

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA STREET ADDRESS: 312-C East Cook Street MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5369 CITY AND ZIP CODE: Santa Maria, CA 93453-5369 BRANCH NAME: Cook Division	FOR COURT USE ONLY FILED SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA NOV 04 2004 GARY M. BLAIR, Executive Officer <i>By Carrie L. Wagner</i> CARRIE L. WAGNER, Deputy Clerk
People of the State of California v. Michael Joe Jackson	
FINDINGS AND ORDER RE SEALING PEOPLE'S STATUS REPORT ON PLAINTIFF'S DISCOVERY TO DEFENDANT	CASE NUMBER: 1133603

On August 17, 2004, the District Attorney filed its Status Report on Plaintiff's Discovery to Defendant under conditional seal. The redacted version was released on August 17, 2004. On November 4, 2004, the court granted the motion to seal the documents.

The Court makes the following findings:

The Status Report in unredacted form attaches a chart depicting the status of the search warrants issued in this case. That chart identified the subject of the search warrants, the names of which in some cases have not yet been released. These names are the only items redacted from the chart. It also attaches correspondence that contained the names of potential witnesses as well as identified potential items of evidence. These items were redacted.

In this case, protection of the Defendant's right to a fair trial and protection of the identity of the minor complaining witness and his family 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 as requested. The intensity of the media coverage in this case is unprecedented. Each court hearing is thoroughly reported and exhaustively analyzed by the media. It is substantially probable that if the evidence expected to be given at trial were to be released pretrial, it would be similarly reported and analyzed. The sealing order is necessary to maintain the integrity of the available jury pool by limiting its exposure to the expected evidence and testimony pretrial and to prevent exposure to inadmissible items of evidence. 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 extraordinary circumstances present in this case overcome the presumption that cautionary admonitions and instructions to the jury pool would have a curative effect. It is far more desirable to avoid the prejudice in the first instance than to hope to identify unaffected jurors later.

The Court acknowledges that its order must be narrowly tailored to accommodate the maximum public disclosure. A redacted version of this document was released as noted above.

Dated: _____

NOV 04 2004

Rodney S. Melville

 Judge of the Superior Court

RODNEY S. MELVILLE

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 NOVEMBER 4, 20 04, I served a copy of the attached FINDINGS AND ORDER RE SEALING PEOPLE'S STATUS REPORT ON PLAINTIFF'S DISCOVERY TO DEFENDANT addressed as follows:

THOMAS SNEDDON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
1112 SANTA BARBARA STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

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

X FAX

By faxing true copies thereof to the receiving fax numbers of: (805) 568-2398 (Thomas Sneddon); (310) 861-1007 (Thomas Mesereau, Jr.). Said transmission was reported complete and without error. 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 United States Postal Service mail box in the City of Santa Maria, County of Santa Barbara, addressed as above. That