- I don't see an attorney/client privilege violation, so that objection is denied.

MR. DiRUZZO: Then there was personal knowledge as to the basis.

THE COURT: How does he have knowledge of this?
MR. HOLT: These are checks that are returned on the supermarket accounts that he has personal knowledge of.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, we stand by our objection.

THE COURT: I'll admit it.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q What are these checks?
A These are checks made to Fathi Yusuf's legal team, attorneys.

Q Okay. And these checks are made on what account?

A The Plaza Extra, St. Croix account.
Q The St. Croix account?
A Yes, sir.

Q And are they signed by a member of the Hamed family?

A No, they are not.
Q And other than the check for 2.7 million, have you ever seen any other checks that weren't signed by a member of the Yusuf family and the Hamed family?

A Yes, I have.
Q What are they?
A There was another check that was made to
Attorney Smock.

Q Other than those three checks have you seen any?
A No, sir.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Now, showing you Exhibit Number 16.
And, Your Honor, while we do that I move Exhibit Number 15 into evidence.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.
(People's Exhibit 15 received into evidence.)
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Can you tell me what Exhibit Number 16 is?
A It's a check written out to Mr. Smock and Moorhead for \$3,395.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, we would object, the second page has clear billing records there.

MR. HOLT: We'll remove the second page, just go with the first page.

MR. DiRUZZO: I'm sorry, Your Honor, just to be clear, the plaintiffs are just proceeding with the first page of the exhibit? Just so the record is clear.

THE COURT: That's what was just said, yes. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me what this document is?
A That's a check for $\$ 3,395$ to Smock and Moorhead.
Q And that check is for what?

A That's for legal services.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, lack of personal
knowledge. If he didn't write it he doesn't know what it's for.

THE COURT: How does he know.
MR. DiRUZZO: I'm sorry, the only way he would have known is he would have been involved in the attorney/client privilege.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Was there a bill in the store?
A This check was presented to me for signature.
Q Did you sign it?
A I refused to sign because Fathi Yusuf refused to sign a check for my attorney and my brother's attorney.

Q So you did not sign this check?
A I did not sign the check.
Q And that's because it was a check to one of his lawyers?

A Yes, sir.
MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, we renew the objection because the witness has just testified that his own attorneys and his brother's attorney would have been paid out of Plaza Extra account, so I see no relevance to why when as to the other checks that paid for attorneys for ongoing legal services and
ongoing federal criminal case, how that's relevant. THE COURT: Your objection is to the question that's being asked or are you anticipating he's going to move to admit?

MR. DiRUZZO: I'm renewing the objection now the witness has just laid the foundation that he personally and his brothers, in respect to the ongoing federal criminal case, that their legal services have been paid out of the Plaza Extra account.

MR. HOLT: I'm going to get to that.

THE COURT: I'm not sure there's an objection so I won't --

MR. DiRUZZO: I'm just renewing the objection and move to strike Exhibit 15, again.

THE COURT: Okay. Renewed objection is denied. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, there was a time when you would be presented with the check to pay Mr. Smock?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me whether or not there was ever a time when you were presented with a check for Mr. Smock to sign?

A Yes.

Q And when there was that time, why wouldn't you approve and sign?

A Because all the defense team for the federal case that we have was being paid out of the Plaza Extra account.

Q The supermarket's account?
A The supermarket's account, yes.
Q Why would you then not sign this one?
A Because my attorneys in the legal -- in the
federal case haven't been paid.
Q Was there --
A Mr. Yusuf -- Mr. Yusuf refused to pay that.
Q Was there a time that they were paid?
A Yes.
Q And then there came a time when he refused to pay the checks?

A Yes.

Q And when did that happen?
A This happened, I believe, maybe six months, five months ago.

Q In 2012?
A In 2012.

Q So up until then he would sign all of the checks?

A Yes.

Q Now, could you and your brother sign a check to those lawyers?

A Yes, we can.
Q And why don't you?
A Because we don't want to be in violation of the TRO.

Q And would you also be in violation of another agreement?

A Yes, the family agreement.
Q While they are both signing checks your brothers haven't chosen to do that?

A Correct.

Q As a matter of fact, on the removal of the 2.7 million with the two Yusufs signing the check, could you and one of your brothers sign a check for 2.7 million and remove it?

A No, we can't.

Q Why not?
A Because of the TRO.
Q And you're talking about the TRO in the criminal case?

A Yes.

Q If the TRO weren't in place --
A Yes.
Q -- would you do that?

A Yes.
Q You would?

A He took 2.7.
Q Would you do it without their permission?
A No, I won't.
Q Now, what keeps the Yusuf family from writing a check to themselves for everything in the account today just like they did the 2.7?

A Nothing.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 17 and 18 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, showing you Exhibit Number 17 and 18, can you tell me what these are?

Your Honor, while they are looking at it I would move Exhibit Number 16 into evidence.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, subject to our --
THE COURT: Recognizing the objection it will be admitted.
(People's Exhibit 16 received into evidence.) MR. DiRUZZO: And, Your Honor, defense would like an offer of proof as to 17 and 18 , because it's my understanding, because the plaintiff's issued a subpoena ducus tecum to attorney Robert King in this case, and then when the defense finally tried to
issue their own ducus tecum, the plaintiffs vehemently objected and sited to this Court's order granting the motion for protective order that no discovery would be taken.

So seeing when it suits the plaintiffs to get documents through discovery process it's fine, but when the defense tries to get -- subpoena documents and documents through their own ducus tecum, the plaintiffs turn right back around and object and move for protective order.

So we would object to defense 17, 18 coming from the subpoena ducus tecum issued to Attorney Bob King that this is improper.

MR. HOLT: First of all, Your Honor, these did not come from any documents generated by Mr. King, these are documents Mr. Hamed had in his possession. second, of all they consented to that subpoena being served so that's an exception to Rule 2016.

THE COURT: I've seen subpoenas issued by both parties subsequent to the motion for protective order. So anyway the -- your objection is noted and denied.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Looking at Exhibit Numbers 17 and 18, can you tell me what that is?

A Notice of payment of purchase price.
Q That's Exhibit Number 17?
A Yes, sir.
Q And is there a signature on that?
A Yes.
Q And who is that?
A That's Najeh Yusuf.
Q Anyone else?
A No one.
Q What was the purpose of that? What does that document reference?

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, the defense would
object. This document regards a $Y$ \& $S$ Corporation.
We're here in response to United Corporation and plaintiffs alleged partnership with the Hameds. I see no reason why they want to talk about $Y \& S$ Corporation.

Moreover, it's hearsay and I take it it's being offered for the truth of the matter asserted contained therein.

THE COURT: I don't know. What's in it?
MR. HOLT: Let me make a proffer, Your Honor.
One of our concerns in this case is the Yusuf family will abscond with the funds, this is one of the ventures they used from profits from the
business, they bought the Dorothia Project in St. Thomas together, Hamed owns half Yusufs own half. And just the year of this document, recently they sold their interest. So document number one, is the document number 17 is one of the notices that they are authorizing the sale of their stocks so it can be sold.

And then the second document is Mr. Yusuf's handwritten notes showing the disbursement of funds showing that the Hamad family is owed the amount of $\$ 800,000$ plus to be transferred, but that money has never been paid. And part of this TRO is the concern about if we don't get an order freezing the assets they'll just take all the assets and we won't be fighting over anything.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, hearsay. It's
unexecuted. All you have is one signature, nothing with the buyers, nothing with the sellers.

THE COURT: How is it that that's in his possession?

BY MR. HOLT:

Q How did you get possession of Exhibit Number 17?

A This was sent over for my brother Hisham Hamed to sign.

Q And did you deal with that?

A I gave it to Hisham and he eventually signed it. MR. DiRUZZO: Objection if it was given to Hisham Hamed.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Was it given to you or Hisham?
A It was given to me.
Q And why did he give it to you?
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, speculation.
THE COURT: Okay. All right. I'm going to sustain that objection.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Okay. The document, you have personal knowledge of that document?

A Yes, sir.
Q And it needed your brother's signature.
MR. DiRUZZO: I'm sorry, Your Honor, there is no signature on it. He can testify that his brother is on it, if he knows it.

THE COURT: Let them establish what he can establish, then we can object.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Did you have your brother sign this document?
A Yes.
Q And did you then have the document returned to Attorney King?

A Yes.
Q And why did you do that?
A Because there was a sale of the property and we expected that we're going to get paid for our money.

Q And then looking at Exhibit Number 18.
MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, at this point we're rejecting on -- going on Exhibit 17. He has no personal knowledge as to why it's sent over. It wasn't signed. It doesn't even involve this witness, it involves his brother, and it's unexecuted.

THE COURT: He just -- go head.
MR. HOLT: I think I can put the foundation in place.

THE COURT: He said this is of his personal knowledge and he personally sent it over to Attorney King or wherever.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Looking at Exhibit Number 18, what is that document?

A That document is a breakdown that Yusuf did, Fathi Yusuf.

Q Is this in handwriting?
A Yes, it is.
Q And who's handwriting is this?
A Fathi Yusuf.

Q And what does this handwriting purport to do?
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor. He hasn't
laid the foundation to personal knowledge of Fathi Yusuf's handwriting, and there's no signature on this document.

THE COURT: Lay a foundation, please, counsel. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you know Fathi Yusuf's handwriting?
A Yes, I do.
Q And is this his handwriting?
A Yes, it is.
Q And this was his handwriting in conjunction with what? What was he doing?

A He's breaking down the Dorothia sale, how much money it was sold for, what funds he received in hand. And the total amount was 1605, then it's split $50 / 50$ because it's owned by the Yusuf and the Hamed, and the Hameds are due 802,966.

Q This shows the sale of the Dorothia property in St. Thomas was how much?

A One million five hundred.
Q And how much was the Hamed family supposed to get from that sale?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, asked and answered.
Document speaks for itself.

THE COURT: Overruled.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q The second one is called the Jordan fund, it says 75,000 Dinar, can you explain that?

A 75,000 Dinar was my father gave it as instructed by Fathi.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection as to personal
knowledge. Hearsay.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you have personal knowledge --
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q -- of the document?

A Yes.

Q What is that knowledge?
A He gave 75,000 not to Fathi but an individual that Fathi asked my father to give to of 75,000 Dinars which equals to 105,932 .

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection lacks personal knowledge as to how much 75,000 Dinars equates in U.S. dollars. Objection, hearsay as to what Fathi Yusuf said to this unidentified third person.

MR. HOLT: I'll withdraw.

THE COURT: Thank you.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Does this show an amount due to the Hamed family?

A Yes, it does.
Q And that's from the transaction that's described on this paper?

A Yes.
Q And what is the amount due the Hamed family?
A $\$ 802,966.00$.
Q Is that the number that you were referring back on August 24 when you sent the e-mail to Mr. Yusuf talking about the accounting between the parties?

A Yes, sir.

Q Okay. And has the Hamed family ever received these funds?

A No, we haven't.
Q And do you know where these funds are?
A I have no idea where.

MR. HOLT: Okay. We move into evidence Exhibit
Number 17 and 18.
MR. DiRUZZO: Same objection, Your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. We'll admit it.
(People's Exhibit 17 and 18 received into evidence.)

MR. HOLT: If I could have a break for one second.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me the list of things that the Yusuf family has done which caused you to file a lawsuit and seek this injunction, other than the items that we've already spoken?

A They have threatened to fire the Hamed partners, physically remove us from the store, bad mouthing us or talking about us in bad terms to suppliers, to employees and certain customers.

His ranting and raving in the office, in front of employees, in front of suppliers. His sort of what he would -- what he did was he cancelled orders. He limited to how we conduct business as far as the ordering, pricing or whatever. All of a sudden it has to be approved by him after 25 years of running the business.

Threatening us with harm, physical harm. Intimidating us into leaving the store. Threatening to take us off of the authorization to sign the checks. Threatening to close down the east store at one time, the St. Thomas store another, the west store at another and sometimes all the stores all at one time. And most recently, the firing of one of our key people, Ms. Wadda.

Q Directing your attention to January 9th of this year; do you recall the event that happened on that day?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell the Court of your own personal knowledge what happened that you observed and were witness to.

A I received a call the night before from Wadda that Mr. Yusuf had fired her.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Hearsay.
THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Who is Wadda?

A Wadda is the office manager who has been employed in Plaza for the past 15 years.

Q She works under your --

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.

THE COURT: I'll allow it.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Tell me whether or not she works on your direction?

A Yes.

Q Does she?

A Yes.

Q And is it your understanding that she was terminated?

A Yes.

Q By whom?

A Mr. Yusuf.

Q And what, if anything, did you do in response to
that?

A I hired her back.
Q And did she come in the store the next day?
A Yes, she did.
Q And why did you hire her back?
A Mr. Yusuf never gave me any indication why he fired her. The normal course of management, or the normal course of dialogue that we have is if we have a situation of an employee who did something, or presumably did something, or whatever it is, we always as managers, discuss, or as owners, we discuss the issues at hand.

We find out what that employee did. We rarely just go ahead and fire an individual, especially -- By Yusuf coming over to the Plaza Extra east store and just firing Wadda out of the east store saying that she did something.

And at the same --
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor, narrative.
THE COURT: Just answer the question you're
asked.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q So she came back to work the next day?
A Yes.

Q And what happened?
A Mr. Yusuf came in and he told her that, didn't I fire you? She said, I hired you. He says, well, I fired you, you have to leave the store.

Q Were the police called?
A Yes, he called the police on her.

Q And were you there when the police were there?

A Yes, sir.

Q Tell me what you observed while the police were there?

A Mr. Yusuf said they have to leave my store, this is my store, they have no right here, I fired her. Even he said he fired my brother Mufeed.

He directed the police to remove us and Wadda from there. The police then said they would take it under advisement, and they left. Me and my attorney left and we went to court and we submitted the motion.

Q Now, did Mr. Yusuf say what he would do if anything if the police didn't remove everybody?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor, leading.

MR. HOLT: I said --

THE COURT: I don't think that's leading.
Allowed.

You can answer.

THE WITNESS: He would close down the store.

BY MR. YUSUF:
Q And he said that in your presence?
A Yes, sir.
Q And at that juncture I take it you left to go to court?

A Yes.
Q Did there come a time that you returned back to the store that morning?

A Yes.
Q And did a discussion take place with all the parties present as to what would be done regarding the stores?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Settlement discussion, lack of foundation as to whether all of the parties were there and know who's there.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Who was present in the office?
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: Okay.
THE WITNESS: Attorney DeWood, Attorney Glenda.
MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, that was without a
doubt after the parties met in mediation, that has to be 408 .

THE COURT: Okay.
MR. HOLT: And after that case was filed.

THE COURT: I'm going to ask you to start over with that. How much longer do you have this witness? MR. HOLT: I'm pretty close to being finished. You want to take a break?

THE COURT: Well, I want to make sure that the staff is taken care of, and obviously we're going to have a substantial cross-examination. Is this a good time for a break?

MR. HOLT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. DiRUZZO: Perfect.

THE COURT: Let's -- I don't know if we want to talk a lunch break at this point.

MR. DiRUZZO: I just ask that the witness be reminded of his obligations until he's done testifying.

THE COURT: Yes, sir. And Attorney Holt will advise him, please.
(Recess at 12:00 p.m. until 1:50 p.m.)
THE COURT: We'll pick it up where we left off. I think everybody -- I assume state side counsel would prefer not to come back next week to finish this, and so let's do our best to make sure we'll finish today. We'll just go straight through as long as we need to. That will be the plan.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, there's a distinct possibility that we might not get done with all the witnesses today, especially our witnesses, and if we have to come back next week, I'll come back next week.

THE COURT: We'll do our best to get through today.

MR. HOLT: In other words, to expedite things, I have no more questions.

THE COURT: Thank you.

> CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Hamed.
A Good afternoon.
Q I'm going to ask you a series of questions, if you don't understand the question, I speak too fast, not loud enough, let me know and I'll either repeat or rephrase the question, okay?

A Okay.
Q Now, sir, you've testified that this partnership agreement that you just talked about is between your father Mohammad Hamed and Fathi Yusuf; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Please tell us what were the exact terms of that agreement?

A It's a 50/50 partnership to the supermarket.
Q Be specific, when you say the supermarket what are you referring to?

A When they got together to form this partnership it was to open the Plaza Extra east store.

Q So you're talking about -- This partnership you're talking between Fathi Yusuf and your father in respect to the Plaza Extra grocery store operations, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q What were the terms of this agreement? You said it was 50/50?

A Yes.

Q What else?
A That the Plaza Extra east store will pay rent to United Corporation, the United Shopping Plaza.

Q Just so we're clear, what you're saying is the grocery store operations will pay rent to United Corporation as the landlord for the actual dirt, you know, of Plaza Extra Sion Farm?

A For the Plaza Extra east store.
Q What else were the terms?

A It's -- really those are the terms as I understand.

Q Just so we're perfectly clear, you're testimony
today is that the terms of the agreement between your father and Fathi Yusuf were it was $50 / 50$ to run the Plaza Extra grocery store and nothing else?

A Well, they are responsible -- they are responsible to share the profits, they are responsible for the receivables, the payables, the risk that they are taking together. If they lose both parties lose not just one. They make money both parties make money.

Q And these are the terms, are you sure?

A Yes.

Q Okay. When you testified that Mohammed Hamed actually worked at the grocery store in Sion Earm?

A Yes, sir.
Q And, correct me if I'm wrong -- Well, he actually stopped working at the grocery store in sion Farm at some point in time, I want to say 1996 ; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. From the time that this partnership began, which You say was in the middle '80s until 1996, Mohammed Hamed never had signatory authority over any bank accounts of Plaza Extra, correct?

A That's correct.

Q And because he never had signatory authority, he never wrote a single check on behalf of Plaza Extra
during -- between 1986 and 1996 ?

A That was the duty of Fathi Yusuf, he was responsible for the office.

Q Because Fathi Yusuf was in charge, correct?

A No, he was responsible for the office.

Q Now, in respect to this partnership agreement between your father and Fathi Yusuf, how long was this partnership agreement supposed to last?

A There was no definite terms. As far as we know it's forever.

Q Now, your testimony on your direct examination was that the checks that were written in respect to the Plaza Extra grocery stores, that those always required two signatures, correct, that was your testimony?

A We started doing that in either late 2009 or 2010 that we came to an agreement.

Q So your testimony on direct that you always needed two signatures, that was incorrect?

MR. HOLT: Objection. He didn't say that.
THE COURT: Just ask the questions. Don't
characterize his testimony.

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Well, sir, the reason that two signatures were needed, or are currently needed, is because Fathi Yusuf wanted it that way, correct?

A Yes. He came to us and we both agreed on it, yes.

Q "He came to us," that means Fathi Yusuf came to -- Who did he come to?

A He came to me.

Q And it was his idea? He came to you, it was his idea, right?

A So what. It's his idea. There's a lot of other stuff it was my idea.

Q Sir, that wasn't the question. The question was, it was his idea, correct?

A He came to me with it.

Q Now, Fathi Yusuf had written a check to himself, unilaterally just wrote himself a check. You're testimony was that would be -- somehow that would be improper or wrong, that he just can't write himself a check.

A I'm sorry, I -- what do you mean by that?

Q Let me break it down for you, sir. Your testimony on direct was you're complaining that there were checks written on Plaza Extra grocery stores that had signatures of just the Yusuf family, you were complaining about those checks, for example?

A Yes, sir.

Q Right?

A Uh-hum.

Q And now -- But you also testified just now that in 2009/2010, whenever it was, up until that time only one signature was needed on an account?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Now, if Fathi Yusuf had written a check unilaterally by himself, it was his idea, he didn't ask anyone? If he wrote himself a check to himself, that would have been improper, that would have breached this partnership agreement that you're talking about, that you talk about on direct examination, correct?

A Could you --
Q Let me --

A -- repeat the question.
Q If Fathi Yusuf cut himself a check right now, he signs it, made payable to Fathi Yusuf, he signs it, he goes to the bank, he cashes it, he takes money out, your testimony is this is not allowed, this is improper, this breaches this alleged partnership agreement?

A Based on the agreement that we have together right now it has to have two family, one member of each family.

Q Let's talk about before you needed two family signatures back in, I don't know, 2007.

In 2007, if Fathi Yusuf had written a check to himself without asking anyone else, made payable to Fathi

Yusuf, signed to Fathi Yusuf, that would have breached the partnership agreement.

A No.

Q So what you're saying is Fathi Yusuf could have unilaterally taken money out of Plaza Extra and that would not have breached the partnership agreement?

A He would have to let us know about it.

Q Sir, that's not what I'm asking.

A He would have to let us know about it.

Q Sir, I understand. Answer my question, if Fathi

Yusuf, without letting anyone else know, wrote himself a check, would that have breached the partnership agreement?

A If he wouldn't let nobody else know, yes.

Q Okay.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, may I approach.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.
(Defendants' Exhibit 1 marked for
identification.)

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q I'm showing you a document that's been marked as Defense Exhibit 1. Please take a moment and review that document, that composite document and let me know when you're done reviewing.

A I'm through.

Q You're done, sir?

A Yes.
Q Sir, this composite exhibit, Defense Exhibit 1, these are a series of checks, correct?

A Yes.
Q And these checks were written on the Plaza Extra accounts, to be specific the United Corporation, $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra account at Scotia Bank?

A Correct.
Q And these checks are all written made payable to Wally Hamed?

A That's correct.
Q And all these checks have your signature on it, correct?

A Correct.
Q And on the back of these checks these -- they have an endorsement and that endorsement reflects your signature on it?

A Correct.
Q Okay.
MR. DiRUZZO: Now, Your Honor, the witness
doesn't need to see the exhibit anymore, can we move
it into evidence, Defense Exhibit 1?
THE COURT: Objections?
MR. HOLT: No. No objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.

## (Defendants' Exhibit 1 received into evidence.)

 BY MR. DiRUZZO:Q Sir, in the event that there is a dispute over the management of a Plaza Extra store between a Hamed brother and a Yusuf brother, I'm sure that that would have happened over the course of many years of Plaza Extra has been operating, correct?

A Yes. Not very often.
Q But there was some times that has happened over a management decision?

A Yes.
Q And when this occurred, if the two brothers couldn't agree, Fathi Yusuf he is the one that made the ultimate call, correct?

A I would say, yes.
Q Now, sir, I'm going to turn your attention to the deposition transcript that's been admitted into evidence by the plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' Exhibit 1.

Your Honor, can the witness be shown Plaintiffs' Exhibit 1.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, while he's at it 1, 1A,
2, 3 and 4 were admitted.
THE COURT: Thank you.
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, before you have an opportunity to take a
look at that document, on direct examination you referred to the Plaza Extra Tutu Park, or the St. Thomas location; correct, you talked about that?

A Yes.

Q And you also talked about how you had -- there was this partnership between your father Fathi Yusuf and an individual by the name of Ahamad -- could you help me out with his last name?

A Idhelleh.

Q Idhelleh. And you referred to Mr. Ahamad as the partner in $s t$. Thomas, correct?

A Yes.

Q And ultimately, Mr. Ahamad, he was bought out, he is no longer the partner in St. Thomas, correct?

A That's correct.

THE COURT: You mean Mr. --

THE WITNESS: Idhelleh.

MR. DiRUZZO: Idhelleh.

THE COURT: Thank you.

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q He's no longer the partner in st. Thomas?

A That's correct.

Q Now, sir, I want to turn your attention to this exhibit that's already been admitted into evidence, I want you to turn your attention to the third page. Let me know
when you get there.
And I don't -- Let me be specific, the third page of the document, not the third page of the actual deposition transcript.

A The third page of the document?
Q Third page of the document. One, two, three.
A Yes.

Q And that page reflects exhibits, correct?
A Yes.
Q And Exhibit Number 7, that refers to a joint venture agreement, correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Well, the fact -- and sir, you would agree that that joint venture agreement, that's not part of that deposition transcript that's in front of you, correct?

A Can I go through?
Q Sure.
A No, I don't see it.
Q Now, sir, you don't see that joint venture agreement in front of you? The fact of the matter is, Mr. Idhelleh he wasn't a partner in Plaza Extra Tutu, he was a joint venturer in Plaza Extra in Tutu, correct; as the document, Exhibit 7 Joint Venture Agreement that should have been attached to this exhibit reflects.

A Whether it's a joint venture it's a partner, that's the way $I$ understand it.

Q Sir, actually why don't we discuss that. What's your understanding of the difference between a joint venture and a partner?

A It's the same. It just means the same to me.

Q Okay. Sir, in respect to Plaza Extra, Tutu Park, have you seen the lease agreement between Plaza Extra and the landlord?

A At one time or another, yes.

Q Well, you never -- you personally, you didn't sign that lease agreement, did you?

A No, sir.
Q Your father, he didn't sign that lease agreement, did he?

A No, sir.
Q Fathi Yusuf, he signed that lease agreement, correct?

A If I can see that I can tell you that.

Q Sure. I'll get it to you in a little bit.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that your father has never given a personal guarantee as to a Plaza Extra or United Corporation debt, correct?

A I don't understand.

Q Do you understand what a personal guarantee is,
sir?

A Yes, sir.
Q Has your father -- The fact is that your father has never executed a personal document guaranteeing the debt of either United Corporation or Plaza Extra?

A Never executed a document. But he is fully a partnership who's liable for payments and everything else.

Q Sir, that wasn't the question. The question is, your father never executed a personal guarantee in respect to the operation of Plaza Extra, correct; that's a fact?

A No, he's not.
Q And just so the record's clear, you're agreeing with me he never did?

A That's correct. But he is responsible for it.
Q Now, sir, I'm going to turn your attention to the ongoing criminal case; you're familiar with that case?

A Yes, sir.

Q And you were named a defendant in that case?
A Yes.
Q And United Corporation was a named defendant in that case?

A Yes.

Q Along with Fathi Yusuf and Mahar Yusuf among others?

A Yes.

Q And that case is ongoing, correct?
A Yes.

Q And in that case your father he was never charged was he?

A No, sir.
Q And he was never taken into custody was he?
A No, sir.

Q You were taken into custody?
A Yes, sir.
Q Fathi Yusuf was taken into custody?
A Yes, sir.
Q Mahar Yusuf was taken into custody?
A Yes.

Q Now, at some point in time during the criminal case there became an issue as to who actually owns Plaza Extra?

A No, it wasn't who owns Plaza Extra, who owns United.

Q Well, sir, you along with the other named criminal defendants were indicted for what happened at Plaza Extra, correct?

A What happened at United d/b/a Plaza Extra.
Q Sir, were -- in respect to the ongoing federal criminal case, there was a plea agreement that was entered into, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q And the plea agreement --
May I approach, Your Honor?
THE COURT: Yes, to the marshal, please.
(Defendants' Exhibit 2 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Sir, I'm showing you what's been marked as Defense Exhibit Number 2, take a moment to peruse that document and let me know when you're done reviewing it.

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Sir, in the ongoing federal criminal case you're represented by two attorneys by the names of Gordon Rhea and RandallAndreozzi, correct?

A Correct.
Q And, sir, they executed this document on your behalf, specifically on page 14, correct?

A Yes.

Q And page 20?
A Correct.
Q Now sir --
A I'm sorry, page 20?
Q Page 20.
A Yes.
Q Now, sir, on page one of this plea agreement,
here in this plea agreement it talks about the defendant United Corporation $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{b} / \mathrm{a}$ Plaza Extra?

A Yes, sir.
Q And the nature of this plea agreement involves the federal government's allegation in respect to Plaza Extra, correct?

A Yes.

Q Now, in this plea agreement it reflects certain ownership percentages of United Corporation d/b/a Plaza Extra, correct.

And I'll turn your attention to, specifically, page 11.

A Page 11.
MR. HOLT: Your Honor, to move things along we'll stipulated that United Corporation is owned by the Yusufs not --

THE COURT: I think the question is United $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{b} / \mathrm{a}$ Plaza.

MR. DiRUZZO: That is --
THE COURT: But perhaps Attorney Holt will stipulate to what the document says.

MR. HOLT: I will. I don't want to interrupt his questioning, I was trying to move things along. BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q The ownership percentages are listed on page 11?

A Yes, sir.

Q And this document was executed by your attorneys acting in your place as your legal representatives in the ongoing federal criminal case, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q Now, sir, and the reason that they executed this document -- Well, actually let me be specific there's signatures on page 14 and page 20, you recognize their signatures, correct?

A Yes.
Q These are their signatures and you don't dispute the accuracy and authenticity of that document do you?

A As far as $I$ know, yes.
Q And, of course, you won't enter into a plea agreement without reading it; but have you read this document, your attorney acting on your behalf executing it?

A I don't remember if I read it or not.

MR. DiRUZZO: Okay. Now, Your Honor, the
defense would move Exhibit Number 2 into evidence.
MR. HOLT: No objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.
(Defendants' Exhibit 2 received into evidence.)
(Defendants' Exhibit 3 marked for
identification.)

BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Now sir, I'm showing you another document that's Exhibit 3. Take a moment and take a look at that document, peruse it and let me know when you've finished reviewing that document.

A Yes.
Q And sir, on page five, Gordon Rhea executed this document on your behalf?

A Yes.
Q And on the next page, page six, RandallAndreozzi executed this document on your behalf?

A Yes.

Q And, sir, this document reflects that United Corporation, d/b/a Plaza Extra was to pay $\$ 10$ million to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, correct?

Take a look at page one.
A Yes, sir.
Q Ask to move Exhibit Number 3 into evidence.
MR. HOLT: No objection.
THE COURT: Admitted.
(Defendants' Exhibit 3 received into evidence.)
(Defendants' Exhibit 4 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, take a moment to take a look at defense

Exhibit Number 4?
A Yes, sir.
Q All right, sir, I'm going to turn your attention to page six of the document?

A Yes.
Q And that's a letter between an attorney by the name of Henry Smock and Tamarah Parson-Smalls at the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, you agree with me?

A Yes.
Q And down at the bottom there's a carbon copy to Gordon Rhea and Randall Andreozzi?

A Yes.
Q Who's your attorney in the ongoing criminal case?

A Yes.
Q Sir, on the very next page there's a $\$ 10$ million check made payable to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue?

A Yes, sir.
Q And, sir, on the very last page, page 9, there are signatures of shareholders of United Corporation, including Fathi Yusuf and other family members, you would agree with that?

A Yes.

Q Sir, have you seen this document before?
A I don't recall.

Q Sir, in respect to the ongoing federal criminal case, have either of your attorneys ever lodged an objection with the prosecutors -- let me be real specific.

You would agree with me none of your attorneys filed a document with the District Court of the Virgin Islands Clerk's office disputing the ownership percentages in United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra.

A No, they haven't.
Q Sir, when the federal criminal case was ongoing, at no point in time did you ever stand up and say hold on, my father's a partner in Plaza Extra; you never made that representation to the court, did you?

A No, I never had no reason to. My father was not an indicted individual.

Q Sir, I'll take that as a never. You never made that representation?

A That's what $I$ said, I never did.

Q And when it became an issue as to who actually owns Plaza Extra, at that point in time neither you nor your attorneys stood up and said wait a minute, my father Mohammed Hamed he actually owns 50 percent of Plaza Extra; you never made that representation did you?

A No, sir.

Q But now -- Sir, I'm going to turn your attention to July 9 of 2009, on that day there is a hearing in the ongoing federal criminal case, and at that hearing the federal government brought up that there is a potential issue as to who actually owned Plaza. Let me be specific, United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra, do you remember that day?

You remember going in front of Judge Finch and what was said in front of the federal prosecutors and the attorneys that day?

A I remember there was an issue but $I$ don't remember exactly what happened.

Q You don't remember exactly what was said?

A Sir, no.

Q Sir, if $I$ show you a transcript of that hearing will that refresh your recollection?

A It might.

MR. DiRUZZO: Then, Your Honor, I'll table this
train of discussion until a further point in time.

Defense would move Exhibit Number 4 into evidence.

THE COURT: Objection to number 4 ?

MR. HOLT: No objection to number 4. Sorry
about that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Admitted.
(Defendants: Exhibit 4 received into evidence.)

THE COURT: Is that document, that transcript, is that marked as an exhibit?

MR. DiRUZZO: Not yet.
THE COURT: Okay.
(People's Exhibit 5 marked for identification.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, before you get an opportunity to read that -- before sitting here today, before you had an opportunity to read that transcript, you do remember that the federal government, the prosecutors were making an issue about whether your father was actually a partner in Plaza Extra?

A I don't remember if it was my father or if it was us. I don't recall exactly.

Q But do you recall there was something that was discussed?

A Yes.

Q Now, sir, I'm going to turn your attention to the amount of money, or the Banco Popular securities accounts, you're familiar with those accounts?

A Yes.
Q And as you're sitting here today you would agree there's in excess of $\$ 40$ million into those accounts?

A That's correct.
Q And those -- those accounts at Banco Popular,
and also I want to say there's also a Merrill Lynch account, correct?

A Yes.

Q And those accounts are subject to the restraining order in the ongoing federal criminal case?

A Yes.

Q And those funds haven't gone anywhere over the last -- during the duration of the federal criminal case? They've been at Banco Popular securities, they haven't gone anywhere? They haven't gone to Jordan, they haven't gone anywhere else, correct?

A That's correct.

MR. DiRUZZO: This will be Defense Exhibit 6.
(Defendants' Exhibit 6 marked for
identification.)

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Sir, I'm showing you a composite exhibit marked as Defense Exhibit 6, can you take a moment to peruse that document.

A Yes, sir.

Q Sir, Defense Exhibit 6, these are a bunch of images or photographs, pictures, correct?

A Yes.

Q Of Plaza Extra Sion Farm?

A Correct.

Q And, sir, these pictures depict, starting on the first page, the inside of Plaza Extra Sion Farm where the customers would shop, agreed?

A Yes, they are. The aisles.
Q And on the seventh page of that document, starting on the seventh page, it depicts the warehouse, the receiving area, the back of the building that's not accessible to the public, correct?

A That's correct.
Q Now, sir, these pictures accurately depict the inside of Plaza Extra Sion Farm, correct?

A On that given day, yes, whatever day it was.
Q And, sir, do you have any reason to believe that this picture wasn't taken in the next -- wasn't taken recently? Does this look like a recent picture to you?

A Yes.
Q Now, sir, these pictures depict a grocery store full of inventory? That looks pretty well stocked to me. Sir, you would agree there's plenty of inventory in Sion Farm as we sit here today?

A There is inventory.
Q And not only is there inventory available to the public, there's also inventory in the back so the -- in the event that the front floor needs to be restocked it can be, correct?

A Not everything, but there's a significant space on the shelf that are not full.

Q Sir, the truth of the matter is that payments to suppliers, they haven't been blocked, and Plaza Extra, the grocery stores, there's plenty of inventory there for the public of st. Croix to buy, that's the truth of the matter?

A That's your opinion, sir.

Q Well, I'm asking you, sir, answer my question request.

A Repeat the question.

Q The question is, payments to suppliers have not been blocked?

Let me make it real easy, these pictures depict a grocery store full of inventory that is not about to close any time soon, correct?

A I could say, yes.

MR. DiRUZZO: Defense would move Exhibit 6 into evidence.

MR. HOLT: No objection, but is there a time to the photos?

MR. DiRUZZO: I would be able to represent taken last night.

MR. HOLT: When?

MR. DiRUZZO: Last night.

MR. HOLT: No objection.

MR. DiRUZZO: Although I'll tie up that foundation on predicate with some of our witnesses.

MR. HOLT: I'll stipulate to it.
MR. DiRUZZO: Okay.

THE COURT: Group Exhibit 6 is admitted.
(Defendants' Exhibit 6 received into evidence.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Sir, I want to turn your attention to the name of Wadda Charriez.

THE COURT: How do you pronounce her last name? THE WITNESS: Charriez.

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Charriez. Sir, you would agree with me that having employees file false time records to reflect hours that they worked when they didn't actually work, that's against company policy? Plaza Extra doesn't pay people for hours that they did not work?

A That's correct.

Q And when people falsify their time sheets there is a problem because Plaza Extra pays money -- pays wages to employees that don't deserve it?

A Are you referring to Wadda or --
Q I'm just saying in general.

A General, yes.

Q Now, sir, you would also agree with me that when that - You'll also agree with me when an employee of Plaza Extra falsifies his or her time records a manager of Plaza Extra would have good cause to fire that employee for stealing from Plaza Extra, agreed?

A No, disagree.

Q You're saying to this judge that if someone steals from Plaza Extra that manager won't have good cause to fire them?

A There are procedures in place.

Q The question is not about procedure, the question is simply about good cause.

A There are procedures in place.

Q Sir, I understand that. I understand.

Objection, nonresponsive.

THE COURT: You asked the question and he
answered it. I'm sure he'll get to the specific
answer. He can answer the question. Ask it again
and let him answer.

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Sir, you would agree with me if an employee steals from Plaza Extra a manager of Plaza Extra would have good cause to fire that employee?

A They do, but they can't do it unilaterally.

Q Okay. Now, sir, you've been provided Defense

Exhibit 5. If you take a moment to take a look at that document, specifically starting on page 9, and page 9 through page 13.

MR. HOLT: Page what?

MR. DiRUZZO: Page 9 through 13.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

BY MR. DIRUZZO:

Q And, sir, starting on page 9, the prosecutor in the criminal case where you're a named defendant brought to the court's attention, and to all the parties to that criminal case that, quote.
"One of the issues that has arisen is who, in fact, owns the share of United. On paper, it is entirely owned by the Yusuf family, and it is distributed amongst various families.
"However, I believe in civil litigation there was deposition testimony in which it indicated that setting aside the formalities of share certificates, that, in fact, the shares were owned 50 percent by the Yusuf family and 50 percent by the Hamed family, and no indication as to how it broke down or even if it broke down between individual family members."

That's what the prosecutor said in the ongoing criminal case where you're a defendant, correct?

A That's what I'm reading, yes.

Q And, sir, at no point in time did Gordon Rhea stand up and object on July 9, 2009? He didn't say anything on your behalf? He didn't tell the government that, you know what, Mohammed Hamed he really owns 50 percent of Plaza Extra, he never said that?

A Because Mohammed Hamed is not part of the criminal case.

Q So -- But you didn't -- but according to your direct testimony you knew that your father was a partner in Plaza Extra since the mid 1908s, well before this federal criminal case you knew that, and that's what your testimony on direct was?

A Yes.
Q And in July 2009 when the federal government showed up and said, there is an issue here as to who actually owns Plaza Extra, you never said anything in respect to your father's ownership in Plaza Extra?

A My father wasn't a party to the -- he wasn't a party to the criminal case so I don't see where he has to come in at that point.

Q I'm not talking about what your father has to say, I'm asking whether you did anything in the criminal case, the answer is, no?

A But I am not the shareholder.
Q Just to be perfectly clear --

A My father -- I never said I was a shareholder or a partner, my father is.

Q Just so we're perfectly clear, your testimony, this partnership between Fathi Yusuf and your father is not between Fathi Yusuf and you, it's not between Fathi Yusuf and Waheed, it's not between Fathi Yusuf and anyone else, it's between Fathi Yusuf and Mohammed Hamed, that's what your testimony is?

A Yes.

Q Also on July 9, 2009, when all this was going on in the federal criminal case, your brother Waheed never stood up and said anything about what happened? He never stood up and said my father owns 50 percent of Plaza Extra did he?

A No, he didn't.

Q Defense would move Exhibit 5 into evidence?

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, we object. Exhibit 5 is
about 60,70 pages. I saw it for the first time and I don't know what else is in it.

THE COURT: How about the first page and the pages that were referenced.

MR. DiRUZZO: I have no problems with that, Your

Honor.

THE COURT: Page 9 to 13, just the front page
that identifies the hearing, and then the pages 9 to

13 will be admitted.
MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, I would just ask that the first page through 13 because it also includes the attorneys that were present at the time.

MR. HOLT: No problem.
THE COURT: Pages 1 through 13?
MR. DiRUZZO: Correct.

THE COURT: Pages 1 through 13, Exhibit 5 are admitted.

MR. HOLT: I mean $I$ just don't know if it's complete, that's the only problem I have. I haven't seen it before. It looks like that's the initial response and then the government comes back on page 14 and --

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, I represent that all the pages that are on the paper are part of the document. It's also part of our request for additional notice.

MR. HOLT: You know what, to be honest with you, it can all come in. I don't know what's in it. I don't know if they expect you to read it.

THE COURT: Let's -- there's an indication they only need pages 1 to 13, so without objection 1 to 13.

MR. DiRUZZO: 1 through 13.

THE COURT: 1 through 13.
(Defendants' Exhibit 5 received into evidence.) BY. MR. DiRUZZO:

Q And finally, Mr. Hamed, in respect to that hearing, both you, your brother, Fathi Yusuf, Mike Yusuf, all the criminal defendants, the individuals, the people that would show up, they were there with their attorneys?

A Yes, sir.
Q Sir, have you ever heard of an entity known as 5H Holdings?

A Yes.
MR. HOLT: Excuse me, I couldn't --
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q I will repeat. Sir, have you ever heard of an entity called 5H Holdings Incorporated?

A Yes.
Q Sir, please describe to the Court what is that entity?

A It's a company that I created between me and my brother that -- Waheed Hamed and me.

Q Okay. And this is a Virgin Islands entity, correct?

A That's correct.
Q And with documents filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor?

A Correct.
Q And those documents, the Articles of
Incorporation, those were filed in April of 2012?
A I assume, yes.
Q It was filed last year? You would agree it was filed 2012?

A Yes.

Q And the purpose of this entity 5H Holdings, is to go into business, correct? It's designed to make money?

A Yes.
Q And one of the -- are you an officer of 5 H Holdings?

A Yes, I am.
Q And what is your title or position?
A President.
Q And who else are the officers of 5 H Holdings?
A My brother, Waheed Hamed.
Q Who are the 5 H -- is 5 H Holdings?
A There's no individuals, it's 5H.
Q So the 5H doesn't stand for Waleed Hamed, waheed Hamed, Mufeed Hamed?

A If you assume, but, no. It's 5H, just like any other name.

Q Who decided to name it 5H?

A I came up with the name.

Q And why did you come up with that name? Does it have any significance at all?

A It's 5 H .

Q Okay. And, sir, 5 H Holdings, through you acting as the authorized representative of 5 H Holdings, 5 H Holdings has been actively looking into business opportunities on st. Thomas, correct?

A Yes.

Q Including the potential acquisition of Marina Market?

A No.

Q What exactly has the business opportunities of 5H Holdings been looking into on St. Thomas? Please tell the Court what are those business opportunities?

A The only business opportunity there is there's a contract to purchase.

Q Tell us about this contract to purchase. Contract to purchase what?

A There's a contract to purchase the property in Red Hook.

Q Let's be specific about the property, what property are you referring to?

A East end. I think it's called East End Gallery or something like that.

Q I'm sure that the Court has been to Red Hook. but let's be specific for the record. As you're driving into Red Hook and East End Cafe is on your right and you're going up and Chelsea Drugstore is on your left and you keep going and you pass where the Marina is, and you pass Marley Malone up into the left there, that is where Marina Market is, are you referring to that property where you pull into your left and Marina Market's on your right and there's a bunch of stores to your right, is it that property right there?

A Yes, sir.

Q Okay. And sir, this contract to purchase, is the contract to purchase just the property or is it a contract to purchase -- I'll be real specific. Is it a contract to purchase just the land itself or is it a contract to purchase everything on it including the building?

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, we maybe here longer than

I thought, but what's the relevance?

THE COURT: Why is it relevant?

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, if there is a
partnership this goes toward irreparable injury.

Because if there is this partnership, it's our position that Mohammad family is taking a position that there's no adverse harm to the partnership and
that they've already targeted an additional acquisition, so this case is nothing more than a money damages case where preliminary injunctive relief is inappropriate under the circumstances.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I'll let him go through with it, but $I$ don't see the relevance. In the interest of time I'd like to speed it up, but I don't want to interfere if he thinks it's relevant.

THE COURT: Make your point. The other business opportunity that are being explored, and let's move on.

BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Sir, was this contract to purchase -- is it to purchase not only the dirt but also the building on the dirt?

A Yes.

Q And then when -- if this transaction were to actually come to pass, would the current tenants, would they be kicked out?

Would the people or entity that's currently operating the Marina Market, would either 5 H Holdings or another corporation that you own, your family owns, would you take over running Marina Market?

A I have no interest in that. Once somebody's paying, the tenants are paying, why should $I$ kick them
out? That's the intention of it.

Q Sir, since you've been working at the Plaza Extra Sion Farm, since the mid 1980 s , as part of your duties, part of your duties as the manager have to do, obviously, with the reporting obligations to the federal government, the local government; for example, you had to do gross receipt tax, you had to make sure gross receipt taxes were filed and paid?

A I'm sorry, I don't understand.

Q I'll clarify. During the course of your employment at Plaza Extra, one of your jobs as a manager is to make sure that, among other things, that taxes get paid, you know, you don't have problems with filings get filed, Franchise tax gets paid, stuff like that, you have to make sure that is done?

A That obligation was left to Fathi Yusuf.

Q And, sir, during the course of your employment did you ever have an opportunity to review any of the tax filings? Did you ever have that opportunity to review any of the tax filings?

A Not that $I$ recall, no.

Q Sir, do you recall in the late 1990 s Pablo O'Neill suggested to Plaza Extra to convert from a C Corporation to an $S$ Corporation?

A Yes.

Q And in respect to that, well, tax transaction, that conversion from a C Corporation to an $S$ Corporation, some of the shares of United Corporation they were transferred from Mr. -- I'll be specific, Fathi Yusuf and his wife to their children, you were aware of that?

A Yes.
Q This was late 1999 Early 2000?
A Yes.
Q Okay. Sir.
Your Honor, I have nothing further at this time.
Yield the witness.
THE COURT: Okay. Redirect.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Going to the criminal case. I think you said -let me make it clear, I think you said it -- was your father a defendant in that case?

A No.
Q Did he have a lawyer representing him in that case?

A No, sir.
Q And in that case, it's still pending, isn't it?
A Yes, sir.
Q And one of the things that needs to be done is filing -- tax returns have to be filed don't they?

A Yes.
Q And those tax returns haven't been filed?
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q And have those tax returns been filed?
A No.

Q And why not?
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: What's the nature of your objection.
MR. DiRUZZO: First of all, lack of foundation
to whose tax returns, and then lack of personal
knowledge as to -- he hasn't testified about any of
the preparation of the tax returns. And I believe he just testified that he doesn't have anything to do with tax reporting.

THE COURT: Ask the question again, please.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Which tax returns have to be filed?
A United Corporation, Plaza Extra.
Q And those tax returns have not been filed?
A No, sir.
Q And your lawyers are representing you with
regard to all of those issues?
A Yes, sir.
Q And until that case is dismissed these assets
are all frozen and the security accounts?
A Yes, sir.
Q So you have an interest in following that litigation?

A Yes.
Q And do you know why the tax returns have not been filed?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: That's a yes or no answer.
MR. DiRUZZO: Well then, leading.
THE COURT: It's not leading.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Isn't it true that the reason why your tax returns haven't been filed is because of this partnership interest, whether it be a partnership?

MR. DiRUZZO: That's leading.
THE COURT: Okay. Ask him if he knows why. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you know why the tax returns haven't been filed?

A Because there's an objection about the partnership issues at hand.

Q Now, going back to the checks, Exhibit Number 1, they gave you a series of checks, I see they are dated between 2002, 2003, 2000-- I can't read all the dates,
but if these checks were dated before the criminal investigation, okay, 'cause $I$ don't know if they were or not, I can't read the exact date, if these were dated before the criminal investigation, could you write a check without the Yusufs knowing about it?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, leading. And these documents were written in 2002 and, I want to -- and 2003, and I believe the testimony was that the feds raided Plaza Extra in October of 2001.

MR. HOLT: Then --

THE COURT: Rephrase the question.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q If these checks were written after the feds raided, did the feds put anyone in place to oversee the management of the place?

A They put somebody in place in 2003 I believe.

Q Okay. And after that person came in, could you write checks without their approval?

A No, sir.

Q They approved every single check?

A Yes, sir.

Q And would you ever written a check to yourself without the Yusuf family knowing about it and being able to write a corresponding check equal to that?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation.

THE COURT: Stop. It doesn't call for speculation.

But when are you talking about?
MR. HOLT: Prior to the receiver being put in place.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, I need foundation as to when the receiver was put in place.

THE COURT: According to what you just said, it was in April of '03.

MR. DiRUZZO: I didn't say that.
THE COURT: I'm sorry, not the receiver.
MR. HOLT: Well, let me just ask the question again.

THE COURT: Hold on a second. Go ahead, ask your question.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q After the receiver was in place, could anyone write the checks without the receiver's approval?

A No.
Q And before the receiver was in place, would you write checks yourself without the Yusuf -- someone from the Yusuf family having knowledge of that check in the business?

A They would have to have knowledge of it.
Q And if it was a check for you to withdraw for
personal use, would that go into a record somewhere where they could then withdraw a similar amount?

A Yes.

Q And all of these checks are checks written on Scotia Bank accounts, I believe.

Would somebody from the Yusuf family see all of these checks when it came back from the bank?

A Yes.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation.

THE COURT: I'm going to try to respond to the objections when they are made, not let the lawyers keep talking. So I'll overrule that objection. Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, could you repeat.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Would someone from the Yusuf family see these checks?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.

THE COURT: Overruled.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q And you were asked about the $C$ Corporation in 1999. Did the United $s$ Corporation switch to a C Corporation?

A Yes. I'm sorry, switch?

Q You were asked about Pablo o'Neill recommending it become a corporation some point in the - -

A No, I think it's from a $C$ to an $S$.

Q And when that change took place, did that have any effect on how the profits from the three supermarkets were disbursed?

A Absolutely not.

Q And you were asked about the money in the Banco Popular security account, and right now that that's frozen by the TRO, as you understand it, in place from the federal court.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, that's not a pending question, that's a statement. BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you tell me whether or not money can be withdrawn from the Banco Popular accounts with -- where all of these millions of dollars are being held?

A Right now, no.

Q And if the federal cases are dismissed then what would happen?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation.

MR. HOLT: He certainly knows. He's the manager of the business.

THE COURT: If you know.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Would there be anything to keep Mr. Yusuf or anyone else from just taking these monies and leaving?

A Absolutely not because he did it with the 2.7.
MR. HOLT: No other questions.
MR. Diruzzo: Nothing further.
THE COURT: Okay. Next witness.
MR. HOLT: We call William.
Thereupon,

## WAHEED HAMED,

having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q State your name for the record.
A Waheed Hamed.
Q Where do you reside?
A 4-15-4 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.
Q And where do you work?
A At Plaza Extra, St. Thomas.
Q And what is your job?
A I run the store.

Q And how long have you been running that store?
A For 19 years.
Q And can you tell, Your Honor, how that store
operates?

A It's run by me and my partner which is one Yusuf one Hamed in each store. We make decisions together and deal with vendors, buy, sell, negotiate on behalf of Plaza Extra.

Q And can you tell me whether or not the operation of that store has changed in any way since this litigation has been filed?

A Yes, it has.

Q And how so?

A We're not communicating at all, which is hurting the flow of the business. We're not -- You know, there's certain decisions that have to be made, we always contacted each other before, now we're not and that's on the Yusuf side.

You know, we try to be prompt and try to be courteous to one another, but since this incident happened nobody is really seeing face to face.

Q And how has it affected the business?

A Well, for one -- at one given time, or a few times, the Yusufs told the vendors that they are not --

MR. DAVID: Objection, hearsay.
THE COURT: I want to hear what they told the vendors.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Did you have problems with the vendors?
A Vendors would call me --

MR. DAVID: Objection, hearsay.
THE COURT: The vendors called to ask a question
that's -- he can answer that.
THE WITNESS: They told me why --
MR. DAVID: Objection, hearsay.
THE COURT: You said they called you?
THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q What were they calling you about?
A They were calling me telling me about Najeh told them not --

MR. DAVID: Objection, hearsay. Double hearsay.
THE COURT: That's sustained.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Let me ask you, have there been problems paying the vendors?

A Yes.
Q Have there been problems doing orders with the vendors?

A Yes.

Q And what are those problems?
A The problem is the Yusuf ordered not to accept any merchandise in the store.

MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor, hearsay.
THE COURT: Stop. Don't talk about what anybody told you or whatever anybody told anyone else. Just answer your attorney's questions.

THE WITNESS: Sure.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Just explain the problems as the manager that you've encountered in trying to operate the store since this litigation was started.

A Inventory problems.
Q What are inventory problems?
A Vendors not delivering.

Q Why are they not delivering?
A Because they were instructed not to deliver.
MR. DAVID: Objection, hearsay.
THE COURT: If he knows. If the vendors have come to him and said we're not able to deliver because we have standing instructions not to deliver --

MR. DAVID: That's classic hearsay, Your Honor. What a third party offered for the truth of the matter asserted out of court, that's classic.

MR. HOLT: It's an admission against interest of the Yusufs if everyone's telling them not to do it.

THE COURT: All right. Let's just ask the next
question, please.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Why aren't the vendors -- why aren't they
selling the items to the store that have been ordered?
A They were not instructed to deliver.
Q And did you make the orders?
A Yes.

Q Did you cancel the orders?
A No.
Q Who cancelled the orders?
A The Yusufs.
MR. DAVID: Objection, lack of predicate.
Hearsay. He can only understand it from what the vendors told him.

THE COURT: Let's -- If he can only understand from what vendors told him, then how does it get in?

MR. HOLT: The vendors have told him the Yusufs have said, don't deliver, then that's admission against their agreement.

THE COURT: It's not an admission if it's coming
from the vendor. Let's sustain the objection.
MR. DAVID: Thank you, Your Honor.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Have there been other problems in paying the vendors?

A Yes. We cannot pay vendors because we have no money to pay vendors.

Q And does the store generate enough business to pay vendors?

A Yes.
Q And why aren't the vendors being paid?
A Because the Yusufs are paying --
MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor, hearsay.
MR. HOLT: He's the manager.
THE COURT: Overruled.
Go ahead.
THE WITNESS: Because the Yusufs are using the money to pay accountants that we've never had before, one of them is his nephew that's making over
$\$ 100,000$. They pulled out approximately $\$ 3$ million out of the company. I could have just used one third of that 3 million and paid my vendors up to date and I won't have any problems with any delivery or anything like that.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Okay. And can I have the witness shown exhibit 14?

THE COURT: Yes.
MR. HOLT: I'm not sure if the original got over here.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Looking at Exhibit Number 14, do you recognize this document?

A Yes, I do.
Q And what's the date of this document?
A The date in November 2, 2012.
Q And this is a document written by who?
A By myself.
Q And you wrote it? On which stationery?
A The United -- the Plaza Extra.
Q And that's to who?
A Najeh Yusuf.
Q And who is Najeh?
A Najeh Yusuf is Mr. Yusuf's son.
Q And what is his involvement in the supermarket?
A One of them, one of us. We both work together, we make decisions together. I mean, one Hamed one Yusuf, that's how it's been operated from the time we originated.

Q And he's in your store?
A Yes, sir.
Q And in this letter to him, what did you tell him?

A I told him that -- I mean, I could read it or give you a summary.

Q Give me a summary?

A First of all that we've never had an accountant that we've had for the 19 years in $s t$. Thomas, that we've never paid an accountant more than $\$ 50,000$ a year, and now all of a sudden $I$ have an accountant in $S t$. Thomas, two in St. Croix and each one of them is making over $\$ 100,000$.

And I objected to it because they never, you know, we never discussed this. They took it upon themselves to do what they want. They never shared any information with us and, you know, that's at least $\$ 200,000$ out of the fund, which is our fund that we could have paid the vendors with.

Q And at the end of this letter what did you tell him?

A I said that, you know, we will not approve any more of these payments to these guys.

Q And what are the names of the guys?
A One in $S t$. Thomas her name is Margie, I don't remember her last name, but $I$ think it's Soeffing or something like that. The second one, which is Mr. Yusuf's nephew which is Ayman Al-Khaled, and the third one is Mr. John Gaffney.

Q So all three of them are mentioned in this letter?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, would you normally sit down and write a
letter to Najeh Yusuf when you had a problem?

A No, sir, I would not.

Q And why did you write this one?

A Because there's no communication. I mean, we're asking what's going on with these guys and there's no communication to who are they or what they are doing. They are hiring people without telling us. You know, it's just frustrating. For me to get to him I have to write him a letter and hand deliver it to him.

Q And, as a result of this letter, were these people terminated?

A No.

Q And have you ever had access to any of the records that they generate?

A No.

Q And they are being paid from which account?

A Plaza Extra account.

Q Supermarket?

A Plaza Extra supermarket, yes, sir.

Q Do you see Mr. Yusuf on a regular basis?

A The last time $I$ saw him was in December.

Q Do you ever see him, or did you see him in the st. Thomas store?

A Yes, all the time.

Q And did he ever make any statements to you
regarding your working at the store?
A No.

Q Did he ever tell you that you should stop working at the store?

A Yes. He came out furiously yelling in front of all my staff that he is going to close the store down, that he is firing me and he's firing my brothers and he is, you know, closing the store immediately.

And the employees would come to me, some crying, some holding their heads, manager like, what's going on? Whatever, I try to calm them down because now the ethics or the stability of the store, it has gone. Like somebody shattered it. And here they are like, do we have a job tomorrow? We don't have a job tomorrow? Can he really close the store down?

Q So employees have come to you with these problems?

A Yes, sir, many.
Q And what would be the time frame of these problems?

A Some time last year. I mean around October, December. In the summer.

MR. HOLT: Okay. No other questions. I move Exhibit 14 into evidence.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. DAVID: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: 14 is admitted.
(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 14 received into evidence.) CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVID:

Q Is your store still operating?

A Sir, excuse me?

Q Is your store still operating?

A Yes.

Q Are the shelves stocked?

A Not one hundred percent.

Q Are they stocked 90 percent?

A I would say about 75.

Q Are the -- is the stockroom stocked 75 percent?
A Maybe a little less.

Q Do you have a full complement of employee?
A A full what?

Q A full complement of employees.

A Yes.

Q Is this -- are all the employees being paid?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Mr. Yusuf hasn't shut the store down,
right?

A He has threatened many times.

Q He hasn't shut it down?

A He has threatened many times.
Q Please answer my question.
A He hasn't. I'm telling you what he said.
Q He hasn't shut the store down, correct?
A Apparently not.
Q Sir, does it surprise you that when your father filed a lawsuit against the Yusuf brothers, father, that there's some friction in your relationship as a result of that?

A I don't understand your question.
Q Sir, you said that everything has changed there's dysfunction in the relationship between you and the Yusuf family counterpart.

A Yes.
Q And you called them -- Who's your counterpart in the Yusuf family?

A Najeh.
Q He's your partner?
A Yes.
Q What's the terms of your partnership agreement?
A Excuse me?
Q What's the terms of your partnership agreement?
A My father owns the store.
Q I'm asking you a different question. You said Najeh is your partner?

A Because he -- his father said that's your partner, okay. Mr. Yusuf said Najeh is your partner and you are his partner

Q What are the terms of your partnership agreement between you Waheed Hamed and Najeh Yusuf?

A We own 50 percent, they own 50 percent, that's all that $I$ know.

Q Well, there's a difference, because you just told us that you and Najeh, you Waheed Hamed and Najeh Yusuf are partners?

A Yes.
Q What are the terms of the partnership between you Waheed Hamed and Najeh Yusuf? I'm not asking you what you think the terms of this partnership between Mr. Fathi Yusuf and your father is.

A I don't know at this moment.
Q Margie, she ever quit?
A No.
Q She didn't quit?
A No.
Q Are you aware that -- Were you indicted in the criminal proceeding?

A Yes.
Q You're familiar with the obligations that are imposed on the criminal defendants as a result of the plea
agreement, right?
A I don't know what you're talking about.
Q Well, let's try it this way, do you know that the plea agreement that was entered into between United Corporation d/b/a plaza Extra requires that United implements accounting controls and procedures?

A I am not aware. I mean $I$ don't recall at this moment. My attorney at the time told me that your case is dismissed.

Q Okay. So you don't know of any continuing obligation of United Corporation vis-a-vis the federal government, consisting with the plea agreement, correct?

A Not to my knowledge.
Q And you don't know that they have to employ, develop and implement for accounting control and procedures, right?

A If --

Q Let me try it this way. Do you know what accounting controls are?

A No, sir.
Q Do you have any accounting experience?
A No, sir.

Q Okay. Do you know what GAAP means? G-A-A-P, what that acronym means?

A No.

Q You don't know what Mr. Gaffney does, correct?
A Gaffney, John Gaffney?

Q You don't know what he does do you?

A No, sir. I spoke to him. He came to my store and I asked him what he's doing. He said he's setting up some accounting, Peachtree, that we've used to pay our vendors and do our accounting.

And he said any time -- I told him, please -- he said, I'm here, I'm a neutral guy. I said if you're a neutral guy $I$ need to know what you're doing. He said, no problem, I will give you all the information that I'm doing up to today.

Up to today $I$ have not gotten an e-mail from him or phone call from him as what his status is. He promised that he would do that and he has not done that.

MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor. Move to strike the hearsay statement. He was not responsive to the question. His answer was what Mr. Gaffney told him. I asked him what Mr. Gaffney does, he went on with a diatribe, that clearly was hearsay.

THE COURT: What he said was hearsay. I'm surprised you waited until he finished his answer.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, I can't interrupt the witness in the middle of an answer.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. DAVID: All right.
THE COURT: All right. Go ahead. I will go ahead and exclude that portion of the answer that was hearsay.

MR. DAVID: Thank you, Your Honor.
BY MR. DAVID:
Q Do you know what Ayman Al-Khaled does?
A No.
Q Sir, are you familiar with the lease between
Tutu Park Limited and the landlord as the landlord doing business -- and United Corporation d/b/a Plaza?

A I'm aware there's a lease, I never read the lease.

Q Have you ever seen it?
A No, sir.
Q Okay. Did you ever talk to your father about the lease?

A I don't recall at this moment.
Q Did you ever talk to any of your brothers about the lease?

A I've -- I don't recall at this moment.
Q Would there be anything that would refresh your recollection?

A I don't know.
Q Okay. Do you know if there are any guarantors?

Strike that.

Do you know what a lease guarantor is?
A No.
MR. DAVID: Okay. No further questions.
THE COURT: Redirect.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q How many employees do you have?
A We have approximately 180 employees.
Q Who's Kareema Dorsette?
A Kareema Dorsette is the accounts payable clerk.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor, beyond the scope of the cross.

MR. HOLT: I have no more questions. And my next witness will be Kareema Dorsette.

THE COURT: Just in terms of the rule on witnesses, the witnesses who are not going to be called again are welcome to be in the courtroom. Thereupon, KAREEMA DORSETTE, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q State your name for the record.

A Kareema Dorsette.

Q And where are you employed?

A At Plaza Extra, St. Thomas.

Q St. Thomas?

A Uh-hum.

Q And were you subpoenaed to be here today?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what -- have you ever met me before today?

A No.

Q And what is your job title?

A Accounts payable.
Q And can you tell me what that entails?

A I pay all the vendors, basically it.

Q And who do you report to?

A Willy Hamed and Najeh Yusuf.
Q Do You ever have any dealing with Fathi Yusuf?

A Rarely, but --

Q In the last few months has Fathi Yusuf ever spoken to you about closing the store in st. Thomas?

A I went to him to sign a check, and when $I$ went to him to sign the check he was looking at the spreadsheet, and apparently the funds was very low and he said the funds are low, the store is not making any money and it's cheaper for us to have the store closed.

Q And did you report that conversation to anyone?

A Willy.
Q And why did you report that to Willy?
A Because I have four kids first of all, my last son is sick, he's very sick.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, relevance to how the number of kids relate to the relief under --

THE COURT: Let's get to the answer. Let's get her to answer the question.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Without going into detail about your kids, why did you report that conversation?

A Because I was worried about losing my job.
Q No more questions. Thank you.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Good afternoon, ma'am. I'm going to be brief. The store is still open, correct?

A Yes, sir.
Q And you haven't lost your job, correct?
A As ever today, no.
Q Thank you. No further questions.
THE COURT: Thank you.
MR. HOLT: Thank you. You're excused.
We call Mufeed Hamed.
Thereupon,

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you state your name for the record.

A Mufeed Hamed.

Q And where do you work?

A Plaza Extra east, Sion Farm.

Q And what is your job there?

A Store manager.
Q And how long have you been a store manager?

A Almost 18 years.
Q And can you tell me how the Plaza east store operates as far as your being a manager in that store?

A Yes. It's managed by -- jointly by the two families, $I$ represent my father, and the Yusufs is Yusuf Yusuf represents his half.

Q And your father is who?

A Mohammad Hamed.

Q And who is his father?

A Fathi Yusuf.

Q What is your understanding of the relationship between Mohammad Hamed, your father and Fathi Yusuf. MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor, predicate.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q I'll predicate the question. Has Fathi Yusuf ever told you what the relationship is between him nd Mohammed Hamed?

A Yes.
Q What has he told you?
A $50 / 50$ partners in the supermarket business.

Q Okay. Now, how many employees do you have at that store?

A About 200.
Q And as it relates to St. Croix and St. Thomas -St. Croix east, St. Thomas and St. Croix west, which one is the biggest store?

A St. Croix west, square footage.
Q And what about from sales?
A St. Croix east.
Q That's your store?
A Yes.

Q And in the store that you're in, is there an employee that we call Wadda?

A Yes.
Q What is Wadda's full name?

A Wadda Charriez.

Q And what does Wadda do?
A She's the office manager. Her job is very
critical to the operation of Plaza Extra.
Q How long has she held that job?
A Over 15 years.
Q And did there come a time where you understood she was discharged recently?

A Yes.
Q And who discharged her?
A Fathi Yusuf.

Q And what did you do when you heard about that?
A Brought her back in.
Q When?
A The next day.
Q Why did you do that?
A I was not told why she was fired and needed -- I needed to get to the bottom of it. You can't fire somebody that has that type of position where the store relies on her quite a bit.

Q And normally when you get to the bottom of it how would you do that?

A I get with Yusuf Yusuf and myself, and we look over the evidence, or the alleged situation, or alleged whatever she did. We look at it, once we're a hundred percent certain that we have proof, then we proceed.

Q Okay. And when you say you proceed, what would you do? Do you automatically discharge someone?

A No, we don't. We talk to her, find out the situation, and normally we don't discharge anybody. In my history of working at Plaza Extra we've rarely fired anyone for doing something.

Q If an employer of her level had been misreporting their times and you saw documentation which supported that, what would you do?

A I would have to see the evidence. And, you know, based on her time working with us that would take into my consideration and the type of work that she does. And, again, she's very critical to the operations of Plaza Extra. You can't replace her that easily.

And then we make a decision from there where if she -- if we're certain that she did something or she took time, then we'd have her pay it back basically.

Q And just so the Court understands, the offices for the Plaza east store, where are they?

A In Plaza east?

Q The first floor or second floor?

A Oh, the second floor.

Q And where does Wadda work?

A On the second floor.

Q How far from your office is Wadda sitting?

A About 10, 20 feet.
Q Is her desk inside a room or open area?

A No, open area. They are all open to each other.
Q When Wadda is working you know it?
A Yes.

Q How would you know it?
A Well, there's the owners of Plaza Extra -MR. DAVID: Objection, relevance.

THE COURT: You can answer.

THE WITNESS: There's the owner of the Plaza
Extra, then there's Wadda then there's management.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q And is she a good employee, bad employee, hard working?

MR. DAVID: Objection, relevance.
THE COURT: I'm going to allow the question.
Overruled.
THE WITNESS: She's -- she does her job very well.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now, directing your attention to January 9, is that the day that she came back to work?

A Yes.
Q Tell me what happened that day?
A She came to work, I was in my office at my desk, then Fathi Yusuf came up and he was shocked to see her there. Started telling her why she's here? Doesn't she
know what fired is? She's been fired. She needs to go home.

So when I heard that I came from my desk, came over to Wadda's desk and I said, you're not fired, stay where you are, and that's when all hell broke lose. Mr. Yusuf raised his voice and the situation got very tense. He started saying she's fired, she needs to get out of the store.

He said I'm fired, I need to get out of the store. He said Waleed's fired, my other brothers are fired, he's going to shut down the store, he's going to call the police and have us arrested and removed from the store.

Q Did he call the police?

A Yes, he did.

Q And what did he tell the police?

A He told the police, if they don't do their job he's going to close the store down.

Q Okay. Now, did you ever have any conversations with the other -- the co-manager, Yusuf? His name is Yusuf Yusuf?

A Yes, I did. At the end of the day we had a discussion with the attorneys and they said we're going to get together and look at the evidence that they had.

Q When that happened Yusuf Yusuf wasn't there was
he?
A No.

Q So you had a conversation with Yusuf Yusuf when none of the attorneys were there?

A Yes.
Q Tell me about that?
MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor. Withdrawn.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Let me ask it a little different. After the attorneys left, did you have a conversation with Yusuf Yusuf, just the two of you?

A Yes, I -- the next day I went up to Yusuf Yusuf and said I'd like to see the evidence.

Q And did he have any evidence?
A He never got back to me.
Q Did he have any evidence when you asked him?
A No, he never got back to me. He said he doesn't have it.

Q Has anybody ever got back to you with any?
A No.
Q Can you tell me, in general, since the store was closed, excuse me, since this litigation has begun, have you had difficulties in the operations?

A Yes, I have.
Q What are those?

A There's been -- I mean, basically, Yusuf Yusuf and I stopped talking and there was no communication between us on the level that we had before and that created a lot of you, know, uncomfortable situations for getting -- making decisions for the store.

So, basically, you know, when I have to find out about something that he did I would have to find out through the others.

Q And when you were in your store, who else -- are any other Hamed members in your store with you?

A Yes, Waleed, my brother.
Q And what is Waleed's role as it relates to the rest of the Hamed brothers? What is his role?

A He's a comanager. He's the oldest brother.
He's the main representative for the Hamed family.
MR. HOLT: Just a minute, Your Honor.
(Discussion off the record.)

MR. HOLT: No more questions.
CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVID:
Q Good afternoon, sir.
A Good afternoon.

Q You work in the Plaza east store, right?
A Correct.
Q Plaza east store is still open?

A Correct.
Q Fully stocked?
A Correct.

Q Okay. Warehouse is fully stocked?
A Correct.
Q Vendors are getting paid?
A Correct.

Q Employees are getting paid?
A Correct.
Q Okay. You're getting paid?
A Correct.
Q Okay. Sir, you've been a manager at Plaza east store for 18 years?

A Approximately.
Q I want to give you a hypothetical question. You have an employee who regularly, and I'll define regularly as everyday, has someone punch in early for her and punch in late for her by at least an hour, in other words she claims to show up at 8 o'clock she actually shows up at 9, she leaves at 5 but someone punches her out at 6 . So everyday she steals from you for two hours, okay; you understand so far?

A Yeah, go ahead.
Q This goes on for a period of weeks and months, for an entire year, okay, and based upon how much she's
paid she's collected over $\$ 10,000$ in money she didn't earn, is that grounds to fire that employee?

A Hypothetical question?

Q Yes, sir.

A I would really have to consider this further.

Q So someone stole $\$ 10,000$ from you, you would have to consider whether or not you'd fire that person?

A Of course there's a lot of factors that we have to consider.

Q Okay. Like what?

A How long she's been working there, what are the conditions, what took place.

Q Okay. Well, you'd agree with me if someone said it would be totally reasonable for someone in your position to come to the decision after looking at all the facts and say, you know what, you stole from me for $\$ 10,000$, you're out, that would be reasonable?

A I would agree with that.

Q And, frankly, you wouldn't even be able to fight with someone, with the manager of your position who said I'm firing this person for stealing $\$ 10,000$ from me over this year, right?

A Correct.

Q Now, the disruption that you've been talking about between you and Yusuf Yusuf, that has occurred after
this lawsuit was filed?

A Correct.

Q Okay. And before this lawsuit was filed there was no -- you and Yusuf Yusuf got along fine, correct?

A Correct.
Q Okay. Now, before this lawsuits was filed, was there a point in time when you and Yusuf Yusuf didn't agree on something?

A Yes.
Q Okay. What happened when you didn't agree on something?

A We would always come to a resolution.
Q Okay. Was there ever a point in time where you didn't agree on it, you couldn't come to a resolution, the problem was so thorny that he was set in his way and you were set in your way?

A No.

Q Okay. Assume that that occurred, okay, assume that Yusuf Yusuf wanted it done his way, you wanted it done your way and you guys talked and talked and talked and tried your best and you couldn't come to a resolution.

A I don't like answering questions with assumption.

Q Okay. Well, you can do it. Isn't it true that in a situation such at that you would go to Fathi Yusuf
and make the decision?

A No.

Q No?
A Absolutely not.
Q Okay. Early in your testimony with Mr. Holt, had you said that the terms you made reference to, the terms of this partnership was between your father and Fathi Yusuf, right?

A Correct.
Q What are the terms as you understand of this alleged agreement?

A My father Mohammad Hamed and Fathi Yusuf are partners in the Plaza Extra stores.

Q Okay. That it?
A Correct.
Q Are there any other terms?
A I'm sure there is but --

Q Do you know what they are?
A Well, they share profits, they share losses, they share receivables, they share payables.

Q Have you ever seen your father contribute further funds to the operation of the grocery stores? You, sir, have you ever seen it happen?

A No. I was a teenager at the time.
Q I understand this has been a long time. How
long is this partnership supposed to last, forever?
A That's a good question.
Q You don't know?
A I don't know.
Q When did your father stop working?
A My father took some -- he went to the Hajj in 1996.

Q Okay. Forgive me, I'm not familiar with -- I'm ignorant and misunderstanding what the Hajj is, can you explain that to me?

A The Hajj is where -- it's a pilgrimage for Muslims. My father and Mr. Fathi Yusuf did it.

Q Did that in 1996?
A Yes.
Q Forgive the question, did he retire at that time or did he go and not come back?

A He's been traveling back and forth, but --
Q Between St. Croix and where, sir? You said he'd been traveling back and forth.

A Yes, between St. Croix and to the Middle East.
Q Let me just try to get -- I need to understand this.

And it will be brief, Your Honor.
He went to the Hajj in 1996, and since that point in time he's been traveling between St. Croix and a
home in the Middle East.
A Yes.
Q Where is his home in the Middle East?
A In Jordan.
Q He doesn't do any more work and doesn't go to work?

A He doesn't do any more work and doesn't receive a pay check from Plaza Extra.

Q He's retired, right?
A I'm not sure what that term means.
Q Okay. What exactly does Wadda do?
A She's the office manager. She does the accounts payable, she does the -- she gets all the information from the deposits, she gives us a daily balance of our bank accounts, of the income.

She also gets the information from the payables, she enters that into the computer and gives us a running balance. She's in charge of return checks. She's the face of Plaza Extra when she goes to court to get -- I forgot the word -- go after, you know, returned checks and anything that's owed to the store. She does that for both the east, west -- east and west stores.

Q Is that it?
A There's others but I can't recall right now.
Q You don't have any recollection of what else she
does?
A I can't recall, but there's more that she does.

Q Is there anybody in the west store that does the same job that you know?

A I don't think there's anybody that can be compared to her in the west store.

Q How many other -- Strike that.
Do you know if there's anybody that does a similar job to that in St. Thomas?

A I'm not sure how the structure is in St. Thomas.
Q Do you know what Peachtree is?
A I've heard of it.

Q What is it?

A It's an accounting software.
Q Do you know how to operate it?
A No.

Q Do you know if it's on the computer system in the east store?

A Yes.
Q So who operates the Peachtree software at the store?

A I don't know. I can guess.

Q I don't want you to guess.
A I believe it's Mary, she does it for the accounts payable.

Q And who else works with the computers in the Peachtree Financial Software at the east store?

A Wadda, I believe she does it also.
Q Is there another person there?
A There's two other girls, but I don't think they work on that.

Q Are there any other girls on the west store that work with the Peachtree system?

A I don't know about the west store.
Q You have no understanding how to operate the Peachtree financial software?

A No, I don't.

Q Do you know why it's on the computer system?
A Of course.
Q Why?
A For accounting purposes.
Q Is it important to be able to account for the money that comes in and out of the grocery store?

A Of course it's important.
Q But you don't utilize and have no familiarity with the operation of Peachtree financial accounting software that's used by your store, is that your testimony, sir?

A Yes, it is.
Q How do you keep track of the money coming in at
the store now?

A We have people in place that operate the software and they tell us, they report to us.

Q Five Years ago if Fathi Yusuf came into the Plaza east store and decided that one of the employees needed to be terminated and fired, that decision would have stood, right?

A On it's own, no.

Q No?

A He would have to discuss it with us. We would have to know why, 'cause if that employee goes to labor, who's going to answer for it?

Q Okay. Sir, were you indicted by the federal government along with your brothers?

A No, I was not.

Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge of the plea agreement that was entered into?

A I don't recall it. But if $I$ was to look at the documents $I$ could probably read it out for you.

Q Do you know -- Well, let's try this. You are aware of the fact that the plea agreement requires that United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra is obligated to implement financial controls that are consistent with generally accepted accounting principals, correct?

A Correct.

Q Okay. Do you know who's responsible for implementing those controls?

Or let me back up, you're not responsible for implementing those controls, correct?

A I have oversee it. I need to know what's going on in the store.

Q Do you know what GAAP, G-A-A-P stands for?
A No.
Q Okay. That's all I have, sir.
THE COURT: Redirect?
MR. HOLT: Yes.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q As the manager of the store, are those accounting controls in place at the store?

A Yes.
Q And if you need that information you can ask it from one of the people that works for you?

A Correct.
Q And have you ever received any information from the other accountants that have been hired?

We've heard throughout this case about
Mr. Gaffney or Mr. Al-Khaled, have they ever provided any information to you?

A No, they never have.

Q Now, you were asked about employees getting paid, was there a time recently that the employees got paid late?

A Yes, there was.
Q And why was that?
A Because Mr. Yusuf told Wadda she has to work until 5 o'clock and the direct deposit wasn't able to get processed that day since he required her to leave early. So apparently there was a few employees that didn't get their checks on their normal scheduled day.

Q And that's since January 9?
A Yes.

Q As far as you were asked a theoretical about employees punching in, has Wadda always punched in?

A She's always entered her time.
Q Is that punch in a clock or in a different way?
A She's always punched in, yes.
Q She didn't keep her own time?
A She keeps her own time.
Q And she enters it?
A Yes.
Q It's not like she goes to a clock?
A She never physically punches.
Q And you were asked a question about if somebody -- if you were told, you know, that somebody
taking $\$ 10,000$ in time from you, remember that theoretical?

A Yes.

Q In the case with Wadda, is the reason why you had her come back because you knew or didn't know anything about what she had done?

A I didn't know what she did, no.

Q And has anybody shown you anything that she's done wrong?

A No.

Q And in order for you to discharge her you would have to agree?

A Yes, I would have to be one hundred percent certain that the alleged crime that she did is true.

Q And after you reviewed that, regardless of what it says, what happens next?

A Then we consider all the factors, that she's been an employee for 15 years, she has a very critical job with us, we have to look at all these different things and we'll take appropriate measures to correct her.

Q Would it be fair to say the reason why you told her to come back was because the process wasn't followed?

A Absolutely.
Q No other questions.

THE COURT. Okay. Thank you very much.

Next witness.

MR. HOLT: We call Wadda Charriez.

Thereupon,
WADDA CHARRIEZ,
having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Can you state your name for the record.

A My name, Wadda Charriez.
Q And how do you spell your last name?
A $\quad C-h-a-r-r-i-e-z$.

Q Okay. And I take it you were subpoenaed to be here today?

A Yes.

Q Where do you work?
A Plaza Extra United Corporation.

Q And which store?

A Sion Farm.

Q Okay. And what is your job?
A I'm the office manager.

Q And how long have you worked there?
A 15 year on January 5th.
Q And can you tell us, generally, some of the things that you do?

A Well, I do payroll, I dealing with the adds, I dealing with the week, I dealing with employees, I dealing with the merchandise, I dealing with the balance, I dealing with the statement I'm dealing with the returned checks, with the interest with the company. With a bunch of stuff.

Q And how are you paid, by the hour?
A By hourly.
Q 'Cause you're not on salary?
A No.
Q And how do you keep your time?
A I keep it manually. I come in everyday, Monday to Friday, I used to work Sunday I don't work Sunday no more. I enter Monday because I came in all the time the same time, and sometime $I$ have to do stuff before $I$ reach the store and sometime I carry home. I do whatever errands the company needs to be done, and I do it after.

Q So some of the work you do is outside the store?
A A lot of work outside the store.
Q Now, did there come a time in, earlier this month in January that you were discharged?

A Uh-huh.
Q Can you tell the Court about what happened.
A Well, I remember the Monday when I used to ready to go home Mr. Yusuf call me and tell me when I ready to
go home, he said, why $I$ don't punch, I need to start punch. I said, okay, $I$ don't have any problem, I'm going to punch in. I went downstairs and punch out. I have some stuff to do it, $I$ leave it, I didn't do anything because he told me to punch.

So the next day, Tuesday, when I came to work I was dealing with my work, usually $I$ do, and he call me to his desk and he was telling me about some situation about my time, my overtime, how $I$ entering my time. Why I entering my time. I was explaining to him how $I$ do it and situation like that. He was telling me that was wrong and that $I$ should pay back the time and different stuff like that.

Q Did he terminate you or did he tell you you were terminated?

A No, in that moment. He was talking to me about that and about the situation and the office and about the overtime, it's not supposed to be the way. I told him that's how I do and Mufeed knew and because we -- I didn't have any problem with anyone in the store. That was all the time that was working like that so.

Q And what did he tell you in response to that?

A Well, he said he going to check with his sons and the situation like that about why Waleed had me that way. And it was like something is wrong or like Waleed
was trying to buy me another way.
He just started talking about my bonus, why I got more money than anybody else in the office? They have a lady named Mary, she have 25 years in there, why $I$ get more than her? You know, what is special of me to, you know, why I get that difference in the office.

Q Okay. And by the way, why did you get a higher bonus? Who made that decision?

A The bonus?

Q Yes.

A Well, they all of them together, all of them together.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor. I need a clarification as to "they" and "he" and "them." It's --

THE COURT: Clarification.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you have access to the, when the bonuses are given who gets bonuses and who authorizes bonus?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Predicate foundation
to bonus. What I'm hearing is overtime not bonus, Your Honor.

MR. HOLT: She said he complained about her bonus.

THE COURT: Question to the witness is about a
bonus.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q And so you get a bonus at the end of the year?
A Yes.
Q And he thought you got more than anyone else?
A Yes. He was mention the employee bonus, he mention my paycheck, my everything.

Q And do you see who gets the bonuses because of your access to the financial information?

A Well, I keep the list but they decide. I keep the list every year and they -- each manager, the owner decides what they give.

Q Do you know which manager decided to give you more than the other people?

A Well, when I give copies to the -- also I give it to Yusuf Yusuf a copy, and I give it to Mufeed too and Yusuf reviews the list and he might make some changes and give it to me to give it to Mufeed.

Q Who made the changes?
A Yusuf makes some changes. He puts -- in the office another young girl, Lavena and Mary he give a raise to 250 .

Q That's what Yusuf Yusuf did?
A Yes.
Q And that's the bonus that Mr. Fathi Yusuf was
complaining about?
A Yes, the bonus.

Q You were told to go downstairs and punch out, had you done that before?

A No year I never punch.
Q Okay. And then coming back to after this conversation that you had, did there come a point where Fathi Yusuf told you that you were terminated?

A Well, he said me and my kids we decide to let you go. We decide to let you go. If you going to labor or unemployment I'm going to talk to them about the time, the overtime you were doing, like you were stealing time so anybody could use you for like court or anything, he going to say about those.

Q Did you consider that to be a threat?
A Yes, it is.
Q Did you come back do work the next day?
A Yes, because I come back.

Q And why did you come back?
A Well, Mufeed told me --
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay.
THE COURT: That's not hearsay. Overruled.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Go ahead.
A Mufeed, my boss, tell me, no, Wadda, you have to
go back to work.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: Overruled.
THE WITNESS: You have to go back to work. You go back to work, so that's what I did.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q So you did go back to work?
A I go back to work.
Q And what happened when you went back?
A Well, I was kind of scared because imagine I just went to work, Mufeed was there too, and he came and he start screaming to me, and --

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, hearsay.
THE COURT: Don't tell us what Mr. Mufeed said to you.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Did you came back to work?
A Yes, I came back to work. Mufeed was in the store and I was working in the office when Mr. Yusuf come.

Q And when you saw Mr. Yusuf, you talking about Fathi?

A He said, I fire you. What you doing here? And, you need to go. And he said he going to call the police.

Q And what did you tell him?
A Well, I told him Mufeed and Waleed told me to
come back.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: Overruled.

BY MR. HOLT
Q And so what happened?
A No, nothing. We was there, they called the police and it was a lot of people there. And it was a lot of screaming and it was a hard situation for me. There -I working there so many years, I consider them my family and both sides I love them. I really -- and, very difficult.

Q Did you hear Mr. Yusuf say anything about closing the store?

A Yes, he said he prefer to close the store until we stay there.

Q And did you hear him say anything about Mufeed, about whether he was discharged?

A He fired Mufeed too. And Waleed, he fired him too.

Q And did the police eventually arrive?
A Yes.
Q And since that time have you felt like you're working without any harassment or do you feel continually harassed?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.

THE COURT: Overruled.
THE WITNESS: It's hard working. You feel that they don't want you there, like you're doing -- they don't like you there so it's kind of hard working in a place.

Used to be everybody like a family. We used to work together more time and it's hard now, the situation.

MR. HOLT: No other questions.
THE COURT: Cross-examination.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Good afternoon, ma'am.
A Good afternoon.
Q Ma'am, I'm going to ask you a bunch of questions, if you don't understand a question, I go too fast, I'm not loud enough, just let me know and I'll repeat the question or rephrase; do you understand, okay?

A (No response.)
Q You have to say yes.
A Oh, yes. Okay.
Q Ma'am, let's talk about what you actually do at that store, first let's talk about your background, did you graduate high school?

A Yes, in Santa Domingo. I'm from the Dominican

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Republic.
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Q Did you go to college?

A I been three years in college.

Q Do you have a degree yet?
A No, I didn't finish.
Q You didn't finish?

A No, I came here, St. Croix.

Q You talk about some of your duties in the
office.

A Uh-hum.

Q You talk about payroll checks and interest rates? That's a yes?

A Yes.

Q And that's -- you're familiar with the term
accounting?

A Yes.

Q You're familiar with that term accounting. And have you ever taken any accounting classes or anything like that?

A No.

Q So if I asked you what a debit was, do you know what a debit is? You ever heard that term?

A A debit is a minus.

Q What about a credit, what's a credit?

A It's a plus.

Q Have you ever heard of the generally accepted accounting principals, you ever heard that term before?

A (Witness shakes head.)
Q Never heard that term?
A No, sir.
Q Are you familiar with the computer system at St. Croix Plaza Extra?

A The computer, yes, sir, Plaza Extra computer.
Q And you have access to that computer system, right?

A Yes.
Q And you ever heard of a software known as Peachtree?

A Yes.
Q Do you know how --
A That's what we work on.
Q That' what you work on?
A Um-hum.
Q And are you familiar with Peachtree?
A Yes.
Q And on a daily basis do you use Peachtree?
A Yes, sir.
Q And are you familiar with how every option in Peachtree works?

A Well, most of the options, yes.

Q Okay. You do? Okay.
A Most of the options.
Q And because -- and because of Peachtree, have you ever prepared financial statements? Let me ask you, do you know what a financial statement is?

A Go through the statement, that's what you mean?
Q Let me be real specific, do you know what a income statement is?

A The deposit, the income.
Q No, not deposit, an income. Do you know what an income statement is? It's okay if you don't. You never heard that term before?

A No, sir.
Q Okay. What about a statement of cash flow, have you ever heard of that? That sound familiar to you?

A The statement?
Q A statement of cash flow?

A No, sir.
Q Okay.
A We receive a statement but I don't know which one you're talking about.

Q You're an hourly employee, correct?
A Yes.
Q And how much do you get paid an hour?
A Right now, 12.

Q $\$ 12$ an hour. And if you work more that 40 hours
a week you get paid overtime?

A Yes.

Q That's time and a half?

A Yes, sir.
Q Over the last year -- over the last year, are your time entries correct?

A Yes. Coming in the morning and $I$ leave in the afternoon, sometimes it's dark. All of the time $I$ never miss a day, never be sick.

Q Sure, everyone gets sick or maybe you have a vacation day. You take vacations?

A Not every year. Sometimes two, three years.
Q Do you take Christmas off?

A No. Only Christmas and Thanksgiving and Good Friday.

Q You do not work?

A No.

Q Okay. Ma'am, Thanksgiving of 2012, does your time card reflect --

A We get paid eight hours for Thanksgiving.
Q You get paid eight hours, so you get a paid holiday?

A Yes.

Q But you don't get paid for overtime on

Thanksgiving?
A No, that was a mistake entering the time.
Q I understand, ma'am. Now let me be clear, you agree with me you --

A It's 8 hours.
Q -- don't get paid unless you go in and actually work, correct?

A But the holiday, Thanksgiving, we get paid eight hours.

Q But overtime?
A No overtime that day.
Q Thanksgiving of 2012 your time sheet reflected that you worked for twelve hours, correct?

A Yes, that was a mistake.
Q That was a mistake.
A That was a mistake entering the time. It was entered and stuff in the office.

Q Okay. Now, you said you've work there for 15 years?

A Yes.
Q And so you're -- you know Fathi Yusuf well?
You've seen him around?

A Yes.
Q And you know -- since Fathi Yusuf is the owner he makes a lot of important decisions, right?

A Yes.
Q And he makes some big decisions because he owns the place, right?

A Yes.
MR. DiRUZZO: Okay. Yield the witness.
THE COURT: Redirect.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Do you also understand that the Hamed family
also owns the store?
A Yes.
Q And you were asked about you getting paid while you're in the store, but when you're outside the store running the errands and banking, do you also get paid for that?

A Yes.
Q Thank you.
MR. DiRUZZO: No recross.
THE COURT: Okay. That's a good time to take a break.

Thank you, Ms. Charriez.
We'll be back in 20 minutes.
(Recess at 3:00 p.m. until 3:20 p.m.)
MR. HOLT: We call Mohammed Hamed.
THE COURT: Let's allow Mr. Hamed to take the
oath sitting.
Thereupon,
MOHAMMED HAMED,
having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

THE COURT: Good afternoon.
THE WITNESS: Good afternoon, sir.
DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Good afternoon?
A Good afternoon.
Q Can you state your name for the record, please.
A Mohammed Hamed.
Q And, Mr. Hamed before you came to the Virgin Islands, can you tell me where you used to live?

A I used to work in Kuwait before I come into the Virgin Islands.

Q And when you were there what did you -- what kind of business did you have?

A I used to work in operator for the -- they have a system for 15 million gallon, we pull the water from it with the machine and we send it to the city, and I working day and night shift.

Q And did there come a time that you came to the Virgin Islands?

A I came to the Virgin Islands in 14 September, 1973.

Q And why did you come to the Virgin Islands?
A I coming to look for -- because my brother knew Mr. Yusuf his wife, sister to my wife, and they ask her if you want to come into America. And she give her the certificate.

And without I know, after they coming to America, Mr. Yusuf and his family, they went to the immigration and they did the certificate. They prove it. And they call us and they tell you to go embassy and fix your paper in there.

Q All right. When you say Mr. Yusuf, are you talking about Fathi Yusuf?

A Fathi Yusuf, yes.
Q Okay. And when you moved to St. Croix, where did you live?

A In Mr. Fathi Yusuf house. Five days.
Q And then did you eventually move somewhere else on St. Croix?

A When I came to St. Croix straight I went to his house and I stayed five days. After five days I rent a house in Whim, $\$ 280$.

Q And did you -- did there come a time that you started to work on St. Croix?

A Yes, I come to work.
Q And what work did you do?
A I used to work salesman. Sell clothes from
house to house.
Q And at some point in time did you open a grocery store?

A After I work, and then salesman for three years and make a little bit money where I get some money with me and I open a little grocery Carlton Grocery.

Q And did you ever have more than one grocery store?

A Yes, sir. I have a next one in -- Glynn.
Q And did there come a time that you spoke with Mr. Yusuf about going into business with him?

A Mr. Yusuf he was busy building the business, shopping center.

Q And tell me how you got involved with him?
A And he's my brother family. He's from my village. Me and he together. Neighbor in the -- back in West Bank and we know him. We know his family, his father, his mother and his close -- his sister with -- my cousin got married with his sister.

Q Okay. And did there come a time that you tried to help him with the shopping center?

A Many times.

Q Can you tell the court about that.
A Because he need money that time. His brother, he start to feed him a little money from Kuwait, and one time it stop. His brother. And the money, he needs money. One time he tell me, Hamed I owe the people money, I have to pay tomorrow and I don't have it.

I tell him, don't worry. I have the money. I give it to your wife. I went for your house, I can find you. We find him in the shopping center and his wife she tell me it's my --

MR. DAVID: Objection, hearsay.
MR. HOLT: We don't need to hear that.
THE COURT: Okay, that's sustained.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q So did you give him the money?
A I give him the money and he count it. He count the money, \$14,000. And he tell me, okay, that's good. 12,000 I will cover what I owe, 2,000 I'm going to make it for the family to buy grocery thing.

Q Okay. And did there come a time that you gave him more money?

A I give him CD, $\$ 20,000$ in Tortola it was. I bought it. I signed it for him in Nova Scotia and he got it. And the 20,000, I won lottery one time in 19 -- I don't know what year. I give him 20,000.

And I give him 10,000 from where $I$ working in the grocery where $I$ buy. I went to he and I give him, this is what $I$ have right now, use it. He say, I'm going to charge, put it in interest. I tell him, no, I don't want no interest, you is my brother-in-law before we get a bad for business and is the supermarket.

After that he coming and tell me look, man, you try to help me, thank you for that. We're going to open supermarkets over there and you're going to be my partner. I tell him, well, they have a friend of mine, Arab, I don't want to say his name, and I believe they know his name. Mr. Yusuf they know him. He tell me I'm going to work with you.

Mr. Yusuf after he tell me -- before him and I say, okay, I'm going with the man in my village, but $I$ going with the next guy. And I start with Mr. Yusuf.

We get a money from Banco Popular, \$1 million. After they give us $\$ 1$ million it stop. They don't want to give us money. We start to look a next bank maybe we get the loan. We got it from next bank $\$ 2$ million and a half. We give the Banco Popular what we owe, and the rest we buy the stuff for the supermarket.

Q Okay.

A And we open the store without dairy. No dairy in the Plaza Extra. Who give us, lent us the money? The
man with the furniture, his name is Baker. And they went to buy the cheese and all kind of thing, and they fill it up.

Q Now, what happened to the store in Carlton and the store in Glynn?

A I sold it.

Q And what did you do with the money?

A Mr. Yusuf he tell me if you be here in the business supermarket you cannot have a next business of your own, you have to be completely work in the Plaza Extra. Nothing else you can do about it. And I sell the market and I sell Carlton Grocery.

Q And what did you do with the money from the sale?

A I put it with the money $I$ pay for Mr. Yusuf.

Q Okay. And what was your understanding of your relationship with Mr. Yusuf?

A I'm his partner. We own 50 and he own 50 in the winning or loss.

Q And that's 50 percent of the Plaza Supermarket?
A What that?

Q 50 percent of what?

A 50 percent of the supermarket.
Q Okay. Now, did your sons start to work in the supermarket?

A Yes, sir.

Q And who is your oldest son? Who is your oldest son?

A Mr. Yusuf he is in charge for everybody.
Q What is your oldest son's name? Who is your oldest son?

A My oldest son is Waleed Hamed.
Q And did there come a time that you stopped working in the business every day?

A No.
Q Okay. Tell me what you did in the business?
A He used to work with me and in the supermarket, without payment before we open. They build a beam and they have somebody from St. Lucia, Charlie, he used to work, and he will help him hold the beam with him until 12 o'clock in the night.

Q Okay. After a while did you get the supermarket open?

A After the work in the supermarket.
Q Okay.
A And Mr. Yusuf tell me, you is my partner, not your son. Your son employees, the two, 4.65 an hour, and I like any employees. I tell him I'm not saying nothing, you is my partner. Whatever you say I agree with you.

Q Okay.

A Even my son or anybody.
Q All right. And then as you got older, did there come a time that you stopped working in the store?

A No.

Q You still work there today?

A I never stop working in the store.

Q Okay.

A 'Till we get burn up the store. That time everything is gone. I lose everything.

Q Now, did you eventually go back to live in

Jordan?

A I what?

Q Did you go back to live in Jordan?

A No, sir.

Q You stayed here?

A I stay here. I'm stay here fighting to build back.

Q And did there come a time that you gave waleed your son, a power of attorney for you?

A Yes, sir, after $I$ get retired.

Q And --

A I give him power of attorney because I was sick. I say let me give the boy a power of attorney before we get -- maybe I die, maybe not, it's -- God knows. And I made the power of attorney. I give to him.

Q Those are all the questions I have. THE COURT: Okay.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. DAVID:
Q Good afternoon, Mr. Hamed.
A Good afternoon.
Q Sir, while you were testifying I was writing some things down, I want to make sure I understood what you said, okay?

A Please, take it easy. Sometime I don't hear you too good.

Q Yes, sir. I will try to talk loud enough and slow enough so you can hear me; is that fair?

A Yeah. Go ahead.
Q You testified that you initially gave Fathi Yusuf $\$ 14,000$; do you remember that?

A $\quad 14,000$ ?

Q Yes.
A Yes, sir.
Q And that -- and then --
A And that time $I$ bring to him in the socks. You know, the socks.

Q Yes, sir.
A I put it inside the socks. Me and my wife went to her sister, his wife, to Mr. Yusuf.

Q Okay. And --
A And I asked her for -- where is Fathi tell me he is in the shopping center. He was building the shopping center.

Q Okay.
A And she told me, please, go and get him from the shopping center.

Q Okay.
A To the house here.
Q I'm going to -- I'm going to try to stay
focused. Let me ask you another question?
A I went to shopping center and I find Mr. Yusuf there. I tell him, let's go home, take a cup of coffee. He said, Hamed, I owe the people money, I don't know how I going to pay him tomorrow. I told him, look, the money, I have in your house. You going to pay him and more you have. He said where? I said, in your house by your wife. Let's go home.

He went drive his car and I go behind him to the house, drink the coffee. And he get the socks and open it and start to check. He tell me how much? I tell him, you check it. He check it. He tell me 14,000.

Q Okay.
A I tell him what I save and my grocery in my business, that's what I have.

Q Okay.
A And I promise you any time I'm going to save 5,000, 10,000 whatever, I will bring it to you because it's his brother used to send him back up when he build it.

Q Okay. The next amount of money that you gave him was a $C D$ for $\$ 20,000$; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And then --

A I gave him more than one time.
Q And then the next time was $\$ 10,000$ is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And then you sold your store at carlton and at Glynn? You sold your two stores?

A I used what?
Q You sold your two stores, correct?

A Yes.

Q How much money did you give to Mr. Yusuf Fathi Yusuf from that store?

A I give him whatever he asked me. \$200,000.
Q Do you recall that it was exactly $\$ 200,000$ ?
A Yes, sir.

Q Now, you said something about a million dollars from Banco Popular, was that a loan?

A It's a loan he took from the bank.
Q Okay.
A I don't have no name. I told him -- he tell me the bank they don't want nobody, so they have a partner with the supermarket.

Q Okay.
MR. HARTMANN: I'm sorry, let him answer.
MR. DAVID: I'm letting him answer, sir.
I'm sorry, Judge, are we getting one lawyer here or two?

MR. HARTMANN: I'm sorry.
MR. HOLT: But he needs to let him finish.

MR. DAVID: I apologize to the Court and to counsel, and to the witness, sir.

THE COURT: That's fine.
BY MR. DAVID:
Q Please continue, sir.
A Yeah, They give us one million and They stop. He come -- Fathi come to me and tell me, you know, how much, Hamed we're going to be interest for that? I tell him, no, you can take care of the office and I'm in the warehouse I'm in charge in the warehouse so it's even.

He said $\$ 16,000$ a month, you pay 8 . I tell him, why not? I'm work with you even if I getting winner or I get lose.

Q Okay.
A With sailboat. He said, okay, I want to know, you know that. I tell him, okay, I know that.

Q Are you still working at the stores?
A Long time I retired.
Q Okay. Was there another loan for two and a half million dollars?

A A what?
Q Was there another loan for two and a half million dollars?

A Yes.
Q From whom?

A From the Bank of the Virgin Islands, Nova Scotia, and then the other side, what you call it? I forget the name.

Q Did you sign the loan documents?
A I'm not sign nothing.
Q So on the million-dollar loan that we talked about you're not signed either?

A Fathi is the one, he sign. Mr. Yusuf the one he sign with the loan, the first one and the second one.

Q Okay. Sir, did you sign an affidavit in this case?

A For who?
Q Did you -- Do you know what an affidavit is,
sir?
A Affidavit I give my son.
Q What for? Why did you give your son an
affidavit?
A Why?
Q Yes, sir.
A Well, I forget at that time what he told me.
And he tell me sign the paper. He wants me, I sign it. I give to him.

Q Did you read the paper before you signed it?
A He give me the paper.
Q Okay. Did you read the paper before you signed it?

A I'm not read English, I tell you the truth. MR. DAVID: I'm going to show him his affidavit.

MR. HOLT: Sure.
BY MR. DAVID:
Q Okay. Sir, have you ever seen that piece of paper before?

A Yes.
Q What is that?
A That's my signature in there.
Q Do you know what the letters, the words on the paper say?

A Well, I need somebody to read it and they explain to me in Arabic.

Q You can't read the words on that piece of paper?
A I can't read it.
Q Okay. Did you read it before you signed it? Before you wrote your name on it --

A I tell me son -- I believe what they have in
there. He explain to me and I forget what he told me.
Q Okay. That's all I have.
You can take that back.
Fathi Yusuf is your partner?
A Yes.

Q Is Fathi Yusuf partners with Waleed?
A Ha?
Q Is Fathi Yusuf partners with Waleed, your son Waleed?

A No. But he is my partner. I, not my son.
Q Your other sons are not partners with Fathi Yusuf, correct?

A Yes. I'm his partner, not my son.
Q And if Mr. -- If Fathi Yusuf has something to talk to you about the partnership, he is to talk to you, correct?

A Yes.
Q And nobody else?

A Nobody else. If I die or I -- after I give my son the power of attorney, yes, he could because I'm not working. I getting old. I can't do nothing.

Q How long is your partnership with Mr. Yusuf supposed to last? When does it end?

A Forever. We start with Mr. Yusuf with the supermarket and we make money. He make money and I make money, we stay together forever.

MR. DAVID: Okay. One moment, Your Honor, I maybe done.
(Discussion off the record.)
BY MR. DAVID:

Q Sir, have you ever signed any -- strike that.
Are you aware that there is a lease?
A I don't know. I didn't hear you.
Q Is there a lease for the St. Thomas store?
A Lease?

Q Lease.
A To St. Thomas store?
Q Yes, sir.
A Mr. Fathi the one. He in charge for it.
Q What other stores is Mr. Fathi in charge of?
A For all the three store.

Q That's all I have, sir. Thank you.
A You're welcome.

MR. HOLT: No other questions. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Hamed, you may stand down.

MR. HOLT: We call Mahar Yusuf.
Thereupon,
MAHAR FATHI YUSUF,
having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Can you state your name for the record, please.

A Mahar Fathi Yusuf.
Q Where do you reside?
A $\quad$ 306-A Judith's Fancy.
Q And where do you work?
A Plaza Extra.

Q And is there a particular store you work in?
A Plaza Extra West.
Q And is there a person in the Hamed family that you work with there?

A Yes.

Q And who is that?
A Hisham Hamed.
Q Are you also the president of United

Corporation?
A Correct.

MR. HOLT: Can I have the witness shown Exhibit Number 19. I'm sorry, I got it here.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Is this an affidavit that you signed in this case?

A Yes.

Q And that's your signature on the last page?
A Yes.
Q Okay. And looking at Paragraph 17 --
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, Your Honor. Counsel is
trying to impeach his own witness.
MR. HOLT: No, I'm not. I'm on direct
testimony.
THE COURT: He can ask the question.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q You made a statement that, "United has always charged rent for the use of the part of its retail premises at the Plaza Extra Supermarket operations on St. Croix Sion Farm do you see that?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And you -- then the next sentence you said, "Mohammad Hamed has always understood that United would always charge for the use of the retail space," is
that correct?
A Yes.
Q So Mohammad Hamed is the tenant in the store?
A No.
Q Who's the tenant?
A Fathi Yusuf.
Q Fathi Yusuf or Fathi Yusuf and Mohammad Hamed?
A Fathi Yusuf.

Q And who's the landlord?
A United Corporation.
MR. HOLT: Can I have the witness shown Group Exhibit 7.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q This is a group exhibit that's already been admitted into evidence and identified, have you seen these documents before?

A Yes.

Q And these are letters from United Corporation to Mohammad Hamed?

A Correct.
Q And some of them say Mohammad Hamed, Plaza Extra Supermarkets?

A Correct.
Q Why are you sending Mohammad Hamed rent increase notices or eviction notice if Fathi Yusuf owns the store?

A Fathi Yusuf owns the store.

Q Why are you sending the notices to Mohammed
Hamed?

A Because Mohammad Hamed has a business agreement.
Q So he does have a business agreement?
A He does have a business agreement.
Q To operate the store?
A To operate the store.
Q And you understand the agreement is to share the profits 50/50?

A Yes.
Q And you're still sending these letters to Mr. Hamed in 2012 and 2013, so I take it that business agreement is still in place?

A As far as I know.
Q Okay. And then you also said that, "It was always understood that United would charge the Yusuf retail space, and would deduct the value of such rent in arriving at the net profits of the Plaza Extra stores."

What do you mean by that?
A Where is that?
Q The last part of paragraph 7.
A Okay. Yes, that's correct.
Q Just explain to me what you mean?
A That we do charge the store the rent.

Q Okay. And so when we talk about the profits that Mr. Fathi Yusuf and your father would share, we're talking about the net profits, not the gross profits; is that correct?

A The net profits, yes.
Q And part of the net profits is taking the rent out of gross profits; is that correct?

A Repeat that again.
Q Well, part of getting to the net profits is you've got to take the rent out?

A Yes.
Q No other questions.
THE COURT: Any cross?
MR. DiRUZZO: Yes, Your Honor.
CROSS-EXAMINATION/DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Mr. Yusuf, I'm going to ask you a few questions. If you don't understand the question, if I go too fast, just let me know and I'll either repeat or rephrase the question.

You are the president of United Corporation, correct?

A Correct.
Q And in your role as president of United Corporation you have custody of the books of United

Corporation?
A Yes.

Q And included in those books of United
Corporation would include the Articles of Incorporation of United Corporation?

A I have a copy of it.
(Defendants' Exhibit 7 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, I'm showing you a document that's been marked as Defense Exhibit 7, please take a look at this document, and once you're done reviewing the document, let me know.

A Yes.
Q And is this the Articles of Incorporation for United Corporation, the defendant in this case?

A Yes.

Q And is United Corporation a Virgin Islands entity formed under the laws of the Virgin Islands?

A Yes.
Q And is United Corporation a -- still a, as you sit here today, a legal entity?

A Yes.

MR. DiRUZZO: And defense moves Exhibit 7 into evidence.

MR. HOLT: No objection.
THE COURT: Defendant's Exhibit 7 is admitted.
(Defendants' Exhibit 7 received into evidence.)
MR. DiRUZZO: May I approach, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Yes.
Marshal.
MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I don't know what he's doing, but this is well beyond the scope. This is a lease in St. Thomas, I didn't ask him any questions about --

THE COURT: Well, you did ask --
MR. HOLT: You know what, they can call him in their own case so they might as well do it now. No problem.
(Defendants' Exhibit 8 marked for identification.)

BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, I'm handing you what's Defense Exhibit 8. Have you seen this document before, sir?

A What is that?
Q Have you seen this document before?
A Yes.

Q And what is this document?

A It's a lease for St. Thomas, Tutu Park Mall.
For the Plaza Extra St. Thomas.

Q And does the document reflect who executed this lease on behalf of United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra for it's lease in St. Thomas, Tutu Park Mall?

A Yes.
Q And those persons would be?
A The president.
Q And who was the president at the time this lease was executed?

A I was.
Q And did anyone else execute?
A Fathi Yusuf, which is my father.
Q What role did Fathi Yusuf execute this document?

A Secretary and treasurer.
Q Sir, I want to direct your attention to Page 52 of this document. Number 52. There's also -- on the bottom right-hand side is also bates number FY126970?

A Yes.

Q Sir, that portion of this document, what is that?

A That's a legal binding signature.
Q And then flip to the next page on the bottom of Page 53, what is that?

A Oh, the guarantee.
Q Sir, who executed this guarantee?
A My father.

Q And just so the record is clear, that's Fathi Yusuf?

A Fathi Yusuf yes.
Q Sir, has Mohammad Hamed ever executed a personal guarantee in respect to United Corporation?

A No.
Q Has Mohammad Hamed ever executed a personal guarantee in respect to United Corporation doing business as Plaza Extra?

A Never did.
Okay. Move Defense Exhibit 8 into evidence.
MR. HOLT: No objections.
THE COURT: Hence Exhibit 8 is admitted.
(Defendants' Exhibit 8 received into evidence.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, I'm going to shift gears for a second and talk about your role with respect to your father, not as president of the United Corporation but just you as a son.

Can you tell the Court or describe the construction of the United Shopping Center where currently Plaza Extra Sion Farm sits.

Do you have personal knowledge of the construction of the shopping center?

A Yes, of course.
Q And how old were you at the time when the United

Shopping Center was being built?
A Probably 13. 13, 14.
Q Were you personally involved in the shopping
center?
A Yes.
Q In what matter?
A Contractor. Anything that needs to be done.
Q And when that store was going up how long did it take for the shopping center to be completed?

A Shopping center, probably -- I don't recall how many years but it was completed in 1983.

Q Okay. And at the time, in 1983, do you remember the stores that leased space from United Shopping Center? What the stores were?

A Yes.
Q And to the best of your recollection, what were those stores?

A It was retail spaces.
Q Okay. And in some point in time did a plaza Extra open in that -- at that location?

A Yes.
Q And when was that?

A 1986.

Q And, so the Court's aware, what was the duration between when the United Shopping Center was operational
and when Plaza Extra first opened it's stores at that shopping center?

A About three years.

Q Now, let's talk about the rent. What is the current structure between United Corporation and the Plaza Extra store in respect to the rent?

A For the Plaza Extra store?

Q Yes, the Plaza Extra store.

A Well, Mohammad Hamed was in agreement with my father to run the east store, Plaza Extra Sion Farm and that store was supposed to pay the rent. I'm not sure what the figures were on the rent.

Q Now, at some point -- There's been testimony that the store burnt down in a fire?

A Yes.

Q Can you estimate approximately when that was?

A Give or take a day, January 6, 1990.

Q Was the store insured?

A Yes.

Q Who was the named beneficiary, the policy holder of that insurance?

A United Corporation.

Q Was Mohammad Hamed ever listed as beneficiary of that insurance policy?

A No.

Q Has Mohammad Hamed ever exercised any management decision in respect to United Corporation, doing business as Plaza Extra?

A No.
Q Sir, I'm going to turn your attention to the criminal case; you're familiar with that criminal case?

A Yes.

Q And was United Corporation d/b/a Plaza Extra indicted in that criminal case?

A Yes.
Q And was Mohammad Hamed ever indicted in that case?

A No.

Q At any point in time did Mohammad Hamed or a representative of Mohammad Hamed come forward and assert partnership interest in Plaza Extra or United Corporation during that criminal case?

A No.

Q Sir, you were taken into custody in respect to that criminal case?

A Yes.
Q And was your father Fathi Yusuf?

A Yes.

Q And was Waleed Hamed?
A Yes.

Q And did Mohammad Hamed was he ever taken into custody in respect to that case?

A No.
Q Where was Mohammad Hamed when you were taken into custody, if you know?

A I believe he was in the middle east.
Q Sir, in respect to that case, did you execute a plea agreement on behalf of the United Corporation to resolve the ongoing criminal case?

A Yes, I did.
Q And, sir, are you familiar with the terms of that plea agreement?

A Not off my head, no.
Q If you saw that, would it refresh your recollection?

A Yes.
MR. DiRUZZO: If the defense witness can be
shown Defense Exhibit 2.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, turning your attention to page 2, part A.
A Yes, sir.

Q The plea agreement involves a 2001 corporate income tax return of former 1120-S?

A Yes.

Q And that 2001 income tax return $1120-\mathrm{S}$ that's the subject of the plea agreement, did that include the operation of Plaza Extra grocery stores?

A Yes.
Q Sir, I'm going to turn your attention to Page 4, under Section 3, Paragraph 3.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, just for the record I'm going to let this continue. I just want to make sure this is their case, when it's my turn it's now my cross.

THE COURT: That's understood.
MR. DiRUZZO: That's fine, Your Honor.
THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Paragraph 3, it's referring to the tax year 1996 through 2012, it discusses restitution.

Was restitution actually paid to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue?

A Yes.
Q And do you recall, off the top of your head, do you remember that amount?

A I believe it's eleven million.

Q Okay. Sir, did -- If the witness can be shown Exhibit Number 4.

Sir, turn your attention to the last page. Is
that your signature there?
A Yes, sir.

Q And what capacity did you sign?

A As the president of United Corporation.

Q And this closing agreement, does this tie into or reflect the restitution penalty that we just talked about on page 4 of the plea agreement?

A Yes.

Q And United Corporation for those years paid tax as a Corporation to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue?

A Yes.

Q Now, sir, pursuant to the plea agreement, are there certain conditions that United is going to have to comply with?

A Yes.

Q And turn your attention to the bottom of Page 7 . The plea agreement requires that there's a one-year term of probation and that United Corporation.

A Hold on. Page 7. Where?
Q Page - Exhibit 2.

A Okay. Yes.

Q That United Corporation is going to have a one-year term of probation?

A Yes.

Q And it's going to be monitored by an independent third party certified public accounting firm?

A Correct.
Q Sir, in respect to the upcoming monitoring by an independent certified public accounting firm, did United Corporation take any steps to be in compliance with its plea agreement?

A Yes.
Q Such as?
A I hired a consultant as an accountant.
Q And that consultant's name for the record?
A John Gaffney.
Q And did United Corporation hire any other staffer in order to make sure that it was compliant with the plea agreement?

A No, just John Gaffney.
Q Okay. Is John Gaffney currently working for United Corporation?

A Yes.
Q And, briefly, what is he doing?
A He's taking the -- our accounting system and organizing everything so that we can be in compliance with the plea agreement, and foreseeing that we have a better accounting system.

Q Well, right now I'm talking about your
accounting system; how would you qualify this accounting system?

A How it runs? How is it going?

Q How is it going right now?

A I can ask for numbers and I can see what my numbers are.

Q And what would you expect the improvements to be after Mr. Gaffney gets done doing what he was hired to do?

A It should be a big improvement.

Q Give some examples to the Court.
A Have financial statements on hand any time you need it.

Q Okay. In respect to the plea agreement, United Corporation also has to develop an effective compliance and ethics program?

A Yes.

Q And is that part of what Mr. Gaffney is also attempting to put in place?

A Yes.

Q Sir, has United Corporation d/b/a Plaza Extra ever filed a partnership income tax return?

A Never.

Q Has any of the income tax filings of United Corporation ever reflected Mohammad Hamed as an owner of United Corporation?

A No.
Q There's been some discussion about the need or the current way that United Corporation operates with two checks -- two signatures on a check, was that always the case?

A No.

Q When did it change and why?
A In 2011, I think about August or September, my father wanted more control. Fathi wanted more control on the checks so he changed it from one single signature to two signatures.

Q Let me turn your attention to the current operations of Plaza Extra. Are any of the Plaza Extra stores at the moment under a threat of closing down?

A No.
Q Are any of them under the threat of reduced operations?

A No.

Q Have you ever witnessed your father, Fathi Yusuf, make any threats of physical harm to any Hamed family members?

A Never.

Q Have you ever witnessed Fathi Yusuf blocking payments to vendors?

A No.

Q Are the vendors being paid in the normal course of business?

A Yes.
Q Is the inventory being ordered in the normal course of business?

A Yes.

Q Have the day-to-day business operations changed in any material way?

A No.
Q Sir, let's talk about the money that's in the bank. How many bank accounts does United Corporation d/b/a Plaza Extra have?

A Eleven. I think it's eleven.
(Defendants' Exhibit 9 marked for
identification.)
MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, I would like the
witness to be shown Defense Exhibit 9.

THE COURT: Thank you, marshal.
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, you've been shown a document that's been marked Defense Exhibit 9; do you recognize that document?

A Yes.

Q How do you recognize that document?
A By securities that we have.
Q And just to be clear, what -- Describe for the
record what is this document?

A It's the investment companies and security, Banco securities that we have for United Corporation.

Q And what's the amount here that's listed that United Corporation has in the bank?

A In the investment company $43,914,260.04$.

Q And are these accounts ones that were subject to the restraining order in the ongoing federal criminal case?

A Yes.

Q And what about other accounts, does United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra have other bank accounts?

A Yes.

Q And if you can estimate, do you have any idea what the total amount is in those other bank accounts.

Let's break it down. Do you have any by store? Let's talk about Plaza west. Plaza west has an operating account?

A Yes.

Q Do you have any idea how much is in there?

A 1.7. 1.6.

Q What about Plaza east?

A One point -- at least almost 2 million.
Q And what about St. Thomas?

A St. Thomas, it's in the hundred thousands.

Q Okay. Does Plaza Extra or United Corporation doing business as Plaza Extra is United Corporation under any liquidity problems?

A Not with the stock that we have.
Q Sir, I'm going to turn your attention to the -there were certain discussions about the Hamed family not being able to have access to these bank accounts.

A They have full access.
Q And in what manner do they have full access? And when you say "full access", what exactly do you mean by "full access"?

A Just like any one of us have. They have viewing access.

Q And how do they have viewing access?
A They can get online and view the accounts any time they want to.
(Defendants' Exhibit 10 marked for

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identification.)
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BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, you're being shown what's Exhibit 10.
THE COURT: Has Mr. Holt seen it?
MR. HOLT: Yes, I have it. No objection. Are
you talking about number 10 ?
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, do you recognize this document?

A Yes, I do.
Q What is it?

A It's a list of people that their name's on here that has access, online access.

Q So -- And the -- could you read it into the record the actual names of these individuals that have online access to the Scotia bank accounts?

A Yes. Hisham Hamed. Mahar Yusuf. Margaret -- I don't know how to say her name -- Soeffing. Myra

Senhouse. Wadda Charriez, Waheed Hamed. Yusuf Yusuf.
Q Now, sir, this document that's in front of you Exhibit 10, is this document accurate and up to date.

In other words, did these people still have actual access to view these accounts online?

A Yes.
Q Okay.
A That's only in one bank account. One branch, sorry.
(Defendants' Exhibit 11 marked for
identification.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:
Q Sir, you have been shown Defense Exhibit 11. Sir, what is that document?

A Pictures of the west store.
Q Do you know who took that picture?

A I did.
Q When?

A Last night.
Q And what do those pictures reflect? What's in the pictures?

A Grocery store shelving and products on the shelves.

Q And do the pictures -- And does the Plaza Extra west store have sufficient inventory to service it's customers?

A Yes, it does.
Q And does the Plaza Extra west store have inventory in the back in order to ensure that --

A Excuse me, I have three copies of each.
THE COURT: Supposed to be three photographs?
MR. DiRUZZO: I screwed up, Your Honor. One
moment, Your Honor.
(Discussion off the record.)

THE COURT: That's Exhibit 11, correct?
MR. DiRUZZO: Correct.
THE COURT: And how many photos?
MR. DiRUZZO: Four. Two in the front, two in
the back.
THE COURT: Okay.
THE WITNESS: I have four. I wanted to talk
about the freezers.
BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q We'll get to that. Refer to Defense Exhibit 11, do these pictures accurately reflect the state of the Plaza Extra west store in respect to inventory?

A Yes.
Q As we sit here today, or as you sit here today?
A Yes.
Q And what about the freezers that you just talked about, is there sufficient inventory in the freezes to service the customer?

A Yes.

Q Now, sir, let's talk about the payables. As president of United Corporation do you have knowledge of the payables of the three grocery stores?

A In some capacity, yes.
Q Would you -- have you reviewed the accounting the accounting software or the accounting data in respect to these -- the three stores?

A I go through it with Gaffney and review steps.
Q And -- Well, let's talk about the St. Croix west store, does -- is there any ongoing problem with paying the vendors, getting the payables paid in a reasonable amount of time?

A I have no problem paying vendors.

## (Defendants' Exhibit 12 marked for

identification.)
BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q Okay. Sir, I'm going to show you defense Exhibit 12. It's a composite exhibit.

A Yes.

Q Sir, have you seen these documents before?
A Yes, I did.
Q And what is this composite exhibit, this three-part composite exhibit?

A This is our payables, vendor payables.
Q When you say "our" could you be specific, the vendor payroll for?

A Vendor payrolls for each store.
Q And --
MR. HOLT: Excuse me, payroll or payables?
MR. DiRUZZO: Payables.
BY MR. DiRUZZO:

Q And these accounts payables, and this document in front of you, is this kept in the normal course of business?

A Yes.

Q And as a role -- as president of the United Corporation, do you have custody, care and control of the business records of the United Corporation d/b/a Plaza

Extra?
A Yes.

Q Including these accounting for the payables?
A Yes. Every store. Each store has separate control.

Q And, now, let's talk about the one on -- about St. Thomas. Do these payables reflect any problem with the vendors getting paid out of the ordinary course?

A No.
Q And turning to the last page on the St. Thomas portion of Exhibit 12, could you tell the Court what the total amount of the outstanding payables for the St. Thomas Tutu store is?

A $547,624$.
Q And then would you tell the court what the amount that is aged between zero days and 30 days?

A $\quad 31,000$.
Q Zero and 30?
A Oh, zero and 30. 502.
Q Just to be clear, 502 of the 547,000 that are due to the vendors is between zero and 30 days old?

A Correct.

Q Now, sir, let's go to the west store.
A Yes.
Q What's the total amount of debt due to the
vendors at the west store?

A $\quad 341$.

Q And how much of the 341 is between zero and 30 ?

A 277 .

Q Okay. Do you have two wests there? Do you have west, east and $s t$. Thomas?

A I have west, St. Thomas and east.

Q Okay. Now, referring to -- Sir, is United Corporation doing business as Plaza Extra having any difficulty paying its vendors out of the normal course?

A Only one issue. Only one of my locations have that problem.

Q And what is the problem?

A Not paying vendors on time.

Q And how -- What is the basis, or how did that problem come about? Why do you have that problem?

A I have not checked with my management over there.

Q Okay. Which location would you be referring to, sir?

A Plaza east.

Q Now, there's been some discussion about $\$ 2.7$ million that was transferred out of the Plaza Extra account, could you discuss whether anyone in the Hamed family was aware of that transfer?

A Yes.
Q And who was aware?
A All the Hamed was aware.
Q Sir, are any of the Plaza Extra 600 employees in jeopardy of loosing their job?

A Not at all.
Q Is Plaza Extra in jeopardy of losing customers to competitors outside of normal market conditions?

A No.
Q Sir, if the Court were to enter a Temporary Restraining Order against the defendants in this case allowing the Hamed family to have equal management rights, would the operations of the Plaza Extra stores be materially harmed?

A Yes.
Q How so?
A By not keeping up with United -- the plea agreement with United, with the defense, with the federal case and putting United in good standings and making sure our accounting system is done right.

Q Sir, before you came here today did you have an opportunity to review the plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order filed back in September of last year?

A Yes, I did, but I don't remember it.
Q And you're aware of the allegations that were
made in that motion for a TRO, specifically that Plaza

Extra was in jeopardy of shutting down or closing
operations because of what was happening?

A No.

Q You're not aware of that?
A If I'm aware? Yes. Yes.

Q Did any of those concerns, did they ever come to pass?

A No.

Q Sir, who is Margie Soeffing?

A She used to be our full-time controller.

Q And at some time did she stop being a full-time controller?

A She gave us a two week -- a letter with - a resignation letter.

Q And when approximately was that?

A October, I believe.

Q Does -- is she still working for the company?

A Yes, she decided that she can stay on the weekends, on a saturday, and help us go through the year and maintain the st. Thomas store.

Q So she went from working full time to now just one day a week on the weekends?

A One day a week, yes.

Q Who is Ayman Al-Khaled?

A Ayman is a -- I'd said distant relative of me.
Q And how is he related to Fathi Yusuf?

A His niece daughter and he's the son like.
Q He's your, like second or third cousin?
A Third or fourth. Third or fourth.
Q And was Ayman hired?
A Yes, he was.

Q And what capacity was he hired?
A To become our controller.
Q And when was that?
A Sometime in October.
Q Was it after Margie Soeffing tendered her resignation and moved from full-time employment down to just one day a week?

A Yes.
Q And in respect to Mr. Gaffney, do you have any estimation about the savings to United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza, if any, that Mr. Gaffney's efforts are going to result in?

A I don't know the dollar figures, but he's -we're going the right path cleaning up things.

MR. DiRUZZO: Your Honor, defense would move, I
want to say Exhibit 12, 11, 10, 9, 8 and 7 into evidence.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. HOLT: No objection.
THE COURT: Okay. So that's --
MR. DiRUZZO: Tender the witness, Your Honor.
THE COURT: -- number 9. Number 8 was already
admitted. Number 10, number 11, number 12.
This is cross examination.
(Defendants' Exhibit 9, 10, 11 and 12 received into evidence.)

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Yes. You testified briefly about the fire burning down the supermarkets in what, 1990?

A 1990, yes.
Q Did it burn down any other part of the shopping center?

A Yes, it did.
Q And you talked about the insurance proceeds were paid to rebuild everything?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And where did the money come from that generated the premiums to pay for the insurance?

A From the grocery store.
Q Okay. And then you talked about a $\$ \$ 10$ million payment or $\$ 11$ million, you weren't quite sure, to the federal government's part of the plea agreement?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And where did that money come from?
A From the grocery store.
Q And then you talked about Mr. Gaffney and the work that he did, who's paying him?

A Grocery store.
Q And if he's working for the grocery store why won't he then make the information available to the Hamed family?

A It is available.
Q So if they ask for it they get it?
A Of course.

Q So when they testified they've asked for it and haven't gotten it that's incorrect?

A That's incorrect.
Q Now, in the plea agreement you're talking about trying to comply with the plea agreement, one of the requirements are to file final returns?

A Final returns, yes.
Q And, basically, since the federal government came in and seized everything, no tax returns have been filed, have they?

A Yes, we've been filing tax return.
Q Have you been filing income tax returns for any of the businesses since the federal government came in and
shut it down?

A Yes.

Q So the actual returns have been filed?

A Not the actual returns, estimated returns.

Q So estimated payments have been made?

A Right.

Q But the returns have not been filed?

A No, sorry.

Q And isn't it true that the reason the final returns haven't been filed is because there's an issue as to whether or not there should be partnership returns for the supermarket and corporate returns for United?

A That's not what I understand.

Q Why hasn't it been done then?

A Defense team stopped us from doing it.
Q And isn't the agreement that you have to file true and correct tax returns; isn't that the agreement?

A Yes. True and correct, yes. And consistent.
Q And if the corporation that owns the shopping center, United, claims the income of the supermarket, which is a partnership that wouldn't be a proper tax return would it?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Calls for a legal conclusion and assumes facts not in evidence as to the fact of Plaza Extra actually being a partnership.

MR. HOLT: He can answer if he knows.

THE COURT: Overruled. Repeat.

THE WITNESS: Repeat the question.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Isn't it true the reason why the defense team didn't want to file the tax returns because if the corporation United, which owns the shopping center, claims the income from the supermarket as income, that that would be an improper return.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation as to the attorney's mental state who are part of the defense team that do not represent --

THE COURT: That was a different question because that asks why the defense doesn't want to file returns.

MR. HOLT: Well, he's claiming that he has great knowlege.

THE COURT: Ask the question again.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q One of the agreements you said is that you got to get accounting in place, correct?

A Correct.

Q And one of the requirements is true and proper tax returns have to be filed don't they?

A Correct.

Q And isn't it true that the reason why those tax returns aren't being filed is because there's an issue as to whether or not the supermarket should file separate tax returns from United Corporation?

A The issue that Waleed Hamed is bringing up.
Q And isn't it true that the U.S. Attorney decided they didn't want to get involved in this civil dispute and that's why these tax returns aren't being filed?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: Stop. If he knows he can answer that.

THE WITNESS: No, I don't know.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Okay. Fair enough. Now, you started talking about two signatures on checks, and that would be one from the Hamed family and one from the Yusuf family; is that correct?

A No.

Q What is it?
A Could be any two signatures.
Q So if two Hameds want to sign a check and do it they can?

A No.
Q Why not?
A It needs to be for a good cause.

Q Let me -- You indicated that the 2.7 million that was taken out, that was signed by two members of the Yusuf family?

A Correct.
Q What would keep two members of the Hamed family from doing the same thing?

A Nothing.
Q Okay. So if two members of the Hamed family decided to write a check for 2.7 million, that could be done, is that correct?

A If they want to it could be done, but it's not going to happen.

Q Why not?
A Because it's not -- They are not supposed to.
Q Why could Mr. Yusuf and another Yusuf family member do it and not the Hameds?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for speculation as to mental state of Fathi Yusuf.

THE COURT: Overruled.
THE WITNESS: It was monies that were taken from previous.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Okay. And was it agreed by the Hamed family that the money could be removed?

A He didn't question me or tell me anything. He
didn't tell me not to remove it.

Q Okay. Could I show the witness Exhibit Number 13.

THE COURT: Plaintiff's 13, please.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Now the first document is the letter dated

August 15 th directed to Mohammad Hamed by and through Waleed Hamed from Fathi Yusuf, have you seen that letter?

A Yes, that's my signature.

Q That's your signature for your father, correct?

A Correct.

Q And then at the top of the page, I mean the next page, the letter dated August 16th, 2002; have you ever seen that letter before?

A $\quad 16 / 2012$.
Q Yes, 2012.

A Yes, I saw this.

Q So did this letter tell you it was okay for you to do the withdrawing or did it tell you you couldn't do it?

A It didn't tell me either way.

Q You don't read this letter as saying you could not do it.

It says, "In short, while these are just a few examples, no withdrawals will be issued until a full

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accounting is done and agreed to it in writing."
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    Do you see that?
    A Um-hum. Yes.

Q So that tells you not to do it, didn't it?
A Mr. Yusuf agreed on it and I agreed on it and we did it.

Q So the Hamad family didn't agree but the Yusuf family did agree, that's what happened, right?

A Right.
Q And then on the next page there is again your signature for Mr. Yusuf your father?

A Correct.

Q Where you said that you're going to take out the money anyway? It says, "Accordingly, the amount requested will be withdrawn."

You see that?
A Yes.

Q Okay. And then on the next page, this is the e-mail from waleed Hamed to you and your father indicating that the calculations were incorrect, they were disputed and to withdraw the funds would be to violate the court order and agreement between the families. Do you see that?

A Yes.
Q Now, when did you -- Well, the next document is
a check. When was the last time -- I mean when was that check actually deposited?

A It was deposited the day - - two days after I gave this letter. Oh, no, five days after $I$ gave this letter.

Q So notwithstanding the fact that you received indication from the Hamed family that they did not agree with it, would be in violation of those agreements, you still deposited the checks didn't you?

A What violation?

Q Not withstanding the fact that they told you it would be a violation you still deposited it?

A And I gave them documents I was taking it.
Q What documents did you give them?

A A stack of documents.

Q All these letters said they never got these documents, did you see that?

A That's untrue.

Q Where are the documents? Who did you give them to?

A Waleed Hamed and the whole family was there.

Q How come they're telling you they didn't get
them?

A I have no idea.

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, that's improper.

THE WITNESS: It was even in your office.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q In my office?
A In your office, sir.
Q Now, it says it would violate the agreement of the court order. Isn't there a court order in place saying the funds are not to be removed from the account unless approved by the court?

A It didn't remove from the account. It was removed from one United account and another United account.

Q And it was removed to an account that the Hamed family does not have access to; isn't that correct?

A Yes.
Q And the funds are still in the shopping center account?

A No.
Q Where are they?
A I bought property with it.
Q So you've taken money out of the United Shopping Center account and you've gone and bought property; isn't that correct?

A Correct.
Q Where have you bought property?
A Frederiksted, West Airport Road and LaGrange.

Q And what were the -- what company took title to these properties? Let's start with Frederiksted, what company took title to that property?

A United Corporation.
Q And what company took title to the West Airport Road?

A United Corporation.
Q And what company took title to the LaGrange property?

A United Corporation.
Q So you purchased these parcels of land since you transferred the money out?

A Yes.
Q In the name of United Corporation?
A Yes.
Q And you don't think those expenditures were in violation of the TRO?

A No.
MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, strike. Calls for
legal conclusion.
THE COURT: Asked and answered.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Didn't the TRO prohibit you from hiring family members without court approval?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. The TRO is not in
evidence.

MR. HOLT: I'm just asking. He's talked all
about it.
THE WITNESS: I don't know.
THE COURT: He doesn't know.
BY MR. HOLT:
Q You don't know?

A No.
Q You don't know. So if there's a clause in the TRO saying you can't hire family members that would have been violated if you hired Mr. Al-Khaled?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection. Calls for speculation.

THE COURT: He can answer.
THE WITNESS: I have no idea.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q He's a family member?
A He is a far family member. We hired other family members too.

Q Did you receive permission to do that?
A We were doing normal business. They just wanted quarterly reports from us, that's all.

Q You've shown a lot of pictures of the store --
A Yes.

Q -- how well everything is. You going to close any of the stores?

A No.
Q Okay. Were you in the office on January 9th
when the police came?
A Yes.
Q And you saw your father that day?
A Yes.

Q And you heard your father too, didn't you?
A Yes. And I heard you too.
Q And what did your father say about Mr. Mufeed, did he fire him?

A Well, Mufeed was putting a stop on what we were doing in investigating this girl, and he told her don't go home.

Q Right. And --
THE COURT: You said "he"?
THE WITNESS: Mufeed Hamed.
THE COURT: Mufeed told her to go home?
THE WITNESS: He told her to come back to work the next day.

BY MR. HOLT:
Q And did your father tell Mufeed he was fired?
A I don't remember if he did or not.
Q Did he tell Mufeed that Waleed was also fired?
A I don't remember if he did or not.
Q And did your father say to the police, if you
don't remove all these people I'm going to close the store?

A My father says that sometimes.
Q Your father says it a lot, doesn't he?

A It's his operation, right.
Q He said he's going to close the stores down, right?

A He said it.

Q He said it in st. Thomas in front of the employees?

A I wasn't there.

Q Have you heard that he said that?

MR. DiRUZZO: Objection, calls for hearsay.

THE COURT: Sustained.

THE WITNESS: I'm not sure.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q You Yourself have heard him say that, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q Okay. That's all the questions I have.

THE COURT: Okay. We took a break from the
plaintiff's case to allow the direct examine of this
witness, does the plaintiff have any --
MR. HOLT: One last one, Your Honor.

Hisham Hamed.
(Discussion off the record.)
Thereupon,

## HISHAM HAMED,

having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q State your name.
A My name is Hisham Hamed.
Q And where do you work?
A Plaza Extra west.
Q And what is your job there?
A I am -- I manage the store, and I'm also an agent for my father.

Q And who do you manage the store with?
A Mahar Yusuf.
Q And can you tell me what your role is with him?
A We jointly manage the store.
Q And can you just tell the Court a little bit about what joint management means?

A Well, we oversee all employees within the store, the departments, department ordering. We also look out for the best interest of the company really.

Q And, for example, when you sign checks, do you both sign checks?

A Yes.
Q And when you order, do things -- do you do that together?

A Well, he has his department he order and I have my department that I order.

Q How long have you been in that store?
A Since 2000.

Q And of the three stores, where does that one stand as far as volume in sales?

A Well, it's the largest store but it's probably second.

Q In sales?

A In sales.

Q Now, we've been over a lot of things, but one of the things that came up was about some accountant; have there been accountants that have come in your store to do work?

A Yes.
Q And that's since this lawsuit were filed? who are they?

A John Gaffney and Fathi Yusuf's nephew, Ayman Al-Khaled.

Q And where do they work in your store?
A They work in the conference room, a locked conference room, and recently Ayman had a desk in the
office.
Q And when they work in that conference room, do you have access to that?

A No.
Q Even though it's your store?
A Yes.

Q Have you asked them about that?
A I've asked Mike about it, Mahar about that, and he said if he feels like letting me know what's going on he's going to let me know what's going on.

Q And has he ever let you know what's going on?
A Not pertaining to the accounts. He told me they were doing some accounting for the store in order to split the store up at one point.

Q Have you ever seen any of those accounting?
A No.
Q Have you tried to see the accounting?
A No.
Q And who's paying for this accounting?
A Plaza Extra.
Q That's one of the supermarkets?
A Yes, Plaza Extra west. They are out of my payroll.

Q Out of your payroll?
A Yes, Plaza Extra west.

Q Can you tell me what problems, if any, have developed in the operation of your store since this litigation was filed?

A Mahar and $I$, we're not getting along. We only talk to each other very briefly, if any. Most of the discussions that -- we would like communicate, would be through the managers, but as far as like before, how we were, it's completely different.

Q And how has that affected the operations of the store?

A It's affected the operations because the employees know that there's a rift between the two of us.

MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor, calls for the mental state of a third party.

THE COURT: Agreed. Sustained.
BY MR. HOLT:

Q Do you feel any tension in the operation of the store?

MR. DAVID: Objection. If he feels tension,
that calls for the mental --
THE COURT: Change the question, please.

BY MR. HOLT:

Q Well, have you experienced any tension with the employees in your dealing with them?

THE COURT: Maybe it's the word "tension."

BY MR HOLT:
Q Have you experienced any difficulty in working with the employees?

A Yes.
Q What have you experienced?
A I feel like that there's a -- they are trying to accommodate him more than they are trying to look out for the best interest of the company.

MR. DAVID: Objection, Your Honor. Move to
strike. It's what someone is thinking and what
someone --
THE COURT: He said that's what he's thinking. That's his impression.

THE WITNESS: That's what I was saying, sir.
MR. HOLT: We've covered everything. No more questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVID:

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Hamed.
A Good afternoon.
Q How old were you in 1986?
A How old was I?

Q Yes.
A $\quad 11$.
Q Did you accompany your father while you were 11
on his business trips when he was talking business?

A Actually, if you mean like going to Plaza Extra east, yes, I used to accompany him there.

Q Okay. Did you -- Strike that.
What is your understanding of your father's arrangement with Fathi Yusuf?

A Excuse me.

Q What is your understanding of your father's arrangement with Fathi Yusuf?

A That they are in a partnership together in Plaza Extra.

Q Is that it?

A That's the entire understanding I have.

Q Of the arrangement between your father and Fathi

Yusuf?

A Pertaining to what, sir?

Q The partnership you just indicated?

A Yes, they are partners in Plaza.

Q What are the terms of that agreement?

A I don't know.

Q It's fair to say that you weren't around when it was negotiated between the two of them, correct?

A Yes.

Q Do you find it odd that you're not getting along with Mike Yusuf now that there is a lawsuit by your family
against his family?
A What do you mean?
Q Well, your father has sued Mike's father and United Corporation? Your father's filed a lawsuit, that's why we're here?

A Yes.
Q Do you find it odd that the fact that this lawsuit exists has made the relationship between the family members somewhat tense?

A If I find it odd?
Q I guess so, yes.
A Yes.

Q You think if your family sues his family there won't be any tension?

A Well, if his family didn't say we're not partners, which we are partners and everybody knows we are partners, then my father won't have to file a lawsuit.

Q And your father knows what the terms of the agreement are, correct?

A You'd have to ask him.
Q And whatever your father said the terms of the agreement when he was standing -- sitting there like you, you would agree with what he says, correct?

A I'd have to hear what he said.
Q Do you think you would take what your father
said the agreement was?
A I just don't understand what you're asking.
Q If your father sat in the same chair you're sitting in and he set forth, testified like you're doing under oath as to what he believes the agreement to be that he has with Fathi Yusuf, you would have no quarrel with whatever your father said, correct?

A Correct.
Q Are you familiar with any of the terms of the plea agreement that is entered between United Corporation d/b/a Plaza Extra and the United States Government?

A What do you mean?
Q Are you aware of the criminal case?
A Yes.
Q Okay. Are you aware there was a plea agreement that was signed?

A Yes.

Q Are you aware of any of the terms of the plea agreement?

A Not that I can recall.
Q Okay. No further questions, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Very well.
MR. HOLT: No redirect.
THE COURT: That concludes the plaintiff's case.
I think that we will not take further testimony
today.

Defendants want to present something?

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, yes, we do.

May I proceed, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, please.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, based on the evidence that has been presented at this juncture, at the completion of the plaintiffs' case, we believe that the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, or Preliminary Injunction should be summarily denied because the plaintiff has failed to establish the elements necessary for the issuance of a Temporary Retraining Order or Preliminary Injunction.

As a threshold matter as to what we really believe one of the major issues here is, this is a damages case. This is a money damages case. A breach of partnership is answerable by a money damages claim.

There is no testimony whatsoever of irreparable harm. There is no testimony whatsoever that money damages will not remedy whatever ills they can prove at the trial as the finder of facts, which is going to be the jury in this case.

They have not established the elements for a Preliminary Injunction or Temporary Restraining

Order. One of those elements is a substantial likelihood of success on the merits. If you consider the testimony of the partner who is alleged to be in this case, which is Mohammad Hamed, Mr. Mohammed sat in the chair and Mr. Mohammed testified to what he considers to be the scope of his partnership.

He considers the elements -- What Mr. Mohammed articulated did not satisfy the elements of a partnership; there is no sharing in the losses, there is no right of control, because Mr. Mohammed expressly stated on both direct and cross that Fathi Yusuf is in charge. Fathi Yusuf has the last word. Without him, Mr. Mohammad having some right of control, the partnership allegation failed.

Mr. Hamed also said something very, very telling. He said that Fathi Yusuf is not partners with his sons. So the notion that Waleed Hamed or any of these other children can stand in his shoes is belied by the gentleman's own testimony. He testified in clear and unwavering terms that he, according to him, is a partner.

He said, Fathi Yusuf is not a partner of my sons. He did not articulate anything related to Mr. Waleed Hamed being somehow put in his stead, and he expressly stated that Waleed Hamed is not Fathi

Yusuf's partner.
They also identified that the statute -- that the partnership will go on forever. As we have briefed expansively in the papers that have been giving to Your Honor, and I invite Your Honor to read the cases that have been cited in those memoranda because they are -- they shed plenty of light on this case, and I would invite you to read the plaintiffs' cases that they cite to you because they do not support the claims that are being asserted here.

The statute of fraud bars this alleged joint venture agreement. The statute of limitations bars this alleged joint venture agreement, according to their own testimony. They don't have evidence of a partnership between United Corporation and Mohammed Hamed, but they are asking you yet to enjoin the operations of United Corporation.

If you look to the indicia of whether or not there is a partnership, Judge, Mohammed Hamed is not -- doesn't appear on any corporate documents. Mohammed Hamed does not -- he's not been a guarantor or a signatory to any loan agreements or any lease.

Mohammed Hamed is not participating in the management, nor does he indicate that he has a right to participate in the management of the operation.

There's never been a $K-1$ that was issued to him, there's never been a partnership tax return that was issued to him.

Indeed when the criminal case reared its ugly head Mohammed Hamed was nowhere to be found. When the criminal case reared its ugly head and Mr. Fathi Yusuf was in jail for 22 days, Mr. Mohammed Hamed was not knocking at the jailor's door saying, hey, I need to sit in there with my partner.

When the criminal case was pending and the United States Government said, hey, we think that this is a partnership between Mohammed Hamed and Fathi Yusuf and it's not really a corporation, Waleed Hamed stood silent looking at his shoes.

Mr. Mohammed Hamed did not stand up and say, I'm a partner at that point in time when the risk was at the greatest. When the risk of loss was at the greatest, when your personal liberty was at stake for this partnership, Mr. Mohammed Hamed was nowhere to be found. His son did not say, hey, my family is partners in this deal, they didn't say that, Judge. When the risk of loss was the greater they were looking elsewhere.

There's no management -- evidence of management decisions being made by Mohammed Hamed. On the
contrary, as identified on his direct examination testimony and cross-examination testimony, Fathi Yusuf makes the decision.

Waleed Hamed, to his credit acknowledged the fact. He said, if there was a dispute between one of the Yusuf brothers and one of the Hamed brothers in the store which, by the way, Judge, they are employees, Fathi Yusuf makes the call. They can argue all they like, but at the end of the day Fathi Yusuf makes the call, that's from their side, Judge. Without - So there's no right to joint control, that is a critical element.

Mohammed Hamed has never been a signatory to a checking account, he's never had access to any bank records, he's never signed any corporate documents. So if you look at whether or not they can establish the elements of a partnership case, I invite the Court to look at it this way, their burden; in my humble opinion, is higher than a summary judgment burden. They are nowhere near a summary judgment.

There are dozens and dozens of issues of fact here. There are conflicting issues of facts. They have to show you a substantial likelihood of success on the merits. They don't come in with a scintilla, or even a probable success on the merits, much less
substantial.

This case is going to be decided -- The question that is the critical issue in an oral partnership agreement is the intent of the parties. The intent of the parties in this case has to be decided by the jury that they have requested. That's the trier of fact in this case.

Your Honor, I would urge you to not substitute your judgment at this very preliminary stage without any discovery being done to completely and wholly disrupt this corporation and it's operations. Because mind you what they're not asking -- they're not asking for a status quo, because the status quo, Judge, according to Mohammed Hamed is Fathi Yusuf in charge and he frankly rides herd over these employees.

Because Waleed Hamed is not a partner. None of the Hamed young men are partners. Frankly, Your Honor, none of the Yusuf men are partners, they are employees. Fathi Yusuf is in charge, according to Mr. Hamed.

So we cannot get to the issue of -- with all of these conflicting facts and holes in their story as to whether or not there is a partnership, the burden is far too high. Because now what they want to do is
they want to change the status quo. And they want to say to Mr. Fathi Yusuf, who is running this corporation, and say oh, by the way, we're changing it. Now you don't make the final calls. Now you have to negotiate with Waleed Hamed. That's not the status quo. It's not what we're talking about.

There is no threat that these stores will be closed. There is no threat to operations. Your Honor, they cried wolf that these stores were going to be closed in September and October, the stores are filled to the rim with goods, the vendors are being paid. It's undisputed. People are employed and no one's out of a job. Frankly, even the Hameds aren't out of a job.

And to come all the way back to my first point, Judge, the only way you get Injunctive relief and a Temporary Restraining Order relief is that money damages cannot remedy the loss that they can ultimately prove. Money damages, 'cause look what they ask you about. They talk to you about, well, they are saying bad things about me and my family. Well, Judge, they filed a defamation case wherein they are asking for money damages. If there's loss of goodwill to the store that is an articulable, identifiable element of damages that an
accountant can testify to. That expert witnesses can -- they put value upon.

If there's a loss of the operations of the store, if there's money damages due to mismanagement, experts can come in and testify to those numbers and a judgment will be entered. And, frankly, Your Honor, there is $\$ 50$ million, $\$ 43$ million plus about \$5 million in various operating accounts right now today that can satisfy a money judgment.

This is a damages case. So even if you could go and walk out on this very precarious limb that the plaintiffs ask you to venture upon and find this quote, unquote, partnership, and say, well, you know, I think they might have it, they just might have it, you then have to step back and say, okay, is the harm irreparable? And am I going to change the status quo?

The question is, absolutely, you have to change the status quo. And is it irreparable, meaning money damages can't compensate for it. The answer is, you simply cannot make the finding that the money damages won't satisfy and provide a remedy and that the harm is not irreparable.

And, Your Honor, the face of this record, with no discovery, not a single deposition being taken,
they are -- it is -- they are inviting you to error by entering this Preliminary Injunction at this stage.

We think it should be denied summarily at this point.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, since I've been involved in this case $I$ hear there is a partnership, there's not a partnership. This is a corporation with employees, no this is a joint venture, and it's the illusiveness of that which has led to all the tension.

And, under the applicable law, a partner under Title 26 section 75A, a partner can maintain an action against another partner in -- to establish, legal or equitable, to establish his rights under the partnership business, and one of those rights is to operate the business.

And in this case there's no doubt this is a partnership. And we start with Exhibit 1 -- or 1A, the deposition of Fathi Yusuf taken in February 2000, well before the criminal case arose. And in that case Fathi Yusuf testified almost identical to what Mohammed Hamed testified to today.

He talked about trying to build the business,
not having money, trying to borrow money, and then finally Mohammed Hamed came forth and loaned him money. And he says, without that money he could never have started this business. And without Mohammed Hamed he would never be where he was because the bank wouldn't loan him money, he had run out borrowing -- run out of borrowing money from everyone else, and without his money he couldn't have finished the building.

And then he goes on to talk about how he's going to have to pay everybody back, and he talks about the $\$ 400,000$ that he got from Mohammed Hamed and his partner. And he says, I can pay you back or we can be partners, and I can lose the same amount of money as you and we can call it quits and we can go ahead and try to make money. And he said, my advice to you is to be my partner. He said, you'd be better to take the 50 percent. So he, Mohammed Hamed, took the 50 percent.

And then he goes on and says, I want you to, on page 23, he says, I want you to please be aware that my partner's been with me since 1984, and up to now his name is not in my corporation and that, excuse me, that proof my honesty, because if I was not honest my brother-in-law would not let me control his

50 percent. And I am very aware my wife knows, my children know that whatever Plaza Extra owns in assets, in receivable, or payable, that's debt, we have a 50 percent partner.

And then in the end he's asked, and this is now being questioned by his own lawyer: You were asked by Attorney Adams, when he says United Corporation is this a joint venture agreement -- and talking about Plaza, he's talking about the supermarket in St. Thomas and who own -- and who was partners in United Corporation Plaza at the time you entered into it.

And he says: It's always since '94 Mohammed Hamed. And the lawyer says: So when it says United Corporation, and he interrupts and says, it really meant me and Mohammed Hamed. So that's his testimony which is perfectly consistent with what you heard him say here today.

And then in this case they file a Rule 26 Motion to Dismiss, and they say -- and this is Exhibit Number 2 , in 1986 due to financial constraints defendant Yusuf and plaintiff Hamed entered into an oral joint venture agreement. The agreement called for plaintiff Hamad to receive 50 percent of the net profits of the operation of the Plaza Extra
supermarkets. And it says he's received 50 percent of the net profits thereafter.

And, again, in their reply memorandum, on page 11, which is Exhibit Number 3, they say, there is no disagreement that Mr. Mohammed Hamed is entitled to 50 percent of the profits of the operation of the Plaza Extra store.

Likewise, they filed a complaint against Waleed Hamed just this month, after all these TRO motions and all these disputes, and in this complaint they say, in 1986 the joint venture resulted in the first supermarket store being open.

United again used the name Plaza Extra and the first supermarket and joint venture was named Plaza Extra supermarket, since then two have been added.

And they point out that some, in paragraph 11, sometime in 1986 the plaintiff through its shareholder and president Fathi Yusuf, entered into an oral agreement whereby plaintiff and defendant Hamed agreed to operate a grocery store. So it's throughout their pleadings. And that's one reason why I don't know why they object so hard to Exhibit 11, which is a letter sent by Nizar Dewood, where he says, re: a disillusion of partnership, Yusuf and Hamed, where it says that this letter is to confirm
the dissolution of the partnership, meaning to dissolve the partnership. And then goes on to state the three assets, the three grocery stores.

And then a follow-up e-mail where he has the whereas clause where he once again talks about the partnership was formed and an oral agreement in 1986, it was formed for the purpose of operating the Plaza supermarkets in St. Croix and St. Thomas, and that the partners have shared profits, losses, deductions, credits and the cash of the partnership.

And so to me I don't know why they keep coming back and saying there's no partnership because it's throughout the years of these pleadings. And that's the reason why we actually called the president of United because they actually have a lease in place with this partnership, and they charge it rent. And he sent rent letters.

And we asked the president of United what is that? That's the partnership between my father and Mohammed Hamed. And these rent notices, which are Exhibit Number 7, they didn't stop when this dispute arose. Oops we better not say that. These letters come every month, including one that was sent January 1, 2013. And it's the statement of rent for Plaza east from United Corporation to Mohammed Hamed at the

Plaza Extra supermarket, signed by Fathi Yusuf.

So even today as much as they want to argue to you there's no partnership, and that's why we're here, there's a partnership and the Hamed family need this Court to recognize that partnership so that they can function as a partnership instead of being worried about being discharged as employees and the other things that go on.

Now, why did we file this case? The parties negotiated, they talked. It was filed in september because in late August Fathi Yusuf took $\$ 2.7$ million out of the supermarket account, and that was the first time anyone had ever taken money out of the account, unilaterally, over the other person's objection. And the fear became what is going to protect us from him doing that with all of the assets.

And, as a matter of fact, when the criminal TRO is gone what is going to protect us from him trying to grab the whole $\$ 43$ million and taking it off island, and that's what generated this. We've got to file an injunction that, number one, it establishes our rights, because while they pay lip service to it they don't recognize it. Number two, we need to file it so we make sure that they are enjoined from
violating those rights.
Now, we're not asking them to give us money, that will have to be determined down the road. What we want them to do is we want them to turn around and agree that these assets will be operated as they have in the past and unilaterally money won't be taken out.

What if one of my clients went out and took $\$ 2.7$ million, where would we be? We'd be right back here complaining they took out money. They take out more and we take out some and then these businesses would go down. As a matter of fact, I think it's admirable that my clients haven't gone and done that.

Now what do we continue to see. We continue to see the payments to their lawyers, the payments to the accountants, things that we didn't approve and we're part of. If we were part of it, we might agree.

But what led us here today was the event on January 9, when they unilaterally fired a long-term employee, when the manager, the Hamed manager who owns -- the partners representative, hired her back. They called the police, they threatened her. You can see how intimidated she was.

They told Mufeed he was fired. They told Mufeed

Waleed he was fired. And then he told everybody if the police don't throw everybody out of there that the store is closed. And that's why we filed the emergency motion. Because now we've got the potential for physical violence, there's potential for disputes where someone's trying to close the store to prove that they are the one in control.

And they can say all they want about Fathi Yusuf is in control, that's not correct, it's a partnership. It's Mr. Hamed, as far as the supermarket's concerned, and Mr. Yusuf. And they are the ones that have to make joint decisions like joint partners do. And if they can't then they have to dissolve the partnership, maybe this litigation will lead there.

But until we can get that worked out, we think we made a prime facie case that we're likely to succeed on the merits that this is a partnership, that there's threat of irreparable harm and partnership assets by unilateral -- and the unilateral operation of the business without the joint management they've always had.

That if that happens the public interest will certainly be injured because we will lose a great business here on St. Croix. And from the private
point of view, if everybody things oh, we're not going to do that, then they should just agree to the agreement, because nobody's asking for anything more than to allow these businesses to operate until this Court can sort out the accounts or whatever issue needs to be done to either dissolve these companies or settle it.

We think we made a prime facie case.
THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. DAVID: I'll try to be as brief as possible.
THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, what they are throwing around are words that have significant legal meaning in this courtroom, and they were being used by lay people to describe something completely different. Willy Hamed sat on the stand and said he's the partner, counterpart in the Yusuf family. So he's a partner with him now 'cause somebody called him a partner.

Your Honor, if $I$ call the house yellow and it's green doesn't mean that the house is yellow. The notion that they have satisfied the elements of a partnership is belied by their own pleadings, because they can't even keep their own story straight.

Mohammed Hamed said he's the partner, my sons
are not Mr. Fathi Yusuf's partners. Mr. Holt says oh, no, it's the Hamed family. That's not what the man said. So now they're changing the story again and it's nomenclature because they are using the words out of context.

The trier of fact, this jury that's going to hear this case at the end of the day, because what I'm hearing from Mr. Holt is all of his closing argument to the jury once we have everybody testify. We've had nobody testify here to the real facts, to all of the facts. This is a shorthand version. This is a shorthand version trying to gain an upper hand in some litigation.

But even if you -- you can't get there from here. But the crux of this whole case, the entire crux of this whole case, Judge, is it's a damages case. It's a damages case. We will vigorously dispute the notion that there's somehow this partnership. But at the end of the day, if this jury comes back, they are going to enter a damages judgement because that's what they asked for.

So you can't give them a Temporary Injunction or Restraining Order when there's a damage claim 'cause that's what this case is about, and they won't have irreparable harm. Because every single thing he
talks about is irreparable, is remedied by money.
Again, they want to change the status quo, not to put Mohammed Hamed back in charge or put Mohammed Hamed back in the store, it's not what they've asked. What they've asked for is to put a stranger to this alleged agreement, according to Mr. Hamed, in charge and on equal footing with the man who Mohammed Hamed says is, in fact, in charge, which is a drastic departure from what's been going on for the past 26 years.

So we believe, at the end of the day, Your Honor -- and I invite you to read the filings, and I invite you to read the case law, there are piles of it, Your Honor. If we could hand up. We copied it. We have killed many trees in this case. All of the cases that we've cited in our memorandum, I invite you to read them, I invite you to read all of the memorandum. And I invite you to read Mr. Holt's cases, because when you read Mr. Holt's cases, they support our position.

We talk about -- I'm not going to belabor that. If I could pass this up to the Court.

THE COURT: Thank you.
MR. DAVID: We have no establishment of the elements for a partnership, no establishment of the
elements of a preliminary injunction, and we believe it should be denied, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I'm not going to grant the motion at this stage of the proceedings. We'll hear the defendants' evidence on next Thursday at $90^{\prime} \mathrm{clock}$.

And is there anything else we need to take care of at this point?

MR. DiRUZZO: Yes, Your Honor. We'd like the opportunity to supplement the record. The plaintiffs' put in Plaintiffs' Exhibit 1 , the oral deposition testimony of Fathi Yusuf without the exhibits. I specifically want to supplement the record to include Exhibit 7, the actual joint venture agreement that's discussed in the -- within that deposition transcript because $I$ believe it's highly relevant to provide context to what Fathi Yusuf actually did say or did not say.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. HOLT: No.

THE COURT: That will be fine. You can bring that on Thursday. And nothing else today? Then we'll get back together on Thursday.

And maybe if the parties have an opportunity to get together before then, we can stipulate as to how
the parties are going to proceed without the need to address this motion, and we can just go forward with the rest of the case.

But I'll leave that to you folks and we'll otherwise see you on Thursday morning.

Have a good weekend.
(Proceedings recessed at 5:30 p.m.)

*     *         *             *                 *                     *                         *                             * 


## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, SUZANNE A. OTWAY-MILLER, an Official
Registered Professional Reporter for the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, Division of St. Croix, do hereby certify that $I$ reported stenographically, in my official capacity, said proceedings, in MOHAMMAD HAMED By His Authorized Agent WALEED HAMED vs. FATHI YUSUF and UNITED CORPORATION, held on the 25th day of January, 2013.

I further certify that the foregoing excerpt, pages numbered 1 through 284, inclusive, are a true and accurate computer-aided transcription of my stenotype notes of said proceedings.

WITNESS MY HAND this 22nd day of February, 2013.

Suzanne A. Otway-Miller, RPR SUZANNE A. OTWAY-MILLER, RPR
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

MOHAMMED HAMED By His ) CIVIL NO. SX-12-CV-370 Authorized Agent WALEED HAMED, )
) ACTION FOR DAMAGES ) INJUNCTIVE AND
) DECLARATORY RELIEF
V.

FATHI YUSUF and UNITED CORPORATION,

Defendants.
)
) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED ) )

Thursday, January 31, 2013
Kingshill, VI 00850

The above-entitled action came on for Hearing on a TRO, before the Honorable DOUGLAS A. BRADY, Judge, in Courtroom Number 211, commencing at approximately 9:12 a.m.

SANDRA HALL
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER
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## PROCEEDINGS

(Commenced at approximately 9:12 a.m.)
THE CLERK: Hamed -- sorry. Mohammad
Hamed by his authorized agent, Waleed Hamed versus Yusuf Yusuf -- sorry -- Fathi Yusuf and United Corporation.

THE COURT: We are here for the second day of the hearing on plaintiff's emergency motion for temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction. I apologize for the delay and the confusion in the starting time.

Anything we need to know in advance before we get going with the taking of the defendant's evidence?

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I do have a flight 3:30 today, so I'm getting surgery tomorrow morning, but I talked to them so I think we are going to finish before noon.

THE COURT: Excellent. How many witnesses, not to pin you down.

MR. DAVID: Judge, we have three witnesses, which we estimate their direct is approximately going to be rough and dirty, 30 , 45 minutes, probably less.

THE COURT: Very good.

MR. HOLT: I have one or two rebuttal, possibly, and $I$ will be short on cross I'm sure.

THE COURT: Very good. Okay. If there is nothing else, defense, go ahead and call your first witness, please.

MR. DIRUZZO: Thank you, your Honor.
Defense calls Yusuf Yusuf.
THE COURT: Rule on witnesses is still in effect so counsel, just please monitor them.

MR. DIRUZZO: Yes, sir.
THE WITNESS: Good morning, everybody. YUSUF YUSUF,
having been called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn by the clerk of the court, was examined and testified, as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DIRUZZO:
Q Good morning, sir. Could you state your name, spelling both your first and last name for the record?

A Yusuf Yusuf. $\quad Y-U-S-U-F ; \quad Y-U-S-U-F$.
Q Thank you. Now, sir, I'm going to ask you some questions. If you don't understand the questions, let me know and $I$ will repeat or rephrase the question.

A Okay.
Q Sir, where are you currently employed?

A Plaza Extra.
Q And which one?
A East location.
Q And what is your job title?
A Management.
Q And how long have you had that position?
A Since 2000.
Q And do you have that position as you are
sitting here today?
A Yes.
Q And as part of your job duties, do you
maintain the custody, care and control of the business records of Plaza Extra East?

A Yes.
Q And do you have access to all those records?
A Yes.
Q Sir, do you know an employee -- well, do you
know an individual by the name of Wadda Charriez?
A Yes.
Q And if you know, could you spell - do you
know how to spell Charriez?
A No.
Q Okay. How do you know Ms. Charriez?
A She is the office manager.
Q At Plaza Extra East?

A At Plaza Extra East, yes.
Q And do you have any idea how long she's had that position?

A From since -- actually, no.
Q Has she been -- has she had that position
during the duration of your employment at Plaza Extra
East?
A Yes.
Q Sir, I'm going to turn your attention to an incident that happened recently with Ms. Charriez at work. Do you know what I'm talking about?

A Yes.
Q And just briefly, could you describe to the Court what that incident was about?

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I just object to foundation because $I$ don't believe this gentleman was present when the incident took place.

MR. DIRUZZO: I will include the
foundation.
THE COURT: Okay.
Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, were you present at Plaza Extra East when an incident occurred with Ms. Charriez regarding her employment status?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And do you remember when that was?

A It was on January 8th.
Q And do you remember the cause of that incident?

A Yes.
Q And what was that cause?
A She was manually entering time.
Q And as a -- to lay a little background, when an employee clocks in and clocks out of work, how does that happen? How do they do that?

A We have a punch-clock system that uses the handprint of your right hand, and you put in your social security number and that's the process. You put in your social security number and put your hand in: two devices of security so you can identify the individual that came to work.

Q And is every employee supposed do that?
A Yes.
Q And is there any way that that system of internal control can be circumvented?

A Yes.
Q How so?
A If someone manually enters the time.
Q And how would one manually enter the time?
A They have to have a user name and a password to enter a system called TruTime.

Q And is - could you just briefly describe what exactly is TruTime?

A TruTime gathers the data for that punch-clock system that generates the employees coming in and coming out.

Q And was there a time where you reviewed the hours for Ms. Charriez?

A Yes.
Q And when was that?
A It was for the week of Thanksgiving.
Q And why was that?
A Because I noticed the time change -- the time did not change for Wadda.

Q Could you be a little bit more specific? What do you mean by that?

A Meaning her pay was not different from the previous weeks.

Q And why would you expect that it would be different?

A Because she didn't come in on the day of Thanksgiving.

Q And did Ms. Charriez work on Thanksgiving?
A No.
Q Is Ms. Charriez a salaried employee?
A No.

Q Is she paid hourly?
A Yes.
Q Does she get paid time and a half for
overtime?

A Yes.
Q Do you have any idea what her salary or what
her hourly pay rate is?
A Twelve dollars.
Q Okay. Sir, I'm going to show you a composite exhibit, Defense Exhibit 13?

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I don't mind if
the witness identifies it. I mean, we've never seen all this stuff, so $I$ don't know if $I$ can stipulate to the coming in of the exhibit or not yet.
(The document was marked Defendant's Exhibit Number 13 for identification.)

Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, take a moment, review that document, let me know when you've familiarized yourself with it?

A Yes, I know what this is.
Q Okay. What is it?
A This is her timesheet.
Q Well, actually, I'm going to be specific.
Take a look at the first two pages in particular, then page 3 going forward?

A The first two pages is of another employee that works in the office.

Q And?
A And the third one is -- that's Wadda's punch clock.

Q Okay. Sir, are these documents maintained in normal course of business activity of Plaza Extra East?

A No.
Q These documents aren't maintained normally?
A The documents are, but what we normally don't practice is the manual punch.

Q Okay. I'm going to turn your attention to the first page. Could you describe for the court what you're looking at here and what information you're able to obtain based on this first page?

A On the first page indicates one of our employees that work in the office. I believe this is Sabrina's time, an individual that works in our cash room.

Q And does it indicate the date that -- where she worked, the date that she worked?

A Yes, all the days that she had worked for us.
Q And does it show the time that she punched in and punched out?

A Yes.

Okay. I'm turning your attention to the part that's highlighted. The part that's highlighted has an asterisk next to the times, specifically 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Do you have any idea what that asterisk means?

A The asterisk means someone manually entered the time.

Q And turning your attention to December 24 th, it was at 8:17 a.m. and 7:05 p.m. There is no asterisk there. What does that mean?

A That means the individual actually went to the machine, punched in her social security number and her handprint.

Q Okay. Now, turning your attention to the second page. This employee, a Bartlett, turning your attention to the 25 th where it shows 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. with an asterisk; is that because that was manually entered as well?

A Yes.
Q Okay. Now, turning your attention to the third page, and the third page going forward is--1, 2, 3, 4--the fourth page. And on the top of the fourth page it says, Charriez, W. You see that there?

A What's the date listed?
Q Starting on November 19th, a Monday, going to --

A Yes, I see that.
Q Okay. Sir, turning your attention to November 22nd, a Thursday. Do you remember that date?

A Yes.
Q What was that date?
A Thanksgiving day.
Q Okay. Sir, you see the times there? Could
you read in the record the times that when Ms. Charriez clocked in and clocked out?

A The time for November 22 nd is 7:38 a.m. in the morning to 7:20 p.m. in the evening.

Q And is there an asterisk there indicating that that was manually entered into the system?

A Yes.
Q And, sir, is that accurate?
A No.
Q How do you know that?
A I worked there all day and she didn't come to work.

Q Okay. Now, sir, did there come a point in time where you became suspicious about the total number of hours that Ms. Charriez was working?

A Yes.
Q And what happened as a result of your suspicion; what, if anything, did you do?

A What I did is I printed out the other employees' timesheet that work in the office, and I could see that they came in to work and they got paid for what they manually -- what they actually punched at the clock, which is the social security number and their handprint. And then I noticed Wadda was also paid for that day.

Q Be specific. That day being Thanksgiving?
A Thanksgiving day, 11/22nd.
Q Okay. Turning your attention to the seventh page of Exhibit 13. Starting on the seventh page going forward, what is that?

A This is Wadda's timesheet.
Q For what period?
A For the whole year of 2012.
Q And, sir, for the whole year of 2012 is there anything -- when you reviewed this document, was there anything that you found to be unusual?

A Yes.
Q And what was that?
A Every time that she indicated, she did not work. Every time that's listed there, she indicated that she came in roughly about a half an hour before eight o'clock and left a half an hour after 7 p.m. in the evening, and all these times were manually punched
in。
Q Just so the record is clear, did Ms. Charriez ever use the normal stick-your-hand-on-the-machine and your social security number to clock in and clock out In the calendar year 2012?

A The records here never showed that.
Q Okay. Sir, the time - what's the name of this computer system that keeps all the employees' time?

A TruTime.
Q And is TruTime -- the entries in TruTime, are those kept in the normal course of business of Plaza Extra East?

A Yes.
Q And are those kept for every single employee?
A Every single employee.
Q And does Plaza Extra East rely on the data in TruTime in order to generate employees' paychecks?

A Could you repeat that?
Q Does Plaza Extra East rely on the data within TruTime in order to generate the paychecks for the employee?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And are the -- are normally the data entries within TruTime, do they accurately reflect the
events that took place therein?
A Yes.
Q And, sir, are you the only person that has access to TruTime?

A No.
Q Who else has access to TruTime?
A There is a few people in management that has access and office clerk.

Q Those few people, who are they?
A Wadda, for one office manager; you have Ms. Bartlett also have access; and Mafi Hamed; and so do $I$.

Q And did you prepare these reports?
A Yes.
Q And how did you prepare them?
A The --
Q Let me ask it this way. How did you generate these reports?

A You enter your passcode into the system and you generate as far back as the system has been created.

Q And that's just you hit the print button?
A Yeah.
Q And do you remember when this report was generated?

A It indicates to the top-right corner January 2nd, 8:18 p.m. at night.

Q And just so we're clear, you're talking about page 7 going forward, the report for Ms. Charriez for the entire year of 2012?

A Correct.
Q Now, turning to the front page though, the front page when you have a comparison to another employee, when was that generated?

A January 18th.
Q Of this year?
A Of this year. Sorry.
MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, defense moves Exhibit 13 into evidence.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, we have no objection. I do just want to make sure it's clear that you're gonna see a time of January 18 th on the first seven or eight pages, and then you're gonna see the time of January 2 nd after that.

THE COURT: I believe that's the testimony we just heard.

MR. HOLT: Right. I just wanted to make clear because it's really not just one document, but $I$ have no problem it being submitted. No objection.

THE COURT: The Defense 13 is admitted.
(The document, heretofore marked
Defendant's Exhibit Number 13 for identification, was received in evidence.)

Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, You're being shown Defense Exhibit 14 marked for identification. Take a moment to take a look at that document and let me know when you are done perusing it?
(The document was marked Defendant's Exhibit Number 14 for identification.)

A I'm ready.
Q Okay. Sir, could you please identify this composite exhibit? What is it?

A For the month of December.
Q What year, sir?
A Of 2012. I generated her weekly timesheet.
Q And "her," are you referring to Ms. Wadda Charriez?

A Correct.
Q And when you generated her weekly timesheet, what happened?

A Along with the weekly timesheet $I$ also generated on our DVR system, it's called Intellect, the times when she entered the building and the times when she left.

Q Okay. So starting on page 2, that document is
a picture of the video image?
A Correct.
Q Do these video images that are contained in composite Exhibit 14, do they fairly and accurately represent the events that took place therein?

A Yes.
Q And are these video images maintained and kept in the normal course of business of Plaza Extra East?

A Yes.
Q And do you have care, access, and custody and control of these video images during the course of your employment?

A Yes, sir.
Q Okay. Now, sir, let's talk about these video images. What do those video images portray, let me start on the second page?

A If you look at the second page in reference to counter check the time that she manually entered into the system, she indicated that she came in at 7:36 a.m. in the morning.

Q Okay. Just so we're clear, so you're saying the first page, the first line represents that Ms. Charriez clocked in at 7:36 a.m. --

A On December 3 rd.
Q -- on December 3rd, and that has an asterisk
there, that means that was manually entered?
A Yeah.
Q And then you're saying the second page shows video evidence of when she actually arrived to work?

A Correct.
Q And what time was that, sir?
A That's at 8:37.
Q Okay. Now, what is the second page -- I'm sorry -- the third page?

A Third page indicates the time that she came down from the office, which is the end of her work.

Q So is the third page, is it also a video of -it's a picture?

A Yes.
Q And it's a picture of Ms. Charriez leaving?
A Yes.
Q And what time does that reflect?
A Seven o'clock.
Q And just so we're clear, is 19:00 hours the same as seven o'clock p.m.?

A Correct, that's military team.
Q And when did - what time did Ms. Charriez's time entries reflect when she clocked out?

A She manually entered on December 3 rd that she left at 7:25.

Q
Did Ms. Charriez have, to your knowledge, any permission to clock out manually, enter her time later than when she actually left the building?

A If she had my permission?
Q Well, let's start, did she have your permission to do that?

A No.
Q To your knowledge, did she have anyone's permission?

A No.
Q Okay. Sir, I'm going to turn your attention specifically to December 18, 2012. And flipping through these pictures, let me know when you get to December 18, 2012?

A I'm ready.
Q Okay. Sir, what does the first picture indicate?

A The first picture indicate December 18th on the Intellect's player that Wadda came in to work at $8: 45$.

Q Now, that picture of the person with her back turned to the camera, is that Ms. Charriez?

A Yes.
Q And how do you know that that's Ms. Charriez?
A When I reviewed the video I saw when she came
in. There is couple different angles that indicate that's her.

Q And do you have any doubt that that's actually Ms. Charriez in that picture right there?

A I know it's her.
Q Okay. Turn to the next page on December 18th. What does that picture indicate or reflect?

A It indicated the time that she came from the office; meaning, that that was the end of her shift and she left on December 18th at 6:20.

Q And is that her in the top left corner?
A That's her in the top-left corner.
Q Just behind the stack of --
A Baskets.
Q -- baskets? Okay. And flip to the next page, sir. What does that image show the Court?

A That also indicates that at $6: 20$ she was at the pizza parlor.

Q Okay. And the next page?
A The next page indicates on December 18th at 6:40 when she walked out the store.

Q And is that her with the - looks like a broom?

A She did shopping. That's a broom and some shopping bags.

Okay. Now, sir, let's flip, go back a couple pages and you see the time card report for Ms. Charriez for the calendar week December 17, 2012 through December 21, 2012?

A Yes.
Q And for December 18, 2012, what time is reflected in the system?

A She indicated that, which she manually punched in at $7: 36 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. , she came to work in the morning.

Q And did she actually come to work at 7:36 a.m.?

A No. The surveillance here indicates she came in at 8:45.

Q And what about when she clocked out?
A When she clocked it out it indicates she left at 7:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m. in the evening.

Q And did she actually leave at 7:20 p.m. in the evening?

A No. It indicated that on the Intellect system that she left at $6: 20$.

MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, defense moves 14 into evidence.

THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. HOLT: I have no objection.
THE COURT: Exhibit 14 is admitted.
(The document, heretofore marked
Defendant's Exhibit Number 14 for identification, was received in evidence.)

Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, I'm showing you what's been marked as Defense Exhibit 15 for identification. Take a moment and let me know when you're done perusing that document?
(The document was marked Defendant's Exhibit Number 15 for identification.)

A Yes, I see it.
Q What is this document?
A This is for all employees, rules and regulations of Plaza Extra.

Q And does Plaza Extra have these rules and regulations in the Plaza Extra East store?

A Yes.
Q And why don't you tell the Court about these rules and regulations; in general, how do they work?

A Before you are employed you have to fill out -- I'm sorry -- you have to read the rules and regulations. And what you fill out is you print your name, you sign it to indicate that you did read it, and you have to submit it back to the store for filing.

Q And are these rules and regulations for employees in general? Is this kept in a personnel or
an HR file?
A Yes.
Q And does each employee have an HR or personnel file?

A Every single employee that gets hired by plaza Extra have to read, acknowledge this, sign it and return it for filing.

Q Okay. And turning your attention to this document, in particular, what does this document reflect?

A This indicates the rules and regulations for Wadda, which dated back in January 7, 1998.

Q And, sir, do you know where this document came from?

A From her personnel file.
Q And do you know who retrieved this document?
A I have.
Q And when did you retrieve this document?
A Yesterday.
Q And where was this document -- where was her personnel file located?

A We have a file cabinet for all our employees in the Plaza East store.

Q Okay. Now, sir, I'm going to turn your attention to Rule 16 . Is this Rule 16 where it says,
every employee is given a half hour or full hour for lunch after six hours of work must punch out for lunch. Lunch hour is to be spent in designated area in the store lunch room. Does this apply to all the employees?

A Yes.
Q All right. What about Rule 17? Any employee found cheating on her time card will be immediately dismissed. Does that apply to all the employees?

A Yes.
Q Rule 18. Time cards must be punched immediately after you have been relieved of your duties. Does that apply to all employees?

A Yes.
Q Rule 19. All employees are expected to leave the premises within 15 minutes of your punch time unless you're doing personal shopping. Does that apply to all employees?

A Yes.
Q Turning to the next page, sir, Rule 23. Any employee found stealing would be subject to arrest and will be immediately dismissed. Does that apply as well to all employees?

A Yes.
Q And the next page, 35. Absolutely no shopping
while on work hours unless authorized by management. If you are on lunch hour, any merchandise purchased must be kept at service desk. Does that apply to all employees?

A All employees.
Q Sir, now, did Ms. Wadda Charriez violate these rules and regulations of Plaza Extra East?

A Yes.
MR. DIRUZZO: Your honor, defense moves Exhibit 15 into evidence. Actually, let me lay one more predicate.

THE COURT: Sure.
Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, starting on page 19, do you see a signature there -- I'm sorry, page 9 ?

A Page 9?
Q Page 9 ?
A Yes.
Q Whose signature is that?
A That's Wadda's signature.
Q And how are you familiar with that signature?
A I have seen the signature before.
Q Is that her signature on page 10 as well?
A Yes.
Q And the next page, page 15 , is that her signature as well?

A Yes.
Q And page 12, is that her signature as well?
A What page?
Q Page 12?
A Yes.
Q And page 14, is that her signature as well?
A Yes.
MR. DIRUZZO: Defense moves 15 into
evidence.
THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. HOLT: No objection.
THE COURT: Without objection
Defendant's 15 is admitted.
(The document, heretofore marked
Defendant's Exhibit Number 15 for identification, was received in evidence.)

Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, did management of Plaza Extra have good cause to terminate Wadda Charriez's employment?

A Yes.
Q Now, let's talk about her -- the job role she has or had. The job role that she had, would you explain what she did?

A She did payroll.
Q Okay. Sir, is she an essential employee?

A No.

Q Why not?
A She's not an essential employee because - -
Q Let me ask you this way. If you wanted to,
could you replace her?
A The next day.
Q And how difficult would it be to find a
replacement for Ms. Charriez?
A It's not difficult.
Q Now, sir, I want to turn your attention to the Plaza Extra East store. Is there current inventory in the store?

A Yes.
Q And has any payments to vendors, have any payments to vendors been stopped out of normal course of business?

A No.

Q Has there been any recent disruption with ordering supplies or ordering merchandise for plaza Extra East?

A No.
Q Have you ever witnesses Fathi Yusuf blocking or stopping any payments to vendors?

A No.
Q As far as the back area, the receiving area of

Plaza Extra East, is there inventory in the store room?
A Yes.
Q Is that -- is the inventory level what Plaza Extra East would normally keep?

A Yes.
Q Sir, is there any threat to Plaza Extra supermarkets being closed?

A No.
Q Have you ever witnessed Fathi Yusuf intimidating employees?

A No.
Q Have you ever seen Fathi Yusuf threatening any of the Hamed family members with physical harm?

A No.
Q Sir, before you came here today, did you ever have an opportunity to review the plaintiff's motion for a temporary restraining order that was filed in December of 2012?

A Yes.
Q And, sir, since that time has any of the allegations that Plaza Extra was gonna close or use good -- well, anything like that, has that ever come to pass? Did any of that stuff ever happen?

A No. MR. DIRUZZO: Yield the witness.

THE COURT: Thank you. Cross examine. CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Good morning.
A Good morning.
Q You mentioned a Mafi Hamed. Who is he?
A He is one of the store managers.
Q And can you explain how you work with him in the store managing the east store?

A Can you explain that a little bit better?
Q Well, he's a store manager and you're a store manager?

A Yes.
Q And you work together?
A Yes.
Q And both equal managers of the same store?
A Yes.
Q Okay. And showing you Exhibit Number 15, which is the -- I think the last one. These are the rules and regulations that are dated July of 1997, is that correct?

A Yes.
Q And these are on the letterhead, Plaza Extra, is that correct?

A Correct.

Q And these are for the Plaza Extra store at Sion Farm?

A Correct.
Q And when you see the signatures over on the pages with Wadda's signature on it, these are also on the Plaza Extra letterhead, is that correct?

A Yes.
Q It doesn't say United Corporation, does it?
A No.
Q And who do you understand owns the Plaza Extra East store?

A My dad.
Q And he ever told you he has a partner?
A Yes.
Q And who is the partner in that store?
A Mohammad Hamed.
Q And that's a partner in that store?
A From what $I$ understand there is an agreement.
Q What do you understand that agreement is?
A I don't know the details of the agreement, but
I understand the agreement is between my dad and Mohammad Hamed.

Q That they are partners in the store?
A According to profits.
Q And they are partner in profits in the store?

A Only profits.
Q That's what you understand?
A $\quad \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q And who told you it's only profits?
A My dad.
Q So other than what your dad told you, anyone else tell you that?

A My brother.
Q Which brother is that?
A Mike Yusuf.
Q And when did he tell you that?
MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; hearsay.
THE COURT: He can answer.
A I don't recall exactly what day it is.
Q (MR. HOLT) It was recently wasn't it?
A No. I've known this from a very long time.
Q Okay. Now, let's talk about Wadda. You mind if I refer to her as Wadda? It's easier for me to say that.

A Sure.
Q Now, you indicated that she did not punch in with the handprint and the social security number like the other employees, is that correct?

A Correct.
Q Okay. As a matter of fact, she just started
that within the last two weeks? Is she doing that now?
A No.
Q Okay. So she still doesn't even check in with a handprint and a social security number?

A After January $8 t h$ she's been punching in with her social security number and handprint.

Q Okay?
A But prior to that, she never had.
Q Okay. And you all got this system in place in 1998, didn't you?

A I don't recall exactly when we had it installed.

Q It was years ago, wasn't it?
A It was years ago.
Q And Wadda's never checked in with a handprint or social security number until just very recently, correct?

A Correct.
Q And you knew that, right?
A Yes.
Q And when you weren't present in the courtroom and she testified, I will represent to you that she testified that she does work banking, going to different businesses --

MR. DIRUZZO: Object --

MR. HOLT: I haven't asked the question yet.

Q (MR. HOLT) -- both before she comes to the office and sometimes after she comes to the office. Now, is that true?

A Can you repeat that question?
Q Are you aware of the fact that wadda does some of the financial work for Plaza that she needs to do with various government agencies and banks before she comes to work sometimes and sometimes after she leaves, is that correct?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. And under the Fair Standard Labor's Act, you've got to pay her for that work, don't you?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; calls for legal conclusion.

MR. HOLT: He's the manager of the store.

THE COURT: Sustained.
Q (MR. HOLT) As the manager of the store, do
you have to pay her for that time?
MR. DIRUZZO: It's the same objection.
THE COURT: He can answer.
A Yes.
Q (MR. HOLT) Okay. So if she actually did
check in with her hand and her social security number after she had done an hour and a half of banking work, it wouldn't show up on her timesheet, would it?

A Repeat that.
Q If she actually worked for an hour and a half before she came in and then she checked in with her handprint and her social security number, it wouldn't show up -- that hour and a half she spent working for you, it wouldn't show up on the timesheet, would it?

A It won't, but to my knowledge $I$ know that she is supposed to hand punch, put in her social security number and manually put in her hand punch.

Q Okay. But isn't the reason why she doesn't put it - hand touch the hand and put in the social security number is because you know that she does work both before she comes to the store and after she leaves the store sometimes in order to do the banking and the other work she does for Plaza?

A Correct.
Q Okay. Now, you indicated that something -you got suspicious, something came to your attention about her time card. Was it you who noticed that or Fathi Yusuf?

A I did.
Q Okay. And what did you do when you got that
information?
A I generated the timesheet report.
Q Okay. Now, the timesheet report $I$ see is for January 2,2013 , is that correct?

A I'd have to look at it again. I'm not too sure.

Q There is a timesheet report we went over in your testimony, that's what you generated?

A Yes.
Q Okay. So on that day was the date that you pulled those records, correct?

A Yes.
Q And who did you share those records with?
A Shared it with my dad.
Q Okay. How come you didn't share it with your co-manager, Mafi Hamed?

A I don't need to.
Q Sir, I'm not asking you whether you need to. Why didn't you?

A Because I chose to show it to my dad.
Q All right. We'll come back to that in a second.

And then the photographs that we saw in the next exhibits, they were just generated yesterday, weren't they, that whole punch in?

A The photographs?
Q Yeah.
A No.

Q When did you do those?
A You would have to look on the date on each surveillance picture that was taken, it indicates the time when it was printed.

Q At the top --
A No, not at the top of the page. You said the picture --

Q Right.
A -- on the surveillance shows to the bottom right.

Q Okay. That's shows when it was printed?
A Correct.
Q Okay. So these documents were generated I see 1/19, January 19th, January 21st. Is that when these were generated?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And did you share these with Mafi?
A No.
Q Okay. And have you ever presented any of this information you have to the other manager in the store, Mafi, to see what his input are with these images?

A I won't need to because he have access to the
same information.
Q So if he --he's to just go generate it on his own, is what you're saying? You didn't bother to share this with him?

A He can. Just like I said earlier, he have access to the same system.

Q And did you ever discuss with him about what you should do in addressing the situation with Wadda in light of the information that you had?

A No.
Q And isn't it true that this information up until the time she started punching in would be inaccurate because it don't reflect the time that she spent both before she came to work, or the time after she left when she was still working for plaza?

A Repeat that again.
Q Isn't it true that the timesheets that you've generated and the photographs that you've generated wouldn't accurately show how much she's worked if she's doing work both before she comes into the store and after she leaves the store on behalf of Plaza?

A You indicated on the pictures itself or the whole document?

Q The whole time that you did all of this. If you don't know on that day what work she did before she
came in on behalf of Plaza or what work she did after she left on behalf of Plaza, then this don't really give you an accurate picture of the amount of hours she worked, doesn't it?

A It gives you a good indication what time she comes in. It gives you a good indication of what time she leaves.

Q Does it give you a good indication of what time she actually work if she performs work before she comes in and after she leaves?

A Well, to my knowledge, if she does any work for Plaza prior to coming in to the work, it's about maybe two days maximum out of the week. So I would say yes, it would be accurate.

Q So -- well, let me put it like this. None of these records are gonna show us how much work she did before she came into the store, are they?

A No.
Q And none of these records are gonna show what work she did for Plaza after she left the store, are they?

A She doesn't do any work after plaza.
Q Sometimes she doesn't leave work to go do the banking for Plaza?

A If you look at the times, 6:20 at night, I
don't think there is any bank that's opened after 4.
Q That's not my question. Are you testifying that she never does work in the afternoon for Plaza outside of the store?

A After what time?
Q Any time. Does she leave the store during the day to do work?

A During the day she does.
Q Okay. And so since she's not checking in or out, we don't really know what hours she actually worked in the store or out of the store, do we?

A Correct.
Q And that's why you went ahead and had Wadda as opposed to any other employee in the store not bother to check in with a handprint and a social security number?

A That's not true. She's not allowed to do that.

Q Well, you just testified that you've known since -- or whenever you put in this system that Wadda doesn't do the handprint or the social security number?

A Correct.
Q And why do you let her do that?
A I didn't allow her to manually punch in her time.

Q So she's been doing that for years, but you didn't allow it?

A No, no, no. I never knew about it until recently.

Q Okay. So the whole time that she's worked there, you've been the manager of the store, correct?

A Correct.
Q So if she's been doing this for years and you're the store manager, you're saying you didn't know about it?

A Correct.
Q Okay. And why did that become so important to come up all of a sudden?

A Because recently we had double signature applied by my dad. I'm not too sure exactly what month it was, but it was over a year. Ever since that incident where we're told to have two signatures per check, I was checking all payroll. I was checking all of the vendors that's being paid.

So from then, that's when $I$ started to notice around Thanksgiving where the time never changed. Her payroll, her paycheck never actually changed. So it indicated right there that something was fishy. So I looked more into detail and I noticed that she put in over 11 hours that she worked on the day that she
didn't come in to work.
Q Okay. So up until the time that you looked at it, she's been getting a paycheck for years and you didn't have any questions about it, correct, up until November?

A Because I never used to look at the payroll.
Q Okay. Even though you're the manager of the store, you never looked at the payroll?

A Correct.
Q All right. And you were present -- you said there was an incident on January 8 th? What was that incident?

A January 8 th is the day that my dad spoke to Wadda and terminate her employment.

Q And you were present when that took place?
A Yes, sir.
Q And did you hear him tell her that he was coming after her because she'd sold out to Hamed?

A No.
Q She testified he said that. You didn't hear it?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; argumentative.
THE COURT: I'll allow it.
Q (MR. HOLT) Let me ask you this question. Were you there during all the conversation he had with
her?
A Yes, sir.
Q And isn't it true the reason --
THE COURT: Go ahead.
Q (MR. HOLT) Isn't it true that the reason why all of this came up in November is because your father thought that Wadda was being a favor to the Hameds and had sold out to them and you decided that you wanted to get rid of her?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; foundation;
calls for speculation and mental state.
THE COURT: If he knows, he can answer.
A No.
Q (MR. HOLT) Okay. And as far as Wadda was concerned when you had all this information, wouldn't you normally take that to your co-manager, Mafi, to do it?

A Not on all occasions, no.
Q But wouldn't that be the normal thing to do?
A No.
Q Fathi didn't manage the east store, did he?
A I don't think he manages any of the stores because he is the owner.

Q Okay. Fathi lives and works in St. Thomas, doesn't he?

A He have over some years.
Q And in addition to Mafi, who else worked in
the east store as a manager?
A As a manager?
Q Yeah.
A There is -- in what capacity are you asking?
Q In the same capacity that you're in?
A There is me, there is Mafi and there is Wally.
Q Okay. And you didn't bring any of this up
with Wally Hamed either, did you?
A I hardly see Wally at the store.
Q So the answer to the question is, no, you did
not bring this up with Wally Hamed, did you?
A No.
Q But you chose to bring it up with Fathi, not with the managers that's in the store, Mafi and Wally, did you?

A Correct.
Q Now, you weren't in the store on January $9 t h$
when the police came, were you?
A No. I was ill.
Q And did anyone tell you that Fathi Yusuf fired
Mafi Yusuf and fired Wally Yusuf? MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; hearsay. THE COURT: Sustained.

Q (MR. HOLT) When you indicated that you've never heard your father say that he was firing Mafi or Wally, is that true?

A My dad? No, I never heard that.
Q And are you aware of him ever trying to do so?
A I was - it was someone mentioned it to me, yes.

Q Okay. And when did that happen?
A They mentioned it to me when $I$ was at home.
Q On January 9th?
A Yes.
Q Okay. And have you ever heard your father say that he's gonna close out the store?

A I don't recall.
Q So you've never heard him say that?
A I don't recall.
Q You've never heard him say that if he can't get rid of the Hameds, he's gonna close the store?

A I don't recall that.
Q And you weren't present on the 9 th as far as the witness that the police were doing and all the things that went on to the store?

MR. DIRUZZO: Asked and answered.
THE COURT: He can answer. MR. HOIT: I will withdraw the question.

THE COURT: Okay.
MR. HOLT: I have no other questions.
THE COURT: Thank you. Redirect.
MR. DIRUZZO: Briefly, your Honor.

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DIRUZZO:
Q Mr. Yusuf, does Wadda Charriez -- in calendar year 2012, did she have business before eight o'clock to do for Plaza Extra on every single working day?

A I don't think there is any work before eight o'clock because $I$ don't think there is any government agencies or banks that's opened prior to eight o'clock.

Q Okay. What about outside of, let's just say outside of the establishment, outside of the premises, did -- was she tasked with doing something outside of work on every single business day in the calendar year 2012?

A No.
Q And what about after work? Did she have something to do after work outside of the premises on every single business day during calendar year 2012?

A No.
Q Do you have any idea how much money she has stolen by falsifying her records during the calendar year 2012?

A I haven't calculated, but I roughly noticed that she's been accumulating two hours and I think 18 minutes overtime roughly every week.

Q Okay. And let's run through those calculations. That's two hours a day of overtime. She gets paid how much?

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, objection; well beyond the scope.

THE COURT: That's true, and mischaracterize the way you just said. Limit your questioning to the cross examination.

MR. DIRUZZO: That's fine, your Honor.
Q (MR. DIRUZZO) Sir, does Wadda Charriez
prepare the payroll?
A Yes.
Q And just so we're perfectly clear, does Ms. Charriez on a daily basis have work to do for Plaza Extra before eight o'clock and after eight o'clock on a daily basis during calendar year 2012?

A No.
MR. DIRUZZO: Nothing further.
RECROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q I take it that the only surveillance that you've looked at is for the month of December, is that
correct?
A Correct.
Q You hadn't done that for the whole year, have you?

A No.
MR. HOLT: Thank you.
THE COURT: Okay. You may step down,
sir. Thank you very much.
Next witness.
MR. DAVID: Your Honor, the defense
calls Ayman Al-Khaled.
AYMAN AL-KHALED,
having been called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn by the clerk of the court, was examined and testified, as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVID:
Q Morning, sir. Could you state your name for the record, please?

A My name is Ayman Al-Khaled.
Q And, sir, are you currently employed?
A Yes.
Q By whom?
A United Corporation.
Q How long have you been employed by United

Corporation?
A I have been working with the United
Corporation from January of 2012.
Q In what capacity, sir?
A Okay. I have been hired basically for
Mr. Fathi Yusuf on December of 2011 regarding working on specific files been presented to him from the $F B I$. And he asked me to be looking through these records. And I was hired again by him on October of 2012 as a capacity of a controller.

Q Okay. Sir, can you give the Court the benefit of your educational background?

A Yes. I got a bachelor degree in accounting.
Q From where, sir?
A From Amman, Jordan.
Q Okay. And when did you achieve that degree?
A I graduated in the year of 2000.
Q And did you go to work after that in the field of accounting?

A Yes, I was working in the state of Kuwait for the Kuwait Investment Authority as an accountant. And prior to Plaza Extra $I$ was working in a company down here on the island. It's a EDC company called Kazi Management. I was handed two markets over a total of 33 stores for them.

Okay. Let's go back for a second. What did you do in Kuwait?

A In Kuwait $I$ was working as a accountant for the Kuwait Investment Authority. They have investment all over the world and $I$ was working in their accounting department.

Q And what kind of things you were doing in their accounting department?

A Which is day-to-day operations accounting work as far as bank reconciliation, producing income statement, financial statement as balance sheet, cash flows statement.

Q Okay. And when did you come to st. Croix?
A I came eight years ago.
Q Okay. So that's 2004?
A Yes.
Q And what did you do in 2004? Let me start. For Kazi Management?

A No, I didn't start with Kazi Management. Prior to that $I$ was working with a family member. He owned a gas station. I was in charge of the gas station and handling the books for the gas station.

Q Okay. And how long did you do that?
A I did that almost for four or five years.
Q Okay. And when did you start with Kazi

Management?
A Two years ago almost.
Q Well, that's 2010?
A End of 2010 I believe, if I'm not mistaken.
Q Can you spell Kazi Management for us?
A $\quad \mathrm{K}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{Z}-\mathrm{I}$.
Q Okay. And what did you do for Kazi?
A In Kazi Management $I$ was working controller for two market: Market of Louisiana. They have then stores of K.F.C.; and the State of Hawaii, they have another 25 or as far as I remember 25 Burger King locations. I was handling the day-to-day operation for them as far as the cash reconciliation and internal controls, and issuing financial statement for the whole market, and issuing trend report for the market coaches and the market director to be able to determine what's the -- how their stores' doing, what they are performing; if they are losing or making money; and issuing reports regarding the cost of sales for these stores.

Q okay. And when you -- you said you started at the end of 2011 for Mr. Yusuf, Fathi Yusuf for a project that evolved from the criminal case, is that correct?

A Correct.
okay. And how long were you on that project?
A Well, Mr. Yusuf give me an offer to work on that project for a year. And when he decided he want me to work on that project, he took me to the Plaza East store location and he introduce me to his son, Yusuf Yusuf and to Mr. Muffed Hamed. And he told them that Ayman is going to work on this hard drive that presented for us, and he is going to look on everything on this hard drive without specifying any specific names.

Q Okay. And did there come a point in time where a new opportunity at United Corporation presented itself?

A Correct.
Q And do you know someone named Margie Soeffing?
A Correct. She used to be I guess - - not she used to be. She's still as a one-day controller. She used to be the previous controller for the Plaza Extra stores.

Q And did she work full time to your knowledge?
A Prior to that, yes, she was working full time. Now, she working only one day a week, which is saturday.

Q Okay. And did there come a point in time where -- strike at that.

Did you find out that there was an
opening for a controller at United Corporation?
A Correct.
Q How did you find that out?
A Mr. Yusuf approach me and ask me if I know any controllers around because his controller is leaving the company within two weeks. So he ask me if $I$ know somebody. I tell him I would like to take the job, if it's available, for me.

Q Okay?
A And at that date that Mr. John Gaffney was available, and he used to be my previous supervisor at Kazi Management, and he's working right now with us at the Plaza Extra. And Mr. John voted for me in front of Mr. Yusuf. He told him that Ayman is capable of taking care of this job if you wanted to offer it to him.

Q Okay. Now, since -- and you ultimately got the job?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And what are your duties and responsibilities in your current position at United?

A Well, after $I$ took the job as a capacity of controller, I had to --

Q Actually, tell us what a controller does?
A Controller basically -- there is a day-to-day
operation and cash reconciliation point, which is we have to make sure that after the end of day work, there is some report being generated from the P.O.S. system and we have to take these numbers from the P.O.S. system and track it down and drill to it as far as, you know, we have to know how much sales in cash, how much sales in credit cards and how much sales in debit.

Q What's P.O.S. mean?
A P.O.S. which is point of sale.
Q Okay. So when a cash register is rung up, there is data that's created, and your responsibility is to reconcile that data to make sure all the dollars in are captured?

A Correct.
Q Okay. What else do you do?
A And then $I$ do also follow-up with the A.P. and the payroll department, which is the accounts payable and the A.P. girls, and which is we are working in on enhancing what the company have prior to this. Because the minute $I$ work to this company, especially in the St. Croix location, they used to have typewriters. They use in these computers that they have as typewriters. And I explain a little bit more for you.

In the east location they have three stand-alone computers wasn't communicating with each
other. Each one of them had a separate database, not even a single balance could match with another computer because they wasn't communicating with each other.

Q Now, do you know -- are you familiar with a computer program called the Peachtree?

A Yes.
Q What is it?
A Peachtree, it's a higher, a little bit higher end than any software that's available for accounting use, and you could produce from it balance sheets. You could produce income statement. You could produce cash flow. You could produce and generate all reports that you could utilize it. It just need to be utilized correctly, and it wasn't prior to that utilized correctly.

Q And when you were saying that they were using the computer systems as typewriters, do you mean that they weren't using Peachtree to its full potential?

A Yes. And also they were using just as a matter of issuing checks. Not even single deposits used to be reported in the $S t$. Croix location in these accounts as far as bank accounts.

Q Okay. And are you also working with
Mr. Gaffney?
A Yes.

And what are you doing with Mr. Gaffney?
A We are enhancing the accounting procedure that the company have, and we are working in having each store to be autonomous and be able to issue corrected financial statement as far as balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement to be presented to the management, and they will be able to take decisions on that.

Q Okay. Who do you report to?
A Mr. Mike Yusuf.
Q Have you and Mr. -- or has Mr. Gaffney with your assistance finished this work?

A Not yet.
Q Okay. Let me ask you this, sir. Have you ever witnessed Fathi Yusuf making any types of threat or harm to any of the Hamed family members?

A No.
Q Are the vendors being paid timely?
A Yes.
Q Are orders being made timely?
A Yes.
Q Are the stores stocked?
A The stores well stocked.
Q Well stocked?
A Yeah.

Q Okay.
A Although if you don't mind I will mention the east location, due to a specific employee over there, they behind on entering their invoices in the system for almost two months, which is we talking about the month of October of last year.

Q Okay. And is that a reason why the payments to the vendors from these stores are being delayed?

A Correct.
Q Tell us about that employee?
A Her name is Mary. I don't remember the last name. Sorry.

Q Okay.
A And she been with the company for the past 26 years.

Q And Mary just happens to move a little slower?
A Yes.
MR. DAVID: One second, your Honor. I may be finished.
(Pause.)
Q Prior to your employment with United Corporation, were the books and records of United Corporation and obviously within that supermarket records, kept in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles?

A No, not at all.
Q And is that one of the things that you've been hired to fix?

A Yes.
Q And that's required, to your knowledge, by the plea agreement that was entered into with the government?

A Correct.
Q What is your relationship to Fathi Yusuf?
A I'm distance family for Mr. Yusuf.
Q Tell us how are you related to Fathi Yusuf?
A My mom is Mr. Yusuf niece.
MR. DAVID: That's all I have, sir.
Thank you.
THE COURT: Thank you. Cross exam. CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Good afternoon -- good morning.
A Good morning.
Q Do you know what certified public accounting,
a C.P.A. is?
A Yes.
Q Are you a C.P.A.?
A No, sir.
Q And you indicated you started working for

Fathi Yusuf in January of 2012?
A Yes.
Q And was there any type of written engagement letter defining what your scope is?

A Yes, I have a application been filled at the United stores. And basically not working for Mr. Yusuf by himself, I'm working for the whole company, which is the United Corporation.

Q Okay. I'm going back to just January 2012 -
A Yes.
Q -- when you started working doing the work you described. Did you give him a letter -- or did they give you a letter called an engagement letter that we're engaging your services, and give you the scope of the agreement?

A No, I didn't receive that.
Q Okay. And you indicated that this work was related to looking at the information turned over by the FBI?

A Correct. Actually not from the FBI. It been presented to him from the C.P.A.'s up in Buffalo.

Q Okay. And since you work in the store, are you familiar with the fact that there are different bank accounts for either the United Corporation Shopping Center as opposed to the supermarkets?

A Correct.
Q Okay. And you were paid from where?
A Excuse me?
Q You were paid from a Plaza Extra supermarket account?

A Yes.
Q Okay. Now, in 2012 you said you started being controller for the company?

A Correct.
Q And what account, bank account are you being paid from? A Plaza Extra supermarket account?

A Yes, I'm doing controller for Plaza Extra accounts.

Q Okay. And I guess that gets down to my next question. I should have just gone directly to it. Are you doing any work on the United Corporation Shopping Center accounts?

A United Corporation? Not yet. I didn't have a chance to touch it. There is a lot of work in the stores itself that it's not allowing us to touch anything else. When I take this job I inherited six month back work of bank reconciliation need to be done for the stores.

You talking about the st. Croix location, you have three bank account in each location; multiply six
month, that's 18 bank reconciliation for one location and --

Q Okay. Here's my question then. If I asked you something about the United Corporation Shopping Center bank accounts, you would say you have not had time to get to those yet?

A Yes.
MR. HOLT: Okay. No other question.
MR. DAVID: Nothing further, your Honor.
THE COURT: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.
THE COURT: You may stand down, sir.

Next witness.
MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, defense calls Mr. John Gaffney.

THE COURT: Excuse me, counsel. Could you spell that name of the last witness, please?

MR. DAVID: Sure.
MR. HOLT: The answer is no.
MR. DAVID: The answer is no, judge.
MR. DIRUZZO: Last name, $A-L-K-H-A-L-E-D ;$ first name Ayman, $A-Y-M-A-N$.

THE COURT: Thank you.
MR. DAVID: Madam Reporter, I think we used the name Margie Soeffing. It's spelling is
$S-O-E-E-E-I-N-G$.

## JOHN GAFFNEY,

having been called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn by the clerk of the court, was examined and testified, as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DIRUZZO:
Q Good morning, sir.
A Good morning.
Q Could you please state your name spelling your last name?

A John Gaffney. $\quad \mathrm{G}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{Y}$.
Q And, sir, what is your current job occupation?
A I work for United Corporation. I am kind of a controller.

Q Okay. Sir, why don't we start off with your education. Could you briefly tell us about your education?

A I have a BSBA in accounting from University of Florida, 1973.

Q Okay. And what about your professional experience?

A When I graduated, I went to work for a Big Eight accounting firm called Haskins \& Sells.

Q And, sir, could you spell that for the court
reporter?
A Haskins \& Sells, H-A-S-K-I-N-S \& S-E-L-L-S. Our international name was Delloitte Haskins \& Sells and they merged.

Q And, sir, is that accounting firm currently known at Delloitte \& Touche?

A Yes, it is.
Q Okay. And how long did you spend at Haskins \& Sells?

A Three years in the audit department, three and a half years.

Q And after your tenure there, what did you do next?

A I went out and began a practice of my own in the late 70 s.

Q And your practice consisted of?
A It was primarily geared to tax work.
Q Okay. And, sir, how many years have you spent in public accounting?

A Well, I've been in an out of private accounting, but I've spent probably about 15 to 20 years in public.

Q What about the private accounting?
A Private accounting another 15 years.
Q And do you have experience as -- well, are you
currently a certified public accountant?
A No. I let my license expire. I went inactive in the mid-80s.

Q And were you previously a certified public accounting?

A Yes, I was. I got certified in 1975.
Q And you held a license -- or what jurisdiction issued you that license as a certified public accountant?

A Florida.
Q And how long was that license active for?
A It was active for six years.
Q Sir, do you have any experience in retail accounting?

A Yes, I do.
Q Why don't you tell us about that experience?
A For about ten years $I$ was part owner of a retail operation in Florida. We had sixteen stores; fifteen stores in Florida, one in Georgia.

Q Okay. Now, sir, have you ever worked for a company known as Kazi Management?

A Yes, I have.
Q And what was your capacity? What were you doing for Kazi Management?

A I was the director of finance for them.

And just briefly, what were your job duties?
A Well, I managed an office of approximately 11 controllers. We had markets throughout the U.S. and some overseas. It was 275 fast food restaurants, mostly KFCs, Pizza Huts, Taco Bells, etc.

Q Do you know an individual by the name of Ayman Al-Khaled?

A I sure do.
Q How do you know him?
A He applied for a position as controller in May of 2010 and I hired him.

Q Is that Kazi Management?
A Yes, it was; 2011, it was.
Q And how would you characterize Mr. Ayman Al-Khaled's performance as controller?

A I characterize it as very good.
Q Okay. Sir, let's fast forward to your current employment with United Corporation. Do you remember when you were hired?

A Yes.
Q When was that?
A It was late september and I arrived on October 7th.

Q And in what capacity were you hired? What were your job duties supposed to be?

A I was coming in as an outside consultant initially to evaluate their system of internal controls.

Q And what are internal controls?
A I'm sorry?
Q Could you define what internal control is?
A Internal controls are basically the policies and systems in place to ensure that all of the assets and liabilities are safeguarded in the company.

Q Are you familiar with the term GAAP?
A Yes.
Q What does GAAP stand for?
A Generally accepted principles.
Q And do internal controls have any relationship to GAAP?

A They sure do.
Q How so?
A Well, basically the reliance on financial statements was built upon a system of internal controls.

Q Sir, you said financial statements. Could you define financial statements for us?

A GAAP financial statements generally consist of the balance sheet and income statement and statement of cash flows.

Q And just briefly, what is a statement of cash flows?

A Well, statement of cash flows basically takes all of the components of cash, beginning with net income of the business, make certain adjustments for charters, non-cash charters such as depreciation and amortization. And then what it does is it measures the activity or the net activity of the various asset and liability accounts to come up with, first, operational cash movement; then, financing cash movement; then, investing cash movement. And then what happens is you get your net increase and decrease in cash, and you compare your beginning and ending balances. If they balance, you've got a statement of cash flows.

Q All right. Now, sir, when you arrived and started working for United Corporation, what did you initially observe?

A Well, I observed that there was essentially four computers that had an accounting system, but none of them were integrated. In the west location, for instance, there were two databases using the peachtree accounting system; one was being used for payroll, the other one was being used for accounts payable, but in essence what they were was they were being used as word processing systems to print checks.

Q That's in the west location. What about the east location?

A The east location did have a server and it did have a single database that had been a recent development. And although they did have a server, the person doing accounts payable and the person doing payroll, again, they were using it more or less like a word processing system because all they were doing was they were using it to print checks.

Q And what about the St. Thomas location?

A In St. Thomas there was a controller by the name of Margie Soeffing. And she basically had a server also with two people; one person doing payroll, one person doing accounts payable. And that was the only system that actually had accounts payable functioning. She was then in charge of collecting data from the east and west locations from analysis of bank accounts at the end of each month, and then posting them as a journal entry into her system.

Q When you started working for United Corporation, did you initially come up with a plan of things that had to be done or implemented?

A Yes, I did.
Q And what was that plan?
A Well, after $I$ studied it for a little while, I
said we have to get a better accounting system in because there is no system of internal controls in existence.

Q Okay. Now, you talked about using Peachtree as a typewriter. Could you briefly describe the functionality of Peachtree and then contrast it to what was actually being used?

A Well, Peachtree is truly a good accounting system. It's a low-end system, but it's a very good accounting system quite capable of accounting for receivables, payables. You know, it's got the general ledger. It's capable of printing GAAP financial statements, balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flows when set up properly.

When I say it was used as a word processor, essentially, a bill would come in and they would literally just go in and write checks. And so there was really no accounting for accounts payable, if you will. In other words, they didn't go in, voucher in the payable and then pay it 30 days later. In some instances, however, they did. And that was completely omitted in the accounting that was done over in St. Thomas and those were some of the weaknesses.

Q Are you familiar with the phrase "accrual accounting"?

A Yes, I am.
Q What is accrual accounting?
A Accrual accounting is basically where you're matching income and receipts in the same periods. Essentially when you sell an account, for instance, what you have, you don't collect cash necessarily in the month of the sale. What you have is an accounts receivable. The cash might be collected the following month, or it might be collected a year from now. Accrual accounting basically dictates that a sales is still recognized regardless of when payment is occurred.

Same thing is true on the other side when you're paying bills. If an electric bill comes in, in November and it's paid in December, it's still a November expense. And the accrual accounting is just a system of recognizing those facts.

Q Is accrual accounting consistent with generally accepted accounting principles?

A Yes, it is.
Q You heard the phrase or term "cash accounting"?

A Yes, I have.
Q What is that?
A Well, cash basis accounting is basically, you
know, income and expenses are recognized when collected.

Q Now, sir, how would you characterize the method of accounting of United Corporation at the three stores when you arrived?

A Well, it was meant to be accrual accounting, but the only accrual accounting that was occurring was related to accounts payable in st. Thomas. The rest of the accounting was being done from the analysis of bank statements. Consequently, it was at best a cash accounting.

I discovered as time went on that at least one of the locations tended to lag behind. One of the locations where $I$ was located actually paid bills very promptly, typically in a month of receipt. So not so much of an issue there, but in one of the other locations tended to pay two to three months in arrears.

Q Sir, I'm going to turn to or ask you this.
Have you ever heard of the acronym P.O.S.?
A Yes.
Q What does that stand for?
A Point of sale.
Q And how does point of sale -- well, what exactly is point of sale?

A Well, point of sale system -- well, in plaza
for instance, the point of sale system is the system that regulates all the cash registers. And it typically -- it typically contains all of the detailed information as to pricing. A good point of sales system also contains all of the detailed costing, and is usually capable of some form of inventory management.

Q And was the point of sale system being used, was that integrated with the accounting systems?

A No, it wasn't.
Q How was it lacking?
A Well, there was no recording of point of sale in Peachtree. Essentially, what happened was each month, and it lagged behind probably -- well, when $I$ arrived and still to this date, 2012 accounting hasn't been done beyond June of 2012. Okay. But the point of sale was not being recorded in the accounting system.

Instead what they were doing was analyzing monthly bank statements and they were coming up with the journal entry to record the effects of what made it to the bank.

Q Is that consistent with GAAP?
A No, not at all.
Q Now, sir, I'm going to turn your attention to the inventory. Did you have an opportunity to take a
look at the accounting in respect to the inventory?
A Yes.
Q And did you come up with an initial observation or conclusion about that inventory?

A Well, my observation is very definitely that they have a periodic inventory method. They don't use a perpetual method. A periodic is where you basically just take a physical inventory from time to time. They do it once a year in February, so we're coming up on that right now.

Q Okay?
A Perpetual inventory, on the other hand, is a system whereby inventory is checked in and checked out. So when the sale occurs, it actually measures the cost associated with the particular item, but the P.O.S. system may be capable of that, but it's not being utilized for that purpose so what we have truly is a periodic system.

And all of the charges to inventory were going to inventory on the balance sheet, which made it practically -- made the income statements useless throughout the year.

Q Let's talk about that. What should have been done, according to generally accepted accounting principles, as it relates to the inventory?

A Well, a periodic method is a perfectly acceptable and accurate form of accounting for inventory. Essentially you have to acknowledge that that's what you're doing, is periodic; and you charge all your purchases to cost of sales purchases. And then periodically when you do your physical inventories, you make an inventory adjustment that trues up the true cost of sales.

Q And was that being done?
A No, it wasn't.
Q What was being done?
A What was being done was everything was being charged to inventory. So the financial statement, the only financial statement I've been able to get out of the system that has any credibility whatsoever is the June 30,2012 financial statement. And at the time that I ran that financial statement inventory was valued at about $\$ 40$ million.

Q And is there any problem with that valuation?
A Yeah, the true inventory is probably closer to 10, maybe as high as 12 million.

Q So you have a $\$ 30$ million variance, give or take?

A Yeah.
Q And is that problematic?

A Well, you know, what it results in is a $\$ 30$ million overstatement of income.

Q Okay. Sir, you ever hear of the acronym I.T.O.?

A Yes.
Q What is that?
A Inventory turnover.
Q And what - could you define inventory
turnover for us?
A Well, it's an important metric that management uses to determine the efficiency of buying and selling inventory. I.T.O. in retail operation, especially something with spoilage, if it's too low it means that you have a potential for greater spoilage.

Q Okay. Sir, you ever heard of the phrase "days sales outstanding"?

A Yes.
Q What is that?
A D.S.O. Well, sales on account, it's the amount of time that it takes to collect your sales on account.

Q And does that relate to accounts receivable?
A Yes.
Q And what did you initially observe regarding accounts receivable?

A Well, it's not on the system. It's not on the system. In $S t$. Thomas they do record the receivables. They are pulled -- they are treated in an incorrect way. They are actually pulled out of the P.O.S. So when a sale occurs on an account in St. Thomas, what they do is they void the sale the moment they complete it so they've got a cash register statement.

For the sake of example, let's say they sell \$500. They void that sale and then that paperwork goes to someone whose responsibilities it is to put it in the system and then to later collect it. That right now in st. Thomas has lagged months behind.

And is that system -- is there any problems with the way the system is as you saw it or as you just described?

A Oh, yeah. Well, it's a severe internal control weakness. Because if a -- if the accounts receivable aren't entered or collected, we would never know about it.

Q Sir, turning your attention to credit cards. Are you familiar or had an opportunity to review how credit cards are processed by United Corporation?

A Yes.
Q And what did you observe?
A I mean, it's pretty -- the credit card
processing is pretty good. The batch out at the end of the day sometimes has some left-over moneys that I monitor now because I'm looking at the P.O.S. on a daily basis. I monitor it now. So if there is something that doesn't get included in, let's say, today's batch, I will look tomorrow to see whether or not we have a corresponding overage, but generally the credit card process, it was pretty good.

Q Is there anything with regard to the credit card processing that has come to your attention as being problematic?

A Yes. As a matter of fact, there was a - - an A.C.H. problem recently with American Express in the east location, and it resulted in American Express issuing checks in settlement of the daily batches, and those checks have been getting mailed to st. Thomas. And I had to go over to st. Thomas on an emergency basis this weekend for payroll and I came back with about 20 checks that probably totalled anywhere - - I didn't even look at them, but $I$ glanced at a few and they range between 2 and $\$ 6,000$. So $I$ would imagine there was a pretty good amount of money there. If any of them had gotten lost in the mail, we wouldn't really know under the old system.

Q Sir, turning your attention to audits of
financial statements. Are you familiar with those?
A Yes.
Q And, sir, when a certified public accountant audits the management's financial statements, what do they do?

A Well, there is an awful lot of analytic review being done today. In earlier times there was an awful lot of selection that was done to verify things at, you know, to a source document. If, for instance, you wanted to verify the validity of a particular expense, you would actually make that selection beginning at the general ledger and drilling down into, let's say, the purchases journal. And then what you would do is you would examine the invoice for that purchase to determine the validity of it.

Income on the other hand was typically audited from the standpoint of determining where it begins, and it actually goes kind of opposite direction, but in a store in a retail operation it's always the P.O.S.

Q Okay. Sir, are you familiar with the phrase or term "audit report"?

A Yes.
Q What is that?
A Well, the audit report usually is the entire set of financial statements that's accompanied by an
opinion from the outside C.P.A. firm.
Q And are there -- is there more than one type of opinion from a C.P.A. firm?

A Yes.
Q And can you describe what those opinions are?
A Well, there is a no opinion. There is an adverse opinion. Then there is, of course, favorable opinion, which is what everybody seeks.

Q Okay. Let's talk about an adverse opinion. What is adverse opinion?

A An adverse opinion is basically where a C.P.A. firms comes in, attempts to conduct work and can't form a conclusion as to the fair presentation of the financial statements.

Q And what is no opinion?
A A no opinion is there aren't sufficient books and records to even begin.

Q So when you came in to United Corporation and started the work, how would you characterize the ability or the type of opinion that a C.P.A. firm would be able to render?

A Well, having been recently, having gone through the process recently and having spent $\$ 250,000$ on an audit, I can honestly say that we could have probably spent a half million dollars and probably
wound up with either a no opinion or an adverse opinion.

Q Okay. Now, sir, with the work that you're performing, what is the goal, the end game so to speak of the work that the consulting with respect to audit is?

A Well, aside from establishing a descent -- a good system of internal controls, it is to be able to generate financial statements with very, very good audit trails. Theoretically, I could see an audit, the price of audit coming from what $I$ just mentioned down to $\$ 50,000$ with a good set of internal controls and also audit trails.

Q So you're estimating the cost savings of approximately 450,000 based on when the work that you're performing is completed?

A Yes.
Q Sir, have you ever been asked by -- well, let me go back. Are you familiar with any of the Hamed brothers?

A Yes.
Q And have you ever talked to them?
A Yes.
Q Okay. Have you ever been asked by them to -for them -- or for you to deliver to them your work
product?
A Yes.
Q And what happened?
A Well, I actually haven't -- I don't have a deliverable product yet. Because we did a conversion beginning January lst of 2013, and the end of the month was yesterday. I have been keeping up with the P.O.S. entries during this first month. In the two locations, east and west, they are current through about the 23 rd of the month. I just got the last documents handed to me last night as a matter of fact. I have all of the documents through the 27 th I believe from st. Thomas in my possession right now. I intend to go over there again this week, and $I$ am going to actually post those into the system.

As soon as all those are posted and as soon as bank statements come in, and they're pretty late here in the islands, they are beyond mid-month, I would say that by the end of October I would actually have some reconciliations and some form of deliverable product.

Q Sir, you just said by the end of October?
A By the end of October - I'm sorry. I meant by the end of February.

Q You would expect to have a deliverable product by the end of February?

A It won't be a perfect statement because I intend to also encourage Margie, work with Margie in St. Thomas to bring 2012 to a close. Right now the St. Thomas accounting for revenue has not been done since June of 2012. And so I'd asked her to complete that action.

Ayman has completed all of the analysis work that allowed me to post the activity from July through November for the other two locations. And we just received the bank statements recently and I expect to have that finished up too, but whether or not $I$ will have the balance sheet, I won't really have a good balance sheet by the end of October. That's going to take some more time because $I$ know in my review of the 2012 work, I see some adjustments that need to be updated back to 2011.

Q I believe you said the balance sheet to be ready by October?

A I'm sorry. I keep thinking I'm in september because -- yeah, by the end of February.

Q Okay?
A It's going to take a few months before the balance sheet is actually -- it's kind of like building a bridge across the bay. You're building it together and it has to meet perfectly in the middle.

Okay. Sir, have you done any training with any of the employees?

A Yes, I have.
Q And what training have you done?
A I have trained Lizette and Myra in the west store in the new system. I have basically educated them on the chart of accounts and its purpose. They really -- their understanding of the chart of accounts was minimal. Their understanding of debits and credits is nonexistent. I also trained Lavena, Wadda and Mary in the east store also on the new system.

I found that everybody was very cooperative and very intelligent, but the -- they lacked certain knowledge of the theory of the accounting system and how it's best used.

Q Sir, you just mentioned the chart of accounts. What is that?

A The chart of accounts is basically the categories that items are classified as. Cash, for instance, is an item on the balance sheet, but it's also cash in the chart of accounts. Revenue is an income statement item in the chart of accounts.

Q Okay. Was there any problems - well, what problems, if any, did you observe in the chart of accounts when you started working?

A Well, the chart of accounts being used over in St. Thomas had a structure that indicated that someone was looking toward being able to departmentalize the three locations. In actuality, they used the suffix, 10, to account for both east and west over here. So those two -- the operations of east and west were merged into one. They used the suffix 20 to account for st. Thomas. And they used the suffix 30 to account for the tenants with the accounting, which was the rentals and so forth at the east location.

Essentially there was a lot of cross over. There was a lot of confusion in the equities section, meaning, there were multiple. There were four retained earnings accounts.

Q Is that problematic?
A Yeah, it was pretty problematic. When the first time -- my first conversation with Margie Soeffing after I introduced myself, I had asked her whether or not she had ever done a thorough analysis of the equities section of the financial statement and she said, no, she could never figure it out.

Q Have you done it yourself?
A I have. It took me two passes. It took me two passes and searching for a lot of information, but I finally did reconcile.

Okay. Sir, are you familiar with the phrase "adjusting journal entry"?

A Yes.
Q And what is an adjusting journal entry?
A Well, an adjusting journal entry, it is typically something that's done by the controller. And it is a journal entry that is based upon some analysis to true up, you know, some figure.

Q And were adjusting journal entries being done properly?

A In the - over a long period of time, yes, but the timeliness was very poor. As I said, the accounting for United Corporation still to this day lags behind. We've not reconciled anything since June of 2012 .

Q Sir, have you ever heard the phrase FAS 109 accounting for income taxes?

A I have heard it, yes.
Q And briefly tell us, what does that mean?
A Well, I'm not sure. Honestly, I'm not sure what 109 is because $I$ don't keep them memorized, but financial accounting standards. And it's basically pronouncements from the A.I.C.P.A. on the treatment of certain things.

Q And were the -- was the accounting for income
taxes being done properly when you arrived at United Corporation?

A Um - -
Q Let me be specific.
A Yeah.
Q For accounting purposes, not for income tax purposes, but for the accounting purposes under generally accepted accounting principles?

A Well, I mean, I have taken exception to some of the handlings in the financial statements. It may get a little bit confusing. The significant portion of the balance sheet of United Corporation is brokerage accounts with Banco Popular and Merrill Lynch. The reason those are correct on the income tax returns is because it was done with great analysis by the outside C.P.A. firm in the past.

The accounting for on the books and records of United Corporation in my opinion are not as good as they should be. One of the items that $I$ take exception to is unrealized gain or loss on investments. And that's an item that typically is used to track original basis, meaning, what you originally have invested in something. And it can be viewed, it's often viewed as an income statement item, but $I$ usually find that it's better placed on the balance sheet. Because when it's
put into the income statement it closes into retained earnings and you lose track of what your original basis was.

Q Sir, during the course of your employment have you had an opportunity to review the plea agreement?

A I have.
Q Okay. The plea agreement sets out certain terms or certain requirements for United Corporation. When you started working for United Corporation, insofar as it relates to the accounting, was United Corporation in compliance with the plea agreement?

A No.
Q And when you're done with the work that you're performing, do you anticipate United Corporation to be in compliance with the plea agreement?

A Yes.
Q Sir, are you familiar with an individual by the name of Wadda Charriez?

A Yes.
Q How do you know this individual?
A I was introduced to her in the east location. She does the payroll work.

Q Okay. Now, is her position as payroll clerk, is that a critical or important position?

A Payroll clerk is always a critical -- is
always an important position because especially in -we found that out this week in $S t$. Thomas when we received the resignation of the payroll clerk over there. It caused me to have to go over there on basically 24-hours notice, become familiar with it. And I'll be over there again this Monday to make sure that payroll gets done.

Q Okay. Now, is Wadda Charriez's employment as a payroll clerk, is she critical?

A Um - -
Q Let me ask it this way. Is she irreplaceable?
A No, she is not irreplaceable.
Q And how do you know that?
A Well, there was about--I forget how many weeks ago, maybe two weeks ago--she was out sick on the day payroll was to be done and she said she was going to be out for a few days. And one of the other girls, Lavena, she did the payroll on Monday morning. And from what I recall, it was about two o'clock when she finished it up on Monday.

Q Can you compare the time it took Lavena to complete the task versus Wadda?

A Well, the week before it had been mentioned to me that the payroll wasn't complete on Monday, and that it was done sometime Tuesday morning. It was completed
by Tuesday morning. Now, I don't really know the particulars of it, but you know, that was just a for instance; but to my knowledge for the most part payroll is typically completed in each of the locations on Monday.

In St. Thomas, Sherry, I forget Sherry's last name, but sherry typically comes in early on Monday mornings and has it completed. Her target for completing payroll in st. Thomas is noon.

Q And as you're sitting here today, would you be comfortable if Wadda was replaced with Lavena?

A I would be.
Q And finally, sir, when it's all said and done, the financial statements that would be produced, how would you characterize both the timeliness and the accuracy of those financial statements when all of your work at the end of the day, when your work as consultant is completed?

A Well, I'm accustomed to and I have experience having closed financial statements in three and a half days after the close of a month. That was a requirement when $I$ worked for Emerson Electric, and it can be done.

A good quality financial statement and a good quality system will produce not only a good balance
sheet and income statement, with all balance sheet items reconciled every month, it will also produce a good statement of cash flows because I found that to be a financial statement that businessmen and entrepreneurs understand well. They understand that better than even income statements. And I designed the chart of accounts to accomplish that.

I can actually prove, I can actually prove it and have. I have run preliminary financial statements mid-January and the statement of cash flows balance is perfectly -- and it's really quite an accomplishment. Because 90 percent of the businesses that C.P.A. firms go in to audit can't produce a statement of cash flows. MR. DIRUZZO: Nothing further at this time.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Holt.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. HOLT:
Q Let me start off with Wadda Charriez?
A Yes.
Q You've worked with her?
A Yes.
Q You've worked with the person in her position in all three of the stores, correct?

A Yes.
Q And you would describe her work as excellent,
wouldn't you?
A I would.
Q She's a very good worker, isn't she?
A I think she is.
Q She's better than the ones in her position in
the others stores, isn't she?
A I wouldn't say. Perhaps one of them she is;
the one that $I$ most recently worked with, yes.
Q And you've never had any problems in the
performance of her job, have you?
A No.
Q Now, you started work in this store -- you
started working for Plaza in September of 2012?
A October 8th was my first day.
Q Okay. 2012?
A 2012 .
Q Okay. And you knew Ayman before you came to
work there?
A Yes, I did.
Q Was he the one who actually introduced you to Mr. Yusuf to get you the job?

A I was introduced - I actually was introduced to them back in 2012 when $I$ was still on the island
before I moved back to Florida.
Q And who introduced you to them?
A Ayman did.
Q So your contact with the store came through Ayman, is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And did you, when you started work in October of 2012, did you actually have a formal engagement letter which listed what you would do?

A No, I didn't.
Q And then you've talked here about all the work you've done. Am I correct in understanding that there is an accounting system for each of the Plaza Extra stores?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And then, is there an accounting system for the United Shopping Center?

A There is going to be, yes. It hasn't been set up yet.

Q Okay. Have you done any work on the accounts for the United Shopping Center?

A Other than $I$ have segregated the department I referred to earlier as with the suffix 30. I've segregated those numbers as they exist in 2012. As I said, they're not complete yet, but I've segregated
them, and because there is not too much activity in that I have kind of put that to the side because the Plaza stores and, you know, departments 10 and 20 are so much more important.

Q So you have some familiarity with the United Shopping Center financial bank accounts, but you've concentrated primarily on the three stores?

A Correct.
Q Okay. And when we say the three stores, I take it then there is a separate bank account system, payrolls, invoicing, purchasing, separate system for the Sion Farm east store -- I mean -- excuse me -- the Plaza Extra East store, the Plaza Extra West store and the St. Thomas store?

A Yes, that's what we're putting in now.
Q And you've done nothing to merge any of these together, correct?

A The intention is when the accounting is being done in all three on a monthly basis, we will combine all three.

Q But during the day as they are working, they still work as three separate stores?

A Exactly.
Q And even when you merge them, will you also merge them with the United Shopping Center account?

A Yes.
Q So right now they're totally separate?
A Correct.
Q Okay. Now, which account are you paid from?

Are you paid from one of the Plaza Extra accounts?
A Yeah, I'm paid from Plaza West.
Q The store that's located in Plaza Extra West?
A Yes.
MR. HOLT: Let me have the witness shown
Exhibit 7, 9, 13, 15.
THE COURT: This is plaintiff's?
MR. HOLT: Yeah, Plaintiff's Exhibit 7,
9. 13 and 15.
(The documents were marked Plaintiff's Exhibit Numbers 7, 9, 13 and 15 for identification.)

MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, we object;
beyond the scope.
MR. HOLT: They talked about the
accounting. I'm going to ask him how he books these accounts.

THE COURT: I'll permit it, at least at this stage.

Q (MR. HOLT) Looking at Exhibit Number 7, you'll see that these are statement of rents due for Plaza Extra East from United Corporation. Are you
familiar with those documents?
A I don't think that I've seen this one, this Number 7.

Q Can you just look through all of the documents and see if you've seen any of the composite exhibit?

A I think I have seen one of these, yes.
Q Okay. And this shows United Corporation sending a rent-due statement to Plaza Extra?

A Yes.
Q So as an accountant, do you plan on entering this as a debit on the Plaza Extra account and a sum owed on the United Corporation account?

A That was my intention, yes.
Q Okay. And showing you Exhibit Number 9, this is a check for 5.4 million. You know, before $I$ leave that, let me have the witness shown Exhibit 20. This is the most recent rent statement of February 1, 2013. Have you seen this one?
(The document was marked Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 20 for identification.)

A No, I haven't.
Q Would you have entered it the same way as the other ones?

A Yes, I would.
Q Before doing that, would you consult with
anyone to see if in fact Plaza Extra supermarket has agreed to pay this rent?

A Well, I would certainly question whether or not it was collectible before entering.

Q But before you list an account payable on one company and due to the other company, would you at least inquire as to whether or not there's really been an agreement to pay these sums of money?

A Yes, I would.
Q And if the Hamed family told you that they hadn't agreed to pay this rent, how would you enter it?

A Well, I don't know that I would consider that I would have to get their approval.

Q Whose approval would you have to get?
A I'd get Mike Yusuf, president of United Corporation.

Q Well, he's the landlord?
A No, he is not. He's the president of United Corporation --

Q Well, United --
A -- doing business as Plaza Extra. If he says it's a good payable receivable, then it is.

Q So if United Corporation sends a rent notice to Plaza, you see that as the same entity?

A Yeah, United Corporation doing business as

Plaza, yes.
Q In your accounting business have you ever seen a company send a rent notice to itself?

A Well, as a matter of fact, I have seen intercompany do two forms where you have one bookkeeper sending it to another one, yes.

Q And has anyone ever told you that Plaza is actually a partnership that operates separately from Mohammad Hamed and Fathi Yusuf?

MR. DIRUZZO: Hearsay.
THE COURT: You can answer it.
THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.
THE COURT: You can answer it.
A I have heard the term partnership used as more of a joint venture splitting the profits of plaza.

Q (MR. HOLT) Okay. If in fact there is a joint venture or a partnership, you would have to change the accounting on how you treated these, wouldn't you?

MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, beyond the scope of direct.

THE COURT: I'm sorry. Could you ask the question again.

Q (MR. HOLT) If you had to - if in fact there is a joint venture or a partnership, you would then have to change how you would enter the accounting of
this document as rent being owed and rent being paid? MR. DIRUZZO: Objection. THE COURT: Objection is overruled.

A No. It is -- it's basically an intra-company payable due to/from. And it really, in the final analysis on the tax returns of United Corporation, washed.

Q (MR. HOLT) But if there was a partnership in place that existed, then you would have to have a separate entity -- let me rephrase.

Partnerships have to file tax returns, don't they?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; outside the scope of direct.

THE COURT: I will allow it. MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; calls for legal conclusion.

MR. HOLT: He is an accountant.
THE COURT: I'm going to allow it.

A If there is a partnership where tax returns are being filed. But what's been consistently done and typically the safe route is that there is $S$ Corporations for United Corporation that's been a consistency for a long time. There is no evidence of partnership.

Q (MR. HOLT) Do You know if the Hameds are shareholders in United?

A I know they are not.
Q And do you know though that they've received profit from United?

A The answer to that is that $I$ know of an agreement that they are to -- that there is going to be a split of the Plaza operations, but the answer is that I know they receive payroll checks. They don't receive profits though.

Q All right. But you testified that you know that there's supposed to be a split of the profits from the Plaza store, correct?

A Correct, yeah.
Q And that would be a separate type of accounting entry, won't it?

A Not necessarily. It could be a 1099 recognition, and I've seen that happen.

Q And it could also be partnership which would then be part and separate taxes?

A It could be.
Q It could be either one, couldn't it?
A Could be.
Q And before you get to the final end of your work, you're going to have to figure that out, aren't
you?
A No. As far as I'm concerned that's an already forgone conclusion. There is a consistency of how tax returns have been filed now for many, many years and there is no question about how they are going to continue to be filed.

Q Have any tax returns been filed since 2002?
A They have been prepared.
Q They have not been file, have they?
A That's the subject of the plea agreement, is protected under the plea agreement. They have been prepared with the intent to file them.

Q And you're not a registered C.P.A. in the Virgin Islands, are you?

A No, I'm not.
Q So you couldn't sign those tax returns, could you?

A I could as a controller.
Q You're not the controller of the company, are you?

A I would say that probably I am. I would say I am.

Q Okay. And what is Ayman's position?
A I'm sorry?
Q What is Ayman's position. Mr. Ayman, what is
his position?
A What's his position? Mohammad?
Q No, no. Hamed Al-Khaled?
MS. CAMERON: Ayman.
Q (MR. HOLT) Ayman?
A Oh, Ayman Al-Khaled. Ayman Al-Khaled is also
a controller.
Q So the company has two controllers?
A As a matter of fact it has three at the
moment.
Q Who is the third one?
A Margie.
Q Okay. And has anyone every told you actually
you get that title, controller?
MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; hearsay.
MR. HOLT: Well --
Q (MR. HOLT) Why do you call yourself the controller?

A Well, I've been referred to that, you know, by people in Plaza.

Q Who?
A Mike, and even some of the people in the accounting department.

Q Okay. Something funny?
A No, no.

Q Looking at Exhibit Number 9, you see a check from United Corporation on the Plaza Extra account?

A Yes, I do.
Q To United Shopping Plaza of $\$ 5.4$ million?
A Yes, I do.
Q How would you treat that in the books?
A I didn't. This was in February of 2012 and I did see an entry in the accounting records. This is the first time I've seen the check though.

Q So you haven't gotten so far as to figure out how you're going to do that check?

A It's already accounted in the accounting records as I'm so sure it must be under rent.

Q And so United Corporation owns the shopping center where they collect rents, correct?

A $\quad \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q And so the rents they collect would be income to them, won't it?

A Yeah.
Q So this 5.4 million would actually be income to United Corporation, won't it?

A Yes, and it would be offset by an expense in the United Corporation too, so it's a wash.

Q Oh, so it's just writing this $\$ 5.4$ million checks so they can do a wash on it's income tax return?

A Yes. The net effect on the United tax return is zero. The character of the income though could be that it's passive income to the real estate. However, in closely related entities, the character remain. It has to be the same on both sides, so it's typically just a wash.

Q So if the IRB determines that the supermarket is in fact a partnership, then this would be income to United and a deduction to the partnership, wouldn't it? MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; calls for
speculation and calls for legal conclusion as to what the IRB would determine.

THE COURT: Well, I think it's a
hypothetical as to whether the IRB -- if the IRB did that. I think you can answer.

A If the IRB determined that it was a partnership?

Q (MR. HOLT) If the supermarkets were a partnership separate from United, then would this be income to United and a deduction to the partnership?

A I'm not sure $I$ can really answer that question because it isn't a partnership.

Q I asked you a hypothetical, so assume it is a partnership. Assume IRB determines it's a partnership?

A Well, you know, whenever you're talking about
rental income, you're talking about a different character of income. And that's -- you know, when you have related parties from a tax point of view, from a tax point of view it typically has to be the same character on both sides of the transaction.

So in other words, you couldn't have, you couldn't have earned income and write a check to yourself for rent on, let's say, business property and have it be treated as passive income, you know, on one part of your tax return and active income, earned income as a deduction on the other side. In this case we're talking about an intra-company payment.

Q Okay. That's not my question. If the IRS determines that the Plaza Extra East store is a partnership between Mr. Yusuf and Mr. Hamed, and it's not United Corporation, then this would be a deduction to the partnership and income to the corporation, wouldn't it?

A Yes, it would.
Q All right?
A If the IRS did that, yes.
Q All right. Showing you Exhibit Number 13. This is a series of checks dated August 15 th of 2012 and I believe the last document is a check for 2.7 million. Do you see that?

A $\quad \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{hmm}$.
Q Have you dealt with that check yet?
A No. I've heard about it. I haven't seen this check.

Q So you haven't gotten to the part of the records -- first of all, what account is that written on?

A United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza Extra.
Q That's one of the shopping -- one of the supermarket accounts?

A It looks like it, yes.
Q Okay. And it was then paid over to United Corporation?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And do you know where it was deposited?
A This would have had to have been deposited into Department 30, the tenant account.

Q The tenant account, which is the shopping center account?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And have you dealt with how that check is gonna be treated on the books of --

A I have to correct myself.
Q One second?
A I have to correct myself. I think -- I assume
that because I think that's where I saw the number up here in 2012.

Q Okay. So my question to you, have you gotten to the point where you're doing the accounting on that check and how it is going to be treated on the supermarket accounts?

A No. I'm actually planning that work this month now that we've finished up the $W-2^{\prime}$ s and all the year-end reporting for payroll.

Q And have you actually gotten to the point on how that would be treated on United's book assuming it is deposited in the tenant account?

A No, I haven't.
Q Okay. And have you been involved in all and how the money in the United Corporation shopping center account is dispersed?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; outside the scope of direct.

THE COURT: The question is, have you been involved?

MR. HOLT: Yeah.
THE COURT: You can answer.
A No. I mean, I see some affects of the accounting for it, but the answer is, is that $I$ don't have current day-to-day. I don't have current
day-to-day vision on the cash receipts and disbursements on all of the accounts. The main, primary thing that I've been focusing on this month in particular has been gathering and putting in a system that accounts for the P.O.S. records.

Q So you can't tell me how the money that was put into the United account has been spent?

A At this point, no.
Q Even though you are the controller?
A At this point $I$ haven't gotten to that point yet.

Q Okay. Showing you Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 26. Do you recognize this document?
(The document was marked Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 26 for identification.)

A Yes, I do.
Q And this is a Banco Popular Securities document?

A Yes.
Q And it has United Corporation $d / b / a$ Plaza
Extra on it?
A M-hmm.
Q And what money goes into this account?
A Well, this is the - what month is this? This is as of 12/31? You know, of course this is accounted
for on the balance sheet of United Corporation.
Q That's not what I asked you. What money goes into this account?

A It's the money of the United Corporation.
Q Isn't it true that the money that goes into this account are the profits from the three supermarkets?

A It could be that. It could be the profits also from the rental corporation.

Q So you think -- you don't know whether or not the profits of the rental go into this account?

A I don't have specific knowledge, but it could very easily be that, yes.

Q You don't know, do you?
A No. I've looked at combined financial statements and they're all merged. There is no -- the ability to segregate exactly where it comes from. It's sort of like having a single dollar bill in your left pocket and a single dollar bill in your right pocket and switching what has just occurred.

Q You don't know, do you?
A I do know.
Q So now you're telling me that United Corporation Shopping --

A I do know that it's entirely possible that
some of the profits of the rental operation could be sitting in there, yes.

Q I didn't ask you if it's possible. Do you know if in fact they're in there?

A I don't know that any money - I don't know of any transfers directly from the United Corporation rental account that went in there. The answer to that is, no, I don't know that.

Q And do you know why this money is in that account?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; calls for -well outside the scope of direct.

MR. HOLT: He is the controller of the company.

THE COURT: Well, he's talked about his role and just examined his role, so $I$ will let him answer, if he knows.

A Well, the answer is, is that this investment account has been around for quite a while, long before I got here, but it's not uncommon for people with excess cash to put them in a good solid earning investment.

Q (MR. HOLT) So you have no knowledge about whether or not this was formed as part of the criminal case, or the profits would all be escrowed under the

TRO in the criminal case?
A Sounds vaguely familiar, but the answer is I don't know that for sure.

MR. HOLT: Your Honor, we move Exhibits 20 and 26 into evidence.

MR. DIRUZZO: No objection.
THE COURT: Plaintiff's 20 and 26 are admitted without objection.
(The documents, heretofore marked
Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 20 and 26 for identification, were received in evidence.)

MR. HOLT: Nothing further.
THE COURT: That concludes the cross exam. Is there any redirect?

MR. DIRUZZO: No.
THE COURT: Thank you very much, sir.
You may stand down.
Any other witnesses?
MR. DIRUZZO: No, your Honor. We rest.

THE COURT: Any rebuttal?
MR. HOLT: Yes, your Honor. Your Honor, we planned on calling as our first witness Fathi Yusuf, but I don't know if he's here.
(Pause.)

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, I'm not sure what the purpose of the exercise is, but Mr. Yusuf is not here.

MR. HOLT: Okay.
MR. DAVID: And I'm not aware that he was under subpoena to be here, and in fact, I know he wasn't under subpoena to be here.

THE COURT: Was Mr. Yusuf subpoenaed?
MR. HOLT: No, he was not. I will call Mike Yusuf instead.

## MAHER YUSUF,

having been called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn by the clerk of the court, was examined and testified, as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Mr. Yusuf, you testified earlier in this case, is that correct?

A Yes.
Q Last week? Showing you what I'm going to mark as Exhibits 22, 23 and 24. These are certified copies of deeds from the recorder's office. Do you recognize them?
(The documents were marked Plaintiff's Exhibit Numbers 22, 23 and 24 for identification.)

A Yes -- oh -- yes, I do.
Q Are these deeds the deeds for the three properties that you indicated 2.7 million was used to purchase?

A Yes.
Q And showing you the first deed as dated May 18th of 2012 from the Robert Merwin Trust for the La Grange property, do you see that, september 22 ?

A What page is that?
Q The first page of Exhibit Number 22 at the
top. It says indentured made this 18 th day of March 2002?

A Yes.
Q Do you see that?
A Yes.
Q And the recording on the side says May 25, 2012, do you see that?

A Yes, May 25th.
Q Okay. And on Exhibit 23, it says June 21, 2012; and the recording document on the side say July 6, 2012. Do you see that?

A Same Exhibit 23?
Q No. Exhibit 23?
A Repeat that again.
Q Exhibit Number 23, it's a warranty deed from

Frederick Side, Inc. to United Corporation dated June 1, 2012. Do you see that?

A You talking about Armstrong?
Q Armstrong is Exhibit Number 22. It's dated May 18th of 2012; recorded May 25, 2012. You see that?

A You got it wrong. Number 23 --
Q I apologize. Tell me what exhibit numbers you have and what are the dates of the deeds? I apologize.

A Number 23 is the La Grange.
Q La Grange. And that's a property from the Armstrong?

A Yeah.
Q And what is the date of that deed?
A May 18.
Q 2012?
A 2012, yeah.
Q You see the recording on the side of May 25, 2012?

A Correct.
Q And then what is the next document you have?
A Exhibit 24.
Q What about the other one before that?
A Exhibit 22?
Q What is the date of that deed?
A Which one?

Q 22 ?
A June 21, 2012.
Q You see the recorder's stamp indicating it was recorded on July 6, 2012?

A Correct.
Q Okay. And the last exhibit, Exhibit 24, what is the date of that document?

A December 17, 2012.
Q And that's for the Enfield Green property near
the airport?
A Correct.
Q Okay. And these are the three properties that
you say that you used 2.7 million to purchase?
A Yes.
Q Any other properties?
A No.
Q Can you explain to me how you can take a check out of the United Corporation supermarket account on August 15 th or 20 th, whatever day it was, and purchase property that had closed in May of 2012 and June of 2012?

A Repeat that again.
Q When you testified at this court that the funds that were removed from the shopping center were used to purchase these three parcels of land; and my
question to you is, how did you use the 2.7 million that you took out of the account in August of 2012 to purchase property in May and June of 2012?

A Well, I used upon the account to pay for property when the funds was available.

Q So when you bought the property in May of 2012 from the Armstrong Trust, and then you bought the property in June of 2012 from the Frederick C. Company, you didn't use any part of the 2.7 million you took out in August 2012, did you?

A I used whatever funds was in United.
Q Okay. So let's back to the real question. What happened to the 2.7 million that you removed from the account in August of 2012?

A It should be -- I used for property and whatever else.

Q Okay. So you testified in front of this Court last week that you used it to buy three pieces of property?

A Yes, I did.
Q You would agree now that that isn't true, is it? You couldn't use it to purchase these three pieces of property, could you?

A It was part of either one or two properties.
Q Well, we see one property that's dated in --
the last property dated in December 17 th of 2012 . So you could have used it to purchase that property, correct?

A Yeah, I could have.
Q But that's the only property that you could have used those funds to purchase, isn't that true?

A I wasn't looking if it was the 2.7 to replace properties. I wasn't doing that. The property was available, $I$ had funds and $I$ paid for it.

Q Okay. So let's get back to the question. What did you do with the 2.7 million that you removed, that was removed from the Plaza Extra supermarket account into the United account? What was it used for?

A Some properties and whatever else.
Q What is the whatever else?
A I don't know. I'm not - I haven't used it for anything.

Q You haven't used it to purchase properties overseas?

A Oh, no.
Q Have you used it to invest in other businesses, like the mattress business or things like that?

A Yes, I did.
Q And were those businesses in the name of

United Corporation?
A No.
MR. HOLT: No other questions.
MR. HOLT: Your Honor, I would like to introduce those exhibits into evidence, 22, 23 and 24 .

THE COURT: Any objections?
MR. DIRUZZO: No objection and no questions.

THE COURT: Okay. $23-$ I'm sorry -22, 23 and 24 are admitted without objection, and you may stand down, Mr. Yusuf.
(The documents, heretofore marked Plaintiff's Exhibit Numbers 22, 23 and 24 for identification, were received in evidence.)

MR. HOLT: We call Waleed Hamed.
WALEED HAMED,
having been called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn by the clerk of the court, was examined and testified, as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLT:
Q Can you state your name for the record again?
A Waleed Hamed.
MR. HOLT: And may I have the witness shown Exhibit 27.
(The document was marked Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 27 for identification.)

Q Showing you Exhibit Number 27, what is this?
A These are checks made out to Fathi Yusuf signed by Fathi Yusuf from the Plaza Extra account.

MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, we would object to this line of questioning as being outside the scope of defense's case. I know I didn't talk about any checks with Fathi Yusuf in respect to Ayman Al-Khaled, John Gaffney, or Yusuf Yusuf.

THE COURT: What's the purpose?
MR. HOLT: Well, on cross examination they showed him checks that were made out to him during the same time period. I was just trying to clarify to the Court that both parties took checks from the same account.

MR. DIRUZZO: May I respond?
THE COURT: Yes.
MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, the time for this exercise should have been done on redirect; not as rebuttal.

MR. HOLT: If I had known what exhibits they were gonna use, it would have been easier to use them on cross examine.

MR. DIRUZZO: It's been working both
ways.
THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's let it work both ways. I will allow it.

Q (MR. HOLT) Now, can you tell me what the time period is for these checks?

A They go from 2001 through 2004.
Q And these predate the Feds seizing these accounts?

A Some of them, sir.
Q Okay. And was it acceptable for Mr. Yusuf to write these checks?

A Yes.
Q Why?
A Because it was agreed by both families to do
So.
Q If that's true, then why was the 2.7 million removed by Mr. Yusuf in August of 2012 not acceptable?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; asked and
answered. He's already gone over this on direct.
THE COURT: He can answer the question.
A Could you repeat the question, please?
Q (MR. HOLT) If it's true that it was
acceptable for Mr. Yusuf to write those checks, then why was the 2.7 million removed by Mr. Yusuf in August of 2012 not the same thing?

A Because the amount that Mr. Yusuf withdrew is really excessive. It's 2.7 million . And at the same time we didn't agree to it. I mean, we didn't have an opportunity to do such a thing.

Q And prior to the withdrawal of the 2.7 million, can you tell me whether or not any member of the Hamed or Yusuf family had ever withdrawn funds that were not agreed to?

A No.
Q Now, can you tell me what prevents Mr. Yusuf from withdrawing these funds again?

MR. DIRUZZO: Same question, your Honor.
THE COURT: I'm sorry. Objection is
what?
MR. DIRUZZO: Asked and answered and outside the scope of our case; legal conclusion.

THE COURT: I will allow the one question.

A Could you repeat the question again, please?
Q (MR. HOLT) What prevents Mr. Yusuf from doing this again tomorrow, if anything?

A Nothing whatsoever.
MR. HOLT: Can I have the witness shown Exhibit 28 - I'm sorry -- 27 - I'm sorry - - 26. I apologize.

MR. DIRUZZO: Your Honor, this is clearly beyond the scope. And this document just came in to evidence through Maher, who was called on rebuttal.

MR. HOLT: You know, I'll withdraw the questions, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.
Q (MR. HOLT) We've heard about the criminal TRO. Can you tell me whether or not the Hamed family believed the 2.7 million violated the criminal TRO?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; asks for a legal conclusion.

MR. HOLT: This is what they believed.
THE COURT: Rephrase the question again.
Q (MR. HOLT) Are you familiar with what we call
the TRO in the criminal case?
A Yes, sir.
Q And does that $T R O$ have restrictions on removal of funds?

A Yes, it does.
Q And did your father, Mr. Hamed, consider the withdrawal of those funds to be in violation of the TRO?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection.
THE COURT: Sustained.

Q
(MR. HOLT) Did you consider the withdrawal of those funds to be in violation of the TRO?

MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; relevance and
legal conclusion.
THE COURT: I'll allow it. He said what
he understood.
MR. DIRUZZO: And one problem, your
Honor. Commenting on a legally operative document is not on the record.

MR. HOLT: Just what his belief is.
He's a defendant in the case.
THE COURT: Commenting on the plea agreement?

MR. DIRUZZO: No. The temporary restraining order that's currently in place. That's a legally operative document.

THE COURT: We have had a lot of testimony about the effect of the TRO. He can answer the question what he understood.

A Can you ask the question again, please?
Q (MR. HOLT) Did you believe that the withdrawal of the 2.7 million in the supermarket accounts by Mr. Yusuf violated the criminal TRO?

A Yes, sir.
Q And why didn't you or your father move to
enforce that TRO?
MR. DIRUZZO: Objection; speculation as to his father.

THE COURT: Don't ask as to the father.
Q (MR. HOLT) Why didn't you move to enforce
that TRO?
A Because I'm no longer a party to the criminal case. My charges have been dismissed.

Q And has your father ever been a part of the criminal case?

A No, he hasn't.
MR. HOLT: No other questions. And I
will move Exhibit 27 into evidence.
THE COURT: Any objection to 27?
MR. DIRUZZO: No objection, your Honor.
THE COURT: 27 is admitted.
(The document, heretofore marked
Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 27 for identification, was received in evidence.)

MR. DIRUZZO: No cross.
THE COURT: No cross examination. Thank you very much. Any other --

MR. HOLT: We have no other witnesses, your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well. That concludes
the taking of evidence.
MR. HOLT: And, your Honor, one thing. We did have a transcript of Mike Yusuf's testimony. I don't know if the Court wants us to submit it or not. We provided a transcript to the other side.

MR. DIRUZZO: Well, your Honor, we are or we have ordered all the testimony from the first day, and we're going to be ordering all the testimony from this day as well. So obviously the record and transcripts are what they are.

THE COURT: Is it fair to assume that both sides would like to have the opportunity to present something in writing?

MR. DIRUZZO: Yeah, we would.
MR. DAVID: Yes, sir.
THE COURT: And do you require the transcript to do that?

MR. DIRUZZO: Exactly, your Honor, post findings of fact and conclusions of law.

THE COURT: Okay. We have very hard working court reporters who are overworked. There are three court reporters for the court, but Ms. Burke says -- I'm sorry - says in two weeks she should be able to have that. How much time do you need after that?

MR. DAVID: Your Honor, I think another
week, ten days after we get the transcript we can get this done because then we can do a lot of work without it, but we obviously are going to need to punch things in.

MR. HARTMANN: That's acceptable.
THE COURT: So if we look out two weeks from now, so by February 22 both sides have the opportunity to present their arguments as to what was heard and what is to be done.

MR. DAVID: That's acceptable, judge.
MR. HOLT: It's acceptable. I just want
to make sure. The transcript will be done in two weeks, that's around February 15 th.

MR. HOLT: 14th.
THE COURT: 14th, 15th.
MR. HOLT: So then you are talking about trying to have the --

THE COURT: I thought that's what Mr. Hartmann was suggesting.

MR. HOLT: Okay. February 22nd. I'm sorry. I wasn't paying attention to --

THE COURT: Well, I know that two-week period you're going to use well anyway, and you don't need to wait for the transcript to put your legal arguments together and to gather the facts as you
recall.
MR. DIRUZZO: One more point, your
Honor. Yesterday Mr. Holt was so kind as to provide Exhibit 7 to deposition transcript that we received and entered into evidence. And I made the mistake of forgetting to bring it today, so I'll just be filing it with the court.

THE COURT: I'm sorry. I didn't really
follow that.
MR. DIRUZZO: The Exhibit 7 to
Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, the deposition transcript had certain exhibits.

THE COURT: Oh, right, right, right.
MR. DIRUZZO: And Mr. Holt was so kind as to provide that document yesterday via e-mail and I just forgot to bring it out today, so I will just be filing it on paper with the court and get back to --

THE COURT: That's fine. That's the exhibit referenced in Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 1. The deposition transcript of Mr. Yusuf included Exhibit 7 to that deposition.

MR. DIRUZZO: Exactly.
THE COURT: And that has been provided and will be added to the record and will be accepted as part of the evidence as a part of Exhibit 1.

MR. HOLT: And if we can find somebody
to get those exhibits, can we just submit them as well? MR. DIRUZZO: I have no problem with
that.
THE COURT: That's fine. It's better to have a more complete record than not. Okay. If there is nothing else, then we will adjourn.

MR. HARTMANN: Thank you, your Honor.
MR. DAVID: Thank you.
MR. DIRUZZO: Thank you.
(Hearing concluded at approximately
II: $40 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$.
*****

## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, SANDRA HALI, RPR, Official Court Reporter II of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, Division of St. Croix, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand, in my official capacity, the TRO Hearing in the case of Mohammad Hamed v. Fathi Yusuf and United Corporation, SX-12-CV-370, in said Court, on the 31 st day of January, 2013.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing 130 pages are a true and accurate computer-aided transcription of my stenotype notes of said proceedings.

I HAVE HEREUNTO subscribed my name, this lst day of February, 2013.

Sandra Hall, RPR Digitally signed by Sandra Hall, RPR DN: CN = Sandra Hall, RPR, C = US, O = Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, OU = Court Reporters Division Date: 2013.02 .01 17:06:34-04'00'
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