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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## USAO Agrees to Ridley-Thomas's Request for Bail Pending Appeal

**LOS ANGELES:** Alyssa D. Bell, partner at Cohen Williams LLP, and appellate counsel for Dr. Mark Ridley-Thomas, issued the following statement:

"Today's decision by the U.S. Attorney's Office to agree that Mark Ridley-Thomas should be granted bail pending appeal is a positive step forward. It is a good day for Dr. Ridley-Thomas and means that, pending approval by Judge Dale S. Fischer, he will be on bail for the entire time that his appeal is pending before the Ninth Circuit. It further underscores that the issues raised in the defense's Motion present substantial questions and are at least debatable, and should be seen as an acknowledgement of the strength of his upcoming appeal."

"The agreement between the parties establishes that Dr. Ridley-Thomas's appeal to the Ninth Circuit will present at least one 'substantial question of law or fact' that would call into question his conviction and sentence. We continue to believe that Dr. Ridley-Thomas's appeal will present exceptionally strong issues, including the district court's prior denial of the *Batson* challenges (the prosecutors' dismissal of two Black women from the jury panel, arguably on racial grounds) made during jury selection and many other substantive issues."

"Dr. Ridley-Thomas appreciates the Honorable Judge Fischer's attention to this joint request and hopes that the Court will enter the parties' proposed Order and grant Dr. Ridley-Thomas bail pending appeal. This will allow Dr. Ridley-Thomas and his appellate team to turn their attention to the merits of his appeal."

**Other Notable Statements:**

“We welcome today’s Stipulation regarding bail pending appeal and are pleased that the government has agreed that Mark Ridley-Thomas’s appeal of his conviction presents at least substantial questions that are fairly debatable by the Judges of the Ninth Circuit,” added Paul J. Watford, Member of MRT’s appellate team, Partner at Wilson Sonsini and Former Judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth District for 11 years. “Bail pending appeal is not the norm and so the government’s agreement in this case is, in my view, the right thing to do.”

David Willingham, Partner at King & Spalding in Special Matters and Government Investigations group and former Deputy Chief of the Major Frauds Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office said, “Today’s agreement regarding bail pending appeal is certainly a positive sign for Dr. Mark Ridley-Thomas. Federal prosecutors routinely oppose a defendant’s request for bail pending appeal, especially after a conviction at trial. More often than not, the prosecutors want the convicted defendant to appeal their sentence from prison. While today’s agreement does not mean that Dr. Ridley-Thomas will necessarily win his appeal, it certainly indicates to me that the arguments raised in his Motion for Bail Pending Appeal are very strong, which persuaded the government to not take this fight to court.”

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