1 IN RE: PEOPLE VS. ANNABEL K. MELONGO

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3 SGJ# 2295
ARR. DATE: 2-7-07
4 07 CR 2341

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6 BEFORE THE SPECIAL GRAND JURY OF COOK COUNTY,

7

8 JANUARY, 2007

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12 TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY TAKEN IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED

13 MATTER ON THE 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2007.

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16 PRESENT: MR. ROBERT PODLASEK
ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY

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18 REPORTED BY DEBORAH E. DeSANTO
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
19 ILLINOIS LICENSE NO. 084-1384

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21 LIST OF WITNESSES:

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23 DETECTIVE MARTIN

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1 THE FOREPERSON: Would you raise your right hand,
2 please.
3 (Witness Duly Sworn.)
4 MR. PODLASEK: Good afternoon, ladies and
5 gentlemen of the Special Grand Jury. My name is Robert
6 Podlasek. I'm an Assistant State's Attorney in Special
7 Prosecutions.
8 Today I come before you seeking an Indictment of
9 one Annabel, spelled A-n-n-a-b-e-l, middle initial K.,
10 Melongo, M-e-l-o-n-g-o, on two counts of computer
11 tampering, and this is under Special Grand Jury No.
12 January 2295.
13 The Grand Jury has the right to subpoena and
14 question any person against whom the State's Attorney is
15 seeking a Bill of Indictment, or any other person, and to
16 obtain and examine any documents or transcripts relevant to
17 the matter being prosecuted by the State's Attorney.
18 At this time I ask leave to call Detective
19 Martin.
20 DETECTIVE MARTIN,
21 called as a witness herein, being first duly sworn, was
22 examined and testified as follows:
23 EXAMINATION
24 BY MR. PODLASEK:

1 Q. Would you state your name and spell your last
2 name for the record?
3 A. Detective William Martin, M-a-r-t-i-n,
4 Q. And, Detective, where are you employed?
5 A. The Schiller Park Police Department.
6 Q. And what is your star number?
7 A. 29.
8 Q. And, Detective, in what unit are you employed?
9 A. The Cyber Crime Unit.
10 Q. And cyber crime entails what?
11 A. Anything computer related, network intrusions,
12 Internet-based stuff.
13 Q. And, now, drawing your attention to April of --
14 I'm sorry, May of 2006, were you assigned an investigation
15 involving a company or foundation called Save A Life
16 Foundation, Inc.?
17 A. Yes, I was.
18 Q. Now, is Save A Life Foundation, Inc., a
19 not-for-profit organization?
20 A. Yes, it is.
21 Q. And could you briefly tell us what Save A Life
22 Foundation does, or what it's involved in?
23 A. They have teachers that teach basic first
24 responder skills, like CPR, things like that, that are very

basic first aid to children on up to I would say I think they're like 20, 19 or 20 age.

Q. And do you know who the founder or president is of the Foundation?

A. Yes. It's Carol Spizzirri.

Q. Could you spell that last name for the record?

A. S-p-i-z-z-i-r-r-i.

Q. And during the course of your investigation, did you have an opportunity to meet with Miss Spizzirri?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And during your conversations with her, did you learn that she, as president and owner of the Foundation, hired an individual by the name of Annabel K. Melongo from the Robert Half Temporary Agency?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. And did Miss Melongo have a special skill or experience that she was hired for by Save A Life?

A. Yes. She was hired as their network administrator, which would be in charge of basically anything computer related, their website, e-mail, everything.

Q. All right. And did Save A Life eventually hire the defendant as a full-time employee?

A. Yes, they did.

1 Q. Okay. Some time in April of 2006, prior to
2 April 28th, was Miss Melongo terminated by Save A Life
3 Foundation?
4 A. Yes, she was.
5 Q. And do you know why she was terminated based on
6 your investigation?
7 A. Because she was accused of stealing e-mail from
8 the president's e-mail account and also intruding into
9 their computer servers and deleting several files.
10 Q. Now, following her termination, as part of your
11 investigation, did you meet with experts hired by Save A
12 Life after they had realized their computers had been
13 accessed from outside or intruded upon from the outside?
14 A. Yes, I did.
15 Q. And did that investigation then reveal that
16 someone had accessed the servers for Save A Life?
17 A. Yes, it did.
18 Q. And during this accessing of the servers, were
19 files delete or destroyed?
20 A. Several, yes.
21 Q. And did the computers, one of the computer
22 servers actually crash?
23 A. Correct.
24 Q. And just for the record, could you explain when I

1 say the word crash, what that means?

2 A. When the files were deleted, the offender changed

3 the network password so that no one else could get back in;

4 and part of that system, when they tried to go around that

5 lock and that password, the computer itself deleted

6 everything that was ever on there and made it

7 unrecoverable.

8 Q. And were these experts that were hired by Save A

9 Life able to trace the individual responsible for intruding

10 on the system?

11 A. The computer examiner was able to trace it.

12 Q. Okay. And was that part of your investigation,

13 to work with the computer examiner?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And what individual did the investigation

16 eventually lead you to?

17 A. Miss Melongo.

18 Q. Okay. And this took place on or about April 28th

19 in the early morning hours?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And that was April 28th of 2006?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And some time on or about May 1st of 2006, did

24 Miss Melongo also access the e-mail servers of Save A Life

1 Foundation?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And during that time, did Miss Melongo access

4 specifically the e-mail accounts of Carol Spizzirri?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And did she actually take some of the

7 e-mails out of the e-mail account and transfer them?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. At any point did you confront Miss Melongo with

10 any of these allegations?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. And did Miss Melongo talk to you about these

13 allegations?

14 A. Yes, she did.

15 Q. And what did Miss Melongo say about the e-mail

16 accounts?

17 A. She said that she had gone into the e-mail server

18 to check her own account and claimed that the e-mails were

19 forwarded to her by another employee.

20 Q. And did you subsequently investigate that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And what did that reveal as part of your

23 investigation?

24 A. When the forensic examination was done on the --

on Miss Melongo's computer, it showed that she actually forwarded the e-mail from Miss Spizzirri's account directly to Annabel Melongo's Yahoo account.

Q. And were you subsequently, during your investigation, able to determine from what location Miss Melongo accessed the computer on both April 28th of 2006 and May 1st of 2006?

A. Yes. On both occasions it was accessed from her home in Palatine.

Q. That's Palatine, Illinois in Cook County?

A. Correct.

Q. And the data that was deleted from accessing these servers was permanently deleted, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And that data was used in the day-to-day operations of Save A Life Foundation?

A. Yes.

Q. And everything that you've testified to today was done without permission of Save A Life Foundation or any of its officers or directors or employees, is that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And all of the -- everything you testified to today took place in Cook County, Illinois?

A. Correct.

1 MR. PODLASEK: Thank you. I have no further
2 questions.
3 Any other questions?
4 A JUROR: Did your investigation lead you to
5 believe that the deleting of files was retribution for
6 being fired?
7 THE WITNESS: The investigation did not show
8 that, but when we talked to her, she did state that she
9 felt that she was being phased out because they had hired
10 another employee for less money than she was making to do
11 the same job.
12 A JUROR: Save A Life, in what way did Save A
13 Life suffer from the loss of these files?
14 THE WITNESS: They were only able to recover
15 approximately 70 percent of the one server. The other
16 server was completely wiped out.
17 Their financial loss at last count was somewhere
18 in the neighborhood of 100,000. They lost numerous contact
19 information for most of their benefactors, which was a huge
20 loss to their business.
21 BY MR. PODLASEK:
22 Q. Just to clarify, that's a hundred thousand
23 dollars?
24 A. Correct.

1 THE FOREPERSON: Are there any other questions
2 from the Grand Jury?
3 (No Response.)
4 THE FOREPERSON: The witness is excused.
5 (Witness Excused.)
6 Whereupon the Grand Jury
7 was left alone to
8 deliberate, after which the
9 following proceedings
10 were had:
11 THE FOREPERSON: True Bill.
12 Whereupon the above
13 entitled cause was
14 continued for arraignment
15 before the Presiding
16 Judge of the Criminal
17 Division.
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
COUNTY OF C O O K)

I, Deborah E. DeSanto, a Certified Shorthand Reporter licensed to practice in the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings had in the hearing of the above-entitled cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed into typewriting, which I hereby certify is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had before the Grand Jury of Cook County.

Deborah E. DeSanto

Deborah E. DeSanto, CSR