Clerk District Court

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DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS For The Northern Mariana Islands

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(Benuty Clark)

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IMPLEMENTATION OF SENTENCING PROCEDURES UNDER THE SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 1984. GENERAL ORDER

No. 88-1

This order is issued in view of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §3553(c) and §3742(c), which became effective November 1, 1987. It applies to all cases in which sentence is imposed under the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473, Title II, c. II, §§211-239). 18 U.S.C. §3551-note (Supp. 1987).

WHEREAS, to provide adequate time for the United States Probation Office's preparation of the presentence investigation report (PSI), disclosure of the PSI to the parties, the filing of presentence submissions by the parties, and such other and further procedures contemplated by the Sentencing Guidelines and this Order,

 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that sentencing proceedings shall be scheduled by the District Judge no earlier than seventy (70) days following entry of a guilty plea, a nolo contendre plea, or a verdict of guilty.

2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the presentence investigation report, including guideline computations, shall be completed

and transmitted to the parties no later than forty (40) days from the date of assignment and at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled sentencing proceeding, unless the minimum period is waived by the Defendant.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within ten (10) days after disclosure of the presentence investigation report to the parties, counsel for the Defendant and the government, or the <u>pro se</u> defendant shall file with the Clerk of this District Court, and serve on the Probation Office and all parties, one of the following:

 a) a pleading entitled, "Position of Parties with Respect to Sentencing Factors", which shall indicate the sentencing factors to be relied upon at sentencing, any factor important to the sentencing determination which is reasonably in dispute, any objections to the PSI report, and a certification from counsel that all parties and the U.S. Probation Officer have conferred in a good faith effort to resolve the disputed matter(s);

 b) a written statement adopting the findings of the presentence report; or

c) a written stipulation in which the parties agree to adopt the findings of the presentence report or to adopt such findings subject to certain exceptions or additions. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States Probation Office shall within fifteen (15) days from the submission of counsel's written statements make any necessary revisions to

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the PSI report and prepare and certify an addendum, which shall indicate any unresolved written factual disputes or objections by the parties with respect to the application of the Guidelines. The U.S. Probation Office shall within fifteen (15) days of the sentencing proceeding transmit the complete PSI report, including guideline computations and the certified addendum to the sentencing judge and the parties.

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that when there are disputed factors 9 or facts, the sentencing judge will advise the parties, five 10 (5) prior scheduled working days to the sentencing 11 proceeding, through the U.S. Probation Office, as to its 12 "tentative findings" under Sec. 6A1.2.-.3 of the Final Draft 13 of the Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements (Oct. 14 It is the affirmative obligation of defense counsel 1987). 15 and prosecutors to contact the U.S. Probation Office five 16 (5) working days prior to the scheduled sentencing 17 proceeding in order to obtain copies of the Court's 18 tentative findings regarding any disputed factors or facts. 19 6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the aggrieved parties must 20 respond in writing to the sentencing judge's notice of 21 tentative findings regarding disputed factors or facts 22 within three (3) working days prior to the scheduled 23 sentencing proceeding. 24

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each sentencing judge shall, before imposing sentence, notify the parties as to the

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Court's tentative findings concerning disputed factors or facts under Sec. 6A1.3(b) of the Final Draft of the <u>Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements</u> (Oct. 1987) and provide a reasonable opportunity for oral objections by either party prior to the imposition of sentence.

10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all copies of the presentence investigation report provided to the parties shall be returned to the U.S. Probation Office immediately after completion of the sentencing proceeding. No copies or any dissemination of the PSI, which is deemed a confidential court document, or information contained therein shall be made. Unauthorized copying or disclosure will be an act in contempt of court and be punished accordingly.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED THIS ∂S^{Tb} day of February, 1988.

Alfred Laureta Judge

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