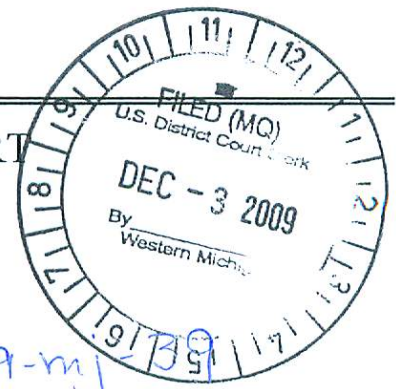


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Western District of Michigan



United States of America)
v.)
Allison Lenore Coss and)
Scott Edward Sippola)

Defendant(s)

Case No. 2:09-mj-139

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date of 11/27/2009 in the county of Marquette in the Western District of Michigan, the defendant violated 18 U. S. C. § 875(d), and 2(a), an offense described as follows:

Defendants, with intent to extort money from a person, transmitted in interstate commerce a communication containing a threat to injure the reputation of such person, and aided and abetted the same.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:
SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT.

Continued on the attached sheet.

[Signature]
Complainant's signature
FBI SPECIAL AGENT LESLIE L. HAHN
Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 12/03/2009

[Signature]
Judge's signature

City and state: Marquette, Michigan

Timothy P. Greeley, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

1. Your affiant, Leslie L. Hahn, has been employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for approximately 18 years. I am currently assigned to the FBI's Detroit Division, Marquette Resident Agency. I have investigated federal violations relating to extortion, to include those concerning extortion using interstate telecommunication facilities. I have gained experience through training in seminars, classes, and everyday work related to these types of investigations.

2. As a federal agent, your Affiant is authorized to investigate violations of laws of the United States and is a law enforcement officer with the authority to execute warrants issued under the authority of the United States.

3. The statements contained in this Affidavit are based on my experience and background as a Special Agent and on information provided by other agents of the FBI and other law enforcement officers. I have not set forth every fact resulting from the investigation; rather, I have set forth a summary of the investigation to date in order to establish probable cause that ALLISON LENORE COSS and SCOTT EDWARD SIPPOLA, with intent to extort money from a person, transmitted in interstate commerce, and aided and abetted, and caused the transmission in interstate commerce of, a communication containing a threat to injure the reputation of another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 875(d) and § 2(a).

4. On or about November 28, 2009, Mr. X, an actor who has appeared in television shows and Broadway productions, via his attorney, contacted the FBI Office in Nashville, Tennessee, and advised the FBI that Mr. X was the subject of a scheme to extort money from him. The FBI Office in Nashville contacted the FBI Office in Detroit because the suspects were

believed to reside in Michigan. Mr. X is a resident of California, but has lived in New York City since July 2009. He was in New York City at all times relevant to this Affidavit. Mr. X's attorney advised the following:

- that Mr. X vacationed in Florida in 2004 and met Allison Coss and a friend he knew as "Qynn;"
 - that he attended a party with them;
 - that photographs of him were taken during the party;
 - that he has maintained contact with Coss via e-mail to an identified hotmail e-mail address;
 - that he received a number of e-mails from "Brian L" in November 2009;
 - that "Brian L" used an identified yahoo e-mail address;
 - that "Brian L" said that he had discovered the pictures taken during the 2004 party in Florida, and that such pictures would cause harm to Mr. X's reputation if released to the media;
 - that "Brian L" said that he would sell and release the pictures to the media, thereby causing harm to Mr. X's reputation, if Mr. X did not pay him \$680,000;
- and
- that Coss continued to communicate with Mr. X and was fully aware of the demands being made by "Brian L."

5. FBI agents obtained e-mails from Mr. X and his attorney that Mr. X had received from Coss and "Brian L." FBI agents examined these e-mails and confirmed that they were sent from the e-mail addresses referred to in paragraph 4. In particular, FBI agents found excerpts

from two e-mails dated November 27, 2009 from the second such e-mail address that (i) contained an offer to sell these pictures to Mr. X in exchange for money, and (ii) a threat to sell these pictures to the media if Mr. X did not buy the pictures. On November 30, 2009, "Brian L," in an e-mail from such an e-mail address, offered to sell the pictures to Mr. X for \$680,000.

6. Thereafter, an FBI agent, posing as a representative of Mr. X, communicated with "Brian L" at said e-mail addresses.

7. FBI agents have checked Michigan Secretary of State databases and learned that Coss has a vehicle, a 1999 Chevrolet Malibu with an identified license plate, registered in her name. FBI agents also determined that Coss was employed at a nightclub in Marquette, Michigan.

8. FBI agents established surveillance on Coss and a white male on the morning of December 2, 2009, and observed them apparently using a laptop computer in the 1999 Chevrolet Malibu while in close proximity to a known wi-fi hotspot, from which a person may connect to the internet wirelessly. Shortly thereafter, FBI agents received an extortionate e-mail from "Brian L."

9. The FBI agent posing as a representative of Mr. X was contacted by telephone by "Brian L" and informed that he ("Brian L") wished to proceed with the exchange of money at K.I. Sawyer International Airport in the vicinity of Boreal Aviation.

10. At about 2:30 P.M. on December 2, 2009, FBI agents and additional personnel from the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team established surveillance in the vicinity of Boreal Aviation at the airport. At that time, the undercover FBI agent was in direct phone contact with "Brian L." "Brian L" told the undercover FBI agent that he was currently at Boreal

Aviation. "Brian L" was describing a possible location where the money could be left for him to retrieve. One of the surveillance officers observed a pick-up truck with personalized license plates that the officer recognized as belonging to the owner of the nightclub where Coss was known to work. This pick-up truck was occupied by two persons. Surveillance officers did not observe any other occupied vehicles in the area of Boreal Aviation at that time. The surveillance officers then approached the pick-up truck, contacted the occupants, recognized Coss, and arrested Coss and a white male who was identified as Scott Edward Sippola.

11. Coss advised that she lived at an address on Kaleb Court, Marquette, MI 49855.

12. FBI agents went to this residence on the afternoon of December 2, 2009, following the arrests, and observed (a) the 1999 Chevrolet that was registered to Coss, (b) a black Chevrolet Cobalt, with an identified Michigan license plate, which, based on review of Michigan Secretary of State databases, is registered to Sippola, and (c) a white-covered utility trailer that was parked in the driveway of the residence.

13. While at the residence, FBI agents encountered Sippola's father, Dennis Sippola, who said that his son owns the residence and has lived there with Coss for about two months.


14. FBI agents then obtained a search warrant for the Kaleb Court address. FBI agents recovered the following:

- three photographs that had previously been sent to Mr. X by "Brian L" from the second e-mail address identified in paragraph 4 in Coss's vehicle;
- a laptop computer from Coss's vehicle;
- a piece of paper on which was written the names and phone numbers of three tabloid magazines from a bedroom of the house; and

- a piece of paper on which was written Mr. X's personal cell phone number from a bedroom of the house.

15. MSN Hotmail Corporation maintains its e-mail servers in the State of California. Yahoo, Inc. maintains its e-mail servers in the State of California.

16. Based on the aforementioned facts, your Affiant respectfully submits that exists probable cause to believe that ALLISON LENORE COSS and SCOTT EDWARD SIPPOLA, with intent to extort money from a person, transmitted in interstate commerce, and aided and abetted, and caused the transmission in interstate commerce of, a communication containing a threat to injure the reputation of another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 875(d) and § 2(a).



Leslie L. Hahn
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn and subscribed before me this 3rd day of December 2009.



Timothy P. Greeley
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE