

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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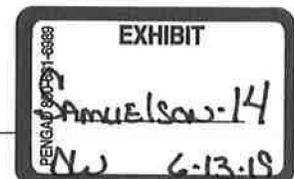
(U//~~FOUO~~) On May 24, 2016, HEATHER SAMUELSON, Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted], was interviewed by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at the law offices of Wilkinson Walsh + Eskovitz, 1900 M Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC. Present for the interview was SAMUELSON's counsel, Beth Wilkinson, Partner, Alexandra Walsh, Partner, and Hal Brewster, Associate. Also present was FBI Section Chief Peter Strzok, as well as [redacted] and [redacted] from the Department of Justice (DoJ) Counterintelligence and Export Control Section. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the purpose of the interview SAMUELSON provided the following information:

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON is currently serving as a personal attorney for HILLARY CLINTON. She previously worked at the Department of State (DOS) during CLINTON's tenure as the Secretary of State. SAMUELSON initially worked as an assistant in the White House Liaison Office at DOS and then was promoted to the head of the office. SAMUELSON had infrequent interaction with CLINTON while she was at DOS and primarily interacted with CHERYL MILLS. Following the completion of CLINTON's tenure, SAMUELSON worked for one year in the office of the White House Counsel before becoming CLINTON's personal attorney.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON held a TS/SCI security clearance while she was at DOS. She maintained the clearance when she left DOS and still holds the clearance today. SAMUELSON's clearance was reinvestigated in 2014 per standard procedures. SAMUELSON received training on the handling of classified information when she received her clearance and after the reinvestigation but she did not recall the specifics of the training. SAMUELSON did not receive training on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or the Federal Records Act while at DOS. However, she did receive training on the Presidential Records Act while she was at the White House. SAMUELSON did not receive any specific guidance on what documents she should retain when she left DOS.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON provided that she only received two emails from CLINTON while she was at DOS; one on her birthday and another following the death of SAMUELSON's grandmother. SAMUELSON did not become aware of CLINTON's use of a private email account and server until she was serving as CLINTON's personal attorney.



Investigation on 5/24/2016 at Washington, DC

File # [redacted]-302 Date dictated N/A

By SA [redacted] bh SA [redacted]

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON had no contemporaneous knowledge of the decision to transition from the private server in Chappaqua, NY to the services of Platte River Networks (PRN). Nor did SAMUELSON have contemporaneous knowledge that an archive of CLINTON's emails was created by MONICA HANLEY following CLINTON's tenure at DOS. SAMUELSON did not know the location of the laptop, or thumb drive, containing the archive created by HANLEY.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON knew CLINTON transitioned her email to an @hrcoffice.com domain following her tenure at DOS. SAMUELSON believed no old emails were transferred from the @clintonemail.com to the new domain. SAMUELSON did not know how CLINTON or HUMA ABEDIN accessed old emails after the new domain was established.

Request from DOS

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON provided that she was not involved in the initial discussions with DOS regarding the production of records from CLINTON's tenure. SAMUELSON believed DOS had noticed gaps in its records and had reached out to CLINTON, and other former Secretaries of State, to request that they produce any relevant records in their possession. MILLS spoke with the department about this request in late July or early August 2014 and then asked SAMUELSON to assist with the effort. MILLS also received a formal letter from DOS Under Secretary PATRICK KENNEDY, in October 2014 regarding the request.

(U//~~FOUO~~) To SAMUELSON's knowledge DOS did not provide any formal guidance on how to conduct the search aside from indicating that it was CLINTON's responsibility to assess which products were work related and which were personal. SAMUELSON stated that DAVID KENDALL and others from Williams & Connolly LLP served as external representation for CLINTON in this matter.

Collection of Relevant Emails

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON had no emails that were responsive to the DOS request before she contacted PRN. In late July or early August of 2014 she requested PRN provide all emails from CLINTON's tenure that were sent to, or received from, a ".gov" email address [redacted] of PRN, extracted the relevant files and then transferred them to SAMUELSON. To transfer the files, [redacted] sent SAMUELSON an email link that gave him access to her computer after she clicked on it. [redacted] then downloaded the email files onto her laptop and configured them so she could access the password protected emails via Microsoft Outlook. SAMUELSON described herself as "technically deficient" and stated she was near her computer while this transfer occurred but she did not pay close attention to what he was doing. She did not recall the name of the file he transferred to her computer, the location on her computer where it was placed, or if [redacted] took any steps to encrypt the file before transferring it.

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON was not aware of how [redacted] queried the files or what mailboxes on the PRN server were searched. More specifically, she did not know if the emails were taken

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from the live mailbox or from the HRC archive that had previously been provided to PRN by HANLEY. SAMUELSON stated that she just asked PRN for the “.gov” emails and [redacted] gave them to her.

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(U//~~FOUO~~) In late September or early October of 2014, SAMUELSON requested that PRN provide a full export of all of the emails from CLINTON's tenure to ensure they captured all relevant emails. SAMUELSON stated this request was not done in response to any identified gaps, but in an effort to produce all relevant emails. [redacted] provided the full export to SAMUELSON using the same remote access process as described above. While providing the full email export to SAMUELSON, he removed the previously provided “.gov” emails. Upon realizing this SAMUELSON asked [redacted] to give her the “.gov” export files again because she wanted to use it as the starting point for her collection of responsive records. Upon receiving the “.gov” export for a second time, SAMUELSON noticed that some of the emails from the initial export were no longer included. SAMUELSON recalled that there seemed to be a pattern with the missing emails and it involved “.gov” addresses that were in the carbon copy (CC) line of the email. SAMUELSON again contacted PRN and requested that they provide the missing documents and in response [redacted] provided several smaller .pst exports to fill the identified gaps.

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON had requested PRN pull all emails from Clinton's tenure, January 2009 to February 2013. However, upon receiving the above described exports she noticed emails were missing for the period of January 2009 to March 2009. She asked PRN to double check for emails from that time period but they were unable to locate any responsive emails. SAMUELSON came to believe that those emails were not backed up on any server and had only resided on the Blackberry CLINTON was using at that time, thus making them un-retrievable. SAMUELSON did not have contemporaneous knowledge of the Apple server and therefore did not make an effort to check it for relevant records. In searching for other relevant records, SAMUELSON checked the [redacted]@gmail.com account and found one email exchange. SAMUELSON did not contact other associates of CLINTON, to include HANLEY, to request any records they might have.

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON was shown a PRN invoice #37068, dated August 16, 2014, which contains the work description “Worked with Heather via phone/remote session to restore access to archived emails per CDM.” In response, SAMUELSON stated that she did not know what that work description meant and that she didn't recall ever losing access to the exported emails, aside from when the initial “.gov” export was removed by [redacted]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON was shown an internal PRN email from [redacted] referencing an urgent phone call with CESC on November 24, 2014, to which she provided she had no recollection of what the call was about. SAMUELSON was then shown a PRN work ticket report from November 24, 2014, which contains the summary note “Worked with Heather via phone/remote control session on more specific export requirements.” In response, SAMUELSON stated she could not speculate on what those notes meant and she was unaware of any activities by PRN to “re-establish connection to HRC emails” in November of 2014.

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON was never given direct access to the mailboxes on the server and she was not aware of anybody else being granted such access. SAMUELSON was never given administrative access to the server and she was not aware of anybody else being granted administrative access.

Cull and Review of Emails

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON stated she was primarily responsible for conducting the review at the direction of MILLS and KENDALL. She conducted the review over the course of several months and completed it just prior to December 5, 2014, when the documents were turned over to DOS. SAMUELSON conducted the review on her laptop, both in her apartment and in MILLS' office in Friendship Heights, Washington DC.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON reviewed the emails provided by PRN in Microsoft Outlook and placed any responsive emails in a separate folder. She began by adding all of the ".gov" emails and any email to or from a ".mil" email address to the folder. She then searched the emails provided by PRN for any email to or from senior leadership at DOS. This included key individuals such as Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Ambassadors, Department Heads, and Senior DOS Aides. SAMUELSON then reviewed the sender and receivers of the remaining emails to identify any congress members, foreign leaders, or other official contacts. Lastly, she searched the remaining emails for key words that included terms such as Afghanistan, Libya, and Benghazi.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON reviewed the sender, receiver and subject line of every single email during the review. However, she stated that she did not read the content of each individual email if she could determine it was a work or personal email from the sender, receiver or subject line. SAMUELSON provided that she did her best to review and identify any emails that were potentially a mix of work and personal content. When asked how work related emails between ABEDIN and CLINTON may have been missed, SAMUELSON stated ABEDIN may have kept emails that CLINTON did not.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON did not have a formal process for removing duplicate copies of the same email from the set of work related emails. She did not ask PRN to assist with this process. SAMUELSON stated she would remove a copy of the email if she noticed that it was a duplicate but she did not have a formalized or consistent process for identifying and removing duplicates.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Upon completing the review, SAMUELSON printed all of the emails she deemed to be relevant. The paper copies were then subsequently reviewed by MILLS and KENDALL and anything they deemed not to be work related was shredded. The remaining physical documents were ultimately provided to DOS. SAMUELSON stated that she printed the emails in MILLS' office and noted there is still a printer in MILLS' office but she was not sure if it was the same printer.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Following the review, SAMUELSON created a digital copy, or a "preservation copy," of the relevant documents that were provided to DOS. The files were placed on a thumb drive and provided to KENDALL. SAMUELSON believed this drive is the same thumb drive provided to the FBI by KENDALL. SAMUELSON also created a second copy of the documents provided to DOS and placed

them on a second laptop of hers. SAMUELSON was not aware of any other copies of the files. Nor was she aware of a master copy of all of the personal and private emails.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON was shown copies of the thumb drives previously provided to the FBI but could not recall if any were the same as the one she had used. One of the thumb drives was labeled as "HC PRIME 2" and SAMUELSON did not know what the label referred to.

(U//~~FOUO~~) The review methodology was developed by SAMUELSON, MILLS and KENDALL. SAMUELSON did not consider using any commercially available e-discovery tools for the review and they did not consult any individuals who were not "an agent of Clinton" during the review process. SAMUELSON stated they did not discuss how to handle potentially classified emails during the review because they had no reason to believe any classified material was contained in the emails. She further noted that none of the emails were marked as being classified.

(U//~~FOUO~~) During the review process SAMUELSON noticed the imported emails displayed CLINTON's email as hrod17@clintonemail.com despite the fact this address was not created until after CLINTON's tenure. SAMUELSON discussed the issue with [REDACTED] but she did not fully understand his explanation for why this was occurring and he was never able to resolve the problem. SAMUELSON did not consult anybody else about this issue.

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Deletion of Emails

(U//~~FOUO~~) In January of 2015, SAMUELSON asked [REDACTED] to remove the exported emails files that had previously been provided to her by PRN. While she retained separate digital copies of the emails provided to DOS, as discussed above, she no longer wanted the email exports provided by PRN on her computer. Using a similar process as described above [REDACTED] accessed her computer remotely and removed the files. SAMUELSON provided that [REDACTED] took additional steps during the deletion process so the files would not be recoverable. SAMUELSON did not know what software or processes were used by [REDACTED] but believed that the files would be difficult, if not impossible, to recover. SAMUELSON did not remember having any discussions with [REDACTED] about deleting relevant data from the free space of her laptop. Nor did she recall any discussions with [REDACTED] about the use of "BleachBit." SAMUELSON did not recall deleting any of the files by herself before contacting PRN.

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(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON stated that in May of 2015 she deleted some emails from her copy of the work related emails that were previously provided to DOS. SAMUELSON explained that she was notified by DOS, prior to the release of the first tranche of FOIA emails, that some of the work related emails they had turned over were classified. She was instructed by DOS to delete the files and then empty those files from the trash bin. SAMUELSON did not believe these files were removed from the thumb drive she had previously provided to KENDALL.

(U//~~FOUO~~) In or about December of 2014, SAMUELSON was on a call in which the email retention policy was discussed. She was aware the retention period was changed to 60 days and any older

emails would be deleted. However, SAMUELSON did not direct PRN to remove any exported .pst files on the server or any mailboxes on the server.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON was not aware of any other deletions of relevant emails. She was aware PRN traveled to the datacenter in March of 2015, via her role as counsel, but had not instructed them to do so. SAMUELSON was not aware of exports or deletions conducted by PRN on the server in September of 2015.

Devices used During the Review

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON used her own laptop to conduct the review and noted that she also used the laptop for other work related matters as well. She described it as a Lenovo Yoga 2 laptop. SAMUELSON stated that following the review she accidentally spilled water on the laptop. Fearing that the computer would fail, she purchased a second Lenovo laptop and placed a copy of the emails that were prepared for DOS on it. SAMUELSON noted that the Lenovo Yoga 2 computer continued to work until sometime last year when it failed to power on. The Lenovo Yoga 2 computer is currently in the possession of her counsel and the second Lenovo was given to KENDALL and then subsequently turned over to the FBI. SAMUELSON reviewed pictures of the laptops that were previously turned over to the FBI and stated that the silver Lenovo laptop appeared to be the same as the laptop that she used.

(U//~~FOUO~~) SAMUELSON stated that both laptops were connected to the internet and they both had antivirus software installed on them. SAMUELSON did not repurpose the laptops after the review and never attempted to reformat or factory reset the computers.

(U//~~FOUO~~) A copy of the original interview notes are enclosed in a 1A envelope.