SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

STREET ADDRESS:

312-C East Cook Street

MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: P.O. Box 5369

BRANCH NAME:

Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Cook Division

People of the State of California v. Michael Joe Jackson

FOR COURT USE ONLY

FILE

SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA

JUN 0 3 2005

GARY M. BLAIR, Executive Officer

CANCEL WAGNER Debuty Clerk

Findings and Order re Sealing Transcript of May 31, 2005 In Camera Hearing

CASE NUMBER: 1133603

On May 31, 2005, the court held an in camera hearing outside the presence of the jury and the public. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the court ordered that transcript be sealed.

The Court makes the following findings in support of sealing the transcript:

The discussions held outside the public's presence concerned jury management. No rulings or orders were made during the chambers conference. Conducting the discussions in the presence of the public and the media would have inhibited the frankness of the exchange and signaled a greater concern than actually existed. In the high profile circumstances of this case, such public discussion may come to the attention of the jurors, potentially impacting the fair trial right of the litigants. For the same reasons, release of a transcript at this time would be inappropriate.

In this case, protection of the Defendant's right to a fair trial overcomes the right of public access to the record. A substantial probability exists that those interests will be prejudiced if the record is not sealed. The intensity of the media coverage in this case is unprecedented. Each court hearing is thoroughly reported and exhaustively analyzed by the media. The Court has consistently held that because of the pervasive media coverage in this case, the Defendant's right to a fair trial outweighs public access. Those findings are relevant here and incorporated by reference. [See Findings and Order re: Motion for Protective Order, filed January 23, 2004 and Findings and Order re: Sealing of Search Warrant Materials, filed January 23, 2004] There are no less restrictive means to protect those interests.

The Court acknowledges that its order must be narrowly tailored to accommodate the maximum public disclosure. Nevertheless, release of a redacted version of the transcript does not appear to be possible. A transcript will be made public at the conclusion of the trial.

Dated:

JUN - 3 2005

Judge of the Superior Court

## PROOF OF SERVICE 1013A(1)(3), 1013(c) CCP

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA:

I am a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of the county aforesaid. I am employed by the County of Santa Barbara, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 312-H East Cook Street, Santa Maria, California.

On <u>June 3, 2005</u>, I served a copy of the attached <u>FINDINGS AND ORDER RE SEALING</u>
TRANSCRIPT OF MAY 31, 2005 IN CAMERA HEARING addressed as follows:

THOMAS A. MESEREAU, JR.
COLLINS, MESEREAU, REDDOCK & YU, LLP
1875 CENTURY PARK EAST. 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

JUNE 20 05, at Santa Maria, California.

THOMAS W. SNEDDON, JR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 1112 SANTA BARBARA STREET - SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

X FAX
By faxing true copies thereof to the receiving fax numbers of: <u>(805) 456-0699 (Thomas Mesereal</u>
Jr.); (805) 568-2398 (Thomas Sneddon). Said transmission was reported complete and without erro
Pursuant to California Rules of Court 2005(i), a transmission report was properly issued by the transmitting
facsimile machine and is attached hereto.
MAIL
By placing true copies thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid, in the Unite
States Postal Service mail box in the City of Santa Maria, County of Santa Barbara, addressed as above. The
there is delivery service by the United States Postal Service at the place so addressed or that there is a regular
communication by mail between the place of mailing and the place so addressed.
PERSONAL SERVICE MISSICO MISSI
By leaving a true copy thereof at their office with the person having charge thereof or by hand deliver
to the above mentioned parties.
EXPRESS MAIL
EXPRESS PIALE
By depositing such envelope in a post office, mailbox, sub-post office, substation, mail chute, or other
like facility regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service for receipt of Express Mail, in a seale
envelope, with express mail postage paid.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 3<sup>RD</sup>

CARRIE L. WAGNER

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