

**INDICTMENT**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**VS.**

**Cause No.** 21-317H

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ  
JACE ALLAN FERRAEZ**

**DEFENDANTS**

***Indictment for the offenses of:*  
OBTAINING SIGNATURE  
WITH INTENT TO DEFRAUD  
and  
FRAUD BY MAIL OR OTHER  
MEANS OF COMMUNICATION  
and  
EMBEZZLEMENT BY ATTORNEY  
and  
CONSPIRACY TO OBTAIN  
SIGNATURE WITH INTENT  
TO DEFRAUD  
§97-19-39, §97-19-83, §97-11-25, & §97-1-1**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF FORREST**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SAID COUNTY, JANUARY TERM, 2021  
Recalled September 22, 2021**

The Grand Jurors of the State of Mississippi, taken from the body of good and lawful citizens of said county, elected, summoned, impaneled, sworn and charged to inquire in and for the body of the county aforesaid, at the term aforesaid of the Court aforesaid, in the name and by the authority of the State of Mississippi, upon their oath present that:

At all times material hereto, the Defendant, Cory Nathan Ferraez, was associated with the law firm of Holmes, McLelland, & Ferraez, PLLC, and a duly licensed and practicing attorney at law and in said capacity, was acting as attorney for Shawn Vaughn in a personal injury civil lawsuit, and also in a Chapter 13 Petition for bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Case Number 17-03414-NPO.

At all times material hereto, McHard, McHard, Anderson, and Associates, PLLC, hereinafter "MMAA" was a professional corporation organized and existing under the

laws of Mississippi, and was engaged in the general practice of law, with its offices located at 15 Millbranch Road, Hattiesburg, Forrest County, State of Mississippi.

At all times material hereto, Defendant and MMAA had in effect an executed and notarized "Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release" between each other, as a result of a lawsuit filed by MMAA against Defendant, wherein Defendant was legally obligated to pay MMAA a specific percentage of any attorney's fees collected of the cases listed in the Settlement Agreement, one of those being the case of Shawn Vaughn, in which Defendant was legally obligated to pay MMAA 20% of any attorney's fees collected in the civil case. The civil case of Shawn Vaughn did reach a monetary settlement, with attorney's fees totaling \$260,000.00, with MMAA legally required to receive 20% from Defendant, specifically, \$52,000.00

### COUNT I

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, in Forrest County, Mississippi, on or about March 13, 2020, while acting in capacity as attorney as aforesaid, did electronically file, or cause to be filed, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, an "Application for Approval of Payment of Attorney's Fees, Expenses, and Liens" in the case of Shawn Vaughn, and in the filing, did then and there willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with his intent then and there to cheat and defraud Shawn Vaughn, fraudulently listed a lien of \$52,000.00 by MMAA against Shawn Vaughn, knowing no such lien existed and did so for the purpose of obtaining the necessary signature from the Bankruptcy Court in order to have the Bankruptcy Court pay \$52,000.00 to MMAA, a debt Defendant owed MMAA, not Shawn Vaughn, and as a direct result of this fraudulent filing, the United States Bankruptcy Judge did sign the "Order Granting Application for Approval of Attorney's Fees, Expenses, and Liens" on April 1, 2020, and as a further result of this fraudulent filing the Chapter 13 Trustee did sign and issue a check in the amount \$52,000.00 to MMAA on April 9, 2020, paying MMAA a debt owed by Defendant to MMAA, and all of the aforesaid conduct being in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-19-39(2)(1972, as amended);

### COUNT II

And, based upon a series of acts connected together and constituting parts of a common scheme and plan, **COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, in Forrest County, Mississippi, on or about March 13, 2020, while acting in capacity as attorney as aforesaid, having knowingly devised a scheme or artifice to defraud, or for unlawfully avoiding payment of money, did willfully, unlawfully and feloniously transmit or cause to be transmitted, by wire or other means of communication across Mississippi county jurisdictional lines, to wit: Forrest County, Mississippi, to the United States Bankruptcy Court for The Southern District of Mississippi, located in Hinds County, Mississippi, by electronically filing in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, an "Application for Approval of Payment of Attorney's Fees, Expenses, and Liens" in the case of Shawn Vaughn, knowing the filing listed a fraudulent lien by MMAA against

Shawn Vaughn, which Defendant actually owed MMAA, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-19-83 (1972, as amended);

**COUNT III**

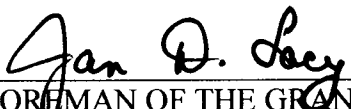
And, based upon a series of acts connected together and constituting parts of a common scheme and plan, **COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, in Forrest County, Mississippi, on or about March 13, 2020, while acting in capacity as attorney as aforesaid did willfully, unlawfully and feloniously did not pay MMAA 20% of the attorney's fees collected in the case of Shawn Vaughn on 4/13/2020, when he was lawfully required to do, immediately, pursuant to his legal obligation to do so, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement between Defendant and MMAA, executed and notarized on 8/16/2019, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-11-25 (1972, as amended);


**COUNT IV**

**COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ**, in Forrest County, Mississippi, between the dates of March 4, 2020 and April 9, 2020, did willfully, knowingly, unlawfully and feloniously conspire with **JACE ALLAN FERRAEZ**, to commit the crime of Obtaining Signature of Value with the Intent to Defraud, a felony denounced by §97-19-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, in that they, the said **COREY NATHAN FERRAEZ** and the said **JACE ALLAN FERRAEZ**, did agree, one with the other, to electronically file, or cause to be filed, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, an "Application for Approval of Payment of Attorney's Fees, Expenses, and Liens" in the case of Shawn Vaughn, fraudulently listing a lien of \$52,000.00 by MMAA against Shawn Vaughn, knowing no such lien existed and did so for the purpose of obtaining the necessary signature from the Bankruptcy Court in order to have the Bankruptcy Court pay \$52,000.00 to MMAA, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §97-1-1 (1972, as amended).

And all the above (Count I through IV) being against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi.

**Endorsed: A True Bill**

  
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**AFFIDAVIT**

COMES NOW Jan D. Lacy, Foreman of the September 22, 2021, Forrest County Grand Jury, and makes oath that this indictment presented to this Court was concurred in by twelve (12) or more members of the Grand Jury and that at least fifteen (15) members thereof were present during all deliberations.

Jan D. Lacy  
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this, the 11 day of OCTOBER, 2021.

GWEN WILKS, CIRCUIT CLERK



BY: [Signature] D.C.