

Date↓↑	Description	#
03/12/2021	SEALED COMPLAINT as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1), CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>1</u>
	1 Attachment ▼	
03/12/2021	MOTION to Seal Case by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ. [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>3</u>
	1 Attachment ▼	
03/12/2021	ORDER granting 3 Motion to Seal Case as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1), CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). Signed by Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey on 3/12/2021. (zlt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>4</u>
03/26/2021	Arrest Warrant Returned Executed on 3/26/2021 in Seabrook, TX as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA. (bb) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>5</u>
03/26/2021	Case unsealed as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (bb) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
03/26/2021	Arrest of BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) in Southern District of Texas. (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
03/26/2021	Arrest Warrant Returned Executed on 3/26/2021 in Seabrook, TX as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ. (bb) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>6</u>
03/26/2021	Case unsealed as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (bb) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
03/26/2021	Arrest of CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) in Southern District of Texas. (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
03/30/2021	Rule 5(c)(3) Documents Received as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ from US District Court Southern District of Texas Houston Division Case Number 4:21-mj-638 (bb) (Main Document 7 replaced on 4/22/2021) (bb). [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>7</u>
04/09/2021	NOTICE OF ATTORNEY APPEARANCE: Joshua Lake appearing for CHRISTIAN CORTEZ [1:21-mj-00300-GMH]	<u>9</u>
04/22/2021	MINUTE ORDER. It is hereby ORDERED that Defendant SHAWN BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) appear for an initial appearance on Friday, April 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. before Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey. The hearing will be conducted by video teleconference; call-in instructions will be provided to counsel prior to the hearing. Counsel for the United States is directed to ensure that counsel for Defendant has received this Order and will provide the information to Defendant. If Defendant does not have counsel, counsel for the United States is directed to contact the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Columbia and provide their office with the information contained in this Order. If the parties have questions about this Order or the scheduled hearing, please contact the Courtroom Deputy at 202-354-3114; So Ordered by Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey on 4/8/2021. (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
04/23/2021	ORAL MOTION for Speedy Trial Waiver by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
04/23/2021	ORAL MOTION to Appoint Counsel by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)	
04/23/2021	Minute Entry for proceedings held before Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey: VTC Initial Appearance/Detention Hearing as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) held on 4/23/2021. Oral Motion to Appoint Counsel by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) Heard and Granted. Government does not seek the Defendant's pretrial detention. Oral Motion by the Government for Speedy Trial Waiver as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) Heard and Granted. Time between 4/23/2021	

and 4/29/2021 (6 Days) shall be excluded from calculation under the Speedy Trial Act in the interest of justice X-T. Status Hearing regarding conditions of release set for 4/29/2021 at 01:00 PM in Telephonic/VTC before Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey. Bond Status of Defendant: Defendant Placed on Personal Recognizance; Court Reporter: FTR-Gold FTR Time Frame: CTRM 6 [1:20:02-1:34:33], [1:56:43-2:17:21]; Defense Attorney: Joshua Lake; US Attorney: Jacob Steiner for Troy Edwards; Pretrial Officer: Christine Schuck; (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)

04/23/2021

MINUTE ORDER as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). As required by Rule 5(f), the United States is ordered to produce all exculpatory evidence to the defendant pursuant to Brady v. Maryland and its progeny. Not doing so in a timely manner may result in sanctions, including exclusion of evidence, adverse jury instructions, dismissal of charges and contempt proceedings. Signed by Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey on 4/23/2021. (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)

04/23/2021

Minute Entry for proceedings held before Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey: VTC Initial Appearance/Detention Hearing as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) held on 4/23/2021. Government does not seek the Defendant's pretrial detention. Oral Motion by the Government for Speedy Trial Waiver as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) Heard and Granted. Time between 4/23/2021 and 5/24/2021 (31 Days) shall be excluded from calculation under the Speedy Trial Act in the interest of justice X-T. Preliminary/Status Hearing set for 5/24/2021 at 01:00 PM in Telephonic/VTC before Magistrate Judge Robin M. Meriweather. Bond Status of Defendant: Defendant Placed on Personal Recognizance; Court Reporter: FTR-Gold FTR Time Frame: CTRM 6 [1:20:02-1:34:33], [1:56:43-2:17:21]; Defense Attorney: Bret Lee; US Attorney: Jacob Steiner for Troy Edwards; Pretrial Officer: Christine Schuck; (zpt) [1:21-mj-00300-GMH] (Text entry; no document attached.)

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04/23/2021

INDICTMENT as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) count(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) count(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. (zhsj)

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05/04/2021

ORDER Setting Conditions for High Intensity Supervision Program as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). Signed by Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey on 4/23/2021.

[1 Attachment](#) ▼

[17](#)

04/23/2021

ORDER Setting Conditions of Release as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) Personal Recognizance. Signed by Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey on 4/23/2021.

[1 Attachment](#) ▼

04/28/2021

Set/Reset Hearings as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ: Arraignment set for 5/3/2021 at 10:00 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (Text entry; no document attached.)

04/29/2021

ORAL MOTION for Speedy Trial Waiver by USA as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2). (Text entry; no document attached.)

04/29/2021

Minute Entry for proceedings held before Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey: VTC Status Hearing/Arraignment as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) Count 1,2,3,4,5 held on 4/29/2021. Not Guilty Plea entered by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ as to all counts. Oral Motion by the Government for Speedy Trial Waiver as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) Heard and Granted. Time between 4/29/2021 and 5/3/2021 (4 Days) shall be excluded from calculation under the Speedy Trial Act in the interest of justice X-T. Bond Status of Defendant: Defendant Placed in Custody of Third Party Custodian; Court Reporter: FTR-Gold FTR Time Frame: CTRM 6 [1:13:26-1:27:18], [1:29:35-1:36:57]; Defense Attorney: Joshua Lake; US Attorney: Jacob Steiner for Troy Edwards; Pretrial Officer: Shay Holman; Witness: Angela McClanahan (Third Party Custodian) (Text entry; no document attached.)

05/03/2021

Minute Entry: Arraignment as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) held on 5/3/2021 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on Counts 1,2,3,4 and 5: Plea of NOT GUILTY entered by BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) as to all counts. The parties discussed protective order and discovery. Status Conference set for 7/7/2021 at 10:30 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. The Court finds in the interest of justice (XT) that the time between 05/03/2021 and 07/7/2021 shall be excluded from the speedy trial calculation. Defendants remain on release. Court Reporter: Bryan Wayne; Defense Attorney: Bret Lee (1) and Joshua Lake (2); US Attorney: Troy Edwards, Jr. (Text entry; no document attached.)

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05/11/2021

MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice Bret D. Lee Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC-8441140. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by BENJAMIN LAROCCA.

05/14/2021	Unopposed MOTION to Permit Attendance at Two Events by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.	19
		1 Attachment ▼
05/17/2021	ORDER as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): Granting Defendant Christian Cortez's 19 unopposed motion to permit attendance at two events. ORDER granting 19 Motion to Permit. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 05/17/2021.	20
05/18/2021	Unopposed MOTION for Protective Order by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.	21
		1 Attachment ▼
05/26/2021	MINUTE ORDER: Bret D. Lee's 18 motion to appear as counsel pro hac vice for Defendant LaRocca is hereby DENIED without prejudice. The motion fails to comply with LCrR 44.1(c)(1) in that the sponsoring attorney is not a counsel of record. See LCrR 44.1(c)(1) (permitting an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of any United States Court or of the highest court of any State, but who is not a member of the Bar of this Court to file papers in this Court only if such attorney joins of record a member in good standing of the Bar of this Court (emphasis supplied)). And while the movant indicated that he is a member in good standing of the D.C. Bar, it is not clear whether the movant engages in the practice of law from an office located in the District of Columbia. See LCrR 44.1(d)(1); see also LCrR 44.1(c)(2). SO ORDERED by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 05/26/2021. (Text entry; no document attached.)	22
06/04/2021	ORDER as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): Granting the government's 17 unopposed motion for a protective order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 06/04/2021.	
07/07/2021	Minute Entry: Status Conference as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) held on 7/7/2021 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan: Oral motion by defense counsel Brent Lee to appear at today's hearing; heard and GRANTED. The Court ordered that Mr. Lee's needs to be admitted to the Court's Bar before the next scheduled hearing. Status Conference set for 9/29/2021 at 12:00 PM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. The Court finds in the interest of justice (XT) that the time between 07/07/2021 and 09/29/2021 shall be excluded from the speedy trial calculation. Defendants remain on release. Court Reporter: Bryan Wayne; Defense Attorney: Bret Lee (1) and Joshua Lake (2); US Attorney: Troy Edwards, Jr. (Text entry; no document attached.)	25
07/30/2021	NOTICE OF ATTORNEY APPEARANCE: Amr Adnan Ahmed appearing for CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (Main Document 25 replaced on 8/2/2021) (zhsj).	26
08/04/2021	NOTICE OF ATTORNEY APPEARANCE: Bret Lee appearing for BENJAMIN LAROCCA	27
09/15/2021	NOTICE OF ATTORNEY APPEARANCE Kathryn E. Fifield appearing for USA.	28
09/27/2021	NOTICE of the United States' Memorandum Regarding Discovery as of August 23, 2021 by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ	29
09/27/2021	NOTICE of the United States' Memorandum Regarding the Status of Discovery as of September 14, 2021 by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ	30
09/27/2021	Consent MOTION to Continue by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.	31
09/27/2021	MOTION to Exclude Time Under the Speedy Trial Act by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ. (See Docket Entry 30 to View Document). (zhsj)	
09/28/2021	MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the 30 Consent Motion to Continue September 29, 2021 status hearing as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2), it is ORDERED that the status hearing currently set for	

September 29, 2021 is RESCHEDULED to December 1, 2021 at 10:00am in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. The Court finds in the interest of justice (XT) that the time between 09/29/2021 and 12/01/2021 shall be excluded from the speedy trial calculation. SO ORDERED by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 09/28/2021. (Text entry; no document attached.)

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10/06/2021

Unopposed MOTION to Modify Conditions of Release by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.

[3 Attachments](#) ▼

10/18/2021

MINUTE ORDER as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): It is ORDERED that the government's 31 Motion to Exclude Time Under the Speedy Trial Act is hereby vacated as moot in light of the court's September 28, 2021 Minute Order. SO ORDERED by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/18/2021. (Text entry; no document attached.)

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10/18/2021

ORDER as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): re Defendant CHRISTIAN CORTEZ's 32 Unopposed Motion to Modify Conditions of Release. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/18/2021.

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10/22/2021

NOTICE OF FILING UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM REGARDING STATUS OF DISCOVERY AS OF OCTOBER 21, 2021 by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ

[35](#)

10/29/2021

Unopposed MOTION for Disclosure of Items Protected by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e) and Sealed Materials by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.

[1 Attachment](#) ▼

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11/05/2021

NOTICE OF FILING OF UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM REGARDING STATUS OF DISCOVERY AS OF NOVEMBER 5, 2021 by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ

11/09/2021

Set/Reset Hearings as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): Status Conference reset for 12/15/2021 at 10:00 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (Text entry; no document attached.)

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11/12/2021

ENTERED IN ERROR.SUPPLEMENT by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ re 22 Protective Order Modified on 11/15/2021 (zhsj).

11/12/2021

NOTICE OF CORRECTED DOCKET ENTRY: as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ re 37 Supplement to any document was entered in error and counsel was instructed to refile said pleading as a supplement to the protective order and not the protective order itself. (zhsj) (Text entry; no document attached.)

11/22/2021

MINUTE ORDER as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): The government's 35 Unopposed Motion for Disclosure is hereby GRANTED and it is ordered that the government may provide in discovery materials protected by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e), that the government may provide in discovery sealed materials, pursuant to the previously entered protective order governing discovery, and that this Order also applies to the disclosure of the materials described above to any co-defendants who may later be joined. SO ORDERD by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 11/19/2021. (Text entry; no document attached.)

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12/13/2021

Joint MOTION to Continue Status Hearing by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.

12/14/2021

MINUTE ORDER as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) nand CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): The parties' 38 Joint Motion to Continue Status Hearing is GRANTED. The status hearing set for December 15, 2021, is VACATED. The parties are directed to contact the courtroom deputy to schedule a date and time for a further status hearing that is within 90 days of today's date. The court finds in the interest of justice that the time between our last status hearing, 7/7/2021, until the date of the next status hearing, shall be excluded in computing the date for a speedy trial in this case. The court also notes that given the length of the present continuance, there will not be any further continuances absent extraordinary circumstances. SO ORDERED by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 12/14/2021. (Text entry; no document attached.)

12/27/2021

Set/Reset Hearings as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2):Status Conference reset for 3/4/2022 at 11:00 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (Text entry; no document attached.)

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01/06/2022

Unopposed MOTION to Withdraw as Attorney by Joshua B. Lake. by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.

[1 Attachment](#) ▼

01/07/2022

MINUTE ORDER as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2): For good cause shown, the 39 Unopposed Motion to Withdraw as Attorney by Joshua B. Lake is hereby GRANTED. SO ORDERED by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 01/07/2022. (Text entry; no document attached.)

[40](#)

02/10/2022

NOTICE OF FILING OF UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM REGARDING STATUS OF DISCOVERY AS OF FEBRUARY 9, 2022 by USA as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA, CHRISTIAN CORTEZ

[41](#)

03/02/2022

Unopposed MOTION to Continue Status Hearing by CHRISTIAN CORTEZ.

03/04/2022

MINUTE ORDER: The parties last appeared before the court on July 7, 2021, and the Pretrial Services Agency last filed Pretrial Compliance Reports as to both Defendants on July 5 and 6, 2021. Following the July hearing, the parties moved to continue their September 29, 2021, status conference. The court granted their motion and continued the status conference until December 15, 2021. As that hearing approached, the parties again moved for a continuance. The court granted the second continuance and set a status conference for March 4, 2022, but noted that given the length of the present continuance, there will not be any further continuances absent extraordinary circumstances. See Min. Order (Dec. 14, 2021). Defendant Cortez now moves to continue the March 4 hearing, contending that additional time is needed to review discovery, prepare pretrial motions, and negotiate with the government regarding possible disposition. However, counsels' ability to review discovery materials, prepare pretrial motions, and negotiate with the government, and its ability to provide an update for the court on discovery and Defendants' compliance with pretrial conditions of release, are not mutually exclusive. Moreover, the court is responsible for managing its docket efficiently and effectively to ensure prompt and fair disposition of this case. Given the length of time since the last status conference and Pretrial Compliance Reports, the court finds that maintaining the currently scheduled March 4, 2022, status conference aligns with the interests of justice. Accordingly, Defendant Cortez's 41 Motion to Continue Status Hearing is DENIED. SO ORDERED by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 03/04/2022. (Text entry; no document attached.)

03/04/2022

Minute Entry: Status Conference as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) held on 3/4/2022 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan: Parties discussed disposition as to defendant LAROCCA (1) and posture of case as to defendant CORTEZ (2). Plea Agreement Hearing as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) set for 4/8/2022 at 10:30 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. Status Conference as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) set for 4/8/2022 at 10:15 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. The Court finds in the interest of justice (XT) that the time between 03/04/2022 and 04/08/2022 shall be excluded under the speedy trial calculation. Defendants remain on release. Court Reporter: Lisa Moreira; Defense Attorney: Bret Lee (1) and Amr Ahmed (2); US Attorney: Troy Edwards, Jr. and Kathryn Fifield. (Text entry; no document attached.)

03/04/2022

Minute Entry: Status Conference as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) and CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) held on 3/4/2022 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan: Parties discussed disposition as to defendant LAROCCA (1) and posture of case as to defendant CORTEZ (2). Plea Agreement Hearing as to BENJAMIN LAROCCA (1) set for 4/8/2022 at 10:30 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. Status Conference as to CHRISTIAN CORTEZ (2) set for 4/8/2022 at 10:15 AM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. The Court finds in the interest of justice (XT) that the time between 03/04/2022 and 04/08/2022 shall be excluded under the speedy trial calculation. Defendants remain on release. Court Reporter: Lisa Moreira; Defense Attorney: Bret Lee (1) and Amr Ahmed (2); US Attorney: Troy Edwards, Jr. and Kathryn Fifield. (Text entry; no document attached.)