

SHER TREMONTE LLP

December 5, 2018

**VIA ECF**

The Honorable Nicholas G. Garaufis  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Re: *United States v. Raniere et al.*,**  
18 Crim. 204 (NGG)

Dear Judge Garaufis:

We represent Kathy Russell and write in response to the government's letter dated November 30, 2018, seeking a hearing pursuant to *United States v. Curcio*, 680 F.2d 881 (2d Cir. 1982). Consistent with our professional and ethical obligations, we have discussed with Ms. Russell the potential conflicts of interest that could arise when a third-party benefactor — such as the irrevocable defense trust (the “Trust”) — pays legal fees and confirmed that our duty of loyalty is owed to Ms. Russell exclusively. Ms. Russell understands those potential conflicts and consents to the Trust paying her legal fees. Nevertheless, Ms. Russell is prepared to waive any potential conflict that could arise, and we have no objection to the Court conducting its own inquiry. Should the Court determine that further inquiry is warranted, we will work with the government to reach agreement as to the appropriate scope of questioning.

We appreciate the Court's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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cc: All Counsel (via ECF)