

AO 91 (Rev. 08/09) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Northern District of California

FILED

DEC 14 2015

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

United States of America
v.
DAVID LEE BECKFORD and
STEPHAN ALEXANDER FLORIDA
Defendant(s)

Case No 4-15-71597

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of 9/28/15 (DB), 12/12/15 (DB & SF) in the county of Alameda in the Northern District of California, the defendant(s) violated:

Table with 2 columns: Code Section and Offense Description. Includes sections 841(a)(1) and 922(g)(1) with descriptions of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and felon in possession of firearm.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Please see attached affidavit of DEA Special Agent Andrew Decker.

(Approved as to form: [Signature] AUSA Marc Price Wolf)

[X] Continued on the attached sheet.

[Signature]
Complainant's signature
Andrew Decker, DEA Special Agent
Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 12/14/15

[Signature]
Judge's signature
Hon. Donna M. Ryu, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

City and state: Oakland, California

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11 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
12 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
13 OAKLAND DIVISION

14 IN THE MATTER OF THE CRIMINAL )  
15 COMPLAINT AGAINST: )

- 16 (1) DAVID LEE BECKFORD )  
17 (2) STEPHAN ALEXANDER FLORIDA )

) CASE NO.  
)  
) **AFFIDAVIT OF ANDREW**  
) **DECKER, SPECIAL AGENT FOR**  
) **THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT**  
) **ADMINISTRATION, IN SUPPORT**  
) **OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

18 )  
19 )  
20 )  
21 **I. INTRODUCTION**

22 I, Andrew Decker, a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, being duly sworn,  
23 depose and states:

24 1. That I, Andrew Decker, am presently employed by the United States Department of  
25 Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), San Francisco Divisional Office as a Special Agent  
26 (SA) and have been so employed since July of 2012. I have been assigned to the Oakland Resident Office  
27 since November of 2012.

28 2. In addition to my experience as an agent with the DEA, I was a certified police officer in  
the State of California for more than 7 years, in which I held such positions as patrol officer, investigator,

1 and sergeant. As part of my official duties and assignments as a California police officer, I investigated  
2 individuals involved in violation of State of California statutes to include, but not limited to, homicide,  
3 narcotic sales, sexual assault, and criminal street gang violations. During the aforementioned  
4 investigations, I have prepared affidavits in support of search and arrest warrants. I have also testified as  
5 an expert in Contra Costa County Superior Court, California in the matter of possession of marijuana for  
6 sales, possession of methamphetamine for sales, and the Norteño criminal street gang.

7 3. I have attended several law enforcement schools and advanced officer training to include,  
8 but not limited to, 880 hours of California Peace Officer Standards and Training Basic Police Officer  
9 training, 550 hours of DEA Basic Agent training, 32 hours of Narcotic Highway Interdiction training, 4  
10 hours of Complex Narcotics training, 4 hours of Marijuana Dispensary Investigation training, 4 hours of  
11 OxyContin Investigation training, 4 hours of Pharmaceutical Investigation training, 4 hours of  
12 Manufacturing Methamphetamine training, and 4 hours of Asset Seizure training. I currently hold a  
13 Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

14 4. In connection with my official DEA duties, I investigate criminal violations of the federal  
15 narcotics laws including, but not limited to, Title 21, United States Code, and Sections 841, 843, 846 and  
16 848. As a DEA Special Agent, I have assisted in narcotics investigations which have led to the seizure of  
17 narcotics and arrests of individuals. I have discussed with numerous law enforcement officers,  
18 cooperating defendants, and informants, the method and practices used by narcotics distributors.

19 5. In addition, I am familiar with narcotics traffickers' method of operation including, the  
20 manufacturing, distribution, storage, and transportation of narcotics, and the collection of monies which  
21 represents the proceeds of narcotics trafficking, and money laundering. I have participated in all formal  
22 methods of investigations, including but not limited to, electronic surveillance, visual surveillance,  
23 general questioning of witnesses, search warrants, confidential informants, pen registers, trap and trace,  
24 and the use of undercover agents. Moreover, I have authority to execute and serve search warrants issued  
25 under authority of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, §878.

26 **II. PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT AND APPLICABLE LAW**

27 6. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint charging David Lee BECKFORD  
28 in violation of the following offenses against the United States:

- 1 a. possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, to wit: Alprazolam (in
- 2 violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 841(a)(1));
- 3 b. possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, to wit: crack cocaine
- 4 (in violation of Title 21, United States Code, §841(a)(1)); and
- 5 c. possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (in violation of Title 18, United
- 6 States Code, §922(g)(1)).

7 7. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint charging Stephan Alexander  
8 FLORIDA in violation of the following offenses against the United States:

- 9 a. possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, to wit: Alprazolam (in
- 10 violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 841(a)(1)).

11 8. The information contained in this affidavit is based upon the investigation I and other DEA  
12 special agents, state, and local investigators have personally conducted, handling or debriefing of  
13 Confidential Sources who have participated in this investigation, conversations with other law  
14 enforcement officers involved in this investigation, my personal knowledge, and my training.

15 9. The information set forth in this affidavit is not intended to detail each and every fact and  
16 circumstance of the investigation or all information known to me and other investigators involved.  
17 Rather, this affidavit sets forth facts sufficient to establish probable cause to obtain the arrest and search  
18 warrants requested. Therefore, I have not included every fact known to me about the investigation.  
19 However, no facts known to me that could potentially mitigate a finding of probable cause have been  
20 excluded.

21 **III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

22 10. The investigation into BECKFORD and FLORIDA involves the manufacturing,  
23 possession for sales, and distribution of counterfeit Xanax. Throughout this affidavit, I refer to the  
24 identified controlled substance as “counterfeit Xanax.” “Xanax” is the Pfizer brand name of the  
25 pharmaceutical Alprazolam, a Schedule IV Controlled Substance. During the investigation,  
26 pharmaceutical pills were seized that bore the Pfizer brand name “Xanax”; however, these pills were  
27 determined not to be manufactured from Pfizer based upon their chemical composition. Even though the  
28 pills were determined to be counterfeit, the pills contained Alprazolam.

1 11. During the investigation, it was learned, and further alleged, that BECKFORD utilized pill-  
2 presses, Xanax dies, microcrystalline cellulose, and other materials to manufacture counterfeit Xanax.  
3 Many of these items were later located and seized within BECKFORD's residence, which will be  
4 discussed in further detail within this affidavit.

5 12. A "die" is a specific device used for cutting or forming material in a press or a stamping or  
6 forming machine. During the manufacturing process of Xanax, the manufacturer mixes Alprazolam and  
7 other binding materials into a pill press. The die will press, stamp, or mold the materials into a counterfeit  
8 pill that is similar to the brand-name version.

9 13. Microcrystalline cellulose is used as a texturizer, an anti-caking agent, a fat substitute, an  
10 emulsifier, an extender, and a bulking agent in food production. The most common form is used in  
11 vitamin supplements or tablets. Microcrystalline cellulose, when mixed with the controlled substance  
12 Alprazolam, can be added to a pill-press during the manufacturing process. The pill press will form and  
13 stamp a pill with a specific "die".

#### 14 **IV. FACTS ESTABLISHING PROBABLE CAUSE.**

15 A. September 28, 2015: Arrest of David BECKFORD and the Seizure of 58 Pounds of Xanax pills,  
16 10.5 Ounces of Cocaine Base (Crack), Approximately \$2,366.00, and a Firearm with an  
17 Extended Capacity Magazine

18 14. On September 28, 2015, at approximately 0042 hours, California Highway Patrol (CHP)  
19 officers were on routine patrol in the Hayward, California area. The CHP officers were driving a fully  
20 marked black and white CHP patrol vehicle and wearing full CHP uniforms. The CHP officers were  
21 travelling on State Route 92 eastbound, west of Hesperian Boulevard when they observed a 2003 grey  
22 Chevrolet van bearing California license plate PYAREE unable to maintain its lane. There were other  
23 vehicles on the roadway at this time. This is a violation of 21658(a) of the California Vehicle Code- unsafe  
24 lane change. The CHP officers initiated an enforcement stop by activating the forward red lights, and told  
25 the driver via the patrol car PA system to go straight and exit at Jackson Street. The van failed to yield, and  
26 continued driving and took the connector ramp to Interstate 880 northbound. The van crossed into the lane  
27 to the left, and nearly collided with another vehicle as it merged onto I-880 northbound. The CHP officers  
28 then activated full Code 3 lights as well as the siren. The vehicle then slowed as if it was going to take the  
Winton Avenue exit, then cut across the gore point at Winton Avenue and continued on I-880 northbound.

1 This is a violation of 21651(a) VC- crossing a two foot divided section. The vehicle was still unable to  
2 maintain a lane, and crossed into the right shoulder several times. The driver of the van nearly collided into  
3 vehicles just south of Washington Avenue. The driver then accelerated, and the van reached speeds of 98  
4 mph just south of Marina Blvd. The driver eventually took the 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue exit, where the van collided  
5 with another vehicle, and came to rest in a northerly direction. The driver then evaded on foot, in a  
6 westerly direction on 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue and was later apprehended by CHP officers. At no time did any of the  
7 CHP officers see anyone else in the vehicle.  
8

9 15. CHP officers performed a search incident to arrest and read the suspect his Miranda Rights.  
10 The suspect was then placed in the right rear seat of a patrol vehicle. Upon search of the driver, \$2,316  
11 U.S. dollars were located in his left front pants pocket, along with a large plastic bag of Marijuana which  
12 was located in his left jacket pocket. An inventory of the grey Chevrolet van was conducted prior to  
13 towing. During the inventory, officers located a pink duffle bag behind the driver seat, which contained  
14 three bags of suspected Xanax. On the center console, officers located a Gucci bag that contained more  
15 suspected Xanax, approximately 10.5 ounces of suspected crack cocaine, one digital scale, and three  
16 iPhones. In total, officers found approximately 58 pounds of suspected Xanax in the vehicle. On the  
17 passenger floorboard of the vehicle, officers located a loaded Springfield XD .40 caliber handgun. An  
18 extended 30-round magazine, loaded with 15 rounds, was inserted into the firearm. On the driver's seat  
19 of the vehicle, officers located an iPhone that also held a Bank of America card belonging to Beau  
20 SANKENE. Also located within the vehicle, officers located a prescription bottle bearing the name  
21 Tausha Washington, a used syringe, another digital scale and an iPad Mini. The driver verbally identified  
22 himself as David Lee BECKFORD, date of birth 03/18/1988. BECKFORD was charged by the Alameda  
23 County District Attorney's Office for violating the following statutes: California Health and Safety Code  
24 §§ 11352, 11370.1, and 11375(b)(1); California Penal Code §§ 148(a)(1), 25850(a), 25850(c)(1),  
25 29800(a)(1), and 32310; and California Vehicle Code § 2800.2(a). He was released on a \$205,000 bond.  
26  
27  
28

1           16. A DMV check by BECKFORD's name and date of birth via the patrol car Mobile Digital  
2 Computer returned to a status of "Suspended or Revoked", in violation of CVC 14601.1(a). BECKFORD  
3 was positively identified through Alameda County CRIMS website. A further investigation into  
4 BECKFORD's criminal history shows that BECKFORD has prior felony convictions in the State of  
5 California that precludes him from firearm ownership, which include a 5/21/08 felony conviction for  
6 violating California Health & Safety Code § 11359 (Possessing Marijuana for Sale); and a 01/13/09  
7 conviction for violating California Penal Code § 12021(a)(1) (Felon in Possession of a Firearm).

8           17. I have conferred with a Special Agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and  
9 Explosives. He has advised me that the Springfield XD .40 caliber handgun was not manufactured in  
10 California (since this type of firearm is manufactured outside of California) and that it had travelled in and  
11 affected interstate commerce.  
12

13           B. December 12, 2015: Arrest of David BECKFORD, Stephan FLORIDA and the Seizure of  
14 Xanax pills, and Approximately \$10,000.00 in US Currency

15           18. On December 12, 2015, Oakland Police Department (OPD) officers were conducting  
16 uniformed patrol in the area of Holly Street and Auseon Avenue, Oakland, California. During their patrol,  
17 the officers' attentions were drawn to a 2016 Porsche Panamera that did not have a rear license plate in  
18 violation of California Vehicle Code Section 5200. Officers contacted the driver, FLORIDA, and the  
19 passenger, BECKFORD. During the officers' investigation, they observed, in plain view in the rear  
20 hatchback area of the vehicle, what appeared to be a distributable amount of Xanax inside the vehicle.  
21 The OPD Officers detained both FLORIDA and BECKFORD and conducted a search of the vehicle. The  
22 officers confirmed that the pills bore labels similar to those on Xanax. The officers arrested both  
23 BECKFORD and FLORIDA for Possession of Controlled Substance for Sale pursuant to California  
24 Health and Safety Code Section 11378 and Transportation of Controlled Substance pursuant to California  
25 Health and Safety Code Section 11379. BECKFORD was found to be in possession of a large amount of  
26  
27  
28

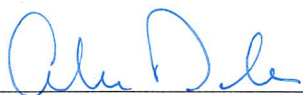
1 US Currency that BECKFORD believed to be approximately \$10,000.00. In total, officers found  
2 approximately 45,000 pills of suspected Xanax in the vehicle.

3 19. Officers “froze” BECKFORD’s residence, located at 1950 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Oakland,  
4 California, and applied for a State of California Search Warrant. The warrant to search and seize evidence  
5 from the residence was signed later that morning by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Flanagan.  
6 OPD officers and DEA agents conducted the search of 1950 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue and located a pill-press, dies,  
7 molds, and other manufacturing paraphernalia. Officers also seized suspected microcrystalline cellulose  
8 and manifest paperwork of the same.  
9

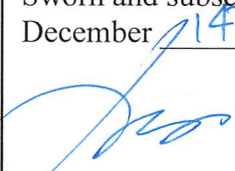
10 **V. CONCLUSION**

11 20. Therefore, I submit there is probable cause to believe that FLORIDA violated 21 U.S.C.  
12 § 841(a)(1) by possessing with the intent to distribute a controlled substance, to wit, Alprazolam; that  
13 BECKFORD violated 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) by possessing with the intent to distribute controlled  
14 substances, to wit, Alprazolam and crack cocaine; and that BECKFORD violated 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) by  
15 being a felon in possession of a firearm.

16 I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements above are true and correct to the best of my  
17 knowledge and belief.

18  
19   
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Special Agent Andrew Decker  
22 United States Department of Justice  
23 Drug Enforcement Administration

22 Sworn and subscribed to before me  
23 December 14, 2015

24   
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Honorable Donna M. Ryu  
27 United States Magistrate Judge  
28 Northern District of California