

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 16-20897-CR-SEITZ

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

PRINCESS CRUISE LINES, LTD.,

Defendant.

ORDER CONCERNING WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD

This matter came on before the Court upon the unopposed Motion of the United States proposing that the Court grant an award to Christopher Keays, a former employee of the defendant, who provided timely and significant evidence and information to the United Kingdom's Maritime and Coastguard Agency and to the United States, pursuant to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. 33 U.S.C. 1908(a) ("In the discretion of the Court, an amount equal to not more than ½ of such fine may be paid to the person giving information leading to conviction.").

Paragraph 5(f) of the Plea Agreement [ECF D.E.-2] states as follows:

Defendant further understands, pursuant to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, 33 U.S.C. § 1908(a), that the Court has discretion to award an amount equal to not more than one-half of the fine imposed in Counts 2 – 5 to the person giving information leading to conviction. As set forth in the Joint Factual Statement, the Parties agree that this is a matter in which information provided by a whistleblower resulted in Defendant's conviction. Having been advised that the government will recommend that the Court exercise its discretion and award the whistleblower one-half of the amount of the fine imposed pursuant to Counts 2 – 5, Defendant agrees that it

will not assert that it has standing and will take no position on any such award.

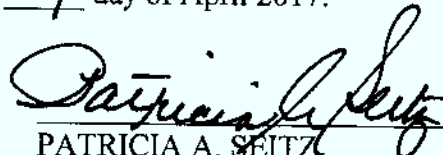
The Joint Factual Statement agreed to by the parties, provides further factual information supporting the undisputed proposition that Mr. Keays provided information and evidence that resulted in the defendant's conviction. JFS at 2-3, 5-8 [D.E.-2-1]. The Court has been apprised by the United States that Mr. Keays has expressed interest in receiving an award pursuant to APPS, Government's Sentencing Memorandum and Motion for a Whistleblower's Award [D.E.-26]. The Court has also received for its consideration a letter submitted by Mr. Keays. *Id.*, Exhibit #1.

BEING FULLY ADVISED IN THE PREMISES and upon careful consideration of the motion of the United States and the entire record in this case, including the Criminal Information, Plea Agreement, Joint Factual Statement and the letter from Mr. Keays, the Court finds that an award to Christopher Keays would be fully consistent with the manifest purpose of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, to encourage those with information about unlawful conduct to come forward and disclose that information to and cooperate with the authorities. The amount of the fine imposed pursuant to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in Counts 2-5 is \$2 million (\$500,000 per count). Thus, the maximum amount of a potential APPS award in this case and the amount the Court orders herein is \$1 million.

IT IS THEREFOR ORDERED ADJUDGED that a total payment in the amount equal to one-half of the criminal fine assessed against Defendant Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd., pursuant to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (Counts 2-5), specifically one million dollars (\$1,000,000), be awarded to Christopher Keays. The Clerk of the Court is directed to pay the aforementioned amount to Mr. Keays. The award shall be payable by check or wire transfer. The United States is hereby

directed to provide a copy of this Order to Mr. Keays within 24 hours and request that Mr. Keays notify the Clerk's Office of the preferred method of payment. The Court directs the United States to secure arrangements for Mr. Keays to promptly and securely receive the award granted by the Court.

Done in Chambers at Miami, Florida, this 24th day of April 2017.


PATRICIA A. SEITZ
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE