

THE POST-INDICTMENT HUNTER BIDEN WARRANT INCLUDED THE LAPTOP

The Delaware District Court has started unsealing the dockets Judge Maryellen Noreika ordered unsealed last week.

Remember how I said that getting a new warrant to parallel construct evidence already obtained wouldn't cause a problem, but misleading a judge might?

Well, this is the kind of thing that might cause a problem.

Case title: USA v. Apple iCloud Account, et al,

Assigned to: Unassigned

Defendant (1)
Apple iCloud Account
Apple iCloud Account, Apple iCloud Backup Data, Apple Macbook Pro Laptop F/N FVFC2MMHV2G, and Western Digital Hard Drive S/N WX2IA19ATF3

Here's how Derek Hines described the post-indictment warrant.

In August 2019, IRS and FBI investigators obtained a search warrant for tax violations for the defendant's Apple iCloud account. 2 In response to that warrant, in September 2019, Apple produced backups of data from various of the defendant's electronic devices that he had backed up to his iCloud account. 3 Investigators also later came into possession of the defendant's Apple MacBook Pro, which he had left at a computer store. A search warrant was also obtained for his laptop and the results of the search were largely duplicative of information investigators had already obtained from Apple. 4 Law enforcement also later obtained a search warrant to search the defendant's

electronic evidence for evidence of federal firearms violations and to seize such data. 5

2 District of Delaware Case No. 19-234M and a follow up search warrant, District of Delaware Case Number 20-165M.

3 The electronic evidence referenced in this section was produced to the defendant in discovery in advance of the deadline to file motions.

4 District of Delaware Case No. 19-309M

5 District of Delaware Case No. 23-507M. [my emphasis]

That led me to believe that the warrant targeted only Hunter's iCloud content.

It was broader than that. It also targeted the laptop itself.

Here are the RECAP links to the dockets that will, eventually, include the warrants.

August 29, 2019: Original iCloud warrant; warrant return

December 13, 2019: Original laptop warrant; warrant return


July 10, 2020 iCloud warrant; warrant return

December 4, 2023: Post-indictment warrant; warrant return (less attachments)

Update.

Oh. Here's the search warrant return for the warrant obtained in December.

The FBI Agent didn't sign the search warrant return until ... oh! Today!

Return		
Case No.: 23-507m	Date and time warrant executed: 12/07/23	Copy of warrant and inventory left with: N/A
Inventory made in the presence of:		
Inventory of the property taken and name(s) of any person(s) seized: Digital evidence was reviewed by SA Boyd Pritchard. No physical evidence was seized.		
Certification		
I declare under penalty of perjury that this inventory is correct and was returned along with the original warrant to the designated judge.		
Date: 01/29/24	 Executing officer's signature	
	Boyd J. Pritchard, Special Agent, Printed name and title FBI	