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15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
16 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
17 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

18 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
19 Plaintiff,  
20 vs.  
21 AU OPTRONICS CORPORATION, et al.,  
22 Defendants.

Case No: 09-cr-0110-SI

**DEFENDANTS' JOINT REPLY IN  
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
JUDGMENT OF ACQUITTAL OR, IN  
THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR NEW  
TRIAL**

Judge: Hon. Susan Illston  
Place: Courtroom 10, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1	
2	
3	I. INTRODUCTION ..... 1
4	II. THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ESTABLISH PROPER VENUE ..... 1
5	A. The Record Contains No Evidence Supporting the Only Theory of Venue
6	Presented to the Jury, and the Government Misled the Court and Jury in
7	Representing the Contrary ..... 3
8	B. The Government Failed to Prove that Michael Wong and Evan Huang
9	were Coconspirators or that They Committed an Act in Furtherance of
10	the Conspiracy ..... 5
11	1. The Government Misstates the Law and Facts in Its
12	Coconspirator Arguments ..... 5
13	2. Michael Wong and Evan Huang Were Not Proven To Have
14	Joined the Charged Crystal Meeting Price-Fixing Conspiracy ..... 7
15	a. Wong ..... 7
16	b. Huang ..... 8
17	C. The Court Cannot Take Judicial Notice that Apple Negotiated Prices in
18	the Northern District ..... 9
19	D. Venue Cannot Rest on a Vicarious Liability Theory on Which the Jury
20	Was Never Instructed ..... 11
21	E. The Government Was Obligated to Prove an Act within the Limitations
22	Period ..... 12
23	F. The Government’s Unfair Tactics Concerning the Venue Issue Deprived
24	the Defendants of Due Process, Requiring a New Trial ..... 13
25	III. BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE IS INSUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH THE
26	EXISTENCE OF EITHER FTAIA EXCLUSION TO BEYOND A
27	REASONABLE DOUBT, ACQUITTAL, OR ALTERNATIVELY, A NEW
28	TRIAL, IS REQUIRED ..... 14
	A. The Conduct Alleged in the Indictment is “Trade or Commerce . . . With
	Foreign Nations” ..... 14
	B. The Weight of the Evidence Fails to Show That AUO Was Engaged in
	“Import Trade or Commerce” ..... 15
	C. The Weight of the Evidence Fails to Show That Defendants’ Alleged
	Conduct Had a Direct, Substantial and Reasonably Foreseeable Effect on
	United States Commerce ..... 18
	IV. THE JURY’S FINDING OF A \$500 MILLION OVERCHARGE IS
	UNSUPPORTED BY THE EVIDENCE ..... 20

1 A. Dr. Leffler Erroneously Assumed That Panels Not Discussed During  
Crystal Meetings Were Affected by the Crystal Meeting Discussions .....21

2 B. The Government’s Defense of Dr. Leffler’s Analysis Lacks Merit .....21

3 C. Dr. Leffler Erroneously Assumed That All Panels Discussed During the  
4 Conspiracy Were Affected by the Target Pricing, Despite the  
5 Voluminous Evidence of Vigorous Competition for Orders .....25

6 V. BECAUSE THE INDICTMENT ALLEGES PREDOMINANTLY FOREIGN-  
BASED CONDUCT WHICH MUST BE JUDGED BY THE RULE OF  
7 REASON, JUDGMENT OF ACQUITTAL – OR AT MINIMUM, A NEW  
TRIAL – IS REQUIRED.....25

8 A. *Metro Industries* Required That This Case Be Charged and Tried, If at  
9 All, Pursuant to the Rule of Reason.....25

10 B. The Standards Which Govern Any Extraterritorial Scope of the Sherman  
Act Cannot Be Reconciled With the *Per Se* Rule.....28

11 C. None of the Three Reasons Which Lead to *Per Se* Condemnation of a  
12 Market Restraint Apply Here.....29

13 D. If This Case Had Been Properly Tried Pursuant to the Rule of Reason,  
14 Defendants Would Have Shown That Their Contacts with Competitors  
Enhanced Overall Efficiency and Made the TFT-LCD Industry More  
Competitive.....30

15 E. The Government Fails to Address the Defendants’ Due Process  
16 Arguments.....31

17 VI. THE COURT SHOULD GRANT JUDGMENT OF ACQUITTAL IN FAVOR  
OF AUOA.....32

18 VII. CONCLUSION.....34

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

**TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

**Page**

**CASES**

*Animal Science Prods., Inc. v. China Minmetals Corp.*,  
654 F.3d 462 (3d Cir. 2011).....16

*Arizona v. Maricopa Co. Medical Society*,  
457 U.S. 332 (1982).....29, 30

*Best Life Assur. Co. of Cal. v. C.I.R.*,  
281 F.3d 828 (9th Cir. 2002) .....27

*Blomkest Fertilizer, Inc. v. Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan*,  
203 F.3d 1028 (8th Cir. 2000) .....25

*Carpet Group Intl. v. Oriental Rug Importers Ass'n*,  
227 F.3d 62 (3d Cir. 2000).....15, 18

*Chiarella v. United States*,  
445 U.S. 222 (1980).....2

*CSR Limited v. Cigna Corp.*,  
405 F. Supp. 2d 526 (D.N.J. 2005) .....18

*Dee-K Enterprises, Inc. v. Heveafil Sdn. Bhd.*,  
299 F.3d 281 (4th Cir. 2002) .....14, 17, 28

*F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. v. Empagran S.A.*,  
542 U.S. 155 (2004).....14, 15

*Fond du Lac Bumper Exchange, Inc. v. Jui Li Enterprise Co., Ltd.*,  
753 F.Supp. 2d 792 (E.D. Wis. 2010).....17

*Forman v. United States*,  
264 F.2d 955 (9th Cir. 1959) .....11

*Hartford Fire Ins. Co. v. California*,  
509 U.S. 764 (1993).....17, 28

*Hyde v. United States*,  
225 U.S. 347 (1912).....4

*In re Coordinated Pretrial Proceedings in Petroleum Prods. Antitrust Litig.*,  
906 F.2d 432 (9th Cir. 1990) .....30

*In re Ins. Antitrust Litig.*,  
938 F.2d 919 (9th Cir. 1991) .....17

*In re Intel Corp. Microprocessor Antitrust Litigation*,  
476 F. Supp. 2d 452 (D. Del. 2007).....19

*In re Silberkraus*,  
336 F.3d 864 (9th Cir. 2003) .....25

1	<i>In re Static Random Access Memory (SRAM) Antitrust Litigation,</i>	
2	2010 WL 5477313 (N.D. Cal. 2010) .....	16
3	<i>In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation,</i>	
4	822 F. Supp. 2d 953 (N.D. Cal. 2011) .....	19, 20
5	<i>In re Uranium Antitrust Litig.,</i>	
6	617 F.2d 1248 (7th Cir. 1980) .....	17
7	<i>Kruman v. Christie's Intl.,</i>	
8	284 F.3d 384 (2d Cir. 2002), <i>cert. dismissed</i> , 539 U.S. 978 (2003) .....	15, 18
9	<i>Lusk v. Foxmeyer Health Corp.,</i>	
10	129 F.3d 773 (5th Cir. 1997) .....	32
11	<i>McCormick v. United States,</i>	
12	500 U.S. 257 (1991) .....	2, 11
13	<i>McLafferty v. Deutsche Lufthansa AG,</i>	
14	2009 WL 3365881 (E.D. Pa. 2009) .....	18
15	<i>McNealy v. Johnston,</i>	
16	100 F.2d 280 (9th Cir. 1938) .....	12
17	<i>Metro Industries, Inc. v. Sammi Corp.,</i>	
18	82 F.3d 839 (9th Cir. 1996) .....	25, 26, 27, 31
19	<i>Natl. Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Board of Regents,</i>	
20	468 U.S. 85 (1984) .....	29
21	<i>Northern Pac. Ry. Co. v. United States,</i>	
22	356 U.S. 1 (1958) .....	28, 29
23	<i>Pabst Motoren GmbH &amp; Co. KG v. Kanematsu-Goshu (U.S.A.) Inc.,</i>	
24	629 F. Supp. 864 (S.D.N.Y. 1986) .....	19
25	<i>Protective Ass'n v. United States,</i>	
26	268 U.S. 588 (1925) .....	30
27	<i>Sheppard v. Rees,</i>	
28	909 F.2d 1234 (9th Cir. 1989) .....	13
	<i>Sun Microsystems, Inc. v. Hynix Semiconductor Inc.,</i>	
	2007 WL 1056783 (N.D. Cal. 2007) .....	17
	<i>Timberlane Lumber Co. v. Bank of America,</i>	
	549 F.2d 597 (9th Cir. 1976) .....	27
	<i>Turicentro, S.A. v. American Airlines Inc.,</i>	
	303 F.3d 293 (3d Cir. 2002) .....	14
	<i>United Phosphorus, Ltd. v. Angus Chemical Co.,</i>	
	131 F. Supp. 2d 1003 (N.D. Ill. 2001), <i>aff'd</i> , 322 F.3d 942 (7th Cir. 2003) .....	19
	<i>United States v. Aluminum Co. of America (Alcoa),</i>	
	148 F.2d 416 (2d Cir. 1945) .....	28

1	<i>United States v. Andrews,</i> 75 F.3d 552 (9th Cir. 1996) .....	33
2		
3	<i>United States v. Angotti,</i> 105 F.3d 539 (9th Cir. 1997) .....	15
4	<i>United States v. Arlt,</i> 41 F.3d 516 (9th Cir. 1994) .....	26
5		
6	<i>United States v. Ben Zvi,</i> 242 F.3d 89 (2d Cir. 2001).....	11
7	<i>United States v. Brown,</i> 936 F.2d 1042 (9th Cir. 1991) .....	29
8		
9	<i>United States v. Buchanan,</i> 574 F.3d 554 (8th Cir. 2009) .....	26
10	<i>United States v. Cecil,</i> 608 F.2d 1294 (9th Cir. 1979) .....	12
11		
12	<i>United States v. Choy,</i> 309 F.3d 602 (9th Cir. 2002) .....	13
13	<i>United States v. Corona,</i> 34 F.3d 876 (9th Cir. 1994) .....	12
14		
15	<i>United States v. Dann,</i> 652 F.3d 1160 (9th Cir. 2011) .....	2
16	<i>United States v. Dinkane,</i> 17 F.3d 1192 (9th Cir. 1994) .....	33
17		
18	<i>United States v. Dipentino,</i> 242 F.3d 1090 (9th Cir. 2001) .....	12
19	<i>United States v. Endicott,</i> 803 F.2d 506 (9th Cir. 1986) .....	15
20		
21	<i>United States v. Fulks,</i> 454 F.3d 410 (4th Cir. 2006) .....	27
22	<i>United States v. Hernandez-Orellana,</i> 539 F.3d 994 (9th Cir. 2008) .....	32
23		
24	<i>United States v. Johnson,</i> 323 U.S. 273 (1944).....	1
25	<i>United States v. Kahlon,</i> 38 F.3d 467 (9th Cir. 1994) .....	26
26		
27	<i>United States v. Lanier,</i> 520 U.S. 259 (1997).....	32
28	<i>United States v. Laykin,</i> 886 F.2d 1534 (9th Cir. 1989) .....	12

1	<i>United States v. LSL Biotechnologies,</i>	
2	379 F.3d 672 (9th Cir. 2004) .....	18, 28
3	<i>United States v. Miller,</i>	
4	771 F.2d 1219 (9th Cir. 1985) .....	28
5	<i>United States v. Nippon Paper Industries Co.,</i>	
6	109 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 1997).....	29
7	<i>United States v. Olson,</i>	
8	925 F.2d 1170 (9th Cir. 1991) .....	13
9	<i>United States v. Pace,</i>	
10	314 F.3d 344 (9th Cir. 2002) .....	12
11	<i>United States v. Shipsey,</i>	
12	190 F.3d 1081 (9th Cir. 1999) .....	12
13	<i>United States v. Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.,</i>	
14	310 U.S. 150 (1940).....	28
15	<i>United States v. Svoboda,</i>	
16	347 F.3d 471 (2d Cir. 2003).....	4
17	<i>United States v. Tannenbaum,</i>	
18	934 F.2d 8 (2d Cir. 1991).....	11
19	<i>United States v. Trenton Potteries Co.,</i>	
20	273 U.S. 392 (1927).....	28
21	<i>United States v. United States Gypsum Co.,</i>	
22	438 U.S. 422 (1978).....	26
23	<i>United States v. Varela-Rivera,</i>	
24	279 F.3d 1174 (9th Cir. 2002) .....	26
25	<i>United States v. Wright,</i>	
26	496 F.3d 371 (5th Cir. 2007) .....	27
27	<i>Western Parcel Express v. United Parcel Service of America, Inc.,</i>	
28	65 F. Supp. 2d 1052 (N.D. Cal. 1998) .....	25
	<i>Woods v. Interstate Realty Co.,</i>	
	337 U.S. 535 (1949).....	27
	<b>STATUTES</b>	
	15 U.S.C. § 6a.....	14
	Fed. R. Crim. Proc. 29 .....	4, 34
	Fed. R. Crim. Proc. 33 .....	4, 13, 14, 34
	Fed. R. Evid. 104(a).....	5, 7

1 Fed. R. Evid. 201(b).....10  
2 **OTHER AUTHORITIES**  
3 1 Phillip Areeda & Donald F. Turner, Antitrust Law ¶ 237 (1978) .....27  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
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1 **I. INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>**

2 At the core of the government’s response is an emotional appeal that the defendants are  
3 malefactors who deserve to “be held accountable for their conduct.” (Govt. Opp. at 1.) But the United  
4 States government does not possess the general roving authority to punish foreigners simply because it  
5 is of the opinion that they deserve to be held accountable. The government’s authority is limited, for  
6 very good reason, in a variety of ways. In this case, the government strayed far beyond the bounds of its  
7 authority.

8 The government failed to try this case in a district where venue was proper. It now attempts to  
9 cure its own error by relying on a variety of legally dubious and factually unsupported theories that were  
10 never presented to the jury. The government failed to prove that this case fits within the specific  
11 limitations on foreign antitrust prosecutions enacted by the FTAIA. It now attempts to distort the plain  
12 meaning of that statute, and it continues to pursue diffuse arguments that the FTAIA does not apply to  
13 this case. The government failed to prove the elements of a rule of reason case, as required by binding  
14 Ninth Circuit precedent in *Metro Industries*. It now attempts a flat-earth argument aimed at denying the  
15 utterly pellucid holding of that case, and also advances the even more preposterous contention that the  
16 defendants have not preserved their *Metro* claim.

17 The questions presented in this motion are legal questions about whether it was appropriate to try  
18 the defendants in this country, and in this Court, and under a standard created for domestic antitrust  
19 cases. In the government’s zeal to pursue its own sense of just accountability worldwide, it has  
20 repeatedly ignored the legal limits on its own power.

21 **II. THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ESTABLISH PROPER VENUE**

22 It was no doubt extremely convenient for the San Francisco branch of the Antitrust Division of  
23 the Department of Justice to try this matter an elevator’s ride away from its offices instead of in  
24 Houston, where HP indisputably negotiated LCD prices with the alleged coconspirators. (*See, e.g.*, RT  
25 493-94 (Tierney testimony).) But “[q]uestions of venue in criminal cases . . . are not merely matters of  
26

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27 <sup>1</sup> The Court previously granted the defendants leave to jointly file their Rule 29 and Rule 33 motions.  
28 (Dkt. 887.) Based on the Court’s prior order, the defendants do not believe that their joint reply,  
comprising a total of 34 pages, exceeds the limits imposed by the Local Rules and have not  
separately moved for leave. The defendants filing this joint pleading – AUO, AUOA, H.B. Chen,  
and Steven Leung – join in the arguments set forth in the reply of Dr. Hui Hsiung, separately filed.

1 formal legal procedure. They raise deep issues of public policy . . . .” *United States v. Johnson*, 323  
2 U.S. 273, 276 (1944). The defendants had a constitutional right to have the jury decide the venue issue  
3 on the evidence and legal theory submitted to it, and none other. The government’s opposition makes  
4 plain that right was not honored in this case.

5 At trial, the government argued one—and only one—theory of venue to the jury: that in  
6 furtherance of the conspiracy, AUO conducted price negotiations with HP’s Cupertino procurement  
7 office in 2001 and 2002. (RT 5325-26.) In their post-trial motions, the defendants demonstrated that  
8 there was no evidence in the record supporting this theory. No doubt for that reason, the government  
9 virtually abandons its sole trial theory in its Opposition.

10 In an effort to salvage its case, the government for the first time in its post-trial filing presents a  
11 scattershot assortment of at least a half dozen alternate theories: that Michael Wong negotiated prices  
12 with Apple in the Northern District, that he negotiated prices with Dell in the Northern District, that  
13 Evan Huang negotiated prices with Apple in the Northern District, and so on. (Govt. Opp. at 10-15.)  
14 For reasons discussed below, all of these alternate theories are both legally flawed and factually  
15 unsupported. But regardless of those problems, the simpler point is that *none of these theories was*  
16 *presented to the jury at trial.*

17 Both the Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit have repeatedly emphasized that a court reviewing  
18 a jury verdict may not affirm a conviction on a theory never presented to the jury.

19 This Court has never held that the right to a jury trial is satisfied when an appellate court  
20 retries a case on appeal under different instructions and on a different theory than was  
21 ever presented to the jury. Appellate courts are not permitted to affirm convictions on any  
theory they please simply because the facts necessary to support the theory were  
presented to the jury.

22 *McCormick v. United States*, 500 U.S. 257, 270 n.8 (1991); accord *United States v. Dann*, 652 F.3d  
23 1160, 1170 n.3 (9th Cir. 2011); see *Chiarella v. United States*, 445 U.S. 222, 236 (1980) (“We cannot  
24 affirm a criminal conviction on the basis of a theory not presented to the jury.”).

25 The government repeatedly argues that the jury in this case “could have” found all of its alternate  
26 theories because some evidence to support them was present in the record. But the government tacitly  
27 concedes that it never argued any of these alternate theories at trial. That concession is fatal to all of its  
28 newly minted alternate theories.

1           **A.     The Record Contains No Evidence Supporting the Only Theory of Venue Presented**  
2           **to the Jury, and the Government Misled the Court and Jury in Representing the**  
3           **Contrary**

4           As noted in the defendants' post-trial motions, the government presented the jury with a single  
5 theory of venue in its rebuttal argument:

6           HP, which was a major victim of this crime, had a procurement office in Cupertino from  
7 the beginning of the charged conspiracy time until HP and Compaq merged in May of  
8 2002. And negotiations for LCD panels were carried out there. Cupertino, which is in  
9 Santa Clara County, is in the Northern District of California. The conspirators'  
10 negotiation of price-fixed panels with HP in Cupertino were acts in furtherance of this  
11 conspiracy. (RT 5326.)

12           When that assertion was objected to by the defense, the government assured the Court in front of  
13 the jury that such evidence had been admitted into the trial record. Now that the government's response  
14 has been filed, the following facts remain undisputed:

- 15           1.     No witness who worked for HP in the window between the alleged commencement of the  
16 conspiracy in September of 2001 and May of 2002 testified at trial.
- 17           2.     No witness testified that price negotiations *of any kind* took place at HP's Cupertino  
18 office between September of 2001 and May of 2002, much less "negotiation of price-  
19 fixed panels." The government blatantly misstates the testimony of Mr. Tierney, then a  
20 Compaq employee, in asserting the contrary at page 15 of its opposition. At the page  
21 cited by the government (RT 496), Tierney states that HP had procurement offices in  
22 Cupertino and Grenoble, France in the relevant time period, but says nothing about price  
23 negotiations occurring there. Furthermore, no witness testified that price negotiations  
24 were necessarily and solely conducted at procurement offices, as opposed to other HP  
25 sites, during this time period.
- 26           3.     AUOA employee and government witness Michael Wong never stated that he or any  
27 other AUO or AUOA employee conducted price negotiations with HP during the window  
28 asserted by the government. When asked by the prosecutor to whom AUO was "selling"  
at that time, he corrected her and stated that, rather than selling, he was promoting AUO's

1 products with HP and others. (RT 834.) Wong did expressly testify that AUOA  
2 conducted sales negotiations with HP in Houston. (RT 861-863)

- 3 4. There are no business records placed in evidence specifically establishing that AUO  
4 products were ever shipped into, or were paid for from, the Northern District by HP in  
5 2001 and 2002, or any time thereafter.

6 The government claims that the fact that other alleged coconspirators had offices in the Northern  
7 District necessarily establishes that they negotiated the prices of price-fixed products in the Northern  
8 District with HP between September 2001 and May 2002. (Govt. Opp. at 15: “In addition to AUO  
9 (through AUOA), three other conspirator companies – LG, Samsung, and CMO – also had offices in the  
10 South Bay near HP. Trial Tr. vol. 5, 876-79.”) But that same cited testimony established that these  
11 three companies also had offices in Texas at that time. Had Samsung actually negotiated prices with HP  
12 in the Northern District during the relevant time frame, the government could easily have called a  
13 witness from Samsung to so testify, as the company was the presumed amnesty applicant and had  
14 entered into a cooperation agreement with the government. No witness from Samsung was called. The  
15 government did call witnesses from alleged coconspirators CMO (J.Y. Ho), CPT (Brian Lee, Milton  
16 Kuan and C.C. Liu), and LG (Stanley Park), but none testified that prices were negotiated with HP in the  
17 Northern District in 2001 and 2002.

18 The preponderance of the evidence standard requires the government to prove that a factual  
19 proposition is more likely to be true than not. That standard was not met in this case because the  
20 government utterly failed to offer evidence to prove its factual allegations. The absence from the trial  
21 record of any direct evidence on the subject of whether price negotiations were conducted by the alleged  
22 coconspirators with HP in the Northern District between 2001 and 2002 cannot establish that it is more  
23 likely than not than such negotiations *did* in fact take place. The government misrepresented the state of  
24 the record on its sole venue theory to both the Court and the jury, and did so in rebuttal argument when  
25 the defense had no opportunity to set the record straight. Such unfairness requires that the jury’s verdict  
26 be set aside, whether it be under Rule 29 or Rule 33.

1           **B.     The Government Failed to Prove that Michael Wong and Evan Huang were**  
2           **Coconspirators or that They Committed an Act in Furtherance of the Conspiracy**

3           **1.     The Government Misstates the Law and Facts in Its Coconspirator**  
4           **Arguments**

5           To establish venue, the government at a minimum had to prove that a member of the charged  
6 conspiracy committed an act in furtherance of the conspiracy in the Northern District. *Hyde v. United*  
7 *States*, 225 U.S. 347 (1912); *United States v. Svoboda*, 347 F.3d 471, 483 (2d Cir. 2003). In its  
8 opposition, the government’s chief candidates for acting coconspirators are Michael Wong and Evan  
9 Huang, although it failed to argue to the jury a venue theory concerning either AUOA employee.  
10 Indeed, the government failed to mention Huang in either its initial or rebuttal arguments. Before  
11 turning to the evidence concerning either Wong or Huang, it should be noted that the government’s  
12 newly improvised venue arguments are based on several fundamental legal errors.

13           The government contends that this Court can find that the jury reasonably concluded that  
14 Michael Wong and Evan Huang were coconspirators based on the Court having made the same ruling in  
15 a pretrial admissibility ruling. (Govt. Opp. at 9.) That contention is fatuous as a matter of law and  
16 misleading as a matter of fact.

17           As a matter of law, a preliminary ruling on the admissibility of evidence under Fed. R. Evid.  
18 104(a) is much different than an ultimate ruling based on trial evidence. As the government repeatedly  
19 argued in its pretrial filings, rulings under Rule 104(a) are “based on proffers of counsel, affidavits, or  
20 other *inadmissible* evidence.” (Govt. Mot. Regarding Coconspirator Statements at 4 (emphasis added)  
21 (filed under seal, Order at Dkt. 442).) For example, the defendants conceded that, for admissibility  
22 purposes, each of them could be found a coconspirator based simply on the fact that they were named in  
23 the indictment, although an indictment is utterly inadmissible as proof of guilt at trial. For the purposes  
24 of venue, however, a determination that a person is or is not a coconspirator must be based solely on  
25 admissible evidence actually presented at trial. As discussed below, the only evidence presented at trial,  
26 including the testimony of Michael Wong, was unavailable to the Court at the time of its pretrial ruling,  
27 and directly refutes the notion that Wong or Huang were coconspirators.

28           Furthermore, the government misrepresents the facts concerning the Court’s admissibility ruling.  
Prior to trial, the government moved to admit statements of various AUO employees under the

1 coconspirator exception to the hearsay rule. In its initial motion to admit coconspirator statements, it  
2 argued that several employees were coconspirators—Steven Leung, Sylvania Hung, Morris Wong, Alex  
3 Yeh, and Irene Chang—but it did not argue that Michael Wong or Evan Huang were putative  
4 coconspirators. (Govt. Mot. Regarding Coconspirator Statements.) The government subsequently  
5 requested pre-appearance admission of various documents, and again argued that many were admissible  
6 under the coconspirator exception. (Dkt. 672.) But once again, it made no specific argument, and cited  
7 no evidence, regarding Wong or Huang. Wong and Huang were the declarants in only two of the emails  
8 the government sought to admit. (*See* Dkt. 672-1, App. A (listing Wong as declarant for Exh. 83 and  
9 Huang as declarant for Exh. 172).)

10       Following those motions, this Court made a general ruling that some AUO employees were  
11 coconspirators. (Dkt. 678.) It did so in part on the ground that they had acted within the scope of their  
12 employment for the defendants whom the Court had found to be coconspirators (Dkt. 678 at 3), a  
13 finding, as noted above, based largely on inadmissible information such as the indictment. The Order  
14 did not make a specific finding as to whether Wong or Huang were putative coconspirators. Indeed, the  
15 Order only mentioned Wong because the government was seeking to admit the documents during his  
16 testimony—and the Order did not mention Huang at all. The government disingenuously suggests that  
17 this Court “specifically found” that Wong and Huang were coconspirators, and that it admitted  
18 “approximately 40 emails” on that basis. (Govt. Opp. at 9.) In fact, at most, the record demonstrates  
19 that this Court admitted two emails based on some implicit and preliminary finding that Wong and  
20 Huang were coconspirators.

21       The most glaring legal deficiency in the government’s “coconspirator” claims is the failure to  
22 even mention, much less apply, the legal definition of what does, and does not, constitute proof that a  
23 person participated in the alleged price-fixing conspiracy. According to the Court’s instructions, to meet  
24 its evidentiary burden as to Wong and Huang, the government had to prove that both joined the Crystal  
25 Meeting price-fixing conspiracy “voluntarily and intentionally. . . knowing of its goal and intending to  
26 help accomplish it.” (RT 4721.) It could not do so by merely showing that they might have  
27 “happen[ed] to act in a way which furthers some object or purpose of the conspiracy,” because an  
28

1 employee who has no knowledge of a conspiracy is not a coconspirator, and even an employee who has  
2 knowledge but does not intentionally participate is not a coconspirator. (RT 4726.)

3 The government also could not meet its burden by merely showing that Wong and Huang  
4 “obtain[ed] information about a competitor’s prices or even [e]xchang[ed] information about prices,”  
5 because, as the Court instructed, such conduct is not unlawful “unless done pursuant to an agreement or  
6 mutual understanding between two or more persons to fix prices as charged in the indictment.” (RT  
7 4719.) Nor would the facts that Wong and Huang “charge[d] the same prices’ as competitors,”  
8 “cop[ied] each other’s price lists,” or “follow[ed] and conform[ed] exactly to each other’s price policies  
9 and price changes,” in themselves prove the two were coconspirators, because “such conduct would not  
10 violate the Sherman Act, unless...it was done pursuant to an agreement between two or more  
11 coconspirators, as alleged in the Indictment.” (RT 4718.)

12 **2. Michael Wong and Evan Huang Were Not Proven To Have Joined the**  
13 **Charged Crystal Meeting Price-Fixing Conspiracy**

14 **a. Wong**

15 An examination of the government’s “coconspirator” argument (Govt. Opp. at 10-13.) reveals  
16 that it contains not a single assertion concerning the crucial fact the prosecution was obliged to prove:  
17 that Wong, knowing of the goal of price-fixing agreement reached at the Crystal Meetings, “voluntarily  
18 and intentionally” joined that agreement, “intending to help accomplish it.” (RT 4721.) The reason for  
19 the absence is obvious. The government offered Wong to the jury as a wholly honest witness bound by  
20 his sworn promise “to cooperate fully and truthfully with the United States in connection with its  
21 investigation of possible violations of federal antitrust and related criminal laws involving the  
22 manufacture or sale of TFT-LCD.” (RT 851-52 & Exh. 774.) Wong had testified on cross-examination  
23 that: (1) he never agreed with any of AUO’s competitors or AUOA’s competitors to fix prices on LCD  
24 panels (RT 1061); (2) he never agreed with anyone at AUO or AUOA or any of the individual  
25 defendants to fix prices on LCD panels (*id.*); and (3) no one from AUO ever told him he had to follow  
26 the prices discussed at the Crystal Meetings or that AUO or AUOA was bound by those prices (RT  
27 1094). On re-direct, the *government* elicited Wong’s testimony that he did not know whether AUO  
28 personnel in Taiwan were meeting with competitors in Taiwan to fix prices. (RT 1227-28.) All of the

1 evidence in the record bearing on the crucial issue of whether Wong knowingly agreed to join the  
2 alleged Crystal Meeting conspiracy supports the conclusion that he did not.

3 The government argues that the jury was not required to view Wong as a truthful witness,  
4 although the government proffered him as such, or to accept his testimony that he never agreed to fix  
5 prices. (Govt. Opp. at 12.) Be that as it may, there is simply no evidence in the record to support a  
6 contrary conclusion.

7 The government correctly notes that Wong testified that he discussed prices with competitors  
8 and then shared that information with other AUO and AUOA employees. (Govt. Opp. at 11.) The  
9 government then asserts that Wong “admitted that he aligned prices with his contact at LG” during  
10 negotiations with Dell. (Govt. Opp. at 12.) Wong admitted no such thing. Far from admitting to price  
11 agreements, Wong instead testified that he simply gathered as much information about the market as he  
12 could from all possible sources to determine how low he needed to price panels in order to get business  
13 without “leaving profit on the table.” (RT 1212-17.) The government’s contention that Wong admitted  
14 to a crime stretches the record beyond recognition.

15 Under the law described by this Court’s instructions to the jury, all of the acts Wong admitted to  
16 were entirely lawful.<sup>2</sup> As such, they cannot prove that Wong was a coconspirator; rather, his  
17 participation in the charged conspiracy must be proven by other evidence. No such evidence exists.  
18 Wong was not proven to be a coconspirator, and so any acts he might have undertaken in the Northern  
19 District cannot satisfy the venue requirement.

20 **b. Huang**

21 That the government has had to strain the bounds of credulity in order to defend against the  
22 defendants’ venue claim is well illustrated by its resort to a claim that Evan Huang joined the alleged  
23 Crystal Meeting price-fixing conspiracy. The government did not even mention Evan Huang in its  
24 closing argument, much less do so in the venue context. Again, the reasons are obvious. There is not a  
25 shred of evidence in the record to support an assertion that Huang even was aware that the Crystal  
26

27 <sup>2</sup> The Court instructed that it is lawful to obtain information about a competitor’s prices or even  
28 exchange information about prices (RT 4719), as well as to charge the same prices as competitors,  
to copy their price lists, and to follow and conform exactly to competitors’ price policies and price  
changes. (RT 4718.)



1 Meetings were being held; *a fortiori*, there is nothing to suggest that he knew of their content and  
2 purpose, and consciously decided to accomplish their goal. The information-gathering by Huang on the  
3 prices offered by competitors was completely legal, as long as he was not proven to have knowingly and  
4 intentionally joined the charged conspiracy. Because there was absolutely no proof that he had done so,  
5 the government's "coconspirator" argument as to Huang collapses.

6 **C. The Court Cannot Take Judicial Notice that Apple Negotiated Prices in the**  
7 **Northern District**

8 The government failed to prove that Wong and Huang were coconspirators, a deficiency fatal to  
9 its venue showing. But the prosecution also failed to prove that any act in furtherance of the conspiracy  
10 was committed in the Northern District, by a coconspirator or anyone else.

11 The absence of evidence of price negotiations between AUO and HP in 2001 and 2002 is  
12 demonstrated above. The record evidence is clear that after May of 2002, AUO negotiated with HP in  
13 Houston.<sup>3</sup> As to Dell, Michael Wong testified that Dell negotiations were conducted in Austin, Texas  
14 (RT 858), as the very evidence cited by the government in its Opposition makes clear. (Govt. Opp. at  
15 12, referring to Exhibit 88, describing an Austin-based conversation by Wong with LG employees "here  
16 in Austin" concerning prices quoted to Dell.)<sup>4</sup>

17 That being so, the government's claim that negotiations concerning allegedly price-fixed LCDs  
18 occurred in the Northern District now centers on Apple. The government contends that Wong and  
19 Apple must have negotiated prices in the district because both AUOA and Apple had offices in  
20 Cupertino during the conspiracy. (Govt. Opp. at 10-11.) Because the location of Apple's procurement  
21 office is not part of the record the government asks the Court to judicially notice that fact now. Judicial  
22 notice of this fact, however, would be inappropriate. As Dr. Hsiung notes in his reply, a court may not  
23 judicially notice a fact after the record has been closed.

24  
25  
26 <sup>3</sup> Following the merger with Compaq, and through 2006, HP based all of its LCD procurement  
27 groups for notebooks and monitors in Houston, Texas, at the headquarters of its business entity.  
(RT 496-497.) AUOA's employees responsible for the HP account were based in Houston. (RT  
28 861.)

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit 88 was sent by Wong to L.J. Chen, whom the jury determined was not a member of the  
charged conspiracy.

1 But even aside from the *location* of the office, the gaping flaw in the government’s argument is  
2 that the record also contains no evidence that *price negotiations* were conducted there. Even if it were  
3 proper to simply assume that Apple had a procurement office in Cupertino, this Court cannot judicially  
4 notice the fact that there were price negotiations between AUOA and Apple conducted at that office.  
5 Just as the Court cannot take judicial notice that sales negotiations were conducted in Cupertino, it  
6 equally cannot judicially notice that such negotiations involved price-fixed LCDs. The government has  
7 not demonstrated that this factual proposition is “not one subject to reasonable dispute.” Fed. R. Evid.  
8 201(b). Indeed, the government has not even asked the Court to judicially notice the locus of Apple’s  
9 price negotiations, and could not rationally do so.

10 Two weeks ago, on April 28, 2012, The New York Times ran a lengthy front-page article  
11 concerning Apple’s financial operations. The article detailed how “Apple and other California-based  
12 companies have moved financial operations to tax-free states,” such as Nevada, thereby successfully  
13 avoiding hundreds of millions of dollars in California state taxes. The defendants do not bring this news  
14 report to the Court’s attention as affirmative evidence that no act in furtherance of the charged  
15 conspiracy was committed in the Northern District; that issue must be decided only on the trial evidence  
16 before the jury. Rather, the defendants cite it as an example of why the government cannot demonstrate  
17 that there is no reasonable dispute as to a factual proposition for which the government offered no proof  
18 whatsoever – i.e., that price negotiations by Apple were necessarily carried out in Cupertino, California.

19 Additionally, while the government did gain admission of Apple’s records of its purchases from  
20 AUO (Exh. 835), those records were never displayed to the jury, and they contain no indication that the  
21 LCDs purchased were shipped into the Northern District or paid for from Cupertino. Were it the case  
22 that LCD price negotiations were conducted in Cupertino, the government easily could have called an  
23 Apple employee (such as Praveen Rathore, who was on its witness list) to testify to that fact, but did not.  
24 Especially given that the government was allowed to reopen its case to cure its venue defect, this failure  
25 is glaring. Therefore, the prosecution failed to prove that an act in furtherance of the conspiracy was  
26 committed in the Northern District.

1           **D.     Venue Cannot Rest on a Vicarious Liability Theory on Which the Jury Was Never**  
2           **Instructed**

3           For the first time, the government suggests a vicarious liability theory of venue, *viz.*:

4           [V]enue is established when “the conspirator avails himself of modern technology to  
5           commit at long distance the identical overt act that he would commit by being in the same  
6           room with a person and whispering a conspiracy-furthering message directly into his  
7           listener’s ear.”

8           (Opp. at 16 (citing *United States v. Rommy*, 506 F.3d 108, 119-22 (2d Cir. 2007), and *United States v.*  
9           *Gonzalez*, No. CR 10-00834, 2011 WL 500502 at \*3 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 9, 2011).)

10          In other words, even if no coconspirator commits an act in furtherance of the conspiracy within  
11          the district where the case is tried, venue may lie there if a coconspirator outside the district directs a  
12          non-conspirator within the district to take an act in furtherance of the conspiracy. This is a vicarious  
13          liability of venue. In order to find venue under this theory, the jury would have required instruction on  
14          it. Aside from the above-described lack of evidence that even non-conspirators such as Wong and  
15          Huang committed an act in furtherance of the conspiracy in the Northern District, the absence of any  
16          instruction on the *Rommy* theory, or even a request for such instruction by the government, precludes  
17          reliance on the theory to support a finding of venue. *McCormick*, 500 U.S. at 269-70 n.8.

18          Further, even if the government could now rely on this vicarious liability theory, it did not  
19          present any evidence at trial to support it or even mention such a possibility in its closing. In order to  
20          establish such a theory, the government would have had to prove that a coconspirator directed the  
21          actions of some third party. In other words, the government would have been required to demonstrate  
22          that a co-conspirator affirmatively urged the innocent party to behave in a particular way. *See United*  
23          *States v. Ben Zvi*, 242 F.3d 89, 97 (2d Cir. 2001). The government presented no evidence establishing  
24          that a coconspirator affirmatively directed and controlled price negotiations with U.S. customers. To the  
25          contrary, Michael Wong testified that Steven Leung (who was not even proven to be a coconspirator)  
26          did not always exercise control over his team’s price negotiation decisions (RT 910-11; *see also* Exh.  
27          139), and other managers gave their teams even less direction (RT 911-12).

28          Vicarious liability is a fact-intensive concept. It would have required a specific finding of fact  
by the jury, and the jury could not have made such a finding without proper instruction from this Court.

1 The government did not present sufficient evidence to prove a vicarious liability theory, and regardless,  
2 the jury made no such finding. As a result, it cannot be used now as a *post hoc* rationalization to save  
3 the verdict.

4 **E. The Government Was Obligated to Prove an Act within the Limitations Period**

5 Relying on *United States v. Tannenbaum*, 934 F.2d 8, 13 (2d Cir. 1991), the government argues  
6 that a venue-conferring act need not have occurred within the limitations period. But the rule of  
7 *Tannenbaum* has never been adopted by the Ninth Circuit,<sup>5</sup> and it makes little sense. The purpose of  
8 venue is to ensure that a defendant is tried in the district “where the crime was committed.” *United*  
9 *States v. Pace*, 314 F.3d 344, 349 (9th Cir. 2002). It cannot be sufficient that a defendant committed  
10 some other crime—an older, time-barred crime—in that district. A time-barred act in furtherance of a  
11 conspiracy could not establish the crime, and it therefore cannot establish venue either. Moreover, the  
12 *Tannenbaum* rule is in tension with Ninth Circuit law that venue must be independently established as to  
13 each count. See *United States v. Corona*, 34 F.3d 876, 879-81 (9th Cir. 1994). There is no reason to  
14 give the government the additional “forum shopping option” that would result from allowing time-  
15 barred acts to establish venue. *Id.* at 880 (quoting *United States v. Walden*, 464 F.2d 1015, 1020 (4th  
16 Cir. 1972)).

17 Even assuming *arguendo* that *Tannenbaum* is correct, it remains true that in this case, the  
18 government specifically alleged in the indictment that it would prove a venue-conferring act within the  
19 limitations period. In general, when the government alleges a specific theory of the offense, it is held to  
20 that theory even if the law would allow a broader theory. *United States v. Shipsey*, 190 F.3d 1081, 1087  
21 (9th Cir. 1999). More specifically, when the government alleges that an offense was committed during a  
22 particular time frame, it must prove those allegations. See *United States v. Laykin*, 886 F.2d 1534, 1542  
23 (9th Cir. 1989); *United States v. Cecil*, 608 F.2d 1294, 1296-97 (9th Cir. 1979).

24  
25 <sup>5</sup> With an oblique “cf.” cite to *Forman v. United States*, 264 F.2d 955, 956 (9th Cir. 1959), the  
26 government attempts to suggest that the Ninth Circuit has endorsed something like the  
27 *Tannenbaum* rule. That is false. *Forman* dealt with a challenge based on the wrong *division within*  
28 *a district*, not the wrong *district*. The Ninth Circuit has always held that a different standard applies  
because there is no robust legal right to be tried in the proper division. “[T]he constitutional  
provisions [regarding venue] relate only to the ‘state and district’ where the offense is committed.  
There is no constitutional prohibition against the trial being had in a division of the district other  
than the division in which the offense was committed.” *McNealy v. Johnston*, 100 F.2d 280, 282  
(9th Cir. 1938).

1 The government does not and cannot dispute the contents of its own pleading. Instead, it relies  
2 heavily on an argument that the defendants forfeited any right to raise this issue because they did not  
3 object to the final jury instructions describing a different time frame. (Govt. Opp. at 17-18.) But even if  
4 application of plain error doctrine were appropriate here, it would make no difference, for the Ninth  
5 Circuit has held that constructive amendment of an indictment constitutes plain error. *Shipsey*, 190 F.3d  
6 at 1087. In fact, the Ninth Circuit has suggested, though never explicitly held, that a constructive  
7 amendment might “always require[] reversal, even under plain error review.” *United States v.*  
8 *Dipentino*, 242 F.3d 1090, 1095 (9th Cir. 2001); *see United States v. Olson*, 925 F.2d 1170, 1175 (9th  
9 Cir. 1991); *see also United States v. Choy*, 309 F.3d 602, 607-08 (9th Cir. 2002) (holding that a material  
10 variance constitutes plain error). There is no published Ninth Circuit case where the court has found a  
11 constructive amendment but affirmed a conviction simply because a defendant failed to object to jury  
12 instructions.

13 The government cannot evade its own failure to prove what it alleged in the indictment simply  
14 by invoking the forfeiture doctrine. The government alleged that it would establish venue with an act  
15 within the limitations period. Just as the government cannot now rely on theories never argued to the  
16 petit jury at trial, it also cannot rely on theories never argued to the grand jury.

17 **F. The Government’s Unfair Tactics Concerning the Venue Issue Deprived the**  
18 **Defendants of Due Process, Requiring a New Trial**

19 None of the venue theories belatedly advanced by the government in its rebuttal argument or in  
20 its Opposition is supported by sufficient evidence. At a minimum, the defendants’ insufficiency  
21 arguments are substantial and were fully worthy of the jury’s consideration. Had the defense arguments  
22 been presented to the jury, an acquittal on the ground of insufficient evidence of venue would have been  
23 an entirely reasonable outcome. But jurors heard none of the defense arguments presented in these post-  
24 trial motions, because the only venue theory offered by the government at trial came in rebuttal, when  
25 the government misrepresented the state of the record on HP negotiations to both the Court and the jury,  
26 at a time when the defense had no opportunity to set the record straight. The government now adds to  
27 that unfairness by presenting this Court with venue theories never presented at trial, although it was the  
28 jury that was constitutionally required to decide the venue issue.

1 One component of due process is the prohibition of unfair surprise. A defendant may not be  
2 convicted based on a legal theory “that was neither subject to adversarial testing, nor defined in advance  
3 of the proceeding.” *Sheppard v. Rees*, 909 F.2d 1234, 1237 (9th Cir. 1989). The government’s tactics  
4 on the venue issue violated that Due Process guarantee, yet another reason why the defendants’  
5 convictions must be set aside under both Rule 29 and Rule 33.

6 **III. BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE IS INSUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH THE EXISTENCE OF**  
7 **EITHER FTAIA EXCLUSION TO BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT, ACQUITTAL,**  
8 **OR ALTERNATIVELY, A NEW TRIAL, IS REQUIRED**

9 Next, the defendants showed that because the superseding indictment alleges “trade or commerce  
10 . . . with foreign nations,” the Sherman Act applies, if at all, only if the government alleges and proves  
11 one of two exclusions: (1) conduct involving import trade or commerce; and (2) conduct having a  
12 direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable effect on United States commerce. Even if the  
13 government had properly alleged either exclusion in the indictment – which it did not – the government  
14 failed to prove either exclusion at trial. Any relatively minor shipments of panels into the United States  
15 are not “imports” within the meaning of the FTAIA, and whatever effect panel prices might or might not  
16 have had on the price to consumers of monitors, notebooks and televisions was not “direct” as a matter  
17 of law. (Defs. Mot. at 16-23.)

17 **A. The Conduct Alleged in the Indictment is “Trade or Commerce . . . With Foreign**  
18 **Nations”**

19 The government responds that evidence “that the conspirators mostly acted abroad [is]  
20 irrelevant.” (Govt. Opp. at 38.) “Under settled law,” the government claims, “criminal conspiracies  
21 occur where any overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy by any coconspirator occurs . . . . To the  
22 extent defendants propose a test focused on where the conspiracy predominantly occurred, they ignore  
23 well-settled principles of criminal conspiracy law.” (*Id.*)

24 The “test” which the government derides is plainly set forth in the FTAIA itself: “[The Act] shall  
25 not apply to conduct involving trade or commerce . . . with foreign nations” unless one or both of the  
26 statutory exceptions is satisfied. 15 U.S.C. § 6a; *F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. v. Empagran S.A.*, 542  
27 U.S. 155, 162 (2004). The phrase “trade or commerce . . . with foreign nations” includes transactions  
28 between foreign and domestic commercial entities. *Id.* at 158, 162-63 (finding that conduct which is “in

1 significant part foreign” is “trade or commerce with foreign nations” within the FTAIA); *Turicentro*,  
2 *S.A. v. American Airlines Inc.*, 303 F.3d 293, 301-02 (3d Cir. 2002); *see Dee-K Enterprises, Inc. v.*  
3 *Heveafil Sdn. Bhd.*, 299 F.3d 281, 290-93 (4th Cir. 2002) (rejecting argument that *Hartford Fire* limited  
4 to “wholly foreign” conduct). Conduct directed at reducing the competitiveness of a foreign market  
5 involves foreign trade or commerce regardless of whether some of the conduct occurred in the United  
6 States. *Kruman v. Christie’s Intl.*, 284 F.3d 384, 395 (2d Cir. 2002), *cert. dismissed*, 539 U.S. 978  
7 (2003), *abrogated on another point in Empagran*, 542 U.S. 155.

8 The authorities cited by the government in support of its argument that a single domestic act is  
9 sufficient for Sherman Act jurisdiction offer no support. *United States v. Endicott*, 803 F.2d 506, 514  
10 (9th Cir. 1986) related to a firearms conspiracy. No antitrust issues were involved, and the opinion  
11 never mentions the FTAIA. Nor did *United States v. Angotti*, 105 F.3d 539, 545 (9th Cir. 1997) have  
12 anything to do with the substantive scope of the Sherman Act – it involved the making of false  
13 statements in obtaining a loan, and addressed venue, requiring at minimum an overt act (*e.g.*, making a  
14 false statement) in the district for venue to lie there.

15 **B. The Weight of the Evidence Fails to Show That AUO Was Engaged in “Import**  
16 **Trade or Commerce”**

17 The Court instructed the jury that in order to satisfy the import exclusion of the FTAIA, the  
18 government was required to prove that defendants “fix[ed] the price of TFT-LCD panels targeted by the  
19 participants to be sold in the United States or for delivery to the United States.” (Dkt. 817 at 10 [Final  
20 Jury Instructions].) In their opening brief, the defendants showed that the evidence was insufficient to  
21 support any such finding for two reasons: (1) there was no evidence that the defendants “targeted” a  
22 United States import market – particularly in view of the small fraction of TFT-LCD sales accounted for  
23 by shipments to the United States; (2) even if shipping products into the United States constituted,  
24 without more, “targeting” an import market – which it does not – the government failed to prove that  
25 AUO specifically, as opposed to the Crystal Meeting participants in general, made any such shipments.

26 “[F]ixing the price of panels made abroad and sold in or for delivery to the United States is  
27 conduct involving import commerce,” the government responds, citing *Animal Science Prods., Inc. v.*  
28 *China Minmetals Corp.*, 654 F.3d 462, 471 n.11 (3d Cir. 2011).

1           *Animal Science Products* says nothing of the kind. “[T]he import trade or commerce exception  
2 ‘must be given a relatively strict construction,’” the court found. *Id.* at 470; *Carpet Group Intl. v.*  
3 *Oriental Rug Importers Ass’n*, 227 F.3d 62, 72 (3d Cir. 2000). The court illustrated the proper  
4 construction of the import exception by contrasting *Turicentro*, which involved allegations that  
5 defendants, including a number of United States airlines, had targeted a foreign market, with *Carpet*  
6 *Group*, which involved allegations that defendants had attempted to prevent certain parties from  
7 participating in the import market for oriental rugs. “[T]he import trade or commerce exception requires  
8 that the defendants’ conduct target import goods or services,” the Third Circuit held. *Animal Science*  
9 *Prods.*, 654 F.3d at 470. The court remanded for a determination of “whether the plaintiffs adequately  
10 allege that the defendants’ conduct is directed at a U.S. import market and not solely whether the  
11 defendants physically imported goods into the United States.” *Id.* at 471.

12           The government points to no evidence in the record that the defendants’ sales specifically  
13 “targeted” any United States import market, and none exists. Timothy Tierney of Hewlett Packard was  
14 unaware of any HP facility in the United States which issued purchase orders for panels (RT 611-12).  
15 Tierney recalled no panels which were designed specifically for the United States. (RT 612; *see In re*  
16 *Static Random Access Memory (SRAM) Antitrust Litigation*, 2010 WL 5477313, \*7 (N.D. Cal. 2010)  
17 (permitting claims to proceed to the extent they involve chips specifically designed for United States  
18 market.) No TFT-LCD panels were manufactured in the United States. (RT 1095:3-15.) The market  
19 for large area panel shipments directly to the United States was comparatively unimportant during the  
20 relevant period, consisting – even assuming that government economist Dr. Keith Leffler correctly  
21 calculated the value of panels shipped into the United States – of a mere 0.889% of total worldwide  
22 TFT-LCD sales.<sup>6</sup> (*Compare* RT 3313:3-12 to Exh. 775.)

23           Nor does the government cite any persuasive authority in support of its sweeping expansion of  
24 the import exclusion. The snippet from the FTAIA legislative history quoted by the government is a  
25 statement made by a testifying attorney, not by any member of Congress, and the Committee report at

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>6</sup> The government mischaracterizes the defendants’ point, suggesting that the defendants argued a *de*  
28 *minimis* limitation to the import exclusion. (Govt. Opp. at 33.) In fact, the defendants’ point is that  
the extraordinarily limited scope of the market for panels shipped directly into the United States  
makes any suggestion that the defendants “targeted” the United States import market implausible in  
the extreme.



1 issue is entirely consistent with *Animal Science*'s holding that to be covered by the Sherman Act,  
2 conduct must "target" an import market. H.R. Rep. No. 97-686, at 3, 9, *reprinted in* 1983 U.S.C.C.A.N.  
3 at 2494. Nowhere in the legislative history is there any suggestion that merely shipping products into  
4 the United States, regardless of the aims of a conspiracy or the relative size of the American market, is  
5 sufficient.

6 Far from supporting the government's view, *Fond du Lac Bumper Exchange, Inc. v. Jui Li*  
7 *Enterprise Co., Ltd.*, 753 F.Supp. 2d 792 (E.D. Wis. 2010) supports the strict construction of the  
8 exclusion set forth in *Animal Science Products, Carpet Group* and *Turicentro*. *Fond du Lac* involved a  
9 conspiracy which clearly *did* target a United States import market. Plaintiffs there alleged that  
10 defendants controlled over 95 percent of the United States market, and that the overwhelming majority  
11 of defendants' products were sold in the United States. *Id.* at 795. Defendants were alleged to have  
12 both agreed to set the price of their auto parts in the United States and to limit the availability of such  
13 parts. *Id.* at 795-96. The evidence suggested that defendants had "agreed to form a strategic alliance to  
14 jointly develop the world's largest single market" – the United States. *Id.* at 797.

15 The government's claim that *any* shipments into the United States are sufficient to trigger  
16 liability, regardless of how substantial those sales are and what the aims of the alleged conspiracy were  
17 purported to be, would represent a major expansion of American regulatory authority, eviscerating  
18 Congress' intent and decades of case law. Given that the United States is the largest market in the world  
19 for the vast majority of products, almost any alleged international cartel could be pursued under the  
20 import exclusion under the government's view; it would seldom, if ever, be necessary to prove that a  
21 defendant's conduct had a direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable impact on American commerce.

22 Nor can the government's claim be reconciled with *Hartford Fire Ins. Co. v. California*, 509  
23 U.S. 764 (1993), which limits prescriptive jurisdiction over primarily foreign conduct to that which has a  
24 *substantial* and intended effect on United States commerce. The government argues that *Hartford Fire*  
25 applies only to "wholly foreign" conduct, but the courts have repeatedly found to the contrary, including  
26 in *Hartford Fire* itself. *Dee-K*, 299 F.3d at 294-95 (4th Cir. 2002); *Sun Microsystems, Inc. v. Hynix*  
27 *Semiconductor Inc.*, 2007 WL 1056783, \*4 (N.D. Cal. 2007); *see Hartford Fire*, 509 U.S. at 775-76,  
28 795-96 (several participants in alleged conspiracy were United States-based entities, all London-based

1 defendants were subsidiaries of American corporations, and at least one key meeting attended by  
2 London-based defendants occurred in New York); *In re Ins. Antitrust Litig.*, 938 F.2d 919, 922-23, 939  
3 (9th Cir. 1991), *rev'd on other grounds sub nom. Hartford Fire*, 509 U.S. 764; *In re Uranium Antitrust*  
4 *Litig.*, 617 F.2d 1248, 1254 (7th Cir. 1980) (twenty domestic and nine foreign corporations allegedly  
5 fixed worldwide prices, partly in meetings in United States).

6 Finally, the defendants pointed out that even if merely shipping panels into the United States  
7 constituted “import commerce,” the government had offered no proof of such shipments by AUO.  
8 (Defs. Mot. at 21.) The government concedes that this is so, but insists that the point is “irrelevant,”  
9 arguing that the United States shipments of other Crystal Meeting participants can be imputed to AUO.  
10 (Govt. Opp. at 30.)

11 The government cites no authority holding that the acts of other parties can be imputed to a  
12 defendant for purposes of satisfying either FTAIA exclusion. The courts have repeatedly held that it is  
13 the defendants’ own acts, not those of others, which are relevant for purposes of applying the import  
14 exclusion. *Kruman*, 284 F.3d at 395; *Carpet Group*, 227 F.3d at 71; *McLafferty v. Deutsche Lufthansa*  
15 *AG*, 2009 WL 3365881, \* 3 (E.D. Pa. 2009); *CSR Limited v. Cigna Corp.*, 405 F. Supp. 2d 526, 539  
16 (D.N.J. 2005). Dr. Leffler admitted that he never bothered to calculate the volume of panels shipped by  
17 AUO into the United States. (RT 3665:3-22.)

18 **C. The Weight of the Evidence Fails to Show That Defendants’ Alleged Conduct Had a**  
19 **Direct, Substantial and Reasonably Foreseeable Effect on United States Commerce**

20 The Court instructed the jury that in order to satisfy the second exclusion from the FTAIA, the  
21 government was required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that defendants had fixed “the price of  
22 TFT-LCD panels that were incorporated into finished products such as notebook computers, desktop  
23 computer monitors, and televisions, and that this conduct had a direct, substantial, and reasonably  
24 foreseeable effect on trade or commerce in those finished products sold in the United States or for  
25 delivery to the United States.” (Dkt. 817 at 10 [Final Jury Instructions].) In their opening brief, the  
26 defendants argued that the evidence was insufficient as a matter of law because allegedly fixing the price  
27 of a component later incorporated into a consumer product could not be a “direct” effect within the  
28 meaning of the FTAIA. An effect is “direct” under the statute if it “follows as an immediate

1 consequence of the defendant’s activity.” *United States v. LSL Biotechnologies*, 379 F.3d 672, 680 (9th  
2 Cir. 2004).

3 Because of the uncertainties involved in tracing the impact of any alleged overcharges from sale  
4 of a component part through the final sale of the consumer product, several courts have held that the  
5 overseas sale of an input which is incorporated into a consumer product and imported into the United  
6 States by one or more third parties is not a sufficiently “direct” effect to satisfy the FTAIA.

7 For example, the plaintiffs in *In re Intel Corp. Microprocessor Antitrust Litigation*, 476 F. Supp.  
8 2d 452 (D. Del. 2007) argued that Intel’s unlawful overcharges for microprocessors had caused the  
9 manufacturers of personal computers and other consumer products to raise their prices, ultimately  
10 injuring the consumer plaintiffs. *Id.* at 454. The court pointed out that for plaintiffs to have been  
11 harmed, any overcharge would have to be passed from an initial sale, to OEMs, to retailers, and then on  
12 to consumers. “[T]his speculative chain of events is insufficient to create the direct, substantial and  
13 reasonably foreseeable effects on commerce required by the FTAIA.” *Id.* at 456. Similarly, the court in  
14 *United Phosphorus, Ltd. v. Angus Chemical Co.*, 131 F. Supp. 2d 1003 (N.D. Ill. 2001), *aff’d*, 322 F.3d  
15 942 (7th Cir. 2003) held that effects on domestic U.S. sales of ethambutol were not a “direct” effect of  
16 the defendant’s alleged interference with the plaintiff’s manufacture of AB, the key ingredient of  
17 ethambutol. *Id.* at 1007, 1013-14. “The FTAIA explicitly bars antitrust actions alleging restraints in  
18 foreign markets for input . . . that are used abroad to manufacture downstream products . . . that may  
19 later be imported into the United States,” the court held. *Id.* at 1014; *see also Pabst Motoren GmbH &*  
20 *Co. KG v. Kanematsu-Goshu (U.S.A.) Inc.*, 629 F. Supp. 864, 869 (S.D.N.Y. 1986) (restraint on sale of  
21 drive motors in Japan does not have a direct anticompetitive effect on United States commerce based on  
22 subsequent sales of motors in United States since jurisdiction “is not supported by every conceivable  
23 repercussion of the action objected to on United States commerce”).

24 The government argues that defendants’ TFT-LCD panels “accounted for 70 to 80 percent of the  
25 cost of a finished monitor and 30 to 40 percent of the cost of a finished notebook computer.” (Govt.  
26 Opp. at 34.) For that reason, the government claims, the jury could “readily conclude” that increases in  
27 the price of panels would necessarily result in increased prices for finished products. *Id.*

1 This Court’s decision in *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, 822 F. Supp. 2d 953  
2 (N.D. Cal. 2011), illustrates the fatal shortcoming in the government’s proof. There, the court  
3 emphasized that plaintiffs had presented evidence that alleged overcharges “were ‘passed through’ to  
4 American consumers, regardless of how the LCD panels ultimately found their way into the United  
5 States,” citing the expert report of Dr. Janet S. Netz. “They claim that this ‘pass through’ constitutes a  
6 direct effect under the FTAIA.” *Id.* at 963.

7 In sharp contrast, there is no evidence whatsoever relating to passthrough here, and there is  
8 therefore no evidence of a “direct” effect, let alone a “substantial” or “reasonably foreseeable” one.  
9 Although Timothy Tierney of HP testified that the price his company paid for TFT-LCD panels  
10 “affected the competitiveness of [HP’s] product when it entered the market,” (RT 508:25-509:9), he  
11 never testified whether any increase in panel prices was fully or partially passed through to the next  
12 level of distribution, or whether increased panel prices were offset in HP’s cost structure by decreases in  
13 other panel prices, or if the company simply absorbed increases in panel prices itself, without passing  
14 through the costs. Nor did Piyush Bhargava of Dell offer evidence of passthrough. Indeed, Bhargava  
15 testified that between 60 and 70 percent of the time during the relevant period, Dell purchased panels  
16 from manufacturers at below-market prices and increased the price itself before reselling the panels to  
17 system integrators. (RT 2633:20-2634:13.) Nor did Dr. Leffler offer any opinion regarding  
18 passthrough.

19 There is insufficient evidence in the record to show that any foreign sales of TFT-LCD panels  
20 resulted in a “direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable” effect on United States commerce when  
21 such panels were incorporated into computer monitors, notebooks and televisions and eventually  
22 shipped into the United States. Entry of judgment of acquittal, or at minimum a new trial, is required.

23 **IV. THE JURY’S FINDING OF A \$500 MILLION OVERCHARGE IS UNSUPPORTED BY**  
24 **THE EVIDENCE**

25 The defendants next argued that there is insufficient evidence to support the jury’s finding of an  
26 overcharge by all the Crystal Meeting participants collectively of more than \$500 million. (Defs. Mot.  
27 at 23-27.) This conclusion follows necessarily from the preceding argument, since the government’s  
28

1 failure of proof with respect to both exceptions to the FTAIA necessarily infects both the jury's guilt  
2 findings and its gain calculation. (*Id.* at 18, 23.)

3 **A. Dr. Leffler Erroneously Assumed That Panels Not Discussed During Crystal**  
4 **Meetings Were Affected by the Crystal Meeting Discussions**

5 But even leaving that issue aside, the overcharge calculation is unsupported by Dr. Leffler's  
6 flawed analysis. Dr. Leffler's analysis involved several steps: (1) total worldwide sales of large-area  
7 TFT-LCD panels by all Crystal Meeting participants between 2001 and 2006 were \$71.8 billion (RT  
8 3313:3-12); (2) since roughly 32.7% of worldwide personal computer shipments were delivered in the  
9 United States during the period, Dr. Leffler assumed that roughly the same percentage of large-area  
10 panel sales ended up in the United States after having been incorporated in consumer products (RT  
11 3314:21-3316:3); and (3) multiplying these numbers yields an estimated value of \$23.5 billion in  
12 affected commerce. (RT 3316:7-3317:20.) Dr. Leffler estimated that \$500 million in total overcharges  
13 represented 2.1% of his affected commerce calculation, and opined that total overcharges exceeded  
14 2.1%. (RT 3320:24-3325:14.)

15 Dr. Leffler's reasoning is built on a completely unsupported premise – that worldwide sales of  
16 panels between 12.1 and 30 inches is the relevant measure of commerce. Dr. Leffler included the  
17 substantial sales of large area panels not discussed during the Crystal Meetings in his calculations, but  
18 never explained why he believed such sales were affected by the conspiracy. Further, he unilaterally  
19 decided that all sales of panels which *were* discussed were necessarily affected, despite the voluminous  
20 evidence of companies, including AUO, failing to charge the Crystal Meeting price, and undercutting  
21 one another to land orders. (Defs. Mot. at 25.)

22 **B. The Government's Defense of Dr. Leffler's Analysis Lacks Merit**

23 The government concedes that Dr. Leffler simply assumed that non-discussed panels were  
24 nevertheless somehow affected by the Crystal Meetings. (Govt. Opp. at 57, 59.) But rather than  
25 showing why Dr. Leffler's assumption was justified in its view, the government argues that Dr. Leffler's  
26 assumption was harmless.

27 The government first attempts to hide the flaw in Dr. Leffler's analysis by rewriting his  
28 testimony, claiming that Dr. Leffler concluded that overcharges were more than \$2 billion. (Govt. Opp.

1 at 57.) In fact, Dr. Leffler repeatedly limited his opinion to the single issue of whether overcharges were  
2 more than \$500 million. (RT 3279:7-11, 3282:18-20, 3286:5-11, 3321:4-7, 3325:3-3326:20, 3374:5-14,  
3 3709:10-23, 3710:10-3711:10, 4583:14-18, 4588:5-8, 4589:11-15.) He made no attempt to quantify the  
4 exact amount of any overcharge. (RT 3279:7-11, 3321:4-7, 3710:10-3711:10, 4583:14-18.) Dr.  
5 Leffler’s regression analysis – the sole basis cited by the government for its \$2 billion overcharge claim  
6 – is not only riddled with errors, as demonstrated by Bruce Deal<sup>7</sup> (RT 4400:21-4405:12), but was  
7 characterized by Dr. Leffler himself as merely “confirmation” of his \$500 million overcharge  
8 conclusion. (RT 3710:6-3711:10.) Aware that Dr. Leffler’s testimony did not support a \$2 billion  
9 overcharge claim, the government did not seek this in the verdict form submitted to the jury. It should  
10 not be permitted to do so now.

11 Next, the government makes the bizarre claim that the defendants failed to challenge Dr.  
12 Leffler’s analysis at trial. (Govt. Opp. at 58.) As the government knows full well, the defendants  
13 offered a point-by-point response to Dr. Leffler’s analysis, pointing out the flaws in his margin analysis  
14 and regression (RT 4376:24-4406:13), and specifically pointing out that panel sales between 12.1 and 30  
15 inches could not reasonably be included in an overcharge analysis if the sales took place in a month  
16 where no “target price” was discussed. (RT 4246:22-4250:18.) Indeed, the government was sufficiently  
17 concerned about the defendants’ criticism of Dr. Leffler’s inclusion of non-discussed panels in his  
18 volume of commerce calculation that it caused Dr. Leffler to address the subject in his rebuttal  
19 testimony. (RT 4542:25-4546:3.)

20 Next, the government insists that Dr. Leffler’s inclusion of non-discussed panels in his volume of  
21 “affected” commerce is actually a virtue of his analysis rather than a fatal flaw, meaning “that he  
22 accounted for the possibility that some of the non-discussed panels may not have been affected.” (Govt.  
23 Opp. at 59.)

24  
25 <sup>7</sup> Dr. Leffler’s regression analysis – which was at the forefront of Dr. Leffler’s pretrial report, then  
26 receded into a confirmatory afterthought in his trial testimony, and now once again takes center  
27 stage in the government’s post-trial briefing – somehow concluded that the Crystal Meeting  
28 participants overcharged customers on panels smaller than 12.1 and larger than 30 inches (in other  
words, panels not involved in this case) by more than they did on the 12.1-30 inch panels. (RT  
3661:2-8; see Table 12 from Dr. Leffler’s pretrial report, shown as a demonstrative at trial.) And  
yet, neither Dr. Leffler nor the government seems to see this embarrassing result as an indication  
that something is badly wrong with Dr. Leffler’s analysis.

1 Nonsense. As noted above, Dr. Leffler’s testimony was limited to a single question – was the  
2 alleged overcharge more than \$500 million? He testified that for the answer to be “yes,” it was merely  
3 necessary to find an otherwise unexplained overcharge of more than 2.1%, or \$4.30 per panel. (*See*  
4 *infra* at 22-23, RT 3325:17-3326:8.) Those two figures – 2.1%, or \$4.30 – were dependent on his  
5 calculation of \$23.5 billion in affected commerce, which in turn depended on including every panel sale  
6 between 12.1 and 30 inches from 2001 to 2006. If including non-discussed panels was an unsupported  
7 assumption – which it was – then every conclusion that followed from that assumption necessarily falls.

8 Next, the government argues that Dr. Leffler properly analyzed the overcharge, despite his  
9 inclusion of non-discussed panels, in two steps: first, he compared the prices per panel to “but for”  
10 prices which would have prevailed absent the Crystal Meetings; second, he compared the total  
11 difference between actual and “but for” prices to the volume of affected commerce to estimate the  
12 overcharge. (Govt. Opp. at 59-60.)

13 Far from mitigating his errors, Dr. Leffler’s approach exacerbated them. Dr. Leffler’s “but for”  
14 price was not based on reasoning or analysis; it was “a hypothetical . . . not what [he] actually calculated  
15 to be a but for price.” (RT 4583:19-23.) Dr. Leffler was unable to calculate a “but for” price since he  
16 was never asked to calculate a precise overcharge. (RT 4583:7-4584:11.) Nevertheless, if a particular  
17 panel sale was not affected by the Crystal Meetings – either because it was of a size and application not  
18 discussed that month, or because AUO or some other participant simply disregarded the “target price”  
19 that month in order to land an order – *the “but for” price should be the same as the actual price*. Thus,  
20 Dr. Leffler reached his overcharge conclusion by comparing a fictional “but for” analysis to a grossly  
21 overstated estimation of affected commerce. The resulting opinion is worthless, and thoroughly  
22 inadequate to support the verdict.

23 The government next points to Dr. Leffler’s conclusion that 77% of all 12.1-30 inch panel sales  
24 consisted of panels discussed during that month’s Crystal Meeting. (RT 3301:9-19.) From that, the  
25 government concludes that even if Dr. Leffler’s calculations were reduced by 23% - the share of sales  
26 involving non-discussed panels – the total overcharge would still be over \$500 million in view of Dr.  
27 Leffler’s analysis of margins. (Govt. Opp. at 60.)  
28

1 Not so. The government's argument implicitly assumes that if Dr. Leffler's volume of affected  
2 commerce was overstated by at least 23%, then his margin calculations and his regression estimates  
3 were overstated by the same percentage, and no more. Given that Dr. Leffler never corrected his  
4 margins and regressions to remove the effect of non-discussed panels, there is no basis for that assertion  
5 in the record.

6 Moreover, as defendants showed at trial, Dr. Leffler's inclusion of non-discussed panels in his  
7 volume of commerce was far from the only crippling flaw in his analysis:

- 8 ● From July through December 2008 (near the end of the post-Crystal Meetings period Dr.  
9 Leffler studied), rather than using AUO's actual prices adjusted for discounts to properly  
10 calculate margins, Dr. Leffler used prices from Chi Mei Optoelectronics Corporation –  
11 which had pled guilty to price fixing prior to this trial<sup>8</sup> (RT 4378:1-4380:21);
- 12 ● Because Dr. Leffler did not have certain AUO-specific cost data available, he instead  
13 used published cost data which was not specific to AUO. In addition, rather than using  
14 costs for the size and type of panel whose price he was studying, Dr. Leffler used scaled  
15 data for a single panel, the 17 inch SXGA monitor (RT 4380:23-4386:11);
- 16 ● Dr. Leffler calculated margins in dollars rather than as percentages, artificially increasing  
17 the difference between margins within and outside the Crystal Meeting period (RT  
18 4394:12-4395:18);
- 19 ● Dr. Leffler artificially increased the difference in margins by including much of the 2008-  
20 2009 recession in his post-Crystal Meeting data (RT 4397:3-4398:12);
- 21 ● Dr. Leffler artificially increased the purported "overcharge" in his regression model by  
22 removing the so-called "conspiracy meeting" months when he was unable to locate any  
23 target prices (RT 4401:25-4403:22); and
- 24 ● Just as he did with his margin analysis, Dr. Leffler failed to account for the 2008-2009  
25 recession in his regressions (RT 4403:23-4405:2).

26  
27  
28 <sup>8</sup> Although Dr. Leffler complained that AUO's 2008 price data was "faulty," Bruce Deal explained that any issues with the data were easily remedied by making some "relatively straightforward adjustments." (RT 4380:2-5.)



1 After correcting each of these errors, Bruce Deal concluded that Dr. Leffler's own model  
2 generated almost identical margins during the Crystal Meeting period and afterwards, and a negative  
3 overcharge. (RT 4399:21-4400:20, 4404:22-4405:2.)

4 **C. Dr. Leffler Erroneously Assumed That All Panels Discussed During the Conspiracy**  
5 **Were Affected by the Target Pricing, Despite the Voluminous Evidence of Vigorous**  
6 **Competition for Orders**

7 Finally, with respect to panels which were discussed during Crystal Meetings but were  
8 frequently subject to vigorous competition for orders anyway (Defs. Mot. at 26), the government points  
9 to Dr. Leffler's claim that virtually anything AUO could have done – pricing above, equal to, or below  
10 the Crystal Meeting prices – would have been consistent (in his view) with an “imperfect” conspiracy.  
11 (Gov. Opp. at 61; RT 4581:13-4582:3.) As defendants pointed out in their opening brief, Dr. Leffler's  
12 comments are mere conclusion, entirely devoid of analysis, and therefore worthless as expert opinion.  
13 *In re Silberkraus*, 336 F.3d 864, 871 (9th Cir. 2003); *Western Parcel Express v. United Parcel Service of*  
14 *America, Inc.*, 65 F. Supp. 2d 1052, 1060 (N.D. Cal. 1998). Mere evidence of similar pricing between  
15 competitors is not sufficient, without more, to support an inference of conspiracy. *Blomkest Fertilizer,*  
16 *Inc. v. Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan*, 203 F.3d 1028, 1032-33 (8th Cir. 2000) (meeting prices of  
17 competitors not unlawful); Dkt. 817 at 7:15-18 [Final Jury Instructions]. In this case, evidence of  
18 dissimilar pricing would, in Dr. Leffler's view, still be consistent with an imperfect conspiracy.

19 There is insufficient evidence in the record to show that the Crystal Meeting participants as a  
20 group overcharged their customers between 2001 and 2006 by more than \$500 million. The jury's  
21 finding on this issue must be set aside.

22 **V. BECAUSE THE INDICTMENT ALLEGES PREDOMINANTLY FOREIGN-BASED**  
23 **CONDUCT WHICH MUST BE JUDGED BY THE RULE OF REASON, JUDGMENT**  
24 **OF ACQUITTAL – OR AT MINIMUM, A NEW TRIAL – IS REQUIRED**

25 **A. Metro Industries Required That This Case Be Charged and Tried, If at All,**  
26 **Pursuant to the Rule of Reason**

27 As discussed above, the superseding indictment alleges substantially foreign-based conduct. The  
28 Ninth Circuit has squarely held that where a case turns on substantially foreign-based conduct, the rule  
of reason must be applied as a matter of law. *Metro Industries, Inc. v. Sammi Corp.*, 82 F.3d 839, 844-  
45 (9th Cir. 1996). Accordingly, in order to properly allege a violation of the Sherman Act substantially

1 based on foreign conduct, a plaintiff must allege *mens rea* – that the conduct was undertaken with the  
2 knowledge that anticompetitive effects would most likely follow, and that such effects did in fact follow.  
3 *United States v. United States Gypsum Co.*, 438 U.S. 422, 444 (1978). Since the superseding indictment  
4 does not allege the *mens rea* required by *Gypsum*, it should have been dismissed.

5 The government responds that because the defendants neither sought to introduce evidence  
6 demonstrating that their conduct was reasonable, nor sought rule of reason jury instructions, the  
7 defendants’ rule of reason argument based on *Metro Industries* has been waived. (Govt. Opp. at 50-51.)

8 The government is wrong. Because the superseding indictment alleges substantially foreign  
9 conduct, but fails to allege *mens rea*, the indictment fails to allege an offense. *Gypsum*, 438 U.S. at 444.  
10 A claim that an indictment fails to state an offense can be raised for the first time on appeal, and cannot  
11 be waived. *United States v. Kahlon*, 38 F.3d 467, 469 (9th Cir. 1994); *United States v. Buchanan*, 574  
12 F.3d 554, 565 (8th Cir. 2009). The defendants have repeatedly argued that the indictment was defective  
13 because it alleged only foreign conduct subject to the rule of reason. (Dkt. 177 [Defendant Hsuan Bin  
14 Chen’s Motion to Dismiss based on *Metro Industries*]; Dkt. 528 [Defendants’ Opposition to  
15 Government’s Motion *In Limine*].) The court has repeatedly rejected defendants’ arguments. (Dkt. 250  
16 [Order on Motion to Dismiss]; Dkt. 607 at 43:16-44:1 [December 13, 2011 pretrial proceeding]; RT  
17 4616:5-6 [instructional conference – jury not to be told about rule of reason].) Once the Court had  
18 unequivocally held that neither argument nor evidence pursuant to the rule of reason would be  
19 permitted, no more was necessary in order to preserve the error for review. *United States v. Varela-*  
20 *Rivera*, 279 F.3d 1174, 1177-78 (9th Cir. 2002); *United States v. Arlt*, 41 F.3d 516, 523-24 (9th Cir.  
21 1994).

22 The government next argues that the *Metro Industries* rule of reason holding does not apply to  
23 price fixing agreements, which the government claims have long been held to be subject to the *per se*  
24 rule. (Govt. Opp. at 49-51.) But as the defendants pointed out in their opening brief, the *per se* rule has  
25 been applied to price fixing almost exclusively in *domestic* cases. (Defs. Mot. at 31.) *Metro Industries*  
26 states a bright line rule in foreign-conduct cases, applying across the board to all types of restraints:  
27 “application of the *per se* rule is not appropriate where the conduct in question occurred in another  
28 country . . . where a Sherman Act claim is based on conduct outside the United States, we apply rule of

1 reason analysis to determine whether there is a Sherman Act violation.” 82 F.3d at 844-45. Indeed, the  
2 *Metro Industries* court couched the primary insight upon which its holding rests in terms of the difficulty  
3 in determining the domestic effect of a foreign price fixing conspiracy:

4 Domestic antitrust policy uses *per se* rules for conduct that, in most of its manifestations,  
5 is potentially very dangerous with little or no redeeming value. That rationale would be  
6 inapplicable to foreign restraints that, in many instances, pose very little danger to  
7 American commerce or have more persuasive justification than are likely in similar  
8 restraints at home. For example, price fixing in a foreign country might have some but  
9 very little impact on United States commerce.

10 *Id.* at 845, quoting 1 Phillip Areeda & Donald F. Turner, Antitrust Law ¶ 237 (1978).

11 The government next claims that *Metro Industries* only applies to “wholly foreign” conduct.  
12 (Govt. Opp. at 51.) Not so. *Metro Industries* involved a foreign-based trading company, its American  
13 subsidiaries, and stainless steel steamers purchased for export to the United States. *Metro Industries*, 82  
14 F.3d at 841-42, 847. Neither the language nor the logic of *Metro Industries* is limited to wholly foreign,  
15 as opposed to substantially foreign, conduct.

16 The government next claims that when the *Metro Industries* court held that foreign conduct was  
17 judged by the rule of reason, the court meant “the ‘jurisdictional rule of reason’ of [*Timberlane Lumber*  
18 *Co. v. Bank of America*, 549 F.2d 597 (9th Cir. 1976)], not a traditional rule of reason analysis of the  
19 legality of the restraint.” (Govt. Opp. at 52.) In fact, the *Metro Industries* court could hardly have stated  
20 its holding more clearly:

21 Thus, the potential illegality of actions occurring outside the United States requires an inquiry  
22 into the impact on commerce in the United States, regardless of the inherently suspect appearance of the  
23 foreign activities. Consequently, where a Sherman Act claim is based on conduct outside the United  
24 States, we apply rule of reason analysis to determine whether there is a Sherman Act violation.

25 *Id.* at 845.

26 According to the government, the language quoted above is “dicta” which has never been  
27 followed by another court, and was expressly rejected by the Fourth Circuit in *Dee-K Enterprises*. But  
28 as the defendants explained in briefing their motion to dismiss based on *Metro Industries*, alternative  
29 holdings are not *dicta*. *Woods v. Interstate Realty Co.*, 337 U.S. 535, 537 (1949); *Best Life Assur. Co. of*  
30 *Cal. v. C.I.R.*, 281 F.3d 828, 833 (9th Cir. 2002); *United States v. Wright*, 496 F.3d 371, 375 n.10 (5th

1 Cir. 2007); *United States v. Fulks*, 454 F.3d 410, 434 (4th Cir. 2006). The holding in *Metro Industries*  
2 has never been overruled by the Ninth Circuit, and has indeed been recognized as binding Ninth Circuit  
3 law by one eminent judge writing in dissent. *LSL Biotechnologies*, 379 F.3d at 697-98 (Aldisert, J.,  
4 dissenting, and discussing issues not raised in majority opinion) (“Given the binding precedent of this  
5 court, however, the United States may not rely on a per se theory of a Sherman Act violation in this  
6 [foreign conduct] case”). And as the defendants explained in their opening brief, far from rejecting  
7 *Metro Industries* wholesale as the government argues, the Fourth Circuit in *Dee-K Enterprises* strongly  
8 endorsed the reasoning on which *Metro Industries* rests: that the assumptions about anticompetitive  
9 effect upon which the *per se* rule is based are not necessarily applicable to foreign conduct. (Defs. Mot.  
10 at 34; *Dee-K Enterprises*, 299 F.3d at 291-92.)

11 **B. The Standards Which Govern Any Extraterritorial Scope of the Sherman Act**  
12 **Cannot Be Reconciled With the *Per Se* Rule**

13 According to the government, the defendants “misunderstand the nature and purpose of the *per*  
14 *se* rule.” The “limited inquiry into effect” needed to determine whether the Sherman Act applies to  
15 foreign conduct is purportedly compatible with application of the *per se* rule, which “foreclos[es]  
16 justifications for price fixing and contentions that fixed prices were reasonable.” (Govt. Opp. at 53.)

17 The government’s argument amounts to a thinly veiled claim that *Metro Industries* was wrongly  
18 decided. As such, it should be addressed to an *en banc* Ninth Circuit panel, not this Court.

19 Nevertheless, the government’s argument is incorrect. In traditional domestic *per se* cases, no  
20 overt act need be pled or proven; the offense is complete if an agreement is made with the necessary  
21 intent. *United States v. Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.*, 310 U.S. 150, 224 n.59 (1940); *United States v. Miller*,  
22 771 F.2d 1219, 1226 (9th Cir. 1985). For that reason, no allegation that the alleged agreement caused  
23 harm to competition is necessary. *Northern Pac. Ry. Co. v. United States*, 356 U.S. 1, 5 (1958).  
24 Reasonableness of the agreed prices is not a defense in a domestic *per se* case. *United States v. Trenton*  
25 *Potteries Co.*, 273 U.S. 392, 397-98 (1927).

26 On the other hand, foreign conduct can be prosecuted, if at all, only based upon a showing that  
27 the conduct “was meant to produce, and did in fact produce, some substantial effect in the United  
28 States.” *Hartford Fire*, 509 U.S. at 796; *United States v. Aluminum Co. of America (Alcoa)*, 148 F.2d

1 416, 444 (2d Cir. 1945). Since neither an intent to harm competition nor actual harm to competition is a  
2 necessary element of the *per se* rule, *United States v. Brown*, 936 F.2d 1042, 1046 (9th Cir. 1991)  
3 (showing of *Gypsum* intent is not required in domestic *per se* case); *Northern Pac. Ry. Co.*, 356 U.S. at 5  
4 (no allegation that restraint harmed competition necessary in *per se* case), the *Hartford Fire* rule cannot  
5 be reconciled with domestic *per se* standards.

6 **C. None of the Three Reasons Which Lead to *Per Se* Condemnation of a Market**  
7 **Restraint Apply Here**

8 As defendants showed in their opening brief, the *per se* rule has no place in evaluating foreign  
9 conduct because the reasons developed by the courts for condemning certain practices in domestic  
10 conduct *per se* are simply inapplicable to conduct occurring overseas. (Defs. Mot. at 33-42.)

11 First, the courts have little or no experience with determining whether foreign conduct similar to  
12 the Crystal Meetings “facially appears to be [conduct] that would always or almost always tend to  
13 restrict competition and decrease output” in United States commerce, the sole concern of the United  
14 States antitrust laws. *See Natl. Collegiate Athletic Ass’n v. Board of Regents*, 468 U.S. 85, 100 (1984)  
15 (defining the types of practices to which the *per se* rule is applied). The only example either party has  
16 cited, *United States v. Nippon Paper Industries Co.*, 109 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 1997), involved an alleged  
17 foreign conspiracy specifically targeting United States commerce, rather than a foreign-based industry  
18 selling products in a worldwide market. *Id.* at 3.

19 The government responds that it has “long enforced this *per se* rule criminally against  
20 international cartels.” (Govt. Opp. at 53.) But the government cites only one case to support this  
21 proposition – *Nippon Paper*. More importantly, the government entirely misses the point. Practices are  
22 defined as *per se* violations when courts have analyzed the harm they cause to United States competition  
23 so often that the courts can confidently predict that such a practice will always, or nearly always, be  
24 condemned under the rule of reason. *See Arizona v. Maricopa Co. Medical Society*, 457 U.S. 332, 344  
25 (1982). The government offers neither analysis nor authority for the proposition that courts have  
26 encountered alleged foreign cartels selling products to a worldwide market so frequently that they can  
27 predict with confidence what effect such conduct would necessarily have on United States commerce.  
28

1 The defendants also showed in their opening brief that neither of the two remaining reasons  
2 which support application of the *per se* rule to a particular restraint are applicable here either. There is  
3 substantial evidence that the Crystal Meetings did not restrict competition in United States commerce,  
4 (Defs. Mot. at 36-41), and output indisputably increased many times over in the TFT-LCD industry  
5 between 2001 and 2006. (*Id.* at 41-42.) The government offers no response to either point.

6 **D. If This Case Had Been Properly Tried Pursuant to the Rule of Reason, Defendants**  
7 **Would Have Shown That Their Contacts with Competitors Enhanced Overall**  
8 **Efficiency and Made the TFT-LCD Industry More Competitive**

9 Finally, the defendants showed that if this case had been properly charged and tried pursuant to  
10 the rule of reason, they would have presented substantial evidence demonstrating that their conduct  
11 made the market more, rather than less competitive. (Defs. Mot. at 42-49.) During the 2001-2006  
12 period, TFT-LCD monitors and televisions grew considerably in market share, gaining widespread  
13 consumer acceptance. (*Id.* at 43-44.) Declining prices and aggressive innovation characterized the  
14 industry throughout the relevant period, further demonstrating the procompetitive nature of competitor  
15 contacts. (*Id.* at 49-52.) One witness after another testified that the TFT-LCD industry was highly  
16 competitive during the relevant period, and AUO was one of the most aggressive competitors in the  
17 industry. (RT 531:6-16; 574:14-575:2; 1061:21-1062:9, 1615:22-1616:2; 3183:6-20.) Largely because  
18 of the considerable market power enjoyed by large scale buyers such as Hewlett-Packard and Dell, as  
19 well as the private auction-like structure of sales communications, every TFT-LCD manufacturer had  
20 dozens of employees – from salesmen in the field to high-level executives – aggressively seeking  
21 competitive market information, both to determine what the market price actually was, and to combat  
22 large customers’ abuse of their market power. (Defs. Mot. at 45-49.) The law has long recognized that  
23 such exchanges of market information can be procompetitive, and should be analyzed under the rule of  
24 reason. *In re Coordinated Pretrial Proceedings in Petroleum Prods. Antitrust Litig.*, 906 F.2d 432, 447  
25 n.13 (9th Cir. 1990); see *Cement Mfrs.’ Protective Ass’n v. United States*, 268 U.S. 588, 603-04 (1925)  
26 (exchange of competitive information to prevent customers from perpetrating a fraud upon sellers is not  
27 anticompetitive).

28 The government responds that any contention that the conduct at issue had procompetitive  
benefits is contradicted by the jury’s verdict. (Govt. Opp. at 56.) Once again, the government misses

1 the point. Although the jury was instructed that exchanges of competitive information are not *per se*  
2 illegal, (Dkt. 817 at 8-9 [Final Jury Instructions]), the jury was instructed to consider the evidence solely  
3 in a negative light – whether or not the information exchanges facilitated a price fixing agreement (Dkt.  
4 817 at 7-8 [Final Jury Instructions]) – rather than being instructed to assess the potential procompetitive  
5 benefits of the exchanges.

6 Under binding Ninth Circuit law, the conduct alleged by the indictment must be judged pursuant  
7 to the rule of reason, not *per se*. Since the indictment did not plead the elements of a Sherman Act  
8 violation under the rule of reason, judgments of acquittal must be entered. At minimum, a new trial is  
9 required.

#### 10 **E. The Government Fails to Address the Defendants’ Due Process Arguments**

11 The government attempts to sweep aside the defendants’ Due Process arguments based on  
12 retroactive overruling of *Metro Industries*. It reiterates its arguments that *Metro Industries* only applies  
13 to wholly foreign conduct, and it again attempts to characterize the critical portion of *Metro Industries*  
14 as “dicta.” Those arguments are tenuous, for the reasons described above. Indeed, the very fact that the  
15 government feels compelled to apply the “dicta” label—in direct contravention of the Ninth Circuit’s  
16 case law regarding the definition of “dicta”—is telling. The government is apparently aware that it is  
17 treading on thin ice.

18 The government settles on this claim: “Defendants do not and cannot cite a single case in which  
19 the court refused to apply the *per se* rule to price fixing because the conduct was foreign.” (Govt. Opp.  
20 at 55.) And yet the converse is equally true. The government does not and cannot cite a single post-  
21 *Metro* case in which the court has applied the *per se* rule where the conduct was foreign. That failure is  
22 itself dispositive of the government’s claim.

23 *Metro Industries* itself could not be more clear: “*per se* analysis is not appropriate” for Sherman  
24 Act cases based on foreign conduct. 82 F.3d at 843. The government is entitled to argue that the Ninth  
25 Circuit’s conclusion was unwise. It is entitled to argue that the Ninth Circuit’s conclusion was  
26 inconsistent with other decisions in other circuits. It is entitled to argue that the Ninth Circuit’s  
27 conclusion should be overruled. But under the Due Process Clause, it is not entitled to argue that the  
28 Ninth Circuit’s conclusion should be overruled retroactively.

1 Finally, and bizarrely, the government argues that anti-retroactivity can be ignored because the  
2 defendants “actually foresaw” the possibility of criminal prosecution. (Govt. Opp. at 55.) The  
3 government’s argument confuses the fair warning requirement with mistake of law doctrine. The fair  
4 warning requirement is governed by an objective standard, not a subjective standard. *See United States*  
5 *v. Lanier*, 520 U.S. 259, 266-67 (1997). The fact that a person might (falsely) believe that certain  
6 conduct would subject him to prosecution does not relieve the government of its obligation to pass a  
7 valid and prospective law proscribing that conduct. The government’s suggestion to the contrary, aside  
8 from being factually unsupported, is legally absurd.

## 9 **VI. THE COURT SHOULD GRANT JUDGMENT OF ACQUITTAL IN FAVOR OF AUOA**

10 The government cites a record “overflowing” with evidence that AUOA agreed to fix prices.  
11 (Govt. Opp. at 24.) In the end, though, it relies on the actions of just two purported AUOA agents--Dr.  
12 Hui Hsiung and Michael Wong.

13 The government describes now-familiar evidence concerning Dr. Hsiung--principally his  
14 attendance at Crystal Meetings and his emails to Wong. That evidence does not show that Dr. Hsiung  
15 agreed to fix prices. More significantly for these purposes, the government points to no evidence that  
16 Dr. Hsiung engaged in the cited conduct on behalf of AUOA (rather than AUO).<sup>9</sup> It cites no testimony,  
17 no exhibit--nothing to show that Dr. Hsiung did anything wearing his AUOA “hat” except for signing  
18 Government Exhibit 768, on which the government expressly disclaims reliance. (Govt. Opp. at 24  
19 n.14.)

20 The government touts the fact that Dr. Hsiung “had overall responsibility and oversight for  
21 AUOA, and Wong, AUOA’s U.S. branch manager, reported to and took direction from defendant  
22 Hsiung.” (Govt. Opp. at 24.) But the government ignores the evidence cited in our opening brief, which  
23 shows that Dr. Hsiung supervised AUOA in his capacity as an AUO officer. The government’s own  
24 exhibits (Exhs. 1, 808) confirm that, as does the undisputed testimony of government witness Wong (RT  
25 871). For the Court to find on this record that Dr. Hsiung took any action (other than signing  
26 Government Exhibit 768) on behalf of AUOA, it would have to indulge the “suspicion or speculation”

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>9</sup> The government does not dispute that it had the burden of proving that Dr. Hsiung was acting on  
behalf of AUOA at relevant times. *See, e.g., Lusk v. Foxmeyer Health Corp.*, 129 F.3d 773, 779  
(5th Cir. 1997).



1 that, according to the court of appeals, “does not rise to the level of sufficient evidence.” *United States*  
2 *v. Hernandez-Orellana*, 539 F.3d 994, 1004 (9th Cir. 2008) (quotation omitted); *see, e.g., United States*  
3 *v. Andrews*, 75 F.3d 552, 556 (9th Cir. 1996); *United States v. Dinkane*, 17 F.3d 1192, 1196 (9th Cir.  
4 1994).

5 That leaves Michael Wong. The government urges the Court to disregard Wong’s adamant  
6 denials that he agreed to fix prices. (Govt. Opp. at 23, 27.) But the government called Wong as its  
7 immunized, cooperating witness. His agreement with the government required him to testify “fully,  
8 truthfully, and under oath, subject to the penalties of perjury.” (Exh. 774 at 2.) On direct examination,  
9 the government never asked Wong whether he fixed prices. On redirect it made no effort to challenge  
10 his denials, but instead elicited that he did not know whether AUO personnel in Taiwan were meeting  
11 with competitors in Taiwan to fix prices. (RT 1227-28.) Wong never attended a Crystal Meeting. He  
12 had no authority to set prices. No one ever told him that he had to follow a Crystal Meeting price or that  
13 AUO was bound by a Crystal Meeting price. (RT 1094.) Unsurprisingly, no witness testified that he  
14 agreed with Wong to fix prices.

15 In the face of this record, the government still insists that it proved Wong engaged in price-  
16 fixing. (Govt. Opp. at 25-27.) But the evidence the government cites amounts to nothing more than  
17 Wong exchanging pricing information with his competitors and relaying what he learned to AUO in  
18 Taiwan. Under this Court’s instructions, that conduct is entirely lawful. (Dkt. 829 (Final Instructions)  
19 at 7-8.) It becomes unlawful only if it is done as part of a price-fixing agreement, and there is no  
20 evidence that Wong participated in such an agreement. In effect, the government asks the Court to  
21 bootstrap evidence of lawful conduct into a finding of illegality--but that would contravene the Court’s  
22 instructions and decades of settled antitrust law.

23 The government did not prove that Dr. Hsiung did anything on behalf of AUOA except sign a  
24 single innocuous document in August 2001, almost two years before the government contends AUOA  
25 joined the alleged conspiracy. It did not prove that Michael Wong agreed to fix prices. Because it did  
26 not establish that any agent of AUOA entered into a price-fixing conspiracy, the Court should grant the  
27 company’s motion for judgment of acquittal.  
28

1 **VII. CONCLUSION**

2 For the reasons stated, the Court should grant the defendants acquittal under Rule 29 and/or  
3 should order a new trial under Rule 33.

4 Respectfully submitted,

5 Dated: May 11, 2012

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