

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CRIMINAL NO. 1:15CR65-LG-RHW

MIKAL C. WATTS, ET AL.

**ORDER REGARDING NOTICE
OF INTENDED WITNESSES AND EXHIBITS**

BEFORE THE COURT are the [227, 245, 247] Motions filed by Defendants Mikal Watts, David Watts, and Thi Houng Le pertaining to the notice to be given by the parties of intended witnesses and exhibits to be called at trial. Having reviewed the submissions of the parties and having heard argument on the Motions at the July 5 Pretrial Conference, the Court is of the opinion that the Motions should be granted in part, as discussed on the record at the Conference and below. The parties are ordered to provide notice of any intended witness and exhibits to be used with that witness by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the witness's anticipated testimony.

Defendants request that the Government be required to give two days' notice of intended witnesses and exhibits, including providing specific identifying information for each witness, and in some cases the WGC (Mikal Watts' law firm) client number associated with each witness. The Government has opposed the Motions, but states that it "will agree to provide such information between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. the night prior to the witness testifying." (See Gov't Resp. To Mikal Watts' Mot. 1, ECF No. 263).

The Court is of the opinion that disclosure of an intended witness and the exhibits to be used with that witness by 5:00 p.m. the day before the witness testimony is sufficient to allow the parties time to prepare for cross-examination and/or to otherwise effectively try his or her case. The disclosure should include sufficient information for a party to identify the witness(es) to be called and the exhibit(s) to be used. This Order applies to the Government and Defendants, and the Court encourages earlier disclosure when feasible.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the [227, 245, 247] Motions filed by Defendants Mikal Watts, David Watts, and Thi Hounng Le are **GRANTED IN PART**, as discussed herein.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED this the 6th day of July, 2016.

s/ Louis Guirola, Jr.
LOUIS GUIROLA, JR.
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE