

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**v.**

**CRIMINAL NO. 1:15CR65-LG-RHW**

**MIKAL C. WATTS, ET AL.**

**ORDER (1) GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART MIKAL WATTS'  
MOTION TO PERMIT HIM TO SELF-REPRESENT WITH ROBERT  
MCDUFF SERVING AS HIS STANDBY COUNSEL AND(2) GRANTING  
MIKAL WATTS' MOTION TO MODIFY CONDITIONS OF RELEASE**

BEFORE THE COURT is Defendant Mikal Watts' [110] Motion to Permit Him to Self-Represent With Robert McDuff Serving As His Standby Counsel and his [151] Supplement Thereto, as well as Mikal Watts' [123] Motion to Modify Condition of Release. In his [151] Supplement, Mr. Watts withdrew his request that Mr. McDuff serve as his standby counsel. Accordingly, that portion of his Motion will be denied.

The Court held a hearing on January 19, 2016 on the remaining portion of Mr. Watts' Motion requesting self-representation and on the Motion to Modify Conditions of Release. The Government advised the Court at the hearing that it did not opposed Mr. Watts' request for self-representation or the requested modifications to Mr. Watts' conditions of release. Furthermore, the Court gave the appropriate warnings and admonitions and was satisfied that Mr. Watts

understands the consequences of his decision to represent himself. *See generally Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806 (1975). For the reasons stated on the record at the hearing held on January 19, 2016, the Court finds that Mr. Watts' request to self-represent should be granted. Robert McDuff will be excused as counsel and will be terminated as counsel of record. As a result of the Court's decision to allow Mr. Mikal Watts to represent himself, the Court is also of the opinion that the conditions of Mr. Watts' release should be modified as discussed herein so that he may prepare a proper defense.<sup>1</sup>

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that Defendant Mikal Watts' [110] Motion to Permit Him to Self-Represent With Robert McDuff Serving As His Standby Counsel and his [151] Supplement Thereto is **GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART**. The Motion is granted insofar as Mr. Watts is permitted to represent himself in this action. All other relief requested in his [110] Motion is denied. Mr. McDuff is **EXCUSED** as counsel in this action and will be terminated as counsel of record.

The Clerk is directed to **TERMINATE** Mr. McDuff as counsel of record and to reflect that Mr. Watts is proceeding *pro se*.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that Defendant Mikal Watts' [123] Motion to Modify Conditions of Release is **GRANTED** to remove

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<sup>1</sup> As discussed with Mr. Watts at the hearing on January 19, although the Court is removing this condition, it is in no way ordering witnesses that they have to speak with Mr. Watts should they chose not to do so.

Paragraph 7(g).

**SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

*s/ Louis Guirola, Jr.*

LOUIS GUIROLA, JR.  
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE