

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
September 2025 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN (1),
MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA (2),
BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA (3),
MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN (4),

Defendants.

Case No. 24CR2712-JLS

I N D I C T M E N T
(Superseding)

Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 1349 - Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud; Title 18, U.S.C. Sec. 1956(h) - Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering; Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 981(a)(1)(C), 982(a)(1), 982(a)(2)(A), and Title 28, U.S.C., Sec. 2461(c) - Criminal Forfeiture

The grand jury charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this indictment:

1. GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN was a resident of Chula Vista, California, and the organizer and registered agent for PageTurner, Press and Media LLC ("PageTurner"). From September 2017 until March 2024, GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN was the manager of PageTurner.

2. MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN resided in Chula Vista, California and acted as the manager of PageTurner from March 2024 until December 2024.

3. PageTurner was a limited liability company incorporated in the State of California in September 2017. PageTurner's principal place of business was in Chula Vista, California. PageTurner claimed to be a book publishing business.

4. WP Lighthouse LLC was a domestic limited liability company registered in the State of Indiana in July 2024. WP Lighthouse LLC's principal place of business was in Indianapolis, Indiana. WP Lighthouse LLC claimed to be a book publishing business.

5. Individual-1 was the sole member of WP Lighthouse LLC.

6. MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA was the President and CEO of Innocentrix Philippines, which purported to be a "business process outsourcing" company in the Philippines.

9 7. BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA was the Vice President of Operations at
10 Innocentrix.

Count 1

18 U.S.C. § 1349

(Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud)

13 8. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 7 are re-
14 alleged and incorporated herein.

15 9. From at least September 2017, and continuing up to and
16 including December 9, 2024, within the Southern District of California
17 and elsewhere, defendants GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN, MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA
18 SORDILLA, BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA, and MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN, together with
19 each other and with others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally
20 conspired to commit the following offenses:

a. mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, that is, to knowingly devise a material scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, knowingly and with intent to defraud, to use and cause to be used the mails; and

b. wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, that is to knowingly devise a material scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by intentional concealment and omission of material facts, and, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, to transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds.

Manner and Means

10. Members of the conspiracy used the following manner and means, among others, to accomplish the objects of the conspiracy:

15 11. As part of the conspiracy, defendants GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN,
16 GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN, MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA, BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA,
17 and MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN and their co-conspirators operated a book
18 publishing scam targeting elderly victims throughout the United States,
19 including in the Southern District of California.

20 12. As part of the conspiracy, conspirators working for
21 Innocentrix contacted individual authors through unsolicited interstate
22 and foreign wire communications, including phone calls and emails.

23 13. As part of the conspiracy, the conspirators made materially
24 false representations that PageTurner and WP Lighthouse LLC were book
25 publishing businesses that acted as a liaison between individuals who
26 sought to publish their books or have their books turned into motion
27 pictures or television series.

1 14. As part of the conspiracy, the conspirators made materially
2 false representations that PageTurner and WP Lighthouse LLC worked with
3 literary agents, traditional publishers, major motion picture studios,
4 and popular video streaming services.

5 15. As part of the conspiracy, the conspirators impersonated
6 literary agents and executives from major publishers, motion picture
7 studios, and popular video streaming services.

8 16. As part of the conspiracy, the conspirators fraudulently
9 convinced victim-authors to send PageTurner and WP Lighthouse LLC
10 payments via mail and wire transfers to, for example, pre-pay taxes, pay
11 transaction fees, and pay for services before the victim-author's work
12 could be published or optioned to studios.

13 17. As part of the conspiracy, the conspirators made materially
14 false representations to victim-authors that their works had been
15 selected for acquisition by publishers or movie studios.

16 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

Count 2

Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments
(18 U.S.C. § 1956(h))

18. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are re-alleged and incorporated
herein.

19. From at least January 2018, and continuing up to and including
December 9, 2024, within the Southern District of California and
elsewhere, defendants GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN, MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA,
BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA, and MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN together with others
known and unknown, did knowingly conspire, and agree:

26 a. to knowingly conduct financial transactions affecting
27 interstate and foreign commerce which involved the
28 proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, mail

1 and wire fraud in violation of Title 18, United States
2 Code, Sections 1341 and 1343, with the intent to promote
3 the carrying on of the specified unlawful activity,
4 knowing the property involved in the financial
5 transactions represented the proceeds of some form of
6 unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United
7 States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i);

8 b. to knowingly conduct financial transactions affecting
9 interstate and foreign commerce, which transactions
10 involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity,
11 that is, mail and wire fraud, knowing that the
12 transactions were designed in whole and in part to
13 conceal and disguise the nature, location, source,
14 ownership, and control of the proceeds of specified
15 unlawful activity, and knowing that the property involved
16 in the financial transactions represented the proceeds
17 of some form of unlawful activity, in violation of Title
18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i); and

19 c. to transport, transmit, and transfer a monetary
20 instrument and funds involving the proceeds of specified
21 unlawful activity, that is, mail and wire fraud, from a
22 place in the United States to a place outside the United
23 States, knowing that the monetary instrument and funds
24 involved in the transportation, transmission, and
25 transfer represented the proceeds of some form of
26 unlawful activity and knowing that such transportation,
27 transmission, and transfer was designed in whole and in
28 part to conceal and disguise the nature, location,

1 source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of the
2 specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18,
3 United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(B)(i).

4 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

5 **FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**

6 20. The allegations contained in Counts 1 and 2 above are realleged
7 herein and incorporated for purposes of seeking forfeiture to the United
8 States.

9 21. Upon conviction of the offense set forth in Count 1, and
10 pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C)
11 and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), defendants GEMMA
12 TRAYA AUSTIN, MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA, BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA, and
13 MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN shall forfeit to the United States of America all
14 their rights, title, and interest, in any property, real and personal,
15 constituting and derived from proceeds traceable to such offense.
16 The properties to be forfeited include, but are not limited to:

17 a. the real property located at 484 Jamul Ct, Chula Vista
18 California, 91911, more particularly described as: Lot 4
19 of Country Club View No. 3, in the City of Chula Vista,
20 County of San Diego, State of California, According to
21 Map Thereof No. 4428, Filed in the Office of the County
22 Recorder of San Diego County, December 29, 1959;

23 b. the real property located at 423 Meadow View, Aguanga,
24 California 92536, and all appurtenances affixed thereto,
25 more particularly described as:

26 ASSESSORS PARCEL NO. 580-240-007 THE LAND REFERRED TO
27 HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE STATE
28 OF CALIFORNIA AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

1 PARCEL 1:

2 LOT 423 OF TRACT NO. 3925, IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 65,
4 PAGES 15 THROUGH 43 INCLUSIVE OF MAPS, AND AS AMENDED BY
5 CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED FEBRUARY 16, 1973, AS
6 INSTRUMENT NO. 20585, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY
7 RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY.

8 EXCEPTING 50% OF ALL METALS AND MINERALS AND ALL
9 PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS AND OTHER HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES
10 IN OR UNDER SAID PROPERTY AND EVERY PART THEREOF AND THE
11 RIGHT TO EXTRACT SAME, BUT WITHOUT RIGHT OF ENTRY UPON
12 OR THROUGH SAID REAL PROPERTY EXCEPT BENEATH A DEPTH OF
13 500 FEET BELOW THE PRESENT SURFACE OF SAID REAL PROPERTY,
14 AS RESERVED IN THAT DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS,
15 AND RESTRICTIONS EXECUTED BY GRAYCO LAND ESCROW, LTD., A
16 CORPORATION, AND RECORDED APRIL 10, 1979 AS INSTRUMENT
17 NO. 33659.

18 PARCEL 2:

19 A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS, AND PUBLIC
20 UTILITY PURPOSES IN AND OVER THOSE PORTIONS OF TRACT NO.
21 3925 IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS
22 PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 65, PAGE 15, OF MAPS IN THE
23 OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY SHOWN AS
24 ROAD EASEMENTS ON SAID MAP, EXCEPT FOR LOTS 70, 252, 308,
25 382, 426, 486, 583, 586, AND 735.

26 c. \$3,504,126.37 seized from Bank of America business
27 checking account number ending in -8816 in the name
28 PageTurner Press and Media LLC;

- 1 d. \$904,939.16 seized from JP Morgan Chase bank account
- 2 number ending in -7639 in the name GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN;
- 3 e. \$31,419.13 seized from JP Morgan Chase bank account
- 4 number ending in -9011 in the name PageTurner Press and
- 5 Media LLC;
- 6 f. \$1,442,345.69 seized from Capital One checking account
- 7 number ending in -2745 in the name PageTurner Press and
- 8 Media LLC;
- 9 g. 2024 Lexus GX550 CA License Plate: 23GEM66, VIN:
- 10 JTJBCDX3R5013489, seized on March 18, 2025, at 484 Jamul
- 11 Court, Chula Vista, CA 91911, from GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN and
- 12 MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN;
- 13 h. 2024 Jaguar F-Pace P400 CA License Plate: 9LLU320, VIN:
- 14 SADCT2FU6RA739153, seized on March 18, 2025, at 484 Jamul
- 15 Court, Chula Vista, CA 91911, from GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN and
- 16 MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN;
- 17 i. \$99,936.79 seized from Old National Bank checking account
- 18 number ending in -9113 in the name of WP Lighthouse, LLC,
- 19 on May 19, 2025;
- 20 j. \$24,160.83 seized from US Bank, NA checking account
- 21 number ending in -8836 in the name of WP Lighthouse, LLC,
- 22 on May 19, 2025;
- 23 k. \$64,437.41 seized from Fifth Third Bank checking account
- 24 number ending in -3417 in the name of WP Lighthouse, LLC,
- 25 on May 19, 2025;
- 26 l. \$32,130.59 seized from Regions Bank checking account
- 27 number ending in -3394 in the name of WP Lighthouse, LLC,
- 28 on May 19, 2025;

m. Seized on December 9, 2024, from MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA and BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA:

- i. Three (3) Gucci watches;
- ii. Six (6) rings;
- iii. Three (3) bracelets;
- iv. Three (3) necklaces;
- v. Louis Vuitton sunglasses;
- vi. Louis Vuitton purse;
- vii. \$40,633.00 U.S. Currency;
- viii. \$904.00 U.S. Currency;

n. Seized on December 12, 2024, from the residence at 484
Jamul Court, Chula Vista, CA 91911:

- i. \$30,933.00 U.S. Currency;
- ii. Men's Rolex Oyster watch;
- iii. Four (4) Burberry handbags;
- iv. Burberry diaper bag;
- v. Two (2) Dior handbags;
- vi. Dior clutch;
- vii. Three (3) Gucci handbags;
- viii. Five (5) Louis Vuitton handbags;
- ix. Louis Vuitton clutch;
- x. Louis Vuitton fanny pack;
- xi. Prada handbag; and
- xii. Yves St Laurent handbag;

25 22. Upon conviction of the offense set forth in Count 2, and
26 pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), defendants
27 GEMMA TRAYA AUSTIN, MICHAEL CRIS TRAYA SORDILLA, BRYAN NAVALES TAROSA,
28 and MICHEAL GLENN AUSTIN shall forfeit to the United States of America

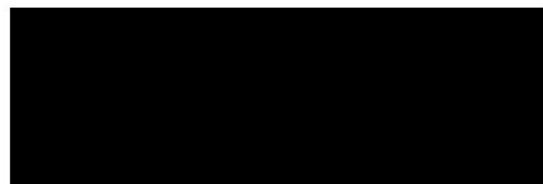
1 all their rights, title, and interest, in any property, real and
2 personal, involved in the offense and any property traceable to such
3 property. The properties to be forfeited include, but are not limited
4 to those described in paragraph 21 above.

5 23. If any of the forfeitable property, as a result of any act or
6 omission of the defendants:

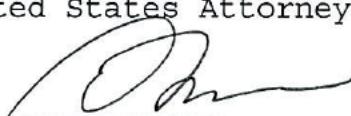
- 7 a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- 8 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a
9 third party;
- 10 c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- 11 d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 12 e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be
13 subdivided without difficulty; it is the intent of the United States,
14 pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated
15 by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b) and Title 28, United
16 States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property
17 of the defendants up to the value of the forfeitable property.

18 All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C),
19 982(a)(1), and 982(b), Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), and
20 Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

21 DATED: December 11, 2025.



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23
24 ADAM GORDON
25 United States Attorney

26 By: 
27 OLEKSANDRA Y. JOHNSON
28 Assistant U.S. Attorney