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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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Rachel Jernigan,

) No. CV-08-2332-PHX-GMS

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Plaintiff,

) **ORDER**

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vs.

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Kyle Richard, et al.,

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Defendants.

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Pending before the Court are: (1) Motion for Summary Judgment by Pamela Elliot, the Town of Gilbert, David Landgraf and Randy McLaws, collectively “the Gilbert Defendants” (Doc. 96), (2) Motion for Summary Judgment and Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support Thereof by Kyle Richard (“SA Richard”) (Doc. 145), (3) Motion for Partial Summary Judgment by Rachel Jernigan (Doc. 152), and (4) Plaintiff’s Request to Disregard the Town Defendants’ Response to Plaintiff’s Statement of Additional Facts (Doc. 172). For the reasons stated below, the Court grants the Gilbert Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment on any state or federal claims for malicious prosecution. It also grants the motion to the extent it seeks summary judgment on behalf of Defendant David Landgraf. The motion is otherwise denied. The Court grants Defendant Kyle Richard’s Motion for Summary Judgment to the extent that Plaintiffs assert a *Bivens* claim against Richard arising from Plaintiff’s initial arrest, detention and prosecution for the September 20, 2000 bank robbery, or the October 25, 2000 bank robbery. The Court denies the Motion as it relates to

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1 all other claims asserted by Plaintiff. The Court grants the Motion for Partial Summary  
2 Judgment by Rachel Jernigan only to the extent that it determines that Defendant Kyle  
3 Richard is not entitled to qualified immunity. It denies the motion in all other aspects. The  
4 Court grants Plaintiff's request to Disregard the Town Defendant's Response.

### 5 **BACKGROUND**

6 In the year 2000, five robberies of East Valley banks were committed by an Hispanic<sup>1</sup>  
7 or Asian female or females with similar physical characteristics, similar dress, and using  
8 similar modus operandi. The robberies were committed on September 20 in the Town of  
9 Gilbert (robbery one), October 11 in Tempe (robbery two), October 25 in Chandler (robbery  
10 three), November 28 in Gilbert (robbery four), and November 30 in Mesa (robbery five).

11 Pursuant to an understanding between federal and local authorities, the perpetrator of  
12 each of the five robberies was subject to federal charges. Special Agent Richard ("SA  
13 Richard") had been the agent on call for robberies one and four, and thus was the first FBI  
14 agent to investigate the suspect or suspects in these two robberies. Because robberies two,  
15 three and five were deemed by the FBI to have been perpetrated by the same suspect or  
16 suspects, the FBI's investigation of all five of the robberies was assigned to SA Richard.

17 The police departments of the respective municipalities investigated each of these  
18 robberies in conjunction with the FBI. According to SA Richard, it is the common practice,  
19 when the FBI is involved in such cases, that the FBI agent, along with the case detective from  
20 the municipality, interview the victim teller. The responding police department usually  
21 handles the other interviews which are then made available to the FBI. (Doc. 130, Ex. 7B at  
22 23).

23 SA Richard interviewed the victim/teller of the first robbery, Elizabeth Chlupsa, with  
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27 <sup>1</sup> As has been previously noted, "'Latina' may be the more accurate term but  
28 throughout the proceedings 'Hispanic' has been used." *United States v. Jernigan*, 492 F.3d  
1050, 1051 n. 1 (9th Cir. 2007) (hereafter referred to as *Jernigan II*).

1 Detective Pamela Brock<sup>2</sup> of the Gilbert Police Department. Detective Brock is also a  
2 Defendant in this action. Gilbert Police interviewed other witnesses to the bank robbery and  
3 Detective Brock eventually completed a report. As the officer in charge for the FBI, SA  
4 Richard received copies of the witness statements and the other reports prepared by Detective  
5 Brock.

6 A surveillance video tape of poor quality provided some depiction of the robbery  
7 suspect. A postal inspector with whom SA Richard consulted believed that the suspect  
8 depicted in the video resembled Rachel Jernigan, with whom the postal inspector was  
9 familiar due to other investigations. With the assistance of David Landgraf running the  
10 software,<sup>3</sup> SA Richard and Detective Brock prepared a six-pack photo line-up that included  
11 a booking photo of Ms. Jernigan and five other persons. These persons were among those  
12 selected by a computer program used by Gilbert police as having some similar physical  
13 characteristics to Ms. Jernigan. From the photographs generated by the computer program,  
14 Brock and Richard selected the five additional candidates for the photo array.

15 SA Richard showed the lineup to Ms. Chlupsa. After having received an admonition  
16 regarding eyewitness identification, and observing the card for between twenty and forty-five  
17 seconds, Ms. Chlupsa picked out Ms. Jernigan's picture in the line-up. In doing so Ms.  
18 Chlupsa indicated that she "really [felt] like it's her." When asked how strongly she felt  
19 about it, she responded "I really feel confident." (Doc. 97, Ex. A at TOG000147; *Id.*, Ex. D  
20 at S-B-O 000161).

21 Based on Ms. Chlupsa's identification, SA Richard and an Assistant United States  
22 Attorney obtained a federal indictment against Ms. Jernigan for the Gilbert robbery that was  
23 issued on October 11. (Doc. 97, Ex. M). On that same date, a second similar robbery  
24 occurred in Tempe. Although the suspect was not described as wearing a baseball cap,  
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26 <sup>2</sup> Detective Brock, since married, is now Pamela Elliott. To avoid confusion, she is  
27 hereafter referred to as either Brock or Detective Brock since that was her name at the time.

28 <sup>3</sup> Officer Landgraf is also a Defendant in this case.

1 otherwise the general description of the suspect, the clothes that she was wearing, and the  
2 method used to rob the bank were similar to the Gilbert robbery. The FBI quickly determined  
3 that both robberies were likely committed by the same person and followed its usual practice  
4 of reassigning the Tempe bank robbery from Special Agent Mesick to SA Richard. This  
5 reassignment took place on the same date that the second robbery occurred. (Doc. 97, Ex. L  
6 at KR-645). SA Richard thereafter took over the case, and conducted, among other things,  
7 follow-up interviews with Ms. Ward the victim/teller.

8         Despite the FBI's determination that the robbery was likely committed by the same  
9 suspect, when Special Agent Mesick showed Ms. Ward the same photo line-up that had been  
10 shown to Ms. Chlupsa, she did not recognize anyone depicted in the photos as the woman  
11 who robbed her. (*Id.* at KR-395). A few days later, when a Gilbert police officer showed Ms.  
12 Ward the surveillance photo taken of the robbery suspect in the Gilbert robbery, she  
13 indicated to SA Richard that she was "pretty sure" she had been robbed by the same person.  
14 (Doc. 130-3, Ex. 22 at S-B-0 002390-91). She indicated that the person depicted in the  
15 surveillance video and the person who robbed her were the same height, they both had a full  
16 face, and they both had short dark hair. (*Id.*, *see also Id.* at 00473).

17         Two weeks later, on October 25, a third similar bank robbery occurred in Chandler.  
18 The descriptions of the suspect given by the witnesses again generally matched the  
19 descriptions given of the suspect in the Gilbert and Tempe robberies. In light of the distinct  
20 similarities, when the case was opened it was officially assigned to SA Richard. (Doc. 130,  
21 Ex. 7B at 16). Once assigned to the case, SA Richard traveled to Ms. Etherington's home on  
22 the day of the robbery and showed her the same photo six-pack containing Ms. Jernigan that  
23 had been show to Ms. Chlupsa and Ms. Ward. After studying the line-up card for about  
24 twelve minutes, Ms. Etherington selected Ms. Jernigan as being the person who robbed her.  
25 She thought "[t]he shape of her face is right, kind of rounded, and came to a point. The eyes  
26 look very similar." (Doc. 97-2, Ex. D at S-B-0 000156; Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-453).

27         On November 10, 2000 Ms. Jernigan was arrested and taken into custody. (Doc. 97-4,  
28 Ex. L at KR-574-79). She was detained and was thus in custody when two distinctly similar

1 additional robberies occurred in quick succession.

2 On November 28, a fourth similar robbery of another bank in Gilbert occurred directly  
3 across the intersection from the location of robbery one. SA Richard was the agent on call  
4 for the FBI. Detective Brock was not assigned to this investigation. Instead, Detective Ross  
5 Estavillo, also a detective with the Gilbert Investigations-Persons Crimes Unit was assigned.  
6 Witnesses again gave the same general description and MO of the suspect that had been  
7 given for the first three robberies.

8 Two days later, on November 30, a fifth similar robbery occurred in Mesa. Again, the  
9 physical description of the robber was indistinct in general terms from the physical  
10 description of the robber given for robbery numbers one through four. The description of the  
11 modus operandi was similar to certain aspects of those robberies. The suspect was described  
12 as fleeing the scene in a dark Toyota 4Runner with gold trim—the same description given  
13 of the getaway car in robbery two. The FBI reassigned SA Richard to the file after having  
14 determined that the November 30 robber was committed by a serial robber. (Doc 165-1, Ex.  
15 B at 289).

16 Witnesses to all of the robberies generally described a short woman in her late  
17 twenties or early thirties who was either Hispanic or Asian, with pulled back black hair,<sup>4</sup>  
18 indicating, at best, a statistically uncommon bank robber.<sup>5</sup> The perpetrator dressed in jeans  
19 and a blue jacket, sweatshirt or long sleeved shirt, often with a shirt underneath.<sup>6</sup> The  
20 witnesses from the first five robberies described the robber as waiting her turn in the teller  
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22 <sup>4</sup> Witnesses to robberies one through four independently mentioned that the robber's  
23 hair was pulled back. No witness to robbery number five mentioned how the robber wore her  
24 hair.

25 <sup>5</sup> Relatively few bank robbers are either female or Hispanic. When both characteristics  
26 are combined, the bank robber is, as all parties agree, statistically rare.

27 <sup>6</sup> Witnesses to robbery three provided no extensive description of the robber's  
28 clothing. The description of the perpetrator's clothing from the other bank robberies are  
consistent with the above description. Witnesses to the robberies frequently described the  
perpetrator as wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt.

1 line and then, when arriving at the teller, presenting her demand in a note that she gave to,  
2 but did not leave with, the teller. Witnesses described the notes as having been written on  
3 white lined paper that was folded or crumpled.

4 Multiple witnesses to robbery two and a witness to robbery five independently  
5 described the vehicle in which the robber fled the scene as a dark or black Toyota 4Runner  
6 with gold trim.<sup>7</sup> Witnesses to robberies one, four and five described the perpetrator as having  
7 a “casual pretty appearance” or as being “cute”<sup>8</sup> and also as having a blemished or pock-  
8 marked complexion.<sup>9</sup> Witnesses to robberies two and four separately described their robber

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10 <sup>7</sup> In robbery two, witnesses Pugh (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-399) (“a black Toyota 4-  
11 Runner, possibly a “limited” edition, with a lighter color trim around the bottom of the car”),  
12 Ophardt (*id* at KR-400) (“black Toyota 4-Runner”), Mills (*id.*) (“Toyota 4-Runner, late 90’s  
13 model, black in color with gold trim on the back of the truck”), and Johnson (*id.*) (“black  
14 Toyota 4-Runner or Mitsubishi Montero with chrome wheels and tinted windows”), all  
15 described such a vehicle. Thomas O’Brien, a witness to the fifth robbery, described the  
16 perpetrator as leaving in “a newer SUV (Toyota 4 Runner) dark color, gold trim.” (Doc. 130-  
17 3, Ex. 30).

18 <sup>8</sup> Ms. Chlupsa, the teller during robbery one, stated that the robber “doesn’t look like  
19 [she’s] off [the] streets, kind of pretty, clean.” (Doc. 130-3, Ex. 21-J at FBI388-89). Gabrielle  
20 Emmons, the teller during robbery four described her as “very clean, not a street person or  
21 drug addict.” (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-913). She looked “cute” and “didn’t look homeless or  
22 like a junkie.” (Doc. 130-3, Ex. 21-J at FBI000996). Allison Williams, the teller during the  
23 robbery five described the robber to SA Richard as “cute.” (Doc 165-1, Ex. B at 289–95; *id.*  
24 at FBI001099).

25 <sup>9</sup> Ms. Hawley, a witness to robbery one, described the perpetrator as having a  
26 blemished complexion. (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG000135). Ms. Emmons, the teller in  
27 robbery four, described the perpetrator as having “a little acne.” (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-  
28 913, 943). Ms. Williams, the teller in robbery five, described the robber as having a “pot-  
marked [sic] face” and having small pitted marks in her complexion. (*Id.* at KR-990) (“The  
suspect had small-pitted marks on both of her cheeks.”). Ms. Chlupsa, the victim/teller of  
robbery one, testified at the March 2001 trial of Ms. Jernigan that the robber “may have had  
acne,” or been “kind of pocked.” (Doc. 130-1, Ex. 8E at 121). Nevertheless, despite her  
avowal in her current affidavit to the contrary (*see* Doc. 130-2, Ex. 10 ¶ 6), neither the report  
she filled out immediately after the robbery (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG000131-32), nor the  
contemporaneous notes of the officers interviewing her (*id.* at TOG000122-23; Doc. 130-3,  
Ex. 21-J at FBI000387-89), suggest that she told them at the time that the robber had a  
blemished complexion.

1 as having a facial appearance “like she just woke up.”<sup>10</sup>

2 While in general most witnesses to the robberies described the perpetrator as Hispanic,  
3 others described her as Asian. For example, individual witnesses to the September robbery,  
4 as well as both November robberies, indicated that they would describe the perpetrator as  
5 being either “Hispanic or Asian.”<sup>11</sup>

6 The handwriting on the note for robberies one, two and four was independently  
7 described by witnesses as “messy,” “flowing” and “sloppy.”<sup>12</sup>

8 Despite the general and specific similarities in the descriptions of robberies four and  
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11 <sup>10</sup> Kerry Ward, the victim teller in robbery two, indicated that the perpetrator “looked  
12 like she just woke up.” (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-396). Boyd M. Denetedeel, a witness to  
13 robbery four, described the perpetrator’s “face as being ‘stretched’ in appearance, as though  
14 she had just woke up.” (*Id.* at KR-932).

15 <sup>11</sup> *See, e.g.*, the descriptions of Ms. Chlupsa (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG122) (“Hispanic  
16 possibly Asian female”), and Yarjanic Nath for robbery one (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-174)  
17 (“Hispanic or Filipino”), Holly Ophardt of robbery two (Doc. 187, Ex. 9k) (“Hispanic or  
18 Oriental”), Gabrielle Emmons and Robert Denetedeel of robbery four (Doc. 97-5, Ex. L at  
19 KR-913) (“Hispanic or Oriental”); (*id.* at KR-943) (“a Hispanic or Hawaiian female”); (*id.*  
20 at KR-932) (“an Asian or Hispanic female”), and Allison Williams of robbery five (*id.* at  
21 KR-1009) (“she said she appeared to be Hispanic, but may of [sic] just been dark skinned”).

22 <sup>12</sup> Ms. Chlupsa described the note from robbery as being “messy—girls writing.”  
23 (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG000122; Doc 130-3, Ex. 21-J at FBI000387) (“big letters messy  
24 handwriting”). Ms. Ward described the note in robbery two as being written in “‘bubbly’ or  
25 flowing,” handwriting with “large letters similar to a teenage girl’s handwriting.” (Doc. 97-4,  
26 Ex. L at KR-395); (Doc 130-3, Ex. 21-J at FBI00557) (“Large letters - ‘Flowing writing  
27 ‘teenage girl writing’”); (*id.* at S-B-0 2382) (“being in the style ‘a teenage girl’ would  
28 write”); (*id.*, Ex. 22 at S-B-0 002388) (same). Ms. Emmons described the note from robbery  
four as being “very sloppy and in paragraph form.” (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-912, KR-942);  
(Doc. 130-3, Ex. 21-J at FBI000994) (“full line letters”; “probably print”; “really sloppy”);  
(*id.* at S-B-0 001018) (“very sloppy writing and paragraph form”). By contrast, Colette  
Etherington (October 25, Chandler) described the letters as being printed and approximately  
one inch in size. (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-428); (Doc 130-3, Ex. 21-J at FBI000685) (“printed  
letters 1 in. tall”); (*id.* at S-B-O 2437) (“printed neatly in approximately one inch tall  
letters”); (*id.* at S-B-0 002460) (“printed on the note and were approximately one inch in  
size.”). Allison Williams apparently provided no description of the handwriting in the note  
used in robbery five.

1 five to robberies one through three, SA Richard testified that he and other law enforcement  
2 agencies concluded after “thoughtful consideration” that one person committed bank  
3 robberies one through three, and a separate person committed robberies four and five. (Doc.  
4 97-3, Ex. G at S-B-O 3779).

5 On January 2, 2001, SA Richard testified before the grand jury for the purpose of  
6 obtaining a superceding indictment charging Ms. Jernigan for robberies two and three as well  
7 as robbery one. (Doc. 97, Ex. N). In seeking the superceding indictment, SA Richard did not  
8 disclose to Ms. Jernigan’s counsel, the grand jury, or the Assistant United States Attorney  
9 who was seeking the superceding indictment, that after the arrest and detention of Ms.  
10 Jernigan for robbery one in early November, two similar bank robberies had occurred in  
11 Gilbert and Mesa, by a similarly described suspect, and that these bank robberies had features  
12 that identified them with the first three robberies.

13 Although video surveillance was available for robbery four that provided a somewhat  
14 clearer image of the perpetrator than the surveillance footage from robbery one, SA Richard  
15 did not show those surveillance photos to any of the witnesses to robberies one through three.  
16 Nor, apparently, did he show the victims of robberies four and five the six-pack card photo  
17 array featuring Ms. Jernigan.

18 Beginning in mid-February, a month before Ms. Jernigan’s trial, SA Richard, in  
19 combination with Detective Brock, went back to four of the witnesses to robbery one who  
20 had less exposure to the robber than had Ms. Chlupsa, the teller. On February 14, 2001 SA  
21 Richard returned to the bank and showed Yaranjic Nath and Kathleen Golliher the original  
22 six-pack from which Elizabeth Ms. Chlupsa had identified Ms. Jernigan. Detective Brock  
23 joined SA Richard at some point during his interview with Kathleen Golliher. Six days later,  
24 on February 20, Detective Brock showed Donavon Grierson the original six pack photo  
25 array. On March 19, two days before her trial testimony, both SA Richard and Detective  
26 Brock showed Elizabeth Hawley the original six pack photo array. All four identified Ms.  
27 Jernigan from the six-pack card, and they all subsequently identified her as the perpetrator  
28 in their trial testimony.



1 Prior to trial, Ms. Jernigan moved to suppress Ms. Chlupsa's identification because  
2 the six-pack photo array was overly suggestive. The trial court held an evidentiary hearing  
3 and denied the motion. It severed for trial each of the three separate bank robberies with  
4 which Ms. Jernigan was charged in the superceding indictment, and set trial for robbery one  
5 in March 2001.

6 At trial, the prosecution introduced the photo line-up into evidence and Detective  
7 Brock and SA Richard testified about the process used in the creation of the photo line-up.  
8 Ms. Chlupsa testified and identified Ms. Jernigan as the bank robber, as did Nath, Gollither,  
9 Grierson and Hawley. The prosecutor also played the bank's surveillance tape of the robbery.  
10 Ms. Jernigan argued that the identifications were in error, but was unaware of evidence of  
11 similar bank robberies being conducted by persons of similar description and modus operandi  
12 that had occurred after she was taken into custody. The jury convicted Ms. Jernigan for  
13 committing robbery one.

14 Ms. Jernigan appealed her conviction. Two months after her conviction, in light of the  
15 conviction, the United States dismissed, without prejudice, counts three and four of the  
16 superceding indictment which were the counts relating to robberies two and three. (Doc. 97,  
17 Ex. BB).

18 Seven months later, on December 11, 2001, a sixth similar robbery occurred at the  
19 same Bank of America branch that had been the subject of robbery one. The perpetrator was  
20 again a short Hispanic/Oriental female.<sup>13</sup> Like robberies one through five, witnesses to  
21 robbery six described a short woman in her late twenties or early thirties who was either  
22 Hispanic or Asian, with pulled back black hair. As with robberies one and two, the robber  
23 pulled a gun out of her purse and pointed it at the victim teller. As with robberies one, four

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25 <sup>13</sup> In the report taken at the scene, Kathy Gollither is recorded as describing the robber  
26 to Detective Palmer as being "oriental in appearance." (Doc. 97, Ex. L. at KR-1090). In her  
27 conversations with Agent Richard several weeks later, and after Rodriguez-Gallegos's arrest,  
28 she described her as Hispanic. (Doc. 97, Ex. L at KR-1033). Witness McMullen also  
described the perpetrator to Officer as being "possibly of hispanic or oriental origin." (*Id.* at  
KR-1089).

1 and five, witnesses to the robbery described the perpetrator of robbery six as being “quite  
2 attractive,” and as having a blemished complexion. (Doc. 97-5, Ex. L at KR-1064). Similar  
3 to the previous robberies, the perpetrator was described as being dressed in jeans and a  
4 zippered blue sweat shirt.

5 After the robbery, a bank employee chased the suspect eastbound through the parking  
6 lot into the parking lot of the strip mall. She witnessed the suspect get into a white Isuzi  
7 Rodeo with Arizona license plate 150-GRM. (Doc. 97-5, Ex. L at KR1049, 1058-59). Police  
8 were able to subsequently apprehend the vehicle. When apprehended, the suspect, Juanita  
9 Rodriguez-Gallegos, had in her possession the bait bills given to her when she robbed the  
10 bank. Ms. Rodriguez was arrested. The Gilbert Police Department conducted the  
11 investigation in which Detective Brock, who had transferred departments by this time, played  
12 no role.

13 Although the FBI assigned SA Richard to investigate the robbery, he did not respond  
14 to the scene on the day that the robbery occurred. He did, however, subsequently investigate  
15 the crime and arranged for the filing of federal charges. As the FBI agent assigned to the  
16 investigation, SA Richard received all of the reports prepared by the Gilbert Police  
17 Department.

18 After the arrest, Sergeant McLaws, the supervisor of the Investigations-Persons Crime  
19 Unit at the Gilbert Police Department, advised Detective Palmer that the suspect’s physical  
20 appearance was similar to the description given by witnesses of the perpetrator of robbery  
21 four. He made no mention of the similar physical appearance to the perpetrator of robbery  
22 one, which occurred in the same bank. Detective Palmer researched the file for robbery four  
23 and two days later met with Gabrielle Emmons, who was the teller during that robbery. When  
24 Sgt. Palmer showed Ms. Emmons a line-up card that contained a photo of Ms. Rodriguez-  
25 Gallegos, Ms. Emmons identified her as the robber, circled her photograph and signed the  
26 line-up card. Five days later, Detective Palmer met with SA Richard, and, at SA Richard’s  
27 request, gave him the photo line-up card signed by Gabrielle Emmons. SA Richard advised  
28 Palmer that the FBI would be filing charges against Rodriguez-Gallegos for robbery four.

1 (Doc. 97-5, Ex. L at KR-948-49).

2 SA Richard subsequently either showed, or arranged for others to show, the line-up  
3 card to Allison Williams, the teller in robbery five. Ms. Williams also identified Rodriguez-  
4 Gallegos as her robber. (Doc. 97-7, Ex. DD at S-B-0 001016). The next month, Rodriguez-  
5 Gallegos was indicted on charges of committing robberies four, five and six. She  
6 subsequently entered into a plea agreement in which she admitted committing those robberies  
7 but only pled guilty to the charge of using a firearm during the course of robbery six.  
8 (Doc.97-3, Ex. G at SBO 3730-3731, 3775).

9 There is no indication that Sgt. McLaws or SA Richard raised with Detective Palmer  
10 the similarity of Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos to the perpetrator of robbery one. Richard never  
11 investigated whether Rodriguez-Gallegos committed any or all of the robberies attributed to  
12 Ms. Jernigan, nor did he ever disclose to the AUSA who prosecuted Ms. Jernigan or the  
13 AUSA who prosecuted Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos the similarities between robberies one  
14 through three and robberies four through six.

15 Ms. Jernigan's conviction for the September 20, 2000 robbery was affirmed on appeal  
16 in August, 2002.

17 Eventually Rodriguez-Gallegos was assigned to the same prison complex that housed  
18 Ms. Jernigan. When Ms. Jernigan heard of Rodriguez-Gallegos's arrest and conviction for  
19 the similar robberies, she sought relief from her conviction based on the government's failure  
20 to disclose the subsequent similar robberies committed by Rodriguez-Gallegos.

21 The Court granted an evidentiary hearing on this motion on May 12-13, 2004. SA  
22 Richard was the only witness to testify at this hearing. In addition to SA Richard's testimony,  
23 evidence was admitted including photo stills from the surveillance videos taken of robbery  
24 one and four, individual booking photographs of Rachel Jernigan and Juanita Rodriguez-  
25 Gallegos, the six-pack photo lineup from which some witnesses had identified Ms. Jernigan,  
26 and a statement from Kathleen Gollither opining that the robberies were committed by two  
27 separate women.

28 After considering the testimony and the evidence, the trial judge denied Jernigan's

1 Motion for a New Trial. His ruling was affirmed by a divided panel of the Ninth Circuit,  
2 *United States v. Jernigan*, 451 F.3d 1027 (9th Cir. 2006) (hereafter *Jernigan I*), but was  
3 ultimately reversed by a 13-2 *en banc* panel in *Jernigan II. United States v. Jernigan*, 492  
4 F.3d 1050 (9th Cir. 2007).

5 During a subsequent interview in prison in 2008, Gallegos confessed, in addition to  
6 the three robberies to which she had already admitted, to robbery one, robbery two and  
7 maybe one other robbery, the location of which she could not remember. She stated that she  
8 brought her gun with her on all of her robberies although it was unloaded. She further  
9 admitted to using a black Toyota 4Runner as a vehicle during at least the first three of her  
10 robberies.

11 The United States ultimately dismissed the indictment against Ms. Jernigan for  
12 robbery one. She was released after she had been incarcerated for approximately seven years  
13 and three months.

#### 14 ANALYSIS

15 In counts one and two of her complaint, Plaintiff brings § 1983 claims against  
16 Defendants McLaws, Brock, Landgraf and Richard for *Brady* violations, *Brady v. Maryland*,  
17 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and for malicious prosecution. At oral argument, however, Plaintiff  
18 conceded that she stated no claims against SA Richard in Counts One and Two and that she  
19 has abandoned any conspiracy claims filed in her complaint. As a result, Plaintiff's *Bivens*  
20 claims against SA Richard for *Brady* violations and malicious prosecution are contained in  
21 counts four and five of her complaint.<sup>14</sup> At oral argument, Plaintiff also conceded that any

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23 <sup>14</sup> Section 1983 authorizes recovery only against state officials who violate federal  
24 rights under the color of state law. Thus the 1983 claims asserted in Counts One and Two can  
25 be stated against Brock, McLaws, and Landgraf only. The Supreme Court, however, has  
26 established a private right of action against federal officials who violate federal rights of  
27 those entitled to them. *See Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents*, 403 U.S. 388  
28 (1971). Therefore, the claims against SA Richard in Counts Four and Five are appropriately  
denominated as *Bivens* claims. The law governing section 1983 claims and *Bivens* claims is  
virtually identical. *See Van Strum v. Lawn*, 940 F.2d 406, 409 (9th Cir. 1991) (holding that  
"[a]ctions under Section 1983 and those under *Bivens*, are identical save for the replacement

1 supervisory liability claims she brought against McLaws in Count Three are not distinct from  
2 the claims she asserts against him in Counts One and Two. Count Three is therefore  
3 dismissed.

4 In Count Six, Plaintiff asserts a state malicious prosecution claim against all  
5 Defendants including the Town of Gilbert based on the assertion that the Town of Gilbert is  
6 vicariously liable for the malicious prosecution committed by its police officers.

7 **I. *Brady* Claims against the Defendants**

8 To provide due process, the government has a constitutional obligation to disclose to  
9 a criminal defendant before trial material, exculpatory evidence known to it. *Brady v.*  
10 *Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). While the exculpatory information of which the government  
11 is aware must be turned over prior to trial, the government may not consider accruing  
12 evidence in a criminal investigation on a piecemeal basis. *Kyles v. Whitley*, 514 U.S. 419, 437  
13 (1995) (holding that the government must gauge the likely net effect of all undisclosed  
14 evidence “and make disclosure when the point of ‘reasonable probability’ is reached”);  
15 *United States v. Bagley*, 473 U.S. 667, 682–84 (1985) (holding that exculpatory evidence is  
16 material “if there is a reasonable probability that, had the evidence been disclosed to the  
17 defense, the result of the proceeding would have been different”). As a result, information  
18 that may be deemed immaterial upon original examination may become material as  
19 additional evidence is uncovered. *Pennsylvania v. Ritchie*, 480 U.S. 39, 60 (1987) (holding  
20 that “the duty to disclose is ongoing; information that may be deemed immaterial upon  
21 original examination may become important as the proceedings progress”). Accruing  
22 information in a criminal investigation may make some information exculpatory that was not  
23 originally so perceived. And the obligation to evaluate whether accruing information is  
24 exculpatory, and to disclose such information, continues even after conviction. *Tennison v.*  
25 *City & County of San Francisco*, 570 F.3d 1078, 1094 (9th Cir. 2009) (“The *Brady* duty to

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 of a state actor under Section 1983 by a federal actor under *Bivens*”). See also *Graham v.*  
28 *Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 394 n. 9 (1989) (same).

1 disclose is ongoing and extends to all stages of the judicial process, before trial, during trial  
2 and after conviction; failure to do so is a violation of the judicial process.”); *Broam v. Bogan*,  
3 320 F.3d 1023, 1030 (9th Cir. 2003) (“A prosecutor’s decision not to preserve or turn over  
4 exculpatory material before trial, during trial, or after conviction is a violation of due process  
5 under [*Brady*.”]; *Leka v. Portundo*, 257 F.3d 89, 100 (2d Cir. 2001) (stating that “*Brady*  
6 requires disclosure of information that the prosecution acquires during the trial itself, or even  
7 afterward”); *Smith v. Roberts*, 115 F.3d 815, 829 (10th Cir. 1997) (agreeing with the state’s  
8 concession that the *Brady* “duty to disclose is ongoing and extends to all stages of the judicial  
9 process” where the evidence arose after trial but during direct appeal.)

10 Defendants acknowledge, as they must, that the Ninth Circuit has already held that  
11 the government committed a *Brady* violation in failing to disclose to Ms. Jernigan the  
12 exculpatory evidence regarding the subsequent similar robberies that occurred after she was  
13 in custody. *See Jernigan II*, 492 F.3d at 1057. Defendants, however, move for summary  
14 judgment on several related grounds. First, they assert that Plaintiff cannot demonstrate that  
15 any Defendant acted with the deliberate indifference to her rights that is required for Plaintiff  
16 to make out a § 1983 claim or a *Bivens* claim for a *Brady* violation. Second, they assert that  
17 they are entitled to qualified immunity for several different reasons. Each of these arguments  
18 will be addressed in turn.

## 19 **II. Deliberate Indifference**

20 To successfully bring a § 1983 claim, Plaintiff must establish that each Defendant has  
21 “acted with deliberate indifference to or reckless disregard for an accused’s rights or for the  
22 truth in withholding evidence from prosecutors.” *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1948  
23 (2009) (Plaintiff must establish “that each Government-official defendant, through the  
24 official’s own individual actions, has violated the Constitution”); *Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1088  
25 (“[A] § 1983 plaintiff must show that police officers acted with deliberate indifference to or  
26 reckless disregard for an accused’s rights or for the truth in withholding evidence from  
27 prosecutors.”). Plaintiff “must set forth specific facts as to each individual defendant’s  
28 deliberate indifference.” *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 634 (9th Cir. 1988). Moreover, “[t]he

1 inquiry into causation must be individualized and focus on the duties and responsibilities of  
2 each individual defendant whose acts or omissions are alleged to have caused a constitutional  
3 deprivation.” *Id* at 633.

4 On a motion for summary judgment, therefore, the Plaintiff must put forth facts that  
5 would allow a reasonable jury to find that he or she acted with at least “deliberate  
6 indifference” to the Plaintiff’s rights. “A fact issue is genuine ‘if the evidence is such that a  
7 reasonable jury could return a verdict for the nonmoving party.’” *Villiarimo v. Aloha Island*  
8 *Air, Inc.*, 281 F.3d 1054, 1061 (9th Cir. 2002). Plaintiff has successfully done so here with  
9 each of the Defendants with the exception of David Landgraf.

10 **A. SA Kyle Richard**

11 The defendants in each of the six robberies at issue in this case were charged in  
12 federal court. Each of the six robberies was either resolved by a federal plea agreement or  
13 dismissed without prejudice in light of earlier convictions. The FBI was the lead federal  
14 agency investigating these crimes. Defendant Kyle Richard was the agent in charge of  
15 investigating all six of the bank robberies for the FBI. (Doc. 97, Ex. G. at S-B-O 003710 and  
16 003711).

17 As the FBI case agent for each of these six robberies, Agent Richard conducted  
18 interviews and actively participated in the investigations—particularly the interviews of the  
19 victim/tellers. SA Richard had copies of all of the investigative files prepared by the  
20 municipal police departments including the interviews of other witnesses they conducted. He  
21 reviewed all the witness statements. He further acknowledges that he was well aware of his  
22 obligation to turn over any evidence that exculpated Ms. Jernigan.

23 SA Richard obtained an indictment for Ms. Jernigan for the first robbery and took  
24 custody of her after she was arrested on November 10, 2000. After Ms. Jernigan’s detention,  
25 he immediately became aware of, and was assigned to investigate, robberies four and five.  
26 Both robberies four and five occurred within a few weeks of robbery number three, and all  
27 five robberies occurred within approximately a two month period. Both were in the same  
28 general region as robberies one through three. Both were committed by a woman whose

1 physical description including race, age, appearance, and clothing were similar to the witness  
2 descriptions given of the perpetrator(s) of robberies one, two and three.

3 Further, the independent witness descriptions of the perpetrator of robbery numbers  
4 four and five had additional and independent similarities with the witness descriptions of the  
5 perpetrator of robberies one and two. The perpetrator or perpetrators of robberies number  
6 one, four and five were all similarly described by witnesses as “pretty” or “cute.” Witnesses  
7 to these same robberies described their perpetrator as having a blemished complexion.  
8 Witnesses to robberies number two and four independently described the perpetrator of their  
9 respective robberies as having a facial appearance that made it look “like she just woke up.”  
10 Witnesses to robberies two and five independently described the perpetrator’s car as a dark  
11 Toyota 4Runner with gold trim. SA Richard was aware that the teller in robbery two did not  
12 identify Ms. Jernigan as her bank robber, yet she believed that the person who robbed her  
13 was also probably the same person who committed robbery one. The FBI believed the same  
14 thing.

15 In light of the similar descriptions of the five robberies, SA Richard asserted in  
16 previous testimony that he and other law enforcement personnel “thoughtfully considered”  
17 whether the perpetrator of the subsequent robberies could be the same as the perpetrator for  
18 robbery one for which he had already charged Ms. Jernigan. However, he did not disclose  
19 to Ms. Jernigan or to her prosecutor the similarities in those robberies. He also did not show  
20 witnesses to robberies one through three available surveillance photos of the suspect for  
21 robbery four. However, he did, thereafter, testify at the grand jury in support of obtaining a  
22 superceding indictment charging Ms. Jernigan with robberies two and three without  
23 disclosing the occurrence of robberies four or five to anyone.

24 Shortly prior to Ms. Jernigan’s trial on robbery one, SA Richard sought out additional  
25 witnesses to robbery one and showed them the original photo six-pack containing Ms.  
26 Jernigan’s photo. He did not show these witnesses the surveillance photos of the suspect from  
27 robbery four.

28 When, nine months later, Juanita Rodriguez-Gallegos was arrested for robbing the



1 same bank that Ms. Jernigan had been convicted of robbing, SA Richard was assigned the  
2 case by the FBI. Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos was convicted on federal charges for that crime.  
3 Ms. Rodriguez's description matched that given by witnesses of the perpetrator of robberies  
4 one through five, and the details of the robbery matched many details of the previous five  
5 robberies. SA Richard was informed by Detective Palmer that he had shown the victim/teller  
6 of robbery four, that had occurred a year earlier, a six-pack photo array that contained Ms.  
7 Rodriguez-Gallegos. That witness, Ms. Emmons, identified Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos as her  
8 bank robber. SA Richard was aware that the victim/teller of robbery five also identified Ms.  
9 Rodriguez-Gallegos as her robber.

10 He did nothing to show a photograph of Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos to any of the  
11 witnesses to robberies one through three, or to disclose to Ms. Jernigan or her prosecutor the  
12 arrest of Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos, the three similar bank robberies occurring after her arrest,  
13 or the identification of Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos as the perpetrator of the last three of those  
14 robberies.

15 Even though Ms. Jernigan was convicted of robbery one in March 2001, SA Richard  
16 had a continuing obligation to disclose exculpatory information of which he became aware.  
17 *See, e.g., Tennison, 570 F.3d at 1094; Broam, 320 F.3d at 1030.* When, years later Ms.  
18 Jernigan independently discovered that Rodriguez-Gallegos, who had the same general  
19 physical condition as she did, had been convicted for committing similar crimes at the same  
20 time and in the same general area, she moved for a new trial. SA Richard was the only  
21 witness to testify at the hearing on that motion. As will be demonstrated in additional detail,  
22 in his testimony he made factually inaccurate statements that wrongfully tended to implicate  
23 Ms. Jernigan in robbery one. He further testified that distinctions in the witnesses'  
24 descriptions resulted in a consensus among law enforcement officers that there were two  
25 distinct perpetrators of the six robberies, one perpetrator for robberies one through three and  
26 another perpetrator for robberies four through six. However, a careful review of the witness  
27 statements to the robberies demonstrates that all of the purported distinctions to which he  
28 testified are illusory. Further, he offers no admissible evidence that there was any such

1 consensus within the FBI or among the any local law enforcement agencies which may have  
2 been investigating the robberies.

3 Based on the above evidence and law, a reasonable jury could find that SA Richard  
4 not only acted with negligent indifference or reckless disregard with respect to Ms.  
5 Jernigan's rights, but that he intentionally deprived her of her right to due process to avoid  
6 calling into question her guilt for robbery one.

7 **B. Detective Brock**

8 There are possible factual disputes which a reasonable jury could resolve to find that  
9 Detective Brock was aware of the exculpatory facts pertaining to Ms. Jernigan, that she  
10 should have disclosed them, and that she was deliberately indifferent to Ms. Jernigan's rights  
11 in failing to do so. The Town correctly asserts that Detective Brock cannot be liable under  
12 § 1983 for conducting a negligent investigation. Nevertheless, Detective Brock was the Town  
13 officer charged with the investigation, and a reasonable jury could conclude that she knew  
14 of facts that were exculpatory as to Jernigan that she did not disclose. The question thus  
15 presented is not what Detective Brock did not know that she should have known, but whether  
16 Detective Brock knew exculpatory facts that she failed to disclose. Because there are material  
17 issues of fact as to whether Detective Brock knew of material exculpatory evidence that she  
18 did not disclose, Ms. Jernigan's 1983 claim is for more than a negligent investigation, and  
19 summary judgment will not be granted to Detective Brock on this basis.

20 It is undisputed that Detective Brock was the Gilbert "detective assigned to" the  
21 investigation of robbery one. In that capacity, she prepared a crime bulletin describing the  
22 suspect and containing a surveillance photo of her which she distributed to other local police  
23 departments in the area. This crime bulletin would have been posted in the Gilbert Police  
24 Department patrol report writing room and/or placed in the briefing book.

25 As the assigned investigator, Detective Brock prepared the report and supplements  
26 concerning the investigation. Detective Brock was supplementing her report and her  
27 investigation, and did not complete it, until at least mid-February of 2001. During the time  
28 of her investigation, Brock became aware of robbery two in Tempe. She also became aware

1 that the teller/victim of that bank robbery believed that the perpetrator was the same person  
2 that had committed robbery one.

3 Robberies three through five, including robbery four in Gilbert, also occurred during  
4 the period in which Brock was still investigating and writing her report on robbery one. SA  
5 Richard, the same FBI agent who was working with her on robbery one, was assigned to  
6 investigate all of these subsequent robberies in both Gilbert and other municipalities. He  
7 testified that to the extent he had communication with the Town throughout his investigation  
8 of robbery one, he spoke principally with Detective Brock. Detective Brock was not assigned  
9 to investigate robbery four, but Detective Estavillo, another officer from the Investigations-  
10 Persons Crime Unit, was. The Investigations-Persons Crime Unit was charged with, among  
11 other things, investigating bank robberies within the Town. That unit consisted of five or six  
12 people and was housed in a trailer north of the Gilbert Police Station. It was a very small  
13 closed environment. Sergeant McLaws, the supervisor of the unit, testified that “[j]ust the  
14 size [of the unit] would lend to the exchange of information.” What appear to be admissible  
15 statistical compilations indicate there were only two bank robberies in Gilbert in the year  
16 2000. The jury could, on such evidence, reasonably conclude that bank robberies one and  
17 four were the only bank robberies that occurred in the Town of Gilbert in that year.

18 Further, robbery four took place directly across the intersection from robbery one.  
19 Estavillo created a Crime Bulletin for robbery four that described the similar suspect and  
20 which was posted in the patrol report writing room and placed in the briefing book. Brock  
21 acknowledges that the detective trailer and the patrol report writing room were 50 feet apart,  
22 and she did go into the patrol report writing room during this period. As such, a reasonable  
23 jury could conclude that Brock was aware of the details of robbery four and that to the extent  
24 she was aware of it, she was also aware of its exculpatory value in the investigation of  
25 robbery one. *Reid v. Simmons*, 163 F. Supp. 2d 81, 91 (D.N.H. 2001) (holding that “[t]o be  
26 sure, there may be cases in which a police officer is aware of evidence located in a separate  
27 investigative file that is so patently exculpatory . . . that it may fairly be inferred that the  
28 officer fully appreciated its legal significance in the case at hand”).

1           There are facts from which a reasonable jury could conclude that Detective Brock was  
2 aware of more than just robberies one, two and four. SA Richard testified that there was a  
3 weekly robbery meeting occurring throughout this period that was located at the Phoenix  
4 Police Department to which all the local police departments sent representatives. He testified  
5 that Ms. Jernigan and robberies attributed to her (robberies one through three) were  
6 thoughtfully considered and compared with subsequent robberies by the law enforcement  
7 agencies involved. (Doc. 97, Ex. G at S-B-O 003790).

8           Further, Detective Brock continued to investigate or assist in the investigation and  
9 prosecution of Jernigan well after the commission of robberies four and five. Prior to trial,  
10 in February 2001 Detective Brock assisted SA Richard in photographing various areas of the  
11 bank. Her photos were subsequently released to the FBI to analyze the height of the  
12 perpetrator. On February 14, 2001, SA Richard interviewed bank employees Nath and  
13 Gollither at the Bank of America branch that had been robbed. Brock was present with  
14 Richard during part of Richard's interview of Gollither. The next day, Brock and Richard  
15 testified at the hearing on Ms. Jernigan's motion to suppress the identification of Ms.  
16 Chlupsa. Five days later Brock showed the six-pack photo array for the first time to Donovan  
17 Grierson—another witness to robbery one. The next month, a day before Ms. Jernigan's trial  
18 began, Brock accompanied Richard to show the six-pack photo array for the first time to  
19 witness Elizabeth Hawley. Detective Brock and SA Richard further testified at Ms.  
20 Jernigan's trial.

21           To the extent that Brock and Richard continued to work on this investigation  
22 throughout this period, a jury would not be unreasonable in concluding that Brock acquired  
23 knowledge of the existence of the other similar robberies that Richard was investigating and  
24 with which Jernigan was charged, in addition to the similar robberies with which she was not  
25 charged.

26           To the extent that Brock asserts that she was unaware of these robberies or their  
27 details, that does not entitle her to summary judgment when there is evidence in the record  
28 from which a reasonable jury could conclude otherwise. *Villiarimo v. Aloha Island Air, Inc.*,

1 282 F.3d 1054, 1061 (9th Cir. 2002) (holding that uncorroborated and self-serving testimony  
2 does not create or negate a genuine issue of fact). Therefore she is not entitled to summary  
3 judgment on her assertion that there are no material facts raising a question as to whether she  
4 violated Ms. Jernigan’s constitutional rights.

5 **C. Sergeant Randall McLaws**

6 A supervisor may be liable for a subordinate’s violation of another’s constitutional  
7 rights if he acted knowingly or with deliberate, reckless indifference. *Tennison*, 570 F.3d at  
8 1088–89. However, “willful blindness” requires “deliberate actions to avoid” confronting the  
9 facts presented. *United States v. Heredia*, 483 F.3d 913, 918 n. 4 (9th Cir. 2007). “Supervisors  
10 who are merely negligent in failing to detect and prevent subordinates’ misconduct are not  
11 liable, because negligence is no longer culpable under section 1983.” *Jones v. City of*  
12 *Chicago*, 856 F.2d 985, 992–93 (7th Cir. 1988) (upholding jury verdict against a supervisory  
13 police officer because “there was . . . enough evidence to enable the jury to infer that” he had  
14 concealed an exculpatory report). *See also Harper v. City of Los Angeles*, 533 F.3d 1010 (9th  
15 Cir. 2008). To be liable, therefore, the supervisor “must know about the conduct and facilitate  
16 it, approve it, condone it, or turn a blind eye for fear of what they might see.” *Jones*, 856 F.2d  
17 at 992–93.

18 Even assuming that Sergeant McLaws did not know about the similar robberies  
19 occurring in other municipalities, three out of the six robberies at issue here occurred within  
20 the Town of Gilbert. He participated to some extent in the investigation of all of those  
21 robberies, and all were investigated by Detectives who were under his supervision.

22 He responded to the scene at robbery one, at which time he directed the “on-scene  
23 police officers in securing the scene and processing the scene for evidence.” (Doc. 97-2, Ex.  
24 B ¶ 9). There is also evidence that may indicate that Sergeant McLaws actually responded to  
25 both robberies four and six. Although he does not specifically recall whether he did so, he  
26 nevertheless agrees he was generally aware of the incidents and gave direction to the Gilbert  
27 police personnel on scene about processing evidence. He was also aware of the suspect’s  
28 description in all three crimes.

1 In addition to being Detective Brock's supervisor and reading and approving all of her  
2 reports, including the reports concerning robbery one, he was also the supervisor of Detective  
3 Estavillo, who investigated robbery four, and Detective Palmer, who investigated robbery six.  
4 The Investigations-Persons Crimes Unit, which he supervised, was charged with investigating  
5 bank robberies that occurred within Gilbert. There is admissible evidence from which a jury  
6 could conclude that robbery one and robbery four were the only bank robberies that occurred  
7 within Gilbert in 2000. As has been previously discussed, the unit was small and, according  
8 to Sergeant McLaws lent itself to the efficient exchange of information. Further he testified  
9 that to the extent he was aware of information from one investigation that was relevant to  
10 another officer's investigation, he would share that information. Crime bulletins were posted  
11 in the Unit.

12 After robbery six, Sergeant McLaws discussed with Detective Jim Palmer the  
13 similarities of the witnesses description of the suspects in both robbery four and robbery six.  
14 There is no evidence that Sergeant McLaws raised with Detective Palmer, or anyone else,  
15 the similarities between those two robberies and robbery one. There were, however, if  
16 anything, more similarities between robberies four and six and robbery one than there were  
17 between robbery six and robbery four. Robberies one and six were of the very same bank, and  
18 in both robberies the perpetrator was described as pointing a gun at the teller, which was not  
19 the case for robbery four which occurred just across the intersection. Robberies one and four  
20 occurred only two months apart, while there was more than a year between robbery four and  
21 robbery six. A reasonable juror could conclude that when Sergeant McLaws raised with  
22 Detective Palmer the similarities between robbery six and robbery four, Sergeant McLaws  
23 realized those same similarities also applied to robbery one. A reasonable juror could also  
24 conclude that Sergeant McLaws did not raise those similarities with Detective Palmer because  
25 he was aware that an arrest and conviction had already occurred for robbery one.

26 Even assuming Detective McLaws did not realize that the subsequent robberies formed  
27 a pattern of exculpatory conduct that would exculpate Jernigan from having committed the  
28 first until after the last was committed, he would still be required to disclose the subsequent

1 robberies at the time he came to this realization. As has been previously discussed, Jernigan's  
2 intervening conviction does not remove from law enforcement the responsibility to disclose  
3 exculpatory evidence of which it becomes aware. *Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1094; *Broom*, 320  
4 F.3d at 1030.

5 Thus, although a jury might draw other conclusions, there is evidence from which a  
6 reasonable jury could conclude that Sergeant McLaws was aware of exculpatory facts  
7 concerning Ms. Jernigan that he failed to disclose and that he was deliberately indifferent to  
8 her rights in not doing so.

9 **D. Officer David Landgraf**

10 With respect to David Landgraf, there is no factual basis set forth by Plaintiff's  
11 sufficient for a reasonable jury to find that he acted "with deliberate indifference to or reckless  
12 disregard for" her rights. *See, e.g., Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1088. There is no evidence that he  
13 ever had responsibility for investigating, or supervising the investigation of, any of the  
14 robberies at issue here. Nor is there evidence that he was in a position to become aware that  
15 there existed exculpatory facts with respect to Ms. Jernigan that were not disclosed. He  
16 assisted in the initial investigation of robbery number one to the extent that he assisted in  
17 removing still photographs from the bank's surveillance tape, and assisted SA Richard and  
18 Detective Brock in operating the software necessary to create the six-pack photo array.  
19 Approximately fifteen months later he apparently provided perimeter security at the scene of  
20 robbery number six. Plaintiffs offer no evidence that he was ever involved with robbery  
21 number four, that he ever had any investigative role with respect to robberies one, four or six,  
22 or that, during the relevant period he was in a position to realize that there were similarities  
23 in the three robberies that should have been disclosed. There is, therefore, no factual basis  
24 from which a reasonable jury could find that David Landgraf deprived Ms. Jernigan of a  
25 constitutional right by acting "with deliberate indifference to or reckless disregard for" her  
26 rights. *See, e.g., Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1088. Any § 1983 claim against him is, therefore,  
27 dismissed.

28 With the exception of Officer Landgraf, however, there is evidence from which a

1 reasonable jury could find that the remaining Defendants acted with at least deliberate  
2 indifference for Plaintiff's rights.

### 3 **III. Qualified Immunity**

4 A law enforcement officer is entitled to qualified immunity unless: (1) he or she  
5 deprived the Plaintiff of a significant constitutional right; and (2) that constitutional right was  
6 "clearly established" at the time of the incident. *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 239–41  
7 (2009).<sup>15</sup> The Defendants here assert that neither of these requirements are met.<sup>16</sup>

8 In making a qualified immunity determination, the Court does not consider the  
9 subjective knowledge or intent of the individual defendant, but applies an objective standard.  
10 *See Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 641 (1987); *Grant*, 315 F.3d at 1090 (holding that  
11 if, when "viewed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party, there [is] enough  
12 evidence for a reasonable jury to conclude that reasonable officers would not have acted as  
13 did [the Defendants]" then the officer is not entitled to qualified immunity). Of course,  
14 sometimes even an objective evaluation requires the resolution of a factual dispute. When that  
15 is the case, the factual question must be resolved by the jury. *Ortega v. O'Connor*, 146 F.3d  
16 1149, 1154 (9th Cir. 1998). *See also Liston v. County of Riverside*, 120 F.3d 965, 975 (9th Cir.  
17 1997) (quoting *Act UP!/Portland v. Bagley*, 988 F.2d 868, 871–72 (9th Cir. 1993).

#### 18 **A. Whether Defendants Deprived Plaintiff of a Constitutional Right**

19  
20 <sup>15</sup> Defendant Richard asserts that there is a third prong immunizing a Defendant from  
21 liability if the Court determines that the officer's actions were "objectively reasonable."  
22 *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982); *Sinaloa Lake Owners Ass'n v. City of Simi*  
23 *Valley*, 70 F.3d 1095, 1099 (9th Cir. 1995). Generally, Courts refer to the qualified immunity  
24 exception as being the two prongs identified above. *See, e.g., Saucier v. Katz*, 533 U.S. 194  
25 (2001); *Grant v. City of Long Beach*, 315 F.3d 1081, 1089 (9th Cir. 2002). Even assuming  
26 the Defendants have correctly identified a third prong, it does not change the result in this  
27 case for the reasons set forth in detail in this order.

28 <sup>16</sup> The same qualified immunity defense applies to both § 1983 actions and *Bivens*  
actions. *Van Strum v. Lawn*, 940 F.2d 406, 409 (9th Cir. 1991) (holding that "[a]ctions under  
Section 1983 and those under *Bivens*, are identical save for the replacement of a state actor  
under Section 1983 by a federal actor under *Bivens*"). *See also Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S.  
386, 394 n. 9 (1989) (same).



1 While acknowledging that it has already been conclusively determined that Ms.  
2 Jernigan was deprived of her constitutional rights by their collective action or inaction,  
3 Defendants assert that when their actions are objectively judged on an individual basis, as they  
4 must be for purposes of determining qualified immunity, they did nothing to deprive the  
5 Plaintiff of her constitutional rights.

6 In this case there are no factual disputes pertaining to what SA Richard knew or the  
7 facts that were provided to him with respect to all six of the robberies at issue here. There is  
8 no need to restate the facts pertaining to SA Richards' role in the investigations of all six  
9 similar robberies. Based on an objective standard, his acts were sufficient in themselves to  
10 violate Ms. Jernigan's constitutional rights.

11 With respect to Detective Brock and Sergeant McLaws, however, even an objective  
12 determination ultimately depends upon what Defendants actually knew when they failed to  
13 act. In this case an allegation that Defendants should have known certain facts that they did  
14 not know is insufficient to state a § 1983 claim. Because, however, there are facts upon which  
15 a reasonable jury could conclude that Brock and McLaws did have sufficient knowledge to  
16 have deprived Plaintiff of her constitutional rights, the questions of fact bearing upon whether  
17 Detective Brock and Sergeant McLaws are entitled to qualified immunity must be decided by  
18 a jury.

19 **B. Whether Ms. Jernigan's Right Was Clearly Established**

20 In determining whether a right is clearly established, the Court must not focus on  
21 "broad general proposition[s]" but on "the specific context of the case." *Saucier v. Katz*, 533  
22 U.S. 194, 201 (2001). Thus the relevant inquiry is whether "a reasonable officer could not  
23 have believed that his actions were lawful." *Wilson v. Layne*, 526 U.S. 603, 617 (1999). As  
24 the Court further explained in *Wilson*,

25 In *Anderson*, we explained that what "clearly established" means in this  
26 context depends largely "upon the level of generality at which the relevant  
27 'legal rule' is to be identified." . . . "[C]learly established" for purposes of  
28 qualified immunity means that "[t]he contours of the right must be sufficiently  
clear that a reasonable official would understand that what he is doing  
violates that right. This is not to say that an official action is protected by  
qualified immunity unless the very action in question has previously been

1 held unlawful, but it is to say that in the light of pre-existing law the  
2 unlawfulness must be apparent.”

3 *Id.* at 614-15 (1999) (quoting *Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 640 (1987)). *See also*  
4 *Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1093–94 (holding that “[f]or a legal principle to be clearly established  
5 it is not necessary that the very action in question has previously been held unlawful, . . .  
6 [r]ather ‘[t]he dispositive inquiry is ‘whether it would be clear to a reasonable [official] that  
7 his conduct was unlawful in the situation he confronted’”) (quoting *CarePartners, LLC v.*  
8 *Lashway*, 545 F.3d 867, 883 (9th Cir. 2008)).

9 Defendants acknowledge that *Brady* clearly established that the prosecutor must  
10 disclose to the defendant material exculpatory evidence of which he or she is aware prior to  
11 trial. That principle was established in 1963. This principle has been applicable to police  
12 officers and agents since 1995 at the very latest. *Kyles*, 514 U.S. at 437–38 (“We have held  
13 that exculpatory evidence cannot be kept out of the hands of the defense just because the  
14 prosecutor does not have it, where an investigating agency does. That would undermine  
15 *Brady* by allowing the investigating agency to prevent production by keeping a report out of  
16 the prosecutor’s hands until the agency decided the prosecutor ought to have it, and by  
17 allowing the prosecutor to tell the investigators not to give him certain materials unless he  
18 asked for them.”). *See also Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1087 (“[E]xculpatory evidence cannot be  
19 kept out of the hands of the defense just because the prosecutor does not have it, where an  
20 investigating agency does.”); *United States v. Blanco*, 392 F.3d 382, 388 (9th Cir. 2004)  
21 (noting that “a prosecutor’s duty under *Brady* necessarily requires the cooperation of other  
22 government agents who might possess *Brady* material”); *United States v. Zuno-Arce*, 44 F.3d  
23 1420, 1427 (9th Cir. 1995) (holding that “it is the government’s, not just the prosecutor’s,  
24 conduct which may give rise to a *Brady* violation”).

25 Similarly, it has long been established in this Circuit that exculpatory evidence  
26 includes evidence that tends to prove that someone other than the defendant committed a  
27 crime by showing that “other crimes similar in detail have been committed at or about the  
28 same time by a person other than the defendant.” *United States v. Perkins*, 937 F.2d 1397,

1 1400 (9th Cir. 1991). *See also United States v. Crosby*, 75 F.3d 1343, 1347 (9th Cir. 1996)  
2 (“[f]undamental standards of relevancy . . . require the admission of testimony which tends  
3 to prove that a person other than the defendant committed the crime that is charged.”)  
4 (quoting *United States v. Armstrong*, 621 F.2d 951, 953 (9th Cir. 1980); *United States v.*  
5 *Brannon*, 616 F.2d 413, 418 (9th Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 447 U.S. 908 (1980) (“A defendant  
6 is entitled to prove his innocence by showing that someone else committed the crime.”).  
7 Before disclosure is required in such cases, however, identifying factors tying the other crime  
8 or crimes with the crime for which the defendant is charged must be “sufficiently distinctive  
9 to warrant an inference that the person who committed the act also committed the offense at  
10 issue.” *United States v. Luna*, 21 F.3d 874, 879 (9th Cir. 1994) (quoting *Perkins*, 937 F.2d  
11 at 1400). *See also United States v. Andrini*, 685 F.2d 1094, 1097 (9th Cir. 1982).

12 *Smith v. Almada*, 640 F.3d 931 (9th Cir. 2011), cited by Defendants, does not set  
13 forth a contrary rule; it merely illustrates the principle. In *Smith*, Plaintiff had been arrested  
14 for setting fire to a consignment furniture store. The fire had been started by five gallon water  
15 bottles stuffed with papers and gasoline. Some of the papers were envelopes with Smith’s  
16 name and address on them. When Smith was acquitted of the criminal charges, he brought  
17 § 1983 claims against the local police for, among other things, their failure to disclose a  
18 series of dumpster fires set at an address neighboring the furniture store that had occurred  
19 before Smith’s dispute with the store. One of those previous dumpster fires was possibly set  
20 by a similar mechanism—“possible chemical based incendiary device in a plastic container.”  
21 *Id.* at 934. In determining that the disclosure of the previous adjacent dumpster fires were not  
22 “sufficiently distinctive to warrant an inference that the person who committed [the other  
23 crime or crimes] also committed the offense at issue,” *Andrini*, 685 F.2d at 1097, and thus  
24 did not have to be disclosed by the police to Smith, the district court noted that “[w]itnesses  
25 to the dumpster fires described various suspects with very different appearances, suggesting  
26 there was no repeat offender who might have later started the February 2003 fire.” *Smith*, 640  
27 F.3d at 939. Because the witness descriptions of the various perpetrators of the dumpster fires  
28 were all different from each other, no additional facts were “sufficiently distinctive” to

1 suggest the existence of a repeat offender setting dumpster fires in the adjacent  
2 neighborhood. Thus, the Ninth Circuit upheld the ruling of the district court that the police  
3 were not obliged to disclose the prior dumpster fires.

4 To the same effect is *United States v. Perkins*, which has some instructive similarities  
5 and distinctions from the facts in this case. 937 F.2d 1397 (9th Cir. 1991). Perkins had been  
6 originally charged with four bank robberies, but three of the charges had been dismissed  
7 before Perkins' trial. Each of the four robberies had been committed by a perpetrator or  
8 perpetrators who wore various disguises, approached the teller with something in which to  
9 carry the money, handed the teller a note, requested the money, and told the teller not to push  
10 any buttons. *Id.* at 1400. Perkins claimed that he was at work during two of the four robberies  
11 (although not the one for which he was tried). *Id.* Perkins made no attempt to show physical  
12 similarities in descriptions offered by witnesses to the perpetrator or perpetrators of all four  
13 of the robberies, or even a similarly recurring disguise. Rather he sought to show that in two  
14 of the four robberies the perpetrator used a tennis racket cover to carry away the robbery  
15 proceeds. *Id.*

16 In not allowing such evidence into trial, however, the court noted that the perpetrator  
17 of the crime for which Perkins was charged had not used a tennis racket cover to carry away  
18 the robbery proceeds. *Perkins*, 937 F.2d at 1400–01. Nor was there anything else sufficiently  
19 distinct about the description of the perpetrator or the modus operandi of the other three  
20 dismissed robberies that would serve to identify the perpetrator of the other robberies with  
21 the one for which Perkins was charged. *Id.*

22 Such facts are quite distinct from those presented here. Unlike in *Smith* or *Perkins*,  
23 the physical description of the suspect here (short, Hispanic female) was strikingly similar  
24 from crime to crime to crime. Further, in specific particulars the description recurred for both  
25 some of the robberies with which Ms. Jernigan was charged, and for some of the robberies  
26 that she could not have committed (pretty, with acne, with a “stretched appearance”). The  
27 witnesses' descriptions of her clothing, and her getaway vehicle were also virtually identical.  
28 Further, to at least some extent, her modus operandi had some similarities between the

1 crimes. The first five robberies occurred in a compressed period of time. Thus, unlike *Smith*  
2 or *Perkins*, there both was both direct<sup>17</sup> and circumstantial evidence that was sufficiently  
3 distinct to link the crime with which Jernigan was charged to crimes that she could not have  
4 committed. Thus neither *Smith* nor *Perkins* suggests that the exculpatory nature of the  
5 information in this context was not clearly established.

6 Defendants further assert that *United States v. Jernigan*, 492 F.3d 1050 (9th Cir.  
7 2007) (*Jernigan II*) creates new law. Defendants argue that for the first time *Jernigan II*  
8 requires law enforcement to turn over exculpatory information concerning subsequent similar  
9 crimes even when those separate crimes were committed by suspects who did not look like  
10 the suspect of the crime at issue. Such a characterization, however, distorts *Jernigan II*'s  
11 holding beyond recognition.

12 In virtually all cases involving a series of crimes that contain distinct similarities, law  
13 enforcement cannot know, and they did not know here, whether separate suspects are  
14 involved. In such circumstances where the similarities are “sufficiently distinctive to warrant  
15 an inference that the person who committed [the other crime or crimes] also committed the  
16 offense at issue,” it has long been clearly established that the evidence is exculpatory and,  
17 thus, law enforcement is obliged to disclose it to the defendant. *Perkins*, 937 F.2d at 1400.  
18 *Jernigan II* did nothing to add to or take from that rule.

19 Upon Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos’s arrest, nine months after Jernigan’s conviction, it  
20 could be discerned that she and Jernigan are not the same person even though they share  
21  
22

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23  
24 <sup>17</sup> Based upon her review of the surveillance photo of the suspect in the first robbery,  
25 Kerry Ward, the victim of the second robbery, thought she was robbed by the same person.  
26 Though given the chance to do so, Ward did not identify Ms. Jernigan as the perpetrator of  
27 her robbery. Further, the getaway vehicle used during the second robbery, was the same  
28 make, model, color and trim as the getaway vehicle described by a witness to the fifth  
robbery. Ms. Jernigan could not have committed the fifth robbery, although the description  
of the fifth robber was generally the same as the descriptions given of the perpetrator of  
robberies one through four.

1 some general physical similarities.<sup>18</sup> But, that fact, without more, exculpates Ms. Jernigan at  
2 least as much as it inculpates her. And, even if it did, somehow, inculpate Ms. Jernigan, it  
3 could not have been discerned until nine months after Ms. Jernigan’s conviction. Prior to that  
4 time all that law enforcement knew is that they had a series of similar crimes committed by  
5 a similarly described perpetrator. Thus, it could not provide a basis upon which SA Richard  
6 could claim that Jernigan’s right to the exculpatory information he knew before her trial was  
7 not clearly established.

8 If an objective person could discern from the surveillance tape of the first robbery  
9 that Ms. Jernigan committed it, or at least, that the perpetrator portrayed in the surveillance  
10 tape from robbery one is clearly not the perpetrator displayed in the surveillance tape from  
11 robbery four, that might have justified SA Richard’s failure to disclose robbery four to  
12 Jernigan. The poor quality surveillance photos from robbery one, however, preclude an  
13 objectively reasonable law enforcement officer from making such a determination.<sup>19</sup>

14 At oral argument counsel for SA Richard conceded that there is nothing in the record  
15 that specifically states that SA Richard compared the surveillance photos from robberies one  
16 and four and concluded that the perpetrators could not be the same person. Counsel also  
17 expressed doubt that there was actually a time when law enforcement agents assembled and  
18 considered evidence such as photographs in determining whether distinctions could be drawn  
19 between the perpetrator(s) of the six crimes. He characterized the asserted consensus to

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20  
21 <sup>18</sup> It is not clear that Ms. Jernigan shares all the specific physical characteristics that  
22 witnesses to the crimes identified. For example, SA Richard himself at oral argument, in  
23 suggesting that Ms. Jernigan could not be described as attractive asserted that he and other  
24 law enforcement referred to her as a “troll,” thus, not somebody who could be described as  
“kind of pretty.” Further, Ms. Jernigan had tattoos over her hands and arms, whereas the  
perpetrator was described as having no such tattoos.

25 <sup>19</sup> The Court is, of course, aware that the original trial judge in this matter stated in  
26 denying Ms. Jernigan’s motion for new trial that he did not think that the two perpetrators  
27 resembled each other. But, as will be discussed in more detail, he made that determination  
28 only after having also heard false testimony from SA Richard concerning the distinctions  
between the two perpetrators. Further, he made no definitive statement that the two  
perpetrators were not the same.

1 which SA Richard testified as a “negative” consensus or a consensus apparently resulting  
2 from the fact that no one else aware of, or investigating the crimes, ever said anything to SA  
3 Richard that suggested to him that he should proceed differently in his investigation.  
4 Nevertheless, at the hearing on the motion for new trial, SA Richard testified that “at no time  
5 after we reviewed the facts in the case, as in the photographs and the descriptions, did we  
6 ever conclude anything but those sets of robberies, the first three and those two, were  
7 committed by two different robbers.” (Doc. 130-2, Ex. 20 at 200-03).

8 To the extent that this could be viewed as testimony by SA Richard that he compared  
9 the surveillance still photos of the two robberies, the Court has reviewed those same stills.  
10 The surveillance video of robbery one provides poor quality photographs of the perpetrator,  
11 while the surveillance video of robbery four provides photographs of the perpetrator of that  
12 robbery of slightly better quality, though still somewhat obscured. This Court believes that  
13 there is some notable resemblance between the two perpetrators. Given the poor quality of  
14 the first surveillance photo and the mediocre quality of the second, however, this Court  
15 cannot determine whether the perpetrators depicted in the two photos are the same person.  
16 By the same token, however, a comparison of the photographs does not provide a reasonable  
17 law enforcement officer with sufficient justification to conclude that the photos from robbery  
18 one portray either Ms. Jernigan or a person other than the perpetrator of robbery four. Even  
19 assuming the surveillance photo of robbery one was clear enough to eliminate Rodriguez-  
20 Gallegos as a suspect for that crime, unless the surveillance photo was clear enough to  
21 determine that the perpetrator was actually Ms. Jernigan there would be no justification for  
22 not disclosing to Ms Jernigan robberies four and five, which were strikingly similar to  
23 robbery one, especially since Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos was unknown to law enforcement at  
24 the time.

25 Ms. Chlupsa’s identification of Ms. Jernigan as the perpetrator from a six-pack photo  
26 array was not in and of itself a sufficient basis to withhold the exculpatory evidence. If it  
27 were, then protection from wrongful conviction based on erroneous eyewitness testimony  
28 that a fair trial provides would be meaningless. As Judge Fletcher noted in her dissent from

1 the original panel majority, “[c]enturies of experience in the administration of criminal  
2 justice have shown that convictions based solely on testimony that identifies a defendant  
3 previously unknown to the witness is highly suspect. Of all the various kinds of evidence it  
4 is the least reliable, especially where unsupported by corroborating evidence.” *Jernigan I*,  
5 451 F.3d at 1034 (Fletcher J., dissenting) (quoting *Jackson v. Fogg*, 589 F.2d 108, 112 (2d  
6 Cir. 1978)).

7 SA Richard asserts, however, that despite the sufficiently distinct evidence which  
8 links the robberies for which Ms. Jernigan was convicted with those she could not have  
9 committed, he was not obliged to disclose robberies four and five. He was so excused, he  
10 claims, because after comparing and considering all the witness statements from the first five  
11 robberies, both with others at the FBI and with the police departments for the municipalities  
12 in which the robberies were committed, law enforcement personnel formed a consensus that  
13 robberies one through three were committed by one perpetrator, and robberies four and five  
14 were committed by another.

15 There are at least three problems with this argument. First, despite SA Richard’s  
16 testimony at the hearing on the motion for new trial that other law enforcement personnel  
17 could testify as to the consensus arrived at by the different law enforcement agencies,<sup>20</sup> he

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19 <sup>20</sup> Q. BY MR. MORRISSEY: Would other agents have been present that could come  
20 and testify that these meetings took place?

21 A. Certainly there would have been other agents, because one set of meetings that we  
22 had on a weekly basis involved the bank robbery FBI agents, and at this point it was a task  
23 force. We also had a detective who was deputized by the marshals who was assigned to it.  
24 We met on a weekly basis.

25 Additionally there is a weekly robbery meeting that is located at the Phoenix Police  
26 Department that we would attend. Although Phoenix is the host, routinely Scottsdale, Mesa,  
27 Tempe all of the local police departments send representatives. We discuss bank robberies  
28 that have occurred, we discuss trends, we discuss whether we attribute one robber to different  
robberies in different jurisdictions. That was also occurring around this time period.

Doc. 97-3, Ex. G at S-B-O-003790.



1 has offered no admissible evidence to establish such consensus in conjunction with these  
2 motions. To the extent that his declarations seek to summarize the out-of-court statements  
3 of others that there was such a consensus, these statements are hearsay and are not  
4 admissible. *Harkins Amusement Enter., Inc., v. General Cinema Corp.*, 850 F.2d 477, 490  
5 (9th Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 488 U.S. 1019 (1989); *Blair Foods, Inc., v. Ranchers Cotton*  
6 *Oil*, 610 F.2d 665, 667 (9th Cir. 1980).

7 Second, in his testimony at the hearing on the motion for new trial, SA Richard  
8 testified that, given the similarity in the descriptions offered of the five robberies, he, and  
9 apparently other law enforcement officers, would have given “thoughtful consideration” to  
10 whether a single person, who could not have been Ms. Jernigan, could have committed all  
11 of them.<sup>21</sup> Even if the Court were to accept, however, that when SA Richard became aware

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12  
13 <sup>21</sup> Q. And you did not in any way consider the possibility that the person who robbed  
14 the bank on September 20th, 2000 could have been the same person who robbed the bank on  
15 November 28th, 2000 across the street; right?

16 A. No, sir. I don’t know that that’s entirely accurate. We should—we would have  
17 given that consideration.

18 Doc. 97-3, Ex. G at S-B-O 003779.

19 Later on redirect examination SA Richard further explained:

20 THE COURT: So you’re saying again, from a credibility standpoint at least, Mr.  
21 Richard, that a bank robbery right across the street in a 30 day period robbed by what is  
22 variously described as a Hispanic woman, five feet plus or minus, 125 pounds, Hispanic  
23 looking, long hair, with or without a gun, you wouldn’t consider, gee, that might be the same  
24 person?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. I don’t want to minimize what we would have done.  
26 Certainly we would have given that thoughtful consideration. But after we reviewed the facts  
27 of the case or the facts of the cases and descriptions, we would have made a thoughtful  
28 deliberation in conjunction with the police departments associated with those investigations.  
And at no time after we reviewed the facts in the case, as in the photographs and the  
descriptions, did we ever conclude anything but those sets of robberies, the first three and  
those two, were committed by two different robbers.

1 of the similarity in the descriptions he reviewed the exculpatory facts with other law  
2 enforcement personnel and determined that legitimate distinctions could be made, nothing  
3 about that review, or their hypothetical resulting consensus, justifies withholding the  
4 exculpatory facts from the prosecutor or Ms. Jernigan. Once there are sufficiently distinctive  
5 facts that link crimes that the defendant is accused of committing with crimes she could not  
6 have committed, law enforcement cannot decide that those facts may be disregarded based  
7 on other considerations. It is clearly established that it is the jury's right to make such  
8 determinations.

9 In 1995, the Supreme Court emphatically rejected the notion that law enforcement  
10 had the right to withhold exculpatory information from a prosecutor based on law  
11 enforcement's separate determination that the seemingly exculpatory information could be  
12 explained away:

13 [Louisiana] pleads that . . . it should not be held accountable under *Bagley* and  
14 *Brady* for evidence known only to police investigators and not to the  
15 prosecutor. . . . In the State's favor it may be said that no one doubts that police  
16 investigators sometimes fail to inform a prosecutor of all they know. But . . .  
17 any argument for excusing a prosecutor from disclosing what he does not  
18 happen to know about *boils down to a plea to substitute the police for the*  
*prosecutor, and even for the courts themselves, as the final arbiters of the*  
*government's obligation to ensure fair trials."*

19 *Kyles*, 514 U.S. at 437–38 (emphasis added). *See also Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1094 (“If there

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20 THE COURT: I'm talking about the one robbery that's at issue in this case.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. We would have considered that.

22 THE COURT: Well, did you?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, we did.

24 *Id.* at S-B-O 003788–89.

25 This testimony at the hearing seems directly in conflict with the two declarations he  
26 has filed in this matter in which he states “Because I believed that I was investigating two  
27 separate individuals, it never occurred to me that information from the Rodriguez-Gallegos  
28 investigation could be relevant to the Jernigan investigation.” (Doc. 145-2, Ex. A, ¶ 12; Doc  
162-2, Ex. 1, ¶ 12).

1 were questions about the reliability of the exculpatory information, it was the prerogative of  
2 the defendant and his counsel—and not of the prosecution—to exercise judgment in  
3 determining whether the defendant should make use of it.”) (quoting *Disimone v. Phillips*, 461  
4 F.3d 181, 195 (2d Cir. 2006)); *United States v. Wood*, 57 F.3d 733, 737 (9th Cir. 1995) (“The  
5 government in the form of the prosecutor cannot tell the court there is nothing more to  
6 disclose while the agency interested in the prosecution holds in its files information favorable  
7 to the defendant.”). In light of that precedent, SA Richard could not do what he now claims  
8 justifies his non-disclosure.

9 Third, and most troubling, SA Richard testified to a number of facts at the hearing on  
10 Jernigan’s motion for new trial that he either now admits were not true, or cannot support with  
11 admissible evidence. Further, rather than merely being unsupported, based on the admissible  
12 evidence in the record, the distinctions to which he testified are affirmatively contradicted by  
13 the record.<sup>22</sup> At best they resulted in distinctions and conclusions that, based on the records  
14 on which they were made, no reasonable law enforcement officer could make. He has  
15 repeated at least some of those apparently untrue statements under oath in the declarations he

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16  
17 <sup>22</sup> Because SA Richard relies on the accuracy of those distinctions to both support his  
18 motions for summary judgment and contest the Plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment, he  
19 bears the burden of establishing their accuracy. “[I]f the nonmoving party will bear the  
20 burden of proof at trial as to an element essential to its case, and that party fails to make a  
21 showing sufficient to establish a genuine dispute of fact with respect to the existence of that  
22 element, then summary judgment is appropriate.” *Cal. Architectural Bldg. Prods., Inc. v.*  
23 *Franciscan Ceramics, Inc.*, 818 F.2d 1466, 1468 (9th Cir. 1987) (citing *Celotex Corp. v.*  
24 *Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322–23 (1986)). SA Richard has failed to do so here. The Court,  
25 nevertheless, entered an order requiring the parties to review and disclose to the court the  
26 witness descriptions that would have provided the basis for the comparisons summarized by  
27 SA Richard in several specified particulars. (*See* Doc. 185). The parties complied with the  
28 Court’s order (*See* Docs. 186–88), and SA Richard affirmed at oral argument that he did not  
contest the accuracy of the copies of the police reports provided to the Court by the parties.  
The Court may consider these witness statements and the police reports in which they are  
contained because the use of police records are not excluded by the hearsay rule in civil  
cases. Fed. R. Ev. 803(b). Further, the statements contained in the police reports describing  
the perpetrator, her clothing or her actions are considered not for the truth of those  
descriptions, but to establish what the police records indicated the description was. The Court  
may thus consider them as admissible evidence in ruling on the parties’ various motions.

1 has filed in this matter.

2 **1. Misstated Facts That Implicate Ms. Jernigan as Opposed to**  
3 **Gallegos**

4 SA Richard testified at the hearing on the motion for new trial that in her escape from  
5 the first robbery “the robber left, went through a hole in the fence that separated the Bank of  
6 America shopping complex . . . [and] went through the fence into an apartment complex that  
7 we later determined Miss Jernigan had lived at.” (Doc. 97-3, Ex. G at S-B-0 003732). There  
8 is no support for this testimony. This Court ordered Agent Richard to “[i]dentify with  
9 specificity any documents or witness interviews which disclosed . . . to SA Richard or other  
10 law enforcement investigators” that “after the first robbery, the perpetrator escaped through  
11 a hole in the fence that went to an apartment complex in which Jernigan used to live.” He  
12 could not do so. Rather he cited to witness statements taken after the first robbery and a police  
13 report that describe the perpetrator as running east towards the strip mall on the corner. None  
14 of them describe the perpetrator as going through a hole in the fence that separated the Bank  
15 of America shopping complex from an apartment complex. He admitted as much at oral  
16 argument.

17 Obviously, testifying that the perpetrator escaped into an apartment complex in which  
18 Jernigan used to live implicates Jernigan. The statement that the perpetrator escaped into the  
19 complex, however, is without any foundation in fact.

20 Further, according to SA Richard’s report, at the time of her arrest on November 10,  
21 2000, Ms. Jernigan was transient with no employment and had a history of drug use. SA  
22 Richard testified at the hearing on the motion for new trial that the witnesses to the first three  
23 robberies described the perpetrator as “a transient looking individual” and someone who “was  
24 possibly [a] transient or drug addict.” (Doc. 97-3, Ex. G at S-B-O 003732, 003762). But, as  
25 SA Richard admitted at oral argument, no witness statements from the first three robberies  
26 describe the perpetrator as being a transient or a drug addict. There are witness descriptions  
27 from these robberies that affirmatively reject the suggestion that the perpetrator was transient  
28 or appeared to be a drug user.

## 2. Attractiveness

1  
2 In his testimony before Judge Carroll, SA Richard testified that witnesses described  
3 the perpetrator of the alleged first set of robberies as less attractive than the perpetrator of the  
4 putative second set. He testified: “I recall her being described as unattractive, a lot of heavy  
5 eye makeup, things of that nature.” (*Id.* at S-B-O 003732). In his testimony he contrasted  
6 these descriptions with the descriptions of the perpetrator of the second set of robberies which  
7 he characterized as being “attractive, younger. I think one of the tellers told me that she  
8 looked like she just stepped out of a club in Scottsdale.” (*Id.*; *see also id.* at S-B-O 003760)  
9 (“I don’t recall what each witness described. My recollection is, the first three robberies that  
10 we attribute to Miss Jernigan, the description was an unattractive person, heavy eye makeup,  
11 possibly transient or drug addict. . . . And at least one of the tellers described [the purported  
12 second perpetrator] as attractive, and I believe one of the tellers said she looked like she had  
13 just stepped out of a club in Scottsdale.”).

14 Despite SA Richard’s attempted summarization of what the witnesses described, no  
15 statement of any witness described the putative “first” bank robber as unattractive. To the  
16 contrary, according to the FBI report prepared by SA Richard, in her initial interview with  
17 him, Ms. Chlupsa, the teller during the first robbery, described the perpetrator as having a  
18 “casual pretty appearance.” (Doc. 97, Ex. A at TOG000123). She apparently stated that the  
19 robber “doesn’t look like [she’s] off [the] streets, kind of pretty, clean.” (Doc. 130-3, Ex. 21-J  
20 at FBI388–89). Ms. Chlupsa did describe the perpetrator as having eyebrows that had been  
21 plucked and wearing a lot of eye liner, (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG000122, 131), as did Ms.  
22 Ward, the teller during the second robbery (Doc. 97-4 Ex. L at KR-380, 396; Doc. 130-3, Ex.  
23 21-J at S-B-O 2383) (“a lot of eye liner”). Ms. Etherington also described the robber as having  
24 black well-kept eyebrows and brown eyes. (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-428).

25 This Court ordered SA Richard to “identify with specificity the documents/witness  
26 interviews on which” SA Richard could have based his testimony that “the person who  
27 committed the first three robberies was described by witnesses as unattractive.” He was  
28 unable to do so. Rather, he cited to the booking photograph of Rachel Jernigan, two

1 surveillance photos taken from the September 20 videotape, the statement of the teller from  
2 robbery number two that “the robbery looked like she had just woken up,” and a phone  
3 interview with her in which that same teller witness stated that the perpetrator “wore a lot of  
4 dark eye makeup, eyeliner and mascara which was ‘gaudy.’”

5 Of course, on their face, none of the above documents support SA Richard’s testimony  
6 that witnesses described the perpetrator of the first three robberies as unattractive. Nothing  
7 about the surveillance photos relates to any statement made by a witness.

8 Kerry Ward, the teller in robbery two, described the perpetrator as wearing a lot of eye  
9 makeup and mascara. So did Elizabeth Chlupsa, the teller in robbery one. Colette Etherington,  
10 the teller in robbery three, also mentioned the perpetrator’s eyebrows as well-kept.  
11 Presumably, that all three tellers noticed and mentioned a similarity in eye makeup is one of  
12 the reasons why the FBI, and presumably SA Richard, concluded the perpetrator was the  
13 same. Yet, while neither Ms. Etherington, nor Ms. Ward commented on the attractiveness of  
14 the perpetrator, Ms. Chlupsa described the perpetrator of robbery one directly to SA Richard  
15 himself as “kind of pretty.” To the extent that SA Richard suggests he was entitled to ignore  
16 Ms. Chlupsa’s description of the perpetrator as “kind of pretty” because Ms. Ward described  
17 her eye makeup as “gaudy,” only reveals the extent to which he is straining to try to make out  
18 an argument that he acted reasonably. It does nothing to explain his testimony before the trial  
19 judge that witnesses described the first perpetrator as an unattractive, transient drug addict.

20 Nor can Ms. Ward’s statement that the perpetrator looked like she just woke up serve  
21 as a basis for concluding that the perpetrator of robberies one through three is unattractive and  
22 the perpetrator of robberies four through six is attractive. Ms. Ward (robbery two) and Mr.  
23 Denetdeel (robbery five) both described the perpetrator as looking like she just woke up. If  
24 such an appearance is a legitimate basis for SA Richard to conclude that the perpetrator is  
25 unattractive, it does not provide a basis on which he could distinguish the perpetrator of the  
26 first three robberies from the perpetrator of the last three, since the perpetrators from both sets  
27 of crimes were described that way. SA Richard admitted as much at oral argument.

28 In his two declarations filed under oath in this matter he states “based on witness

1 descriptions, there was a consensus that Ms. Jernigan was older and that Rodriguez-Gallegos  
2 was prettier; that the modus operandi of the two perpetrators was different; and therefore,  
3 among other things, we were dealing with two different people.”(Doc. 145-2, Ex. A ¶ 12; Doc  
4 162-2, Ex. 1 ¶ 12). This Court thus also ordered SA Richard to “[i]dentify with specificity the  
5 documents/witness interview on which SA Richard, or those forming the law enforcement  
6 consensus, could have determined that a perpetrator that was described as ‘pretty’ in the first  
7 robbery, was not as attractive as the perpetrator described as ‘cute’ or ‘attractive’ in robberies  
8 four or six.” Again, rather than doing so, SA Richard again cited the September 20  
9 surveillance photographs, the booking photos of Rachel Jernigan and Juanita Rodriguez-  
10 Gallegos, and statements that a perpetrator had a polite smile and well groomed fingernails.  
11 To the extent that the perpetrator of robberies four through six was described as having a nice  
12 smile and well groomed fingernails, so was the perpetrator of robbery one. (*See, e.g.*, Doc 97,  
13 Ex. A at TOGOOO135) (stating that the perpetrator smiled but did not talk); (Doc. 130-3, Ex.  
14 21-J at FBI000388) (describing nails as “not long (not) painted, small hands”).<sup>23</sup>

15 On their face, none of the above statements is sufficient to support SA Richard’s  
16 assertions in his Declaration that “based on witness descriptions there was a consensus that  
17 the perpetrator of the second set of robberies was prettier than the first.” In fact, Gabrielle  
18 Emmons, the teller during robbery four, described the perpetrator to SA Richard much as Ms.  
19 Chlupsa described the first—“very clean, not a street person or drug addict.” (Doc. 97-4, Ex.  
20 L at KR-913). She looked “cute” and “didn’t look homeless or like a junkie.” (Doc. 130-3,  
21 Ex. 21-J at FBI00996). Allison Williams, the teller/victim of the fifth robbery, similarly  
22 described the perpetrator as “cute.” Kathy Gollither, the teller during robbery six, described  
23 the perpetrator right after the robbery as “quite attractive.” (Doc 97, Ex. L at KR-1064).  
24 Further, of course, SA Richard would not have had booking photographs of Rodriguez-  
25 Gallegos at the time he should have disclosed this evidence.

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26  
27 <sup>23</sup> Further, to the extent that the perpetrators hands were described by witnesses to the  
28 first three robberies as being without tattoos, (*see, e.g., id.*, at 00452, 00473), Rachel Jernigan  
had tattoos on her hands.

1 Thus, despite his testimony to the contrary, both at the hearing on Jernigan's motion  
2 for new trial, and in his declarations filed in this matter, SA Richard provides no admissible  
3 evidence that any witness described the perpetrator of robbery one as unattractive, or that  
4 there is any basis in the witness statements from which he could have drawn a reasonable  
5 distinction that the perpetrator of robberies four through six was more attractive than the  
6 perpetrator of robberies one through three sufficient to conclude that there were different  
7 perpetrators and on that basis withhold disclosure of those later robberies from Ms. Jernigan.

### 8 3. Age

9 In his declarations, SA Richard states that the perpetrator of the first three robberies  
10 was older than the perpetrator of the last three robberies.

11 There were five witnesses to the first robbery that provided an estimate as to the age  
12 of the robber. They varied. Elizabeth Ms. Chlupsa estimated the robber as between 35-40  
13 (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG000122, 131), whereas Bernice Manlowe thought the robber was  
14 between 15 and 25 years old (*id.* at TOG000109). Hawley thought her between 23-27 years  
15 old (*id.* at TOG000135), Donovan Grierson thought she was between 28-30 (*id.* at  
16 TOG000134), and Kathleen Golliher identified her as being in her thirties (*id.* at  
17 TOG000109).

18 Witnesses to the second robbery identified the robber as being in her early 30's (Doc.  
19 97-4, Ex. L at KR395) (Ward); (*id.* at KR400) (Mills), or in her late 20's or early 30's (Doc.  
20 187, Ex. 9k at FBI000565) (Ophardt).

21 Etherington, the victim/teller of the third robbery, placed her perpetrator between the  
22 ages of 25-30 years. (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-428).

23 Gabrielle Emmons, the victim/teller of the fourth robbery, placed the age of the  
24 perpetrator between 19-25 (*id.* at KR-943), while Boyd Denetdeel estimated her age between  
25 25-30 (*id.* at KR-932).

26 Allison Williams, the victim/teller of robbery number five, identified the perpetrator  
27 as being in her 30's, (*id.* at KR-990), while Kathy Golliher, the victim/teller of robbery  
28 number six, and Debbie McMullen both identified the perpetrator as being thirty years old (*id.*



1 at KR-1064, KR-1061).

2 Based on the variety of estimates provided in the witness statements, no reasonable  
3 law enforcement officer could conclude that there is a reasonable basis for distinguishing,  
4 based upon age, the perpetrator of the first three robberies, from the perpetrator of the last  
5 three sufficient to justify withholding of the exculpatory evidence to Ms. Jernigan.<sup>24</sup>

#### 6 **4. Modus Operandi**

7 Although in his declarations filed in this matter, SA Richard did not explain what  
8 differences he noted in the modus operandi of the suspect in the first three and the last three  
9 robberies, he does testify that unspecified differences exist. In his May 2004 testimony during  
10 the hearing on the motion for new trial, however, he spelled out what he alleged to be those

11  
12  
13  
14 <sup>24</sup> In his supplemental pleading filed in response to the Court's inquiry concerning the  
15 content of the witness statements, SA Richard now also asserts that the witness statements  
16 generally describe the robber of the first second and third robberies as weighing less than the  
17 perpetrator of the fourth fifth and sixth robberies. This distinction was not born out by the  
18 person who actually has been convicted for, and admitted to, perpetrating robberies four, five  
19 and six. When Rodriguez-Gallegos was arrested she was 4'11" and weighed 96 lbs. When  
20 Jernigan was arrested in November 2010, she was 5'1" and 130 lbs. Even so, while a few of  
21 the witnesses to the last three robberies described the perpetrator as "stocky," other witnesses  
22 to the same robberies described her as small. Most witnesses to those same robberies  
23 provided an estimate of the height and weight of the perpetrator which is in the same general  
24 range of the estimates given by witnesses to all six robberies. Further, this same weight  
25 variance in description occurred among the various witness descriptions of the first robbery  
26 as well. *See, e.g.*, Manlowe describing the first perpetrator as "short and stocky," (Doc. 97,  
27 Ex. A at TOG000109), while Hawley described her as being slender and athletic, (*id.* at  
28 TOG000135), and Ms. Chlupsa described her as being "very small." (*Id.* at TOG000131).  
Nandasana estimated her to be 4'8" and 130 lbs (*id.* at TOG000109), while Gollither estimated  
her to be 5'0" and 110 lbs—four inches taller and 20 lbs lighter. (*Id.*). Further, to the extent  
SA Richard desires to assert that, based on the witness descriptions, he would have been able  
to determine that there were two separate robbers because the perpetrator of the first three  
robberies weighed less than perpetrator of the last three, there is both no testimony that he  
drew such a conclusion, that such a conclusion would have been valid, and that based on the  
actual witness statements, any reasonable law enforcement officer would have been able to  
draw such a conclusion.

1 differences. They also do not bear up under scrutiny.<sup>25</sup>

2 Q. Did you consider Gallegos and Ms. Jernigan to have a similar modus  
operandi?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Why not?

5 A. The—during this time period of 2000, if I could talk about those five  
6 robberies, since they were within several months of each other, three robberies  
7 occurred which we attributed to one robber. That robber we eventually  
8 identified as Miss Jernigan. During those robberies basically a woman would  
go in, stand in the teller line, generally not speak, present a note, have a gun in  
a bag, lift the bag up, display the weapon, and leave the bank.

9 During the first robbery, which was the Bank of America at 15 East Guadalupe,  
10 the robber left, went through a hole in the fence that separated the Bank of  
America shopping complex, I believe there was a grocery store and bar and  
11 some other things in that strip mall, went through the fence into an apartment  
complex, that we later determined Miss Jernigan had lived at.

12 That individual was basically described as a transient looking individual. I  
13 recall her being described as unattractive, a lot of heavy eye makeup, things of  
that nature.

14 The two robberies that occurred after the three we attribute to Miss Jernigan  
15 were committed by a woman who did speak to the tellers. In fact would say,  
I'm sorry I'm doing this, things of that nature, please don't hit your alarm. She  
16 was described as attractive, younger. I think one of the tellers told me that she  
looked like she just stepped out of a club in Scottsdale.

17 We attributed because of the differences, those two set of robberies to being to  
two different people.

18 In addition that second set of robberies that was later admitted to by Miss  
19 Gallegos there was no weapon involved.

20 Q. Until the final December 11th , 2001 robbery; is that correct?

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21  
22 <sup>25</sup> There were certain similarities between the modus operandi of the perpetrator of all  
23 the first five robberies. The robber would wait her turn in line, present the teller with a note,  
24 usually sloppily written on folded or crumpled white paper, and then retrieve the note and  
25 take it with her along with the proceeds of the bank robbery. It may be that none of these  
26 similarities in modus operandi alone would be sufficiently distinct to connect the robberies  
27 and require disclosure. But, just as the similarities in modus operandi on their own would be  
28 insufficient to require disclosure, even if the distinctions that SA Richard offers in the modus  
operandi were correct, which they are not, given the other similarities in witness descriptions,  
the distinctions in modus operandi alone would be insufficient to support a conclusion by a  
reasonable law enforcement officer that two separate perpetrators committed the crimes and  
thus he could withhold disclosure of robberies four and five.

1 A. Right. Miss Gallegos committed two robberies within two days of each other  
2 in the year 2000. Then we didn't hear from her again for over another year  
3 when she hit the third time, robbing that Bank of America at 15 East  
4 Guadalupe. She did present a weapon, and she was stopped immediately  
5 thereafter, had the gun, had the money.

6 Q. Okay. But as of March 2001, the Ms. Jernigan trial, had Rodriguez Gallegos  
7 ever used a weapon by that point?

8 A. Never used, and I don't believe ever threatened in the note. No mention of  
9 a weapon.

10 (Doc. 97-3, Ex. G at S-B-0 003731-33; *see also id.* at S-B-O 003762) (“The second two  
11 robberies, which were unarmed robberies where that robber did speak as opposed to Miss  
12 Jernigan, who was very polite.”).

13 **a. Presence of the Gun and the Bag**

14 SA Richard testified to a distinction between the perpetrator of the first three robberies  
15 and the perpetrator of the next two because the perpetrator of the first three robberies pulled  
16 a gun from a bag, while the perpetrator of the next set of robberies did not. While the use of  
17 a gun and a bag or purse generally fits the description given by the victim tellers in the police  
18 reports of robberies one, two and six, no victim in robbery three, four or five described seeing  
19 a purse, bag or weapon. SA Richard admitted at oral argument on these pending motions that  
20 he was incorrect in suggesting that the perpetrator of robbery three had a bag or displayed a  
21 weapon. Thus, to the extent SA Richard testified that the presence of a gun and a bag created  
22 a meaningful distinction in the witness descriptions of the first three robberies that  
23 distinguished the perpetrator from the next two, that distinction is unsupported by the witness  
24 statements submitted.

25 **b. Use of a Note and Speaking To Tellers**

26 SA Richard also testified that the perpetrator of the first three robberies would  
27 generally not speak but would use a note, while the perpetrator of the fourth and fifth  
28 robberies spoke to the teller victims. This Court ordered SA Richard to “[i]dentify any  
documents or witness interview with specificity from which Richard or the law enforcement  
officers could have concluded that the perpetrator of the third robbery (October 25, 2000) did

1 not speak to her victim/teller.” Richard acknowledged that “there do not seem to be any  
2 documents within the possession of Agent Richard which support this statement.” (Doc. 187  
3 at ¶ 3a).

4 Further, the witness statements and police reports demonstrate that the perpetrator(s)  
5 of all five robberies gave the teller a note which the robber then took back from the teller.  
6 Thus, although SA Richard testified to a distinction between the perpetrator of the first three  
7 robberies and the perpetrator of the next two because the perpetrator of the first three  
8 robberies did not speak to her victims, but used notes, while the perpetrator of the next set of  
9 robberies spoke to her victims, that distinction is unsupported by the facts.

### 10 c. Threats

11 SA Richard not only testified that in the “second set of robberies that was later  
12 admitted to by Miss Gallegos, there was no weapon involved,” (*Id.* at S-B-O 3732–33), he  
13 further testified that not only did the second robber not use a weapon, but she never threatened  
14 to use a weapon in her note. Again, this testimony is not supported by the facts.

15 As has been discussed, the perpetrator in robberies one, two and six all pointed guns  
16 at the teller/victims. The statements of the victim/tellers in robberies three and five  
17 demonstrate that the notes they were given by the perpetrator threatened them with death if  
18 they did not cooperate. Only victim teller four did not report being threatened with deadly  
19 force should she fail to cooperate.<sup>26</sup> To the extent that SA Richard testified to a distinction  
20 between the perpetrator of the first three robberies and the perpetrator of the next set because  
21 the perpetrator of the first three robberies threatened her victims while the perpetrator of the  
22 next set of robberies did not, he misstates the facts.

23 SA Richard testified that distinctions in the described suspects and robberies  
24 demonstrated that there were two distinct perpetrators, one for robberies one through three,  
25 and another for robberies three through five. On the record in this case, however, no

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26  
27 <sup>26</sup> When she ultimately confessed to additional bank robberies, Rodriguez-Gallegos  
28 acknowledged that she had a weapon with her during each of the robberies, although she  
claimed it was not loaded. (Doc. 97-4, Ex. L at KR-156).

1 reasonable law enforcement officer could have arrived at such a conclusion.

### 2 **III. Judicial Disagreement**

3 The Defendants also argue that any disagreement among judges about whether, under  
4 the circumstances, *Brady* required them to disclose the exculpatory material, demonstrates that  
5 the right to the information could not have been so “clearly established” in the circumstances  
6 as to expose them to liability for failing to disclose it.

7 Specifically, Defendants acknowledge that in *Jernigan II*, the Ninth Circuit ruled, by  
8 a 13-2 *en banc* majority, that there was a *Brady* violation when the subsequent similar  
9 robberies were not disclosed to Ms. Jernigan. *United States v. Jernigan*, 492 F.3d 1050 (9th  
10 Cir. 2007). Nevertheless, the trial judge who heard the motion for new trial, the original Ninth  
11 Circuit panel majority of two judges, *see, Jernigan I*, 451 F.3d 1027 (9th Cir. 2006), and the  
12 additional judge who joined one of the panel majority in dissenting to the *en banc* majority,  
13 were all of the view that the subsequent robberies were not material to Ms. Jernigan’s  
14 conviction. Therefore, the Defendants argue, because even judges disagree about whether  
15 there was a *Brady* violation in this case, the right in this factual setting is not clearly  
16 established and they are entitled to qualified immunity.

17 It is true that both *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223 (2009) and *Wilson v. Layne*, 526  
18 U.S. 603, 615, 618 (1999), establish that liability may not be imposed upon law enforcement  
19 officers for failing to afford a person his constitutional rights when judges themselves cannot  
20 agree, as a matter of law, whether the right exists. At bottom, however, Defendants’ argument  
21 that they are entitled to qualified immunity is based on the acceptance by the dissenting judges  
22 of SA Richard’s untrue testimony at the May 2004 hearing on Ms. Jernigan’s motion for a  
23 new trial. Law enforcement officers are not entitled to qualified immunity when they testify  
24 to statements that they “knew to be false or would have known were false had [they] not  
25 recklessly disregarded the truth.” *Branch v. Tunnell*, 937 F.2d 1382, 1387 (9th Cir. 1991),  
26 *overruled on other grounds by Galbraith v. County of Santa Clara*, 307 F.3d 1119 (9th Cir.  
27 2002). SA Richard cannot render false testimony and then claim that the dissenting judge’s  
28 reliance on his false testimony provides him and the other Defendants with qualified

1 immunity. Such a counterintuitive result is required by neither *Pearson* nor *Wilson*.

2 In making the materiality determination, as the trial judge initially did here, a judge  
3 inevitably weighs the strength of the underlying evidence offered at the original trial against  
4 the strength of the exculpatory evidence and the additional evidence to which the exculpatory  
5 evidence might have led. At the hearing on Ms. Jernigan's trial in this case, SA Richard also  
6 testified to additional evidence, not presented at Jernigan's initial trial, that he asserted  
7 demonstrated that his failure to disclose was not material to Jernigan's conviction. As has  
8 been reviewed at some length above, however, that testimony was false in virtually all of its  
9 material respects, and SA Richard was the only witness to testify at the hearing.

10 In his order denying a new trial, the trial judge based his decision on his application  
11 of *Perkins* to the facts presented. Citing *Perkins*, the trial judge ruled that the November 2000  
12 bank robberies "would not have been admissible in this case," given the lack of any  
13 sufficiently identifying similarities "that could connect the September 2000 robbery with  
14 those in November 2000." In his order, the trial judge never discussed the striking similarities  
15 in detailed physical descriptions between the perpetrators, the similar getaway vehicle, the  
16 general proximity of the robberies, or the clothing of the perpetrator.<sup>27</sup> In making his analysis,  
17 the trial judge only mentioned the lack of meaningful identifying features in the perpetrator's  
18 modus operandi, namely "the lack of any 'peculiar, unique, or bizarre conduct'" occurring  
19 during the robberies themselves. This omission, while curious on its face, is more  
20 understandable in light of SA Richard's tainted testimony, which would have given the trial  
21 judge a false sense of security that the similarities in the physical descriptions were not  
22 meaningful, because otherwise clear distinctions established the existence of two separate  
23 perpetrators, and other non-existent evidence demonstrated that the perpetrator of the first

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24  
25 <sup>27</sup> Further, unlike the situation in *Perkins*, Ms. Jernigan, at the time of her trial, was  
26 still charged with committing other similar bank robberies which bore additional striking  
27 similarities to the November 2000 crimes which Ms. Jernigan could not have committed.  
28 Similarities between the crimes that Ms. Jernigan could not have committed and the crimes  
with which Ms. Jernigan was contemporaneously charged, would have served, unlike the fact  
pattern in *Perkins*, to further exonerate her.

1 robbery was Rachel Jernigan.

2 To the extent that the trial judge's materiality determinations were unavoidably tainted  
3 by the false testimony of SA Richard, so are the determinations by the various appellate  
4 judges who thought that the withheld evidence was not material. The dissent in *Jernigan II*  
5 was based on the assertion that the Court should not review *de novo* a trial court's *Brady*  
6 determination. 492 F.3d 1050, 1064 (9th Cir. 2007) (Bea, J. dissenting). Rather, the dissent  
7 opined, deference should be given to a trial court's determinations when those determinations  
8 are supported by adequate evidence. *Id.* In reviewing the evidence on which the trial judge  
9 made its *Brady* determination, the dissent explicitly referred to SA Richard's testimony at the  
10 hearing on the motion for new trial:

11 Agent Kyle Richard, the bank robbery coordinator at the Federal Bureau of  
12 Investigation's Phoenix division, was the case agent for all five bank  
13 robberies. Agent Richard determined the bank robberies in September and  
14 October were not committed by the same woman who committed the bank  
15 robberies in November. This determination was based on comparisons of the  
modus operandi, witness statements, and a photograph of Ms. Jernigan with  
photographs taken from the surveillance video of the November robberies.  
Owing to his determination, Agent Richard did not inform the Assistant United  
States Attorney prosecuting Ms. Jernigan's case of the November robberies.

16 *Id.* at 1064. The *en banc* dissent is also, therefore, inevitably tainted by SA Richard's false  
17 testimony.

18 The original panel decision that affirmed the trial judge's order conducted its own *de*  
19 *novo* review of whether the withheld exculpatory evidence was material. However, since the  
20 appellate panel's *de novo* review was based on the same factual record that the trial judge had,  
21 it too was tainted by a SA Richard's testimony, which included materially false statements,  
22 failed to include specific resemblances between the perpetrators of the robberies, and described  
23 distinctions between the perpetrators that either did not exist or were not reasonably drawn. SA  
24 Richard's testimony therefore provided a false sense of security that there were actually  
25 separate perpetrators. Furthermore, his testimony may have also prevented the trial judge and  
26 the appellate judges in the ultimate minority from adequately considering whether additional  
27 evidence arising from the later two bank robberies would have served to exculpate Ms.  
28 Jernigan.

1 For example, both the trial judge and the original panel majority in *Jernigan I* relied on  
2 the strength of Elizabeth Chlupsa's identification of Jernigan as the perpetrator of robbery one  
3 in determining that information concerning the additional robberies was not materially  
4 exculpatory. SA Richard never showed Ms. Chlupsa a surveillance photo of the perpetrator of  
5 robbery four prior to trial, nor after the arrest of Juanita Rodriguez-Gallegos did he show a six-  
6 pack photo array containing a photograph of Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos to any of the victims of  
7 robberies one through three.

8 Presumably, however, had trial counsel been made timely aware of robberies four and  
9 five, he would have procured and shown the surveillance photo of robbery four to Ms.  
10 Chlupsa, and/or to the jury at trial. It is at least somewhat telling that Plaintiff in this action  
11 has since shown to Ms. Chlupsa the booking photo of Juanita Rodriguez-Gallegos. Upon  
12 review of that photo Ms. Chlupsa no longer believes that she was robbed by Ms. Jernigan. She  
13 further believes that Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos closely resembles the person who robbed her,  
14 and the photo of Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos is consistent with the description that Ms. Chlupsa  
15 gave to police on the day she was robbed. (Doc. 130-2, Ex. 10).

16 Even after Ms. Jernigan's conviction, if she had been made aware of Ms. Rodriguez-  
17 Gallegos's arrest for robbery six and subsequent admission in the plea agreement to robberies  
18 four and five, defense counsel could have determined if any of the victims of the first three  
19 robberies would have identified Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos as their perpetrator. Even if SA  
20 Richard did not realize the strong link between robberies two and five sufficient to pursue the  
21 matter, defense counsel would have presumably done so for its exculpatory value and further  
22 understood that, under these circumstances, Ms. Ward's potential identification of Rodriguez-  
23 Gallegos would have tended to exonerate Ms. Jernigan.<sup>28</sup>

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24  
25 <sup>28</sup> Because Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos was identified as the perpetrator of robbery five,  
26 because robbery two was linked to robbery five by witnesses to both robberies who not only  
27 gave a similar physical description of the perpetrator but gave the same description of the  
28 getaway vehicle, because both the FBI and Kerry Ward, the teller in robbery two, thought  
that robberies one and two were committed by the same person, and because Kerry Ward did  
not identify Rachel Jernigan as that person, Rodriguez-Gallegos's arrest was exculpatory for



1 Further, additional similarities in the unique aspects of the descriptions of the  
2 perpetrators of the crimes could have been identified by defense counsel, if not by SA  
3 Richard, had such crimes been disclosed. For example, as has been set forth above, a  
4 description by independent witnesses to robbery two and robbery four described the  
5 perpetrators face as being stretched “like she just woke up.” Such a physical description is  
6 unusual and distinctive. Given the other physical similarities of the described perpetrators it  
7 would have provided additional exoneration for Ms. Jernigan.

8 It is true that four additional witnesses identified Ms. Jernigan as the perpetrator at her  
9 trial and, in addition, the trial judge offered two additional reasons for finding the exculpatory  
10 evidence immaterial. Nevertheless, absent SA Richard’s false testimony, none of this evidence  
11 is sufficient together, or in concert, to have supported a finding by any of the dissenting  
12 judges that the failure to disclose the subsequent similar robberies was not material to  
13 Jernigan’s conviction.

14 The additional four witnesses who identified Rachel Jernigan at trial, Nath, Gollieher,  
15 Grierson and Hawley, were first shown the six-pack photo array containing Ms. Jernigan five  
16 to six months after the robbery and shortly before Ms. Jernigan’s trial. As the Ninth Circuit  
17 has already observed, “[t]his delay, which goes totally unexplained, also detracts from the  
18 reliability of the identifications.” *Jernigan II*, 492 F.3d at 1056. Further, *none* of the  
19 witnesses, with the possible exception of Ms. Hawley, had much of a chance to view the  
20 perpetrator of the crime as it was being committed. In such circumstances such identification  
21 does not meet many, if any, of the indicia of reliability set forth in *Grant*. “Indicia of  
22 reliability include: 1) the opportunity to view the criminal at the time of the crime; 2) the  
23 degree of attention paid to the criminal; 3) the accuracy of the prior descriptions of the  
24 criminal; 4) the level of certainty demonstrated at the time of the confrontation; and 5) the  
25 length of time between the crime and the confrontation.” *Grant*, 315 F.3d at 1087. Further,  
26 none of the other witnesses, insofar as the Court is aware, has been shown a photograph of

27  
28 Jernigan.

1 Ms. Rodriguez-Gallegos. Because Ms. Chlupsa changed her mind about her identification  
2 when she saw the photo, some or all of the other witnesses may well have done so had they  
3 been given the opportunity.

4 Second, Kathleen Gollhofer, who had been present at the bank during the first robbery,  
5 was actually the teller/victim robbed in robbery six. After the motion for new trial was filed  
6 but prior to the hearing on the motion, SA Richard obtained a written statement from Ms.  
7 Gollhofer that the perpetrators of robbery one and robbery six were different. (Doc. 97-7, Ex.  
8 HH; Doc. 97-3 Ex. G at S-B-O 3776). Although Ms. Gollhofer had made no such statements  
9 at the time of Rodriguez-Gallegos's arrest, and thus such a statement could not have been a  
10 basis for withholding disclosure of Rodriguez-Gallegos's arrest from the Defendant, the  
11 statement was admitted in evidence at the hearing on the motion for new trial without  
12 objection.

13 Nevertheless, by her own admission Ms. Gollhofer did not get a good look at the  
14 perpetrator of robbery one. She only saw her momentarily from the back or side as the  
15 perpetrator was fleeing the bank. To the extent that she was able nevertheless to give police  
16 a description at the scene, it matches, almost exactly, the description she gave police of the  
17 perpetrator at the scene of robbery six. However, in the statement she prepared more than two  
18 and a half years after robbery six at the request of SA Richard, she contrasts the description  
19 of the two perpetrators in a way that is not consistent with the descriptions she gave police at  
20 the scenes.<sup>29</sup> Thus, her much later statement did not meet the *Grant* criteria and would not  
21 have provided, either alone or in concert with other evidence, a sufficient basis on which a  
22

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23 <sup>29</sup> In her contemporaneous statement after robbery one, Ms. Gollhofer described the  
24 first robber as a "small [M]exican adult female who was in her thirties, 5'0" 110 lbs, wearing  
25 a denim hat and denim vest." (Doc. 97-2, Ex. A at TOG000109). Similarly, at the scene of  
26 robbery six, Ms. Gollhofer described the second robber as being a small thirty-year-old female  
27 who was five feet tall. (Doc. 97-5, Ex. L at KR-1064).

28 In her 2004 statement made at SA Richard's request, she revised those descriptions,  
describing the first robber as being about 38 to 40, and the second robber being in her 20's.  
She described the first robber as five feet and the second five feet two inches. (Doc. 97-7, Ex.  
HH; Doc. 97-5, Ex. L at KR-1064).

1 reasonable judge would find the subsequent similar convictions immaterial absent the false  
2 testimony of SA Richard.

3       Finally, the trial judge noted in his order that “the robber shown in the November 2000  
4 bank robberies surveillance films does not look like the person shown in September 2000  
5 surveillance photos.” Of course, the trial judge made that statement after looking at the  
6 respective booking photos of Rachel Jernigan and Juanita Rodriguez-Gallegos that were also  
7 admitted into evidence at the hearing, and after having heard SA Richards’ false testimony  
8 about why there was a “consensus” that there were two different perpetrators. Further, the trial  
9 judge does not say in that statement that he definitively concludes that the two perpetrators  
10 depicted in the surveillance photos of the two robberies were different persons, he merely  
11 stated that “they did not look like the same person.” Of course, had the appropriate disclosure  
12 in this case been made, those surveillance photos would not have been compared by the trial  
13 judge. They would have been compared by the prosecutor, the witnesses for the prosecution,  
14 the victims of other robberies for which Ms. Jernigan was under charge, and ultimately, if  
15 necessary, the jurors whose job it would have been to determine whether the persons depicted  
16 were the same or could have been different. Equivocation as to whether they could have been  
17 the same person on the part of any one of those other persons presented a reasonable  
18 probability that Ms. Jernigan might not have been convicted for robbery one. It is, of course,  
19 more appropriate for prosecutors, witnesses and jurors to make such evaluations in the process  
20 of determining guilt, than it is the trial judge to consider them in the process of determining  
21 materiality to a previous conviction.

22       Upon analysis it appears that the trial court and the reviewing courts relied on SA  
23 Richard’s testimony in coming to the conclusion that his failure to disclose exculpatory  
24 evidence was not material to Ms. Jernigan’s conviction. At any rate it is impossible to come  
25 to the conclusion that they did not rely on SA Richard’s testimony. That likely erroneous  
26 reliance alone is a sufficient basis on which to distinguish this case from the *Pearson* and  
27 *Wilson* line of cases. Judicial disagreement about whether a *Brady* obligation exists that is  
28 based, at least in part, on crediting the sworn testimony of a Defendant that later turns out to

1 be unsupportable cannot be a basis for that Defendant, or other Defendants, to escape § 1983  
2 liability.<sup>30</sup>

#### 3 **IV. Civil Liability**

4 Defendant Richard also asserts that Ms. Jernigan's right to receive exculpatory  
5 evidence was not clearly established because, while it has been clear since 1963 that  
6 investigators must turn over exculpatory evidence to the defense, it was not clear until 2009  
7 when the Ninth Circuit decided *Tennison*, 570 F.3d at 1078, that an investigator could be held  
8 civilly liable for violating *Brady*. This argument fails because whether a constitutional right  
9 is clearly established is a separate question from whether it is clearly established that a  
10 government agent who breaches a clearly established constitutional right can be held civilly  
11 liable for the breach. The latter inquiry is not a part of the qualified immunity analysis.

#### 12 **V. Unclear Extent of Disclosure Obligation**

13 Detective Brock and Sergeant McLaws argue that, once it was clear that the  
14 prosecution, if any, would be for a federal crime, the Gilbert Police Department's role was  
15 limited to assisting the FBI in its investigation. They therefore argue that they had no clearly

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16  
17 <sup>30</sup> The Court recognizes that the standards applicable to a motion for summary  
18 judgment in a civil proceeding which require the Court to treat SA Richard's previous  
19 testimony as false may, for good reasons, not be binding in other proceedings. In light of the  
20 importance of precise, cautious and truthful testimony to the operation of the federal criminal  
21 justice system, however, and what appears to be the lack of such testimony both in this  
22 matter and at Ms. Jernigan's hearing on her motion for new trial in May 2004, the Court  
23 orders that a copy of this order on summary judgment be transmitted to the Department of  
24 Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility ("OPR"). It requests the OPR to determine  
25 independently whether SA Richard's testimony at (1) Ms. Jernigan's hearing on her motion  
26 for new trial on May 12-13, 2004, (2) his declaration under penalty of perjury dated  
27 November 30, 2010 and filed in this matter at Doc. 145-2, Ex. A, specifically ¶ 12; and (3)  
28 his declaration under penalty of perjury dated January 24, 2011 and filed in this matter at  
Doc. 162-2, specifically ¶ 12, comply with the ethical standards of the Department of Justice.  
The Court further refers the question whether additional non-administrative action is merited  
against SA Richard in light of his sworn statements. This second question is also referred to  
the OPR in light of the recusal by the United States Attorney for the District of Arizona from  
this matter and the representation of SA Richard by the United States Attorney for the  
Central District of California. Should a further referral of this question by the OPR be  
necessary to implement the Court's referral, it is, of course, authorized.

1 established obligation to disclose exculpatory information to the federal prosecutor or to  
2 Defendant. They needed only to disclose such information to Defendant Richard or his  
3 superiors at the FBI.

4 SA Richard asserts that the municipal police are jointly responsible for any  
5 investigation of bank robberies within their jurisdiction even if the suspects will be subject  
6 to federal charges. Further, the law does specify that “[a] prosecutor’s duty under *Brady*  
7 necessarily requires cooperation of other government agents who might possess *Brady*  
8 material.” *United States v. Blanco*, 392 F.3d 382, 388 (9th Cir. 2004). Furthermore,  
9 exculpatory evidence cannot be kept out of the hands of the prosecutor just because the  
10 prosecutor does not have it, when an investigating agent does. *United States v. Zuno-Arce*, 44  
11 F.3d 1420, 1427 (9th Cir. 1995).

12 But, in ruling on this motion for summary judgment, the Court need not determine  
13 whether the Town’s police officers had a clearly established obligation to disclose exculpatory  
14 material directly to the federal prosecutor or to a defendant in a federal case under the  
15 circumstances presented here. Defendants do not contest that they had a clear obligation, at  
16 the least, to disclose to SA Richard or his superiors at the FBI exculpatory information of  
17 which they were aware. Detective Brock apparently acknowledged such an obligation during  
18 deposition. (Doc. 97-2, Ex. C at 82). At oral argument on the motion, Sergeant McLaws took  
19 the position that if he believed there was exculpatory information with respect to Ms. Jernigan  
20 that SA Richard had ignored, he should have raised the matter with SA Richard or his  
21 supervisors. Yet, there is no admissible evidence submitted in conjunction with the briefing  
22 on the respective motions that either did so. Therefore, they are not entitled to summary  
23 judgment on Ms. Jernigan’s *Brady* claims.

24 Detective Brock and Sergeant McLaws further argue that, because SA Richard knew,  
25 if anything, considerably more about the scope of the exculpatory facts than they knew, their  
26 disclosure of such facts to SA Richard would have served no purpose; he still would not have  
27 disclosed those facts to the prosecutor. Nevertheless, it is the realm of the jury to decide  
28 whether SA Richard would have acted differently if either Sergeant McLaws or Detective

1 Brock would have independently raised the distinctive similarities to his attention. “[M]any  
2 factors or things or the conduct of two or more persons can operate at the same time either  
3 independently or together to cause injury or damage and in such a case each may be a  
4 proximate cause.” *Jones v. Williams*, 297 F.3d 930, 937 n. 6 (9th Cir. 2002).

5 Qualified immunity protects “all but the plainly incompetent or those who knowingly  
6 violate the law.” *Malley v. Briggs*, 475 U.S. 335, 341 (1986). In this case, as a matter of law,  
7 SA Richard is not entitled to qualified immunity. He was either plainly incompetent or he  
8 knowingly violated the law. Under the circumstances no reasonable officer would have  
9 believed that he was acting appropriately with respect to Ms. Jernigan’s rights by withholding  
10 the information concerning the subsequent robberies from her. Further, no reasonable officer  
11 would have misstated the facts to the same extent as did SA Richard in his testimony at the  
12 hearing on Ms. Jernigan’s motion for new trial. SA Richard is, therefore, as a matter of law,  
13 not entitled to the defense of qualified immunity.

14 With respect to Detective Brock and Sergeant McLaws, there are issues of fact which  
15 must be determined by a fact finder before it can be determined whether those Defendants are  
16 entitled to qualified immunity. Thus to the extent Brock and McLaws seek summary judgment  
17 on the § 1983 *Brady* claims against them, their motion is denied.

## 18 **A. The Malicious Prosecution Claims**

### 19 **1. The Original Indictment**

20 To prevail on their assertion that Defendants lacked probable cause to arrest Plaintiff  
21 because the six-pack photo lineup was overly suggestive, Plaintiff first must establish that the  
22 officers employed “an identification procedure so impermissibly suggestive as to give rise to  
23 a substantial likelihood of misidentification.” *Grant*, 315 F.3d at 1086. Even then, however,  
24 if the witness demonstrates sufficient indicia of the reliability of his or her identification, the  
25 identification may still provide probable cause for arrest. *Id.*

26 In *Grant*, the court refused to find probable cause existed to justify the arrest of the  
27 plaintiff when two eyewitness/victims identified him from a six-pack lineup card as their  
28 attacker. Although both women at least tentatively identified the plaintiff’s photo as their

1 attacker from the six-pack, they had identified other suspects from previous six-packs.  
2 Furthermore, the other seven of the then nine victims did not feel sufficiently confident after  
3 reviewing the six-pack to make a positive identification from the photo spread. The Court held  
4 that the identification procedures used by the officers were suggestive because Grant was the  
5 only Caucasian featured in the photo spread. *Id.* at 1088. The other potential suspects featured  
6 were all Hispanics. *Id.* Further, none of the other suspects in the six-pack shared his general  
7 facial characteristics. *Id.* at 1087. Finally, the two witnesses were not shown the six-pack  
8 featuring Grant until three to four months after their assaults, and neither had much time or  
9 unobstructed opportunity to view the original perpetrator of the offenses against them. *Grant*,  
10 315 F.3d at 1084–85. Thus, the witnesses’ identification of Grant from the six-pack did not  
11 provide probable cause to arrest him.

12 Similar problems, however, were not present with respect to the investigation leading  
13 to the first indictment in this case. Unlike the six-pack at issue in *Grant*, the other persons  
14 featured on the line-up card with Ms. Jernigan generally appear to be of Ms. Jernigan’s  
15 approximate race, age and general appearance. Richard and Brock showed the six-pack to Ms.  
16 Chlupsa two days after the robbery occurred. At that time Ms. Chlupsa expressed some  
17 considerable degree of confidence that Ms. Jernigan was the person who robbed her. Ms.  
18 Chlupsa had not previously identified other perpetrators from other photo arrays. Further, Ms.  
19 Chlupsa was the witness with the single greatest and unobstructed exposure to the perpetrator,  
20 and her identification met the reliability standards set forth in *Neil v. Biggers*, 409 U.S. 188  
21 (1972) and *United States v. Gregory*, 891 F.2d 732, 734–35 (9th Cir. 1989).

22 With respect to the Ms. Chlupsa’s identification of Ms. Jernigan, therefore, the  
23 identification procedure used was not unduly suggestive. Even if it might have had some  
24 suggestive aspects, Ms. Chlupsa’s identification bore sufficient indicia of reliability to create  
25 probable cause justifying the arrest of Ms. Jernigan for robbery one. *Ewing v. City of Stockton*,  
26 588 F.3d 1218 (9th Cir. 2009) (holding that despite two false statements in a warrant  
27 application, a reliable source’s identification of the plaintiff at the scene was sufficient to  
28 establish probable cause). *See also Smith*, 640 F.3d at 937 (holding that “in a garden-variety

1 false arrest claim challenging the probable cause for an arrest, if the arrest warrant is facially  
2 valid, the arresting officer enjoys qualified immunity”). Further, “probable cause exists where  
3 under the totality of the circumstances known to the officer, a prudent person would have  
4 concluded that there was a fair probability that the suspect had committed or was committing  
5 a crime.” *United States v. Noster*, 590 F.3d 624, 629-30 (9th Cir. 2009).

6 Based on Ms. Chlupsa’s identification, the United States Attorney’s office filed a  
7 complaint against Ms. Jernigan on September 25, 2000 and obtained an indictment against her  
8 from a federal grand jury on October 11, 2000. Ms. Jernigan was subsequently arrested on  
9 November 10, 2000.

10 Plaintiff does not suggest that anyone withheld available evidence from the prosecutor  
11 up to and through the time that Ms. Jernigan was initially arrested. Thus Defendants are  
12 entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff’s malicious prosecution claims to the extent that  
13 they are based on Defendant’s initial arrest for robbery one.

## 14 **2. The Superseding Indictment**

15 On January 2, 2001, SA Richard testified before the United States Grand Jury to obtain  
16 a superseding indictment against Ms. Jernigan. He did so after becoming aware of robbery  
17 four and robbery five, but, as is uncontested, he did not disclose this information to the federal  
18 prosecutor, the grand jury or anyone else. The grand jury issued the superseding indictment.  
19 It added three counts—an additional count alleging that Ms. Jernigan used a firearm during  
20 the first robbery, (count two), an additional count charging that Ms. Jernigan committed  
21 robbery two (count three) and an additional count that Ms. Jernigan committed robbery three  
22 (count four).

23 Even given the similarities in the five robberies as a whole, based on the eyewitness  
24 identification of Ms. Chlupsa (robbery one), and Ms. Etherington (robbery three) of Rachel  
25 Jernigan as the perpetrator of those robberies, there was either probable cause to believe that  
26 Jernigan had committed robberies one and three, or a reasonable agent could have believed  
27 that there was independent probable cause. *Ewing*, 588 F.3d at 1218.

28 Even though robbery four and five provided “sufficient” distinctive indicia to connect



1 them with robberies one, two and three, and thus they should have been disclosed pursuant  
2 to *Brady*, nothing about robbery four and five was necessarily sufficient in and of itself to  
3 destroy the probable cause to continue the detention of Jernigan that arose from Ms. Chlupsa's  
4 identification of Ms. Jernigan for robbery one, or Ms. Etherington's identification of Ms.  
5 Jernigan for robbery three. Nor is SA Richard under an affirmative obligation to destroy any  
6 probable cause that he may have established with respect to Ms. Jernigan, so long as he has  
7 otherwise complied with his *Brady* obligations.

8 This same reasoning, however, does not apply to count three (robbery two) of the  
9 superceding indictment. In contrast to robberies one and three, no witness to robbery two  
10 identified Jernigan as the perpetrator. To the contrary, when Kerry Ward was shown the six-  
11 pack photo array containing Rachel Jernigan, she could not identify the perpetrator of robbery  
12 two from that line-up. Presumably, the only basis on which count three of the superceding  
13 indictment could have issued was, therefore, the similarity of robbery two to robberies one  
14 and three, and the affirmative identification of Jernigan as the perpetrator of robberies one and  
15 three. Nevertheless, when similar robberies four and five occurred after Ms. Jernigan was  
16 already in custody, any probable cause that arose because of the similarities between robbery  
17 two and robberies one and three dissipated. There was thus no other eyewitness identification  
18 providing probable cause justifying the charge. SA Richard was aware of the similarities in  
19 the subsequent robberies to robbery two and he nevertheless did not disclose that information  
20 to the prosecutor or the jury. Thus, the ultimate issuance by the grand jury of the superceding  
21 indictment does not preclude a malicious prosecution claim against him.

22 Ordinarily, the decision to file a criminal complaint is presumed to result from  
23 an independent determination of the prosecutor, and thus precludes liability  
24 [for a § 1983 malicious prosecution claim] for those who participated in the  
25 investigation . . . that resulted in initiation of proceedings. *The presumption of  
26 prosecutorial independence does not bar a subsequent § 1983 against . . .  
27 officials who . . . concealed exculpatory evidence, or otherwise engaged in  
28 wrongful or bad faith conduct that was actively instrumental in causing the  
initiation of legal proceedings.*

*Awabdy v. City of Adelanto*, 368 F.3d 1062, 1067 (9th Cir. 2004) (emphasis added).

The Court is aware that, at the time that the superceding indictment was issued, Mrs.

1 Jernigan was already in custody on the original indictment and that, after she was convicted  
2 of the initial counts in the superceding indictment, the remaining charges relating to robberies  
3 two and three were dismissed without prejudice. Therefore, because prior to the superceding  
4 indictment Ms. Jernigan was already in custody, and after her conviction remained in custody  
5 on charges for which there was probable cause to arrest her, there may be an issue as to  
6 causation of damages resulting from count three. Nevertheless, as to causation “[M]any factors  
7 or things or the conduct of two or more persons can operate at the same time either  
8 independently or together to cause injury or damage and in such a case each may be a  
9 proximate cause.” *Jones v. Williams*, 297 F.3d 930, 937 n. 6 (9th Cir. 2002). The parties have  
10 not briefed the issue and the Court is disinclined to grant summary judgment in the absence of  
11 it being addressed.

12 While Plaintiff’s malicious prosecution claim against SA Richard survives summary  
13 judgment as it pertains to count three of the superceding indictment (robbery two), she has  
14 demonstrated no such claim against either Sergeant McLaws, or Detective Brock. To state such  
15 a claim Plaintiff must show that “defendants prosecuted her with malice and without probable  
16 cause, and that they did so for the purpose of denying her equal protection or another specific  
17 constitutional right.” *Id.* at 1066 (quoting *Freeman v. City of Santa Ana*, 68 F.3d 1180, 1189  
18 (9th Cir. 1995)). As *Awabdy* further notes, “[m]alicious prosecution actions are not limited to  
19 suits against prosecutors but may be brought, as here, against other persons who have  
20 wrongfully caused the charges to be filed.” *Id.* (citing *Galbraith v. County of Santa Clara*, 307  
21 F.3d 1119, 1126–27 (9th Cir. 2002)).

22 Thus, to maintain her § 1983 claim against Sergeant McLaws and/or Detective Brock,  
23 Plaintiff is obliged to bring forth some evidence raising an issue of fact as to whether either of  
24 them “wrongfully caused the charges to be filed.” This she has failed to do. Robbery two  
25 occurred in Tempe; neither McLaws nor Brock are Tempe police officers and neither sought  
26 any charge against her for the Tempe bank robbery. Therefore, while SA Richard is not entitled  
27 to summary judgment on Ms. Jernigan’s claim for malicious prosecution at least as it pertains  
28 to count three of the superceding indictment, Sereant McLaws and Detective Brock are so

1 entitled.

2 The analysis for the state law malicious prosecution claim is largely identical. *See*  
3 *Slade v. City of Phoenix*, 112 Ariz. 298, 300, 541 P.2d 550, 552 (1975). “The essential  
4 elements of malicious prosecution are (1) a criminal prosecution, (2) that terminates in favor  
5 of plaintiff, (3) with defendants as prosecutors, (4) actuated by malice, (5) without probable  
6 cause, and (6) causing damages.” *Id.* Just as with the § 1983 malicious prosecution claims,  
7 probable cause to institute a proceeding against a plaintiff “constitute[s] a complete and  
8 absolute defense to an action for malicious prosecution.” *Frey v. Stoneman*, 150 Ariz. 106,  
9 109, 722 P.2d 274, 277 (1986). Thus, the probable cause for the arrests resulting from the  
10 eyewitness identifications of Elizabeth Chlupsa, and Colette Etherington bar a claim against  
11 any Defendant for malicious prosecution. There is, thus, no malicious prosecution claim as to  
12 counts one, two, or four of the indictment. Although Plaintiff may not be able to demonstrate  
13 that she suffered damage as a result of count three of the superceding indictment, no party has  
14 briefed the issue, thus there remains a claim for malicious prosecution against SA Richard on  
15 count three. Because there is no evidence that Sergeant McLaws, or Detective Brock instigated  
16 or had any role in prosecution on count three of the superceding indictment, they are entitled  
17 to summary judgment on the state law claim as is the Town of Gilbert.

## 18 **VI. Ms. Jernigan’s Motion For Summary Judgment**

19 Ms. Jernigan’s summary judgment motion against the Defendants is also granted in  
20 part and denied in part. It is granted to the extent that it seeks a judgment that SA Richard is  
21 not entitled to invoke a qualified immunity defense to Ms. Jernigan’s claims against him for  
22 *Brady* violations and for malicious prosecution. To the extent Plaintiff seeks summary  
23 judgment that Brock and McLaws are not entitled to qualified immunity, the motion is denied  
24 due to issues of material fact. Issues of fact also remain as to the other elements of Plaintiff’s  
25 *Bivens* and § 1983 claims against Defendants. Therefore, the remainder of Plaintiff’s motion  
26 for summary judgment is denied.

### 27 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

28 1. Granting in part, and denying in part, the Gilbert Defendants’ Motion for

1 Summary Judgment. (Doc. 96). The motion is granted to the extent that it seeks summary  
2 judgment on any state or federal claims for malicious prosecution against any of the Gilbert  
3 Defendants. It is also granted to the extent it seeks summary judgment on behalf of Defendant  
4 David Landgraf as to any and all claims of the complaint. The motion is denied to the extent  
5 that it seeks summary judgment on the *Brady* claims against Detective Brock and Sergeant  
6 McLaws.

7           2.       Granting in part, and denying in part, Defendant Kyle Richard's Motion for  
8 Summary Judgment. (Doc. 145). The motion is granted to the extent that the complaint asserts  
9 a *Bivens* malicious prosecution claim against SA Richard arising from Plaintiff's initial arrest,  
10 detention and prosecution for the September 20, 2000 bank robbery, (the original indictment,  
11 or counts one and two of the superceding indictment) or the October 25, 2000 bank robbery  
12 (count four of the superceding indictment). The Court denies the Motion as it relates to all  
13 other claims asserted by Plaintiff against SA Richard.

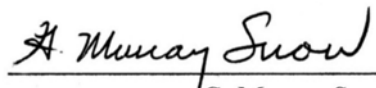
14           3.       Granting in part and denying in part the Motion for Partial Summary Judgment  
15 by Rachel Jernigan. (Doc. 152). The motion is granted only to the extent that it seeks a  
16 determination that Defendant Kyle Richard is not entitled to qualified immunity for any of the  
17 claims asserted against him. The motion is denied in all other aspects.

18           4.       The Court grants Plaintiff's request to Disregard the Town Defendant's  
19 Response. (Doc. 172).

20           5.       A copy of this Order on summary judgment is to be transmitted to the  
21 Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility ("OPR"). The Court requests the  
22 OPR to determine independently whether SA Richard's testimony at (1) Ms. Jernigan's hearing  
23 on her motion for new trial on May 12-13, 2004, (2) his declaration under penalty of perjury  
24 dated November 30, 2010 and filed in this matter at Doc. 145-2, Ex. A, specifically ¶ 12; and  
25 (3) his declaration under penalty of perjury dated January 24, 2011 and filed in this matter at  
26 Doc 162-2, specifically ¶ 12, comply with the ethical standards of the Department of Justice.  
27 The Court further refers to the OPR the question whether additional non-administrative action  
28 is merited against SA Richard in light of his sworn statements. This second question is

1 referred to the OPR in light of the recusal by the United States Attorney for the District of  
2 Arizona from this matter and the representation of SA Richard by the United States Attorney  
3 for the Central District of California. Should a further referral of this question by the OPR be  
4 necessary to implement the Court's referral, nothing about this Court's referral prevents such  
5 an additional referral.

6 DATED this 11th day of January, 2012.

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10 G. Murray Snow  
11 United States District Judge  
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