1	KEKER, VAN NEST & PETERS LLP ELLIOT R. PETERS - # 158708		
2	epeters@keker.com CHRISTOPHER C. KEARNEY - # 154101		
3	ckearney@keker.com ELIZABETH K. MCCLOSKEY - # 268184		
4	emccloskey@keker.com		
5	NICHOLAS S. GOLDBERG - # 273614 ngoldberg@keker.com		
6	633 Battery Street San Francisco, CA 94111-1809		
7	Telephone: 415 391 5400 Facsimile: 415 397 7188		
8	Attorneys for Defendant CHRISTOPHER LISCHEWSKI		
10	UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT CC	OURT
11	NORTHERN DISTRIC	CT OF CALIF	ORNIA
12	SAN FRANCIS	CO DIVISIO	N
13	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	Case No. 3:	18-cr-00203-EMC
14	Plaintiff,		NT CHRISTOPHER
15	v.	REGARDI	SKI'S TRIAL MEMORANDUM NG THE ALLEGED
16	CHRISTOPHER LISCHEWSKI,	AGREEMI AND CHA	ENT BETWEEN LISCHEWSKI N
17	Defendant.	Dept. Judge:	Courtroom 5 – 17th Floor Hon. Edward M. Chen
18		Date Filed:	May 16, 2018
19		Trial Date:	November 4, 2019
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I. INTRODUCTION

Despite charging a vague over-arching conspiracy, the evidence at trial has established multiple separate conspiracies, including at least the following: (1) an alleged agreement between sales and trade marketing representatives from Bumble Bee and StarKist (the "StarKist-Bumble Bee Agreement"); (2) an alleged agreement between sales and trade marketing representatives from Bumble Bee and Chicken of the Sea (the "COSI-Bumble Bee Agreement"); and (3) an alleged agreement between Mr. Lischewski and Shue Wing Chan (the "Chan Agreement"). As Mr. Lischewski raised in conjunction with his motion for a judgment of acquittal under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 29, Mr. Chan's testimony and the related evidence confirms there was no agreement between Mr. Lischewski and Mr. Chan. Accordingly, Mr. Lischewski cannot be convicted based on evidence of the alleged Chan Agreement.

In accordance with the Court's request for briefing to address particular issues that arose in the context of Mr. Lischewski's Rule 29 motion—"whether there is sufficient evidence for a fact finder to conclude that an agreement existed between Shue Wing Chan and Chris Lischewski" and "whether . . . some type of special verdict form would be appropriate under the circumstances of this case"—this brief is narrowly tailored to address those issues, as follows. See Nov. 22, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2473:16-2474:2. First, even construing the evidence in the light most favorable to the government, no rational jury could find Mr. Lischewski guilty of reaching a price-fixing agreement with Mr. Chan. Second, the evidence shows that the alleged Chan Agreement is entirely separate from the other alleged conspiracies. Third, to the extent the Court denies or reserves ruling on Mr. Lischewski's Rule 29 motion, the Court should strike Mr. Chan's and Mr. Roszmann's testimony in their entirety, and all exhibits introduced through them.

Fourth, a special verdict form is necessary to ensure that Mr. Lischewski is not convicted of a crime for which there is insufficient evidence.

II. ARGUMENT

A. There is Insufficient Evidence of the Alleged Chan Agreement.

It is black-letter law that proof of "actual agreement or mutual consent" is an essential prerequisite to finding a Sherman Act violation. *Hanson v. Shell Oil Co.*, 541 F.2d 1352, 1359

(9th Cir. 1976) (citing <i>Esco Corp. v. United States</i> , 340 F.2d 1000, 1007-08 (9th Cir. 1965)). In
other words, as the Court has already recognized, "[t]he type of relationship condemned by the
Sherman Act is a conspiracy" and "[i]t is the agreement to act together that constitutes the crime."
ECF 454 (Court's Final Proposed Jury Instructions), at 43 (Jury Instruction No. 39). As is true in
general conspiracy cases, the government's failure to prove the existence of a mutual agreement
requires the reversal of a conviction. See United States v. Melchor-Lopez, 627 F.2d 886, 892 (9th
Cir. 1980) (citation omitted).

In *Melchor-Lopez*, for example, the alleged coconspirators had lengthy discussions about importing heroin, but the government offered insufficient evidence of "a mutual understanding to accomplish a specific objective or of an intention to be bound by any agreement." *Id.* at 889-90. The government attempted to make up for its failure of proof by relying on the principle that the agreement need not be explicit and may be inferred from circumstantial evidence. But the Ninth Circuit held that "this evidentiary principle does not reduce the government's burden of proof," and "recitation of this rule" cannot "relieve the government of its burden to prove every element of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt." *Id.* at 891-92. There "can be no conviction for guilt by association, and it is clear that mere association with members of a conspiracy," or even "knowledge, approval of, or acquiescence in the object or purpose of the conspiracy, without an intention and agreement to accomplish a specific illegal objective, is not sufficient to make one a conspirator." *Id.* at 891.

Here, as was the case in *Melchor-Lopez*, the government has "failed to establish the 'meeting of the minds'" between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski "to consummate an illegal transaction which is essential to conspiracy." *Id.* at 892. The government has presented no evidence that Mr. Lischewski ever agreed with Mr. Chan that Bumble Bee would not price aggressively. The evidence shows that the only person who knew about the alleged Chan Agreement was Mr. Chan himself. Indeed, Mr. Chan testified that his only basis for believing there was an agreement was his "own understanding" that was "inside [Mr. Chan's] mind." Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2283:4-6; 2284:8-9. As further confirmation that Mr. Lischewski never made a price-fixing agreement with Mr. Chan, Mr. Chan testified that Mr. Lischewski

1	never made any "explicit spoken commitments" about Bumble Bee's pricing. <i>Id.</i> at 2288:4-7.		
2	Mr. Chan also testified that he has no recollection of Mr. Lischewski ever saying anything about		
3	"Bumble Bee's future pricing" or about "what Bumble Bee's promotional strategy would be		
4	going forward." <i>Id.</i> at 2283:19-24. And more broadly, Mr. Chan testified that he has no		
5	recollection whatsoever of Mr. Lischewski making "any spoken commitment to [him] about what		
6	Bumble Bee was going to do." Id. at 2286:21-2287:2.		
7	Mr. Chan's unilateral understanding appears to have arisen from his receipt of a handful		
8	of emails from Mr. Lischewski, in which Mr. Lischewski noted Chicken of the Sea's below-cost		
9	pricing, followed by two in-person discussions with Mr. Lischewski during which Mr. Chan		
10	explained that it was not Chicken of the Sea's business strategy to sell its products at low prices.		
11	But that course of events does <i>not</i> suggest a mutual understanding, let alone establish a mutual		
12	agreement beyond a reasonable doubt. In addition, Mr. Chan's testimony about the substance of		
13	the two discussions demonstrates that no mutual agreement or understanding was reached. On		
14	both occasions, Mr. Chan brought up the issue of Mr. Lischewski's comments about Chicken of		
15	the Sea's below-cost pricing, provided an explanation to Mr. Lischewski, and Mr. Lischewski		
16	responded by merely thanking him for the explanation. See Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2352:20-		
17	23; 2373:21-22. That is not a mutual agreement to do anything, and is certainly not an agreement		
18	to fix prices.		
19	With respect to the first meeting at Milton's Deli, Mr. Chan testified as follows:		
20	Q. And just so I get the sequence right, you and he first discussed conversion		
21	costs; right? A. Yes.		
22	Q. And did that take up the majority of the time that you were there at Milton's? A. Yes.		
23	Q. And then at the end of the conversation, you brought up pricing and you told		
24	him that it wasn't your intention or your business strategy to price low, and he said something like, "I appreciate it," or, "Thank you." Right?		
25	As for the emails Mr. Lischewski sent to Mr. Chan, not a single email references any agreement,		
26	and Mr. Chan's testimony shows that he also did not understand them to relate to an agreement. To the contrary, he told his subordinate David Roszmann to "ignore" such emails. Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2299:8-20. In addition, as the Court already recognized, the emails were a "one-way situation," further diminishing their probative value. <i>See</i> Nov. 22, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2468:20-		
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28	2469:6.		

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Q. And that's it on tuna?

A. Yes.

Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2355:1-13; see also id. at 2352:24-2354:25. As for the second meeting, which occurred in the hallway during the break at a National Fisheries Institute meeting, the full extent of Mr. Chan's recollection is as follows:

- Q. Okay. Tell us to the best of your abilities exactly what you said to him.
- A. I was saying to him that "Don't worry about this press release. It is just PR."
- O. Okay. What did he say?
- A. He feel good about it, and he say, "Thank you for letting me know."
- O. And then he walked away and you walked away?
- Q. Was there anything else said?
- A. I don't remember.

Id. at 2373:23-2374:8.

Insofar as the government relies on the timing of phone calls between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski, as the Court already recognized, the "the Government had very little proof on what those calls related to." Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2331:21-2332:18. To be clear, there is no proof that any of the phone calls between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski had anything to do with pricing. Mr. Chan testified that he has no recollection of discussing pricing on any of the phone calls. Id. at 2359:17-24. Moreover, during Mr. Chan's cross-examination, counsel for Mr. Lischewski elicited that for every single phone conversation, there were surrounding events that had nothing to do with pricing and that required discussion between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski. *Id.* at 2359:8-2370:24. While the government argues that Mr. Lischewski cannot "establish that the calls were not about pricing," the government misapprehends its burden. Id. at 2331:11-14. It is the government—not the defense—that carries the burden to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. And even in the context of Rule 29, the government has provided no evidence regarding the phone records to allow a rational jury to conclude that any agreement was reached on those calls.²

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Because the government has scant evidence of Mr. Lischewski's involvement in the charged conspiracy, it has placed significant emphasis on the alleged understanding between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski. For example, for the entirety of Mr. Chan's direct examination, the

Finally, the government's entire theory for introducing Mr. Roszmann's testimony rests
on its unfounded speculation that Mr. Lischewski communicated with Mr. Roszmann in an
attempt to revive the alleged Chan Agreement. Because the evidence fails to show
Mr. Lischewski had an agreement with Mr. Chan in the first place, there was no agreement for
Mr. Lischewski to revive. Furthermore, Mr. Chan never told Mr. Roszmann about the alleged
agreement with Mr. Lischewski, Mr. Roszmann denied ever entering into an agreement with
Mr. Lischewski, and the government's argument about recruitment is based on conjecture rather
than fact. See Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2277:4-8 (Mr. Chan's testimony); accord 2392:25-
2393:4 (Mr. Roszmann's testimony); see also id. at 2392:5-16.
B. The Evidence Shows that the Alleged Chan Agreement is Separate from the Other Alleged Agreements.
Mr. Chan's testimony also confirms that the alleged Chan Agreement was entirely
separate from the other alleged conspiracies. As explained above, the only person who knew
about the alleged Chan Agreement was Mr. Chan himself. In addition to leaving his alleged

Mr. Chan's testimony also confirms that the alleged Chan Agreement was entirely separate from the other alleged conspiracies. As explained above, the only person who knew about the alleged Chan Agreement was Mr. Chan himself. In addition to leaving his alleged coconspirator (Mr. Lischewski) in the dark regarding the alleged agreement, Mr. Chan testified that he never told anyone at Chicken of the Sea about his alleged understanding with Mr. Lischewski, as follows:

Q. Okay. You never told anyone at Chicken of the Sea about this understanding, did you?

A. No.

Q. You never told Mike White about this understanding; correct?

A. No.

Q. You never told John Sawyer about this understanding; right?

government placed—directly in front of the jury—a very large poster board on an easel, containing Exhibit 602. *See* ECF 541 (Defendant's Objections to the 11/18/19 Trial Exhibits and Demonstratives), at 2-3, Ex. 602. Exhibit 602 was intended to show that Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski had numerous phone conversations and email exchanges regarding their alleged understanding. *See*, *e.g.*, Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2258:25-2259:7. But at the end of Mr. Chan's examination, the Court determined that the government had failed to show that *any* of the phone calls depicted in Exhibit 602 bore *any* relation to the alleged "understanding" between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski, and the Court denied the government's motion to admit a related phone records chart, Exhibit 3.03, into evidence. *Id.* at 2268:8-2269:1; 2331:21-2332:18. There is no question that the government misleadingly used Exhibit 602, and displayed it prominently to the jury, in an effort to convince the jury to convict Mr. Lischewski based on an alleged "understanding" to which he never agreed.

A. Correct.

Q. So you never provided this information about this understanding to the other people at Chicken of the Sea who had responsibility for pricing; correct?

[A.] Correct.

Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2358:2-20 (government's objection and Court's overruling omitted). Contrary to informing his employees about the alleged agreement, Mr. Chan told his subordinate Mr. Roszmann to "[j]ust ignore" emails from Mr. Lischewski. *Id.* at 2299:8-20. Because no individual—other than Mr. Chan—knew about an alleged agreement between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski, the alleged Chan Agreement is completely separate from all other alleged agreements in this case.³

C. The Court Should Strike Mr. Chan's and Mr. Roszmann's Testimony, and the Exhibits Introduced Through Them.

The government's decision to issue a vague indictment that encompasses multiple separate conspiracies, and its subsequent failure to prove at least one of those separate conspiracies, has consequences. *See* Fed. R. Crim. P. 29(a); *see also Melchor-Lopez*, 627 F.2d at 892. If the Court declines to grant or reserves ruling on Mr. Lischewski's motion for a judgment of acquittal, the Court should strike all evidence relating to the Chan Agreement, including Mr. Chan's testimony, Mr. Roszmann's testimony, and the exhibits introduced through them. In the absence of such relief, the jury may very well convict Mr. Lischewski based on an alleged conspiracy for which there is insufficient proof. In addition, evidence of the Chan Agreement may cause prejudicial spillover with respect to the government's remaining theories, rendering any conviction invalid. *See, e.g., United States v. Lazarenko*, 564 F.3d 1026, 1043 (9th Cir. 2009); *United States v. Wright*, 665 F.3d 560, 575 (3d Cir. 2012) ("When two charges are closely

³ The government also failed to elicit any testimony that would permit a reasonable jury to conclude that Mr. Chan participated in a conspiracy with Michael White (*i.e.*, the COSI-Bumble Bee Agreement). *See* Nov. 20, 2019 Trial Tr. at 2270:2-14. But even if the government had elicited such testimony, it would *not* be probative of the existence of a separate alleged conspiracy between Mr. Chan and Mr. Lischewski, which Mr. Chan clearly testified he told nobody about.

1	linked and we vacate a conviction on one of them, we must ensure that the error on the vacated	
2	charge has not affected the remaining charge."). 4	
3	Evidence of the Chan Agreement misleadingly amplifies Mr. Lischewski's	
4	communications with individuals at competitor companies, and incorrectly suggests that those	
5	communications were improper. All such evidence should be stricken. See Fed. R. Evid. 403.	
6	As demonstration of the significant prejudicial impact of evidence of the Chan Agreement, the	
7	government repeatedly emphasized the probity of the Chan Agreement during its opening	
8	statement, as shown in the following examples:	
9	See, the defendant also sent jabs when he needed Chicken of the Sea to get in line.	
10	The target of his jabs: The CEO of Chicken of the Sea, Mr. Shue Wing Chan. And Mr. Chan responded to the defendant just like everyone else in the conspiracy. He	
11	reassured the defendant that Chicken of the Sea would not price too aggressively, that it wouldn't drag the market down.	
12	You will hear that's what the defendant's jabs to Mr. Chan were about, keeping	
13	Chicken of the Sea from pricing too low and upsetting the secret agreement.	
14	ECF 498 (Nov. 4, 2019 Trial Tr.) at 334:20-335:3.	
15	You will also hear from Shue Wing Chan, the former CEO of Chicken of the Sea.	
1617	He will tell you about and you will see for yourself the e-mails that the defendant sent Mr. Chan, not one, not two, but nine, nine e-mails from the defendant to Mr. Chan complaining that Chicken of the Sea's prices were too low.	
18	And Mr. Chan will tell you about the one-on-one conversations he had with the	
19	defendant when no one else was around where the defendant complained about Chicken of the Sea's prices, and Mr. Chan reassured him that Chicken of the Sea	
20	would not price too low.	
21	Chicken of the Sea admitted to participating in the price-fixing conspiracy and cooperated promptly with the Government's investigation; and for that its	
22	employees received immunity, which means that the Government has agreed not	
23	to prosecute Mr. Chan in exchange for his cooperation.	
24	Listen to the testimony of these witnesses carefully and think about how it all fits together, compare it to the documents, and compare it to your common sense.	
25	These witnesses will give you an insider account of the conspiracy and of the defendant's leadership role.	
26	defendant 5 leadership fole.	
27	⁴ Even if evidence of the Chan Agreement is stricken, there may still be prejudicial spillover	
28	because it is impossible to "unring" the bell.	

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Id. at 337:12-338:7. The government also emphasized Mr. Lischewski's alleged attempt to recruit Mr. Roszmann to join the Chan Agreement—despite the fact that the Chan Agreement never existed and that there is no evidence Mr. Lischewski intended to recruit Mr. Roszmann to join anything. As the government misleadingly stated during its opening statement: "The conspiracy only ended when key conspirators at StarKist and Chicken of the Sea left those companies or were transferred to different roles and when no one, not even the defendant, could convince new people to take their place. Although, as you will hear, the defendant certainly tried." Id. at 335:13-18 (emphasis added).

The government's focus on the Chan Agreement is unsurprising. Mr. Lischewski's participation in the alleged conspiracy is an element of the offense. But other than the Chan Agreement (which never existed), there is scant evidence of his involvement, and no testimony from a competitor that implicates Mr. Lischewski. The government's other evidence of Mr. Lischewski's involvement relies on the testimony of Mr. Cameron and Mr. Worsham, both of whom have significant credibility issues and both of whom provided only the vaguest description of Mr. Lischewski's participation in the alleged conspiracy.

Now that Mr. Chan and Mr. Roszmann have testified, it is clear that Mr. Lischewski's communications with them have no probative value regarding Mr. Lischewski's participation in any price-fixing conspiracy. In contrast, the prejudicial impact of Mr. Chan's and Mr. Roszmann's testimony and the corresponding exhibits that were admitted during their testimony, is tremendous. As a result, such evidence should be stricken from the record.

D. A Special Verdict Form is Necessary.

Irrespective of the Court's ruling on whether to strike evidence of the alleged Chan Agreement, a special verdict form is necessary to ensure that Mr. Lischewski is not convicted of a crime for which there is insufficient proof. Without a special verdict form, juror confusion about the multiple conspiracies alleged and argued by the prosecution could result in an improper conviction. Accordingly, Mr. Lischewski has prepared a proposed special verdict form that is attached hereto as Appendix A.

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III. **CONCLUSION** 1 For the foregoing reasons, if the Court denies or reserves ruling on Mr. Lischewski's Rule 2 29 motion, then the testimony of Mr. Chan and Mr. Roszmann, and the exhibits introduced 3 through them, should be stricken. In addition, the Court should adopt the special verdict form 4 proposed by Mr. Lischewski. 5 6 7 Dated: November 25, 2019 KEKER, VAN NEST & PETERS LLP 8 By: /s/ Elliot R. Peters 9 ELLIOT R. PETERS CHRISTOPHER C. KEARNEY 10 ELIZABETH K. MCCLOSKEY NICHOLAS S. GOLDBERG 11 Attorneys for Defendant 12 CHRISTOPHER LISCHEWSKI 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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Appendix A

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1	UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT COURT
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
3	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION	
4		
5	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	Case No. 3:18-cr-00203-EMC
6	Plaintiff,	VERDICT FORM
7	v.	
8	CHRISTOPHER LISCHEWSKI,	
9	Defendant.	
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11		
12		
13	Question 1:	
14	We, the jury, unanimously and beyond a r	easonable doubt find:
15	As to the charge that Defendant, Christop	oher Lischewski, knowingly entered into a
16	conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition	by fixing prices for canned tuna in a manner
17	that was an unreasonable restraint of interstate co	mmerce in violation of the Sherman Act as
18	charged in the Indictment:	
19		
20	Not Guilty	Guilty
21		
22		
23		
24	IF YOU CHECKED "NOT GUILTY" IN QUITURN TO PAGE 3 TO SIGN THE VERDICT	
25		
26	IF YOU CHECKED "GUILTY" IN QUESTIC ALL OF QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 4.	ON 1, PLEASE PROCEED TO ANSWER
27	The of Constitution and the state of the sta	
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VERDICT FORM Case No. 3:18-cr-00203-EMC

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1	Question 2:	
2	If you answered GUILTY to question 1, does the jury unanimously agree that the	
3	government has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant Christopher Lischewski	
4	participated in a conspiracy involving sales and trade marketing representatives from Bumble Bee	
5	and StarKist?	
6		
7	Yes No	
8		
9		
10	Question 3:	
11	If you answered GUILTY to question 1, does the jury unanimously agree that the	
12	government has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant Christopher Lischewski	
13	participated in a conspiracy involving sales and trade marketing representatives from Bumble Bee	
14	and Chicken of the Sea?	
15		
16	Yes No	
17		
18		
19	Question 4:	
20	If you answered GUILTY to question 1, does the jury unanimously agree that the	
21	government has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant Christopher Lischewski	
22	reached a price-fixing agreement with Shue Wing Chan?	
23		
24	Yes No	
25		
26		
27	PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 3 TO SIGN THE VERDICT FORM.	
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VERDICT FORM Case No. 3:18-cr-00203-EMC

Case 3:18-cr-00203-EMC Document 603 Filed 11/25/19 Page 14 of 14 PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW. Dated: ______, 2019 Foreperson