

**FILED**

**United States District Court**  
FOR THE  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
VENUE: SAN FRANCISCO

Dec 16 2020

SUSAN Y. SOONG  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

V.

JOSEPH ALBERT COREY,

DEFENDANT(S).

**INDICTMENT**

18 U.S.C. § 1349 - Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud  
18 U.S.C. § 1343 - Wire Fraud  
18 U.S.C. § 1957 - Money Laundering  
18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), 982, and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) – Forfeiture Allegation

\_\_\_\_\_  
A true bill.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Foreperson of the Grand Jury

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreman

Filed in open court this 15th day of

December 2020.

*Clemens*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

*WBC*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bail, \$ No Bail

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SUSAN Y. SOONG  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO

1 DAVID L. ANDERSON (CABN 149604)  
United States Attorney

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
10 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO. CR20-481 RS
12 Plaintiff,	)	<u>VIOLATIONS:</u>
13 v.	)	18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy to Commit Wire
14 JOSEPH ALBERT COREY,	)	Fraud;
15 Defendant.	)	18 U.S.C. § 1343 – Wire Fraud (Three Counts);
	)	18 U.S.C. § 1957 – Money Laundering (Two
	)	Counts);
	)	18 U.S.C. §§ 981, 982, and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) –
	)	Forfeiture Allegation
	)	SAN FRANCISCO VENUE

18  
19 INDICTMENT

20 The Grand Jury charges:

21 At all times relevant to this Indictment:

22 DEFENDANT AND RELEVANT ENTITIES

23 1. From in or about 2018 to in or about March 2020, Defendant JOSEPH ALBERT COREY  
24 resided in or around San Francisco, California and in or around Los Angeles, California. In or about  
25 March 2020, COREY left the Los Angeles area for Mexico.

26 2. Intuitive Surgical, Inc. was a publicly traded company incorporated in Delaware in or  
27 about December 1995 that sold medical devices and equipment.

28  
INDICTMENT

1 3. Intuitive Holdings, LLC was a company incorporated in California in or about September  
2 2014. It had no relationship with Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

3 4. Equicare Medical Supply Inc. was a company incorporated in California in or about  
4 November 1994 that sold medical devices and equipment.

5 5. Comerica was a federally insured financial institution incorporated in Texas.

6 6. The Bank of America Corporation was a federally insured financial institution  
7 incorporated in North Carolina.

8 7. North Star Leasing Company was a financial institution incorporated in Vermont.

9 8. HomeTrust Bank was a federally insured financial institution incorporated in North  
10 Carolina.

11 9. Pawnee Leasing Corporation was a financial institution incorporated in Colorado.

12 10. Crestmark Vendor Finance was a subsidiary of Metabank, a federally insured financial  
13 institution incorporated in South Dakota.

14 THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE TO DEFRAUD

15 11. Beginning on a date unknown but no later than March 2019, and continuing through a  
16 date unknown but to at least October 1, 2020, COREY and others, known and unknown to the grand  
17 jury, did knowingly conspire to devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud as to a  
18 material matter, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses,  
19 representations, and promises, and by omission and concealment of material facts, and, for the purpose  
20 of executing such scheme or artifice did transmit, and cause to be transmitted, by means of wire  
21 communication in interstate and foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds.

22 12. COREY and others, known and unknown to the grand jury, participated in, devised, and  
23 intended to devise a fraudulent medical device loan scheme whereby they defrauded lenders using the  
24 following manner and means, among others: (1) unlawfully using the identity of a real doctor to apply  
25 for a loan; (2) falsely representing to the lender that the loan was for the purchase of a medical device;  
26 (3) including in the loan application a quote for a medical device, seemingly from a legitimate medical  
27 device company; (4) renting a mailbox address and opening bank accounts in a company name that  
28 closely resembled or was identical to that of the legitimate medical device company; and (5) to enhance

1 the legitimate appearance of their loan application, having the lenders wire the loan amount directly to a  
2 bank account in the company name that closely resembled or was identical to that of the legitimate  
3 medical device company.

4 THE EXECUTION OF THE WIRE FRAUD SCHEME

5 Fraudulent Loans in 2019

6 13. On or about March 8, 2019, under the alias Aaron Schwartz, COREY rented a mailbox  
7 with Executive Base Network (EBN) at 111 Deerwood Road, Suite 200, San Ramon, California, in the  
8 name of Intuitive Holdings, LLC. The application listed Aaron Schwartz as the President/Owner of  
9 Intuitive Holdings, LLC and as the only individual authorized to pick up mail for that mailbox.

10 14. On or about March 8, 2019, under the alias Aaron Schwartz, COREY opened a Comerica  
11 bank account in the name of Intuitive Holdings, LLC ending in 0537 (the “Comerica 0537 bank  
12 account”). The mailing address for this account was the EBN rental mailbox at 111 Deerwood Road,  
13 Suite 200, San Ramon, California.

14 15. On or about April 9, 2019, a loan application to North Star Leasing Company was  
15 unlawfully submitted using the identity for Dr. D.M. The true Dr. D.M., whose identity is known to the  
16 grand jury, did not submit the application. The loan was purportedly for the purchase of a Da Vinci  
17 medical device manufactured by Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

18 16. The loan application provided that if the loan was approved, North Star Leasing  
19 Company should wire the money to the Comerica 0537 bank account. The application identified the  
20 name on this account only as “Intuitive.” After approving the loan application, North Star Leasing  
21 Company wired \$100,050 to the Comerica 0537 bank account on or about April 18, 2019.

22 17. On or about April 15, 2019, a loan application to HomeTrust Bank was unlawfully  
23 submitted using the identity for Dr. M.M. The true Dr. M.M., whose identity is known to the grand jury,  
24 did not submit the application. The loan was purportedly for the purchase of the same Da Vinci medical  
25 device manufactured by Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

26 18. The loan application provided that if the loan was approved, HomeTrust Bank should  
27 wire the money to the Comerica 0537 bank account. The application identified the name on this account  
28 only as “Intuitive.” After approving the loan application, HomeTrust Bank wired \$106,760 to the

1 Comerica 0537 bank account on or about April 17, 2019.

2 19. On or about April 17, 2019, a loan application to Pawnee Leasing Corporation was  
3 unlawfully submitted using the identity for Dr. I.S. The true Dr. I.S., whose identity is known to the  
4 grand jury, did not submit the application. The loan was purportedly for the purchase of the same Da  
5 Vinci medical device manufactured by Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

6 20. The loan application provided that if the loan was approved, Pawnee Leasing Corporation  
7 should wire the money to the Comerica 0537 bank account. The application identified the name on this  
8 account only as “Intuitive.” After approving the loan application, Pawnee Leasing Corporation wired  
9 \$96,000 to the Comerica 0537 bank account on or about April 18, 2019.

10 Continuing Fraudulent Loans in 2020

11 21. On or about June 19, 2020, under the alias Jason Levy and in furtherance of the scheme  
12 to defraud, a mailbox was rented at Water Garden Business Center, 5755 Oberlin Drive, Suite 301, San  
13 Diego, California.

14 22. On or about July 29, 2020, a loan application to Crestmark Vendor Finance was  
15 unlawfully submitted using the identity for Dr. E.K. The true Dr. E.K., whose identity is known to the  
16 grand jury, did not submit the application. The loan was purportedly for the purchase of a medical  
17 device sold by Equicare Medical Supply Inc.

18 23. The loan application provided that if the loan was approved, Crestmark Vendor Finance  
19 should wire the money to a Bank of America account ending in 7411 (the “BOA 7411 bank account”).  
20 That account was in the name of “Equicare Medical Supply Inc.,” but it did not belong to the legitimate  
21 medical device vendor. The account had been opened about six weeks earlier on or about June 18, 2020.  
22 After approving the loan application, Crestmark Vendor Finance wired \$96,767.73 to the BOA 7411  
23 bank account on or about August 26, 2020.

24 24. On or about August 27, 2020, \$80,000 was transferred from the BOA 7411 bank account  
25 to another account at Bank of America ending in 7453 (the “BOA 7453 bank account”). Like the BOA  
26 7411 bank account, the BOA 7453 bank account was opened with Bank of America on or about June 18,  
27 2020 in the name of “Equicare Medical Supply Inc.”

LAUNDERING OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE WIRE FRAUD

1  
2 25. Beginning on a date unknown but no later than in or about April 2019, and continuing  
3 through in or about October 2020, COREY and others known and unknown to the grand jury laundered  
4 the proceeds of the fraudulent loan scheme described above through purchases of gold from precious-  
5 metals dealers. Money that had been wired to the fraudulent medical device company bank accounts was  
6 used to pay for orders of gold. In some instances, the purchased gold was re-sold within a short time  
7 period to a different precious-metals dealer. These transactions were designed to conceal and disguise  
8 the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, and the control of the proceeds of the wire fraud.  
9 Certain transactions, including the following, involved criminally derived property of a value greater  
10 than \$10,000.

11 26. On or about April 18, 2019, COREY purchased \$68,649.88 worth of gold from precious-  
12 metals dealer Colorado Gold. The order was shipped to the rental mailbox at 111 Deerwood Road, Suite  
13 200, San Ramon, California. The payment to Colorado Gold was made with a paper check drawn  
14 against the Comerica 0537 bank account and signed by "Aaron Schwartz." COREY picked up the gold  
15 at 111 Deerwood Road, Suite 200, San Ramon, California on or about May 1, 2019.

16 27. On or about April 18, 2019, COREY purchased \$68,903.63 worth of gold from precious-  
17 metals dealer Buy Gold and Silver Coins. The order was shipped to the rental mailbox at 111 Deerwood  
18 Road, Suite 200, San Ramon, California. The payment to Buy Gold and Silver Coins was made with a  
19 paper check drawn against the Comerica 0537 bank account and signed by "Aaron Schwartz." COREY  
20 picked up the gold at 111 Deerwood Road, Suite 200, San Ramon, California on or about May 2, 2019.

21 28. On or about September 2, September 8, and September 10, 2020, respectively, three  
22 separate gold orders, totaling nearly \$130,000, were placed with precious-metals dealer William  
23 Youngerman Inc. Those orders were paid for using the BOA 7411 bank account and the BOA 7453  
24 bank account. All three orders were shipped to the rental mailbox at 5755 Oberlin Drive, Suite 301, San  
25 Diego, California.

26 29. On or about September 9 and September 11, 2020, an individual using the alias "Enzo"  
27 sold \$36,200 and \$21,000, respectively, worth of gold to precious-metals dealer Northridge Gold Mine.  
28 The checks received from the sales were deposited into a bank account in the name of a company whose

1 sole owner and authorized signatory was a known associate of COREY and a person whose identity is  
2 known to the grand jury.

3 30. On or about September 28, 2020, a payment for \$118,350 from the BOA 7453 bank  
4 account was sent to William Youngerman Inc. for another purchase of gold. In consultation with law  
5 enforcement, William Youngerman Inc. shipped a ruse package to the mailbox at 5755 Oberlin Drive,  
6 Suite 301, San Diego, California.

7 31. On or about October 1, 2020, while attempting to take possession of the ruse package  
8 COREY's known associate and the person referenced in paragraph 29 above, fled from the scene and  
9 drove to Mexico.

10 COUNT ONE: (18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud)

11 32. Paragraphs 1 through 24 of this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated as if fully set  
12 forth here.

13 33. Beginning at a date unknown but no later than March 2019, and continuing through a  
14 date unknown but to at least October 1, 2020, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the  
15 defendant,

16 JOSEPH ALBERT COREY,

17 and others, known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly conspire to devise and intend to devise  
18 a scheme and artifice to defraud as to a material matter and to obtain money and property by means of  
19 materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omission and  
20 concealment of material facts, and, for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice and attempting  
21 to do so, did transmit, and cause to be transmitted, by means of wire communication in interstate and  
22 foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United  
23 States Code, Section 1343.

24 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

25 COUNTS TWO THROUGH FOUR: (18 U.S.C. § 1343 – Wire Fraud)

26 34. Paragraphs 1 through 24 of this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated as if fully set  
27 forth here.

28 35. Beginning at a date unknown but no later than in or about March 2019, and continuing

1 through a date unknown but to at least October 1, 2020, in the Northern District of California and  
2 elsewhere, the defendant,

3 JOSEPH ALBERT COREY,

4 knowingly and with the intent to defraud participated in, devised, and intended to devise a scheme and  
5 artifice to defraud as to a material matter, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false  
6 and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by means of omission and concealment of  
7 material facts.

8 36. On or about the dates listed in the table below, such dates being approximate, in the  
9 Northern District of California and elsewhere, for the purpose of executing the aforementioned scheme  
10 and artifice to defraud, and attempting to do so, the defendant did knowingly transmit and cause to be  
11 transmitted in interstate and foreign commerce, by means of a wire communication, certain writings,  
12 signs, signals, pictures, and sounds:

Count	Approximate Date	Description of the Monetary Transaction
2	April 18, 2019	Approximately \$100,050 wire transfer via Fedwire from North Star Leasing Company to Comerica bank account ending in 0537
3	April 17, 2019	Approximately \$106,760 wire transfer via Fedwire from HomeTrust Bank to Comerica bank account ending in 0537
4	April 18, 2019	Approximately \$96,000 wire transfer via Fedwire from Pawnee Leasing Corporation to Comerica bank account ending in 0537

19 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

20 COUNTS FIVE AND SIX: (18 U.S.C. § 1957 – Money Laundering)

21 37. Paragraphs 1 through 10 and 25 through 31 of this Indictment are re-alleged and  
22 incorporated as if fully set forth here.

23 38. On or about the dates listed in the table below, such dates being approximate, in the  
24 Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendant,

25 JOSEPH ALBERT COREY,

26 knowingly engaged in the following monetary transactions, in and affecting interstate and foreign  
27 commerce, which involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity in excess of \$10,000, specifically,  
28 wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, knowing that the property involved in the financial



1 transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, as follows:

Count	Approximate Date	Description of the Monetary Transaction
5	April 18, 2019	Purchase of gold from Colorado Gold with payment of \$68,649.88 from Comerica bank account ending in 0537
6	April 18, 2019	Purchase of gold from Buy Gold and Silver Coins with payment of \$68,903.63 from Comerica bank account ending in 0537

8 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957.

9 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION: (18 U.S.C. §§ 981, 982, and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c))

10 39. The allegations contained in this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference  
 11 for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981, 982, and  
 12 Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

13 Upon conviction for any of the offenses set forth in this Indictment, the defendant,  
 14 JOSEPH ALBERT COREY,  
 15 shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981, 982, and Title  
 16 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), all property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from  
 17 proceeds the defendant obtained directly and indirectly, as the result of those violations, including but  
 18 not limited to money and property taken by COREY and/or a forfeiture money judgment.

19 If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- 20 a. cannot be located upon exercise of due diligence;
- 21 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- 22 c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- 23 d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 24 e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without  
 25 difficulty,

26 the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21,  
 27 United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

28 //

