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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

Grand Jury B-24-1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CRIMINAL NO. 3:25CR134 (SFR)(SD)

v.

VIOLATIONS:

SAUL SHALEV

18 U.S.C. § 1343
(Wire Fraud)

18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)
(Money Laundering)

18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1)
(Aggravated Identity Theft)

18 U.S.C. § 2
(Aiding and Abetting)

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNTS ONE TO THREE
(Wire Fraud)

Background

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. The defendant SAUL SHALEV (“SHALEV”) was a citizen of the United States who departed the country in or about February 2019. He was last known to reside in Brooklyn, New York.
2. LENDER-1 was a commercial lender based in Colorado whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.
3. LENDER-2 was a commercial lender based in Connecticut whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

4. LENDER-3 was a commercial lender based in Pennsylvania whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

5. SMB-1 was an auto dealer based in Ohio whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

6. SMB-2 was a healthcare provider based in Indiana whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

7. SMB-3 was a provider of home improvement services based in Michigan whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

The Scheme to Defraud

8. From in or around December 2019 through in or around November 2022, the exact dates being unknown, SHALEV devised and intended to devise, with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

9. It was part of the scheme that:

a. SHALEV obtained information about commercial loans received by small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs).

b. SHALEV offered SMBs the opportunity to refinance existing commercial loans or to obtain additional financing, either from the original lender or from a new lender.

c. SHALEV, while acting as a broker between an SMB and a potential lender, used false and stolen identities in communicating with, and made false and fraudulent representations to, the SMB and the potential lender.

d. SHALEV, upon obtaining new or additional financing for an SMB from a lender, fraudulently caused the SMB to send all or part of the loan proceeds to himself, *e.g.*, by providing false and fraudulent payoff instructions to the SMB with respect to a prior loan.

e. SHALEV, upon obtaining new or additional financing for an SMB from a lender, fraudulently received a commission from the lender.

10. It was further part of the scheme that from in or around December 2019 through in or around November 2022, SHALEV and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, defrauded and attempted to defraud over twenty SMBs through this scheme. For example:

a. In or around December 2020, SHALEV and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, used stolen personally identifiable information (PII) of S.K., whose identity is known to the Grand Jury, to fraudulently (i) pose as a broker between SMB-1 and LENDER-2; (ii) cause LENDER-2 to make a loan of \$343,000 to SMB-1; (iii) cause SMB-1 to make a payoff payment of \$190,668.06 to LENDER-1 that was actually directed to an account controlled by SHALEV; and (iv) cause LENDER-2 to pay a commission of \$42,000 to S.K. to an account controlled by SHALEV.

b. In or around August 2021, SHALEV and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, used stolen PII of S.P., whose identity is known to the Grand Jury, to fraudulently (i) pose as a broker between SMB-2 and LENDER-2; (ii) cause LENDER-2 to make a loan of \$145,500 to SMB-2; (iii) cause SMB-2 to make payoff payments totaling \$156,838.85 to LENDER-1 that were actually directed to an account controlled by SHALEV; and (iv) cause LENDER-2 to pay a commission of \$18,000 to S.P. to an account controlled by SHALEV.

c. In or around November 2022, SHALEV and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did fraudulently (i) pose as a broker between SMB-3 and LENDER-3; (ii) cause

LENDER-3 to make a loan of \$196,000 to SMB-3; and (iii) cause SMB-3, having been advised that the loan proceeds were sent in error, to “return” the loan proceeds to an account controlled by SHALEV.

Execution of the Scheme

11. On or about each of the dates set forth below, in the District of Connecticut and elsewhere, SHALEV, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the scheme described above, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce the writings, signs, and signals described below for each count, each transmission constituting a separate count of this Indictment:

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>APPROX. DATE</u>	<u>WIRE COMMUNICATION</u>
One	December 29, 2020	\$42,000 commission payment by LENDER-2 to account in the name of S.K.
Two	June 28, 2021	Email message from S.P. to LENDER-2
Three	August 19, 2021	\$18,000 commission payment by LENDER-2 to account in the name of S.P.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2.

COUNTS FOUR TO SEVEN
(Money Laundering)

12. Paragraphs 1 through 11 are incorporated by reference.

13. From on or about December 29, 2020 through on or about November 15, 2022, in the District of Connecticut and elsewhere, SHALEV did knowingly conduct and attempt to conduct the following financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce, each of which involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, to wit, Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, as described in Counts One through Three of this

Indictment, knowing that the property involved in the financial transactions represented the proceeds of said specified unlawful activity and knowing that the financial transactions were designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of said specified unlawful activity:

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>APPROX. DATE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
Four	December 29, 2020	Bitcoin: 93d8e81cee07f4cb75c3083c5009d01b24b292b39a535efa2e0203f3107ab786
Five	December 29, 2020	Bitcoin: 6ec1973b48ace80fee635a4625f6270ef7ac37bd4a6161aef2e072cc9347f0a3
Six	October 26, 2021	Ethereum: 0x69ccf49182ded192cda67ac23121376c034fd85be8360d3bf41c3e0e9620c7a9
Seven	November 15, 2022	Ethereum: 3ee8a0a0e70b91d48c648b5044f25ca93f853c8d66e1a24e29bb730511f29829

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and 2.

COUNT EIGHT
(Aggravated Identity Theft)

14. Paragraphs 1 through 11 are incorporated by reference.

15. On or about December 17, 2020, in the District of Connecticut and elsewhere, SHALEV did knowingly and intentionally transfer, possess, and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person during and in relation to a felony violation enumerated in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A(c), to wit, Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, as charged in Count One of this Indictment, knowing that the means of identification belonged to another actual person, to wit, the name, address, date of birth, and New York driver's license of S.K., whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1028A(a)(1) and 2.

COUNT NINE
(Aggravated Identity Theft)

16. Paragraphs 1 through 11 are incorporated by reference.

17. On or about June 28, 2021, in the District of Connecticut and elsewhere, SHALEV did knowingly and intentionally transfer, possess, and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person during and in relation to a felony violation enumerated in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A(c), to wit, Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, as charged in Count Two and Count Three of this Indictment, knowing that the means of identification belonged to another actual person, to wit, the name, address, date of birth, and Florida driver's license of S.P., whose identity is known to the Grand Jury.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1028A(a)(1) and 2.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
(Wire Fraud)

18. Upon conviction of one or more of the wire fraud offenses alleged in Counts One to Three of this Indictment, SHALEV shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), all right, title, and interest in any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offenses, and a sum of money equal to the total amount of proceeds obtained as a result of such offenses.

19. If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant, cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence, has been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party, has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court, has been substantially diminished in value, or has been commingled with other property which cannot be

divided without difficulty, it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

All in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c); and Rule 32.2(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
(Money Laundering)

20. Upon conviction of one or more of the money laundering offenses alleged in Counts Four to Seven of this Indictment, SHALEV shall forfeit to the United States of America pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), all right, title, and interest in any and all money and other property involved in such offenses, and all property traceable to such property, and a sum of money equal to the total amount of money involved in such offenses.

21. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant, cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence, has been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party, has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court, has been substantially diminished in value, or has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty, it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States

Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, 982(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

All in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; and Rule 32.2(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

A TRUE BILL

FOR PERSON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



DAVID X. SULLIVAN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



EDWARD CHANG
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY