MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Treaty Between the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and BERMUDA

Signed at Hamilton January 12, 2009
NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966
(80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

“. . .the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.”
BERMUDA

Mutual Legal Assistance

Treaty signed at Hamilton January 12, 2009;
Transmitted by the President of the United States of America
to the Senate June 29, 2010 (Treaty Doc. 111-6,
111th Congress, 2d Session);
Reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
July 26, 2011 (Senate Executive Report No. 112-3,
112th Congress, 1st Session);
Advice and consent to ratification by the Senate
September 26, 2011;
Ratified by the President January 6, 2012;
Exchange of letters of notification at Hamilton April 12, 2012;
Entered into force April 12, 2012.
TREATY

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

RELATING TO MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS
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The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Bermuda (having been authorized by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (hereinafter "the Parties"),

Desiring to improve the effectiveness of the law enforcement authorities of both the United States of America and Bermuda in the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of crime through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters,


Have agreed as follows:
Article 1

Scope of Assistance

1. The Parties shall provide mutual assistance to each other, in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, in connection with the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of criminal offenses for which the maximum penalty is deprivation of liberty for at least one year, and in proceedings related to criminal matters.

2. Assistance shall include:

   (a) locating or identifying persons or items;
   (b) serving documents;
   (c) taking the testimony or statements of persons;
   (d) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes;
   (e) providing documents, records, and other items;
   (f) conducting searches and seizures;
   (g) assisting in proceedings related to forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of criminal fines; and
   (h) providing any other assistance not inconsistent with the laws of the Requested Party.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this Treaty, assistance shall be provided without regard to whether the conduct that is the subject of the investigation, prosecution, or proceeding in the Requesting Party would constitute an offense under the laws of the Requested Party.

4. This Treaty is intended solely for mutual legal assistance between the Parties. The provisions of this Treaty shall not give rise to a right on the part of any private person to obtain, suppress, or exclude any evidence, or to impede the execution of a request.
Article 2

Central Authorities

1. Each Party shall designate a Central Authority to make and receive requests pursuant to this Treaty.

2. For the United States of America, the Central Authority shall be the Attorney General or a person designated by the Attorney General. For Bermuda, the Central Authority shall be the Attorney General or a person designated by the Attorney General.

3. The Central Authorities shall communicate directly with one another for the purposes of this Treaty.

Article 3

Limitations on Assistance

1. The Central Authority of the Requested Party may deny assistance if:

(a) the Requested Party is of the opinion that the request, if granted, would impair its sovereignty, security, or other essential interests or would be contrary to important public policy;

(b) the request relates to an offender who, if proceeded against in the Requested Party for the offense for which assistance is requested, would be entitled to be discharged on the grounds of a previous acquittal or conviction;

(c) the request relates to an offense under military law that would not be an offense under ordinary criminal law;

(d) the request relates to a political offense; or

(e) the request does not conform to the requirements of the Treaty.

2. Before denying assistance pursuant to this Article, the Central Authority of the Requested Party shall consult with the Central Authority of the Requesting Party to consider whether assistance can be given subject to such conditions as it deems necessary. If the Requesting Party accepts assistance subject to these conditions, it shall comply with the conditions.
3. If the Central Authority of the Requested Party denies assistance pursuant to this Article, it shall inform the Central Authority of the Requesting Party of the reasons for the denial.

Article 4

Form and Contents of Requests

1. A request for assistance shall be in writing.

2. The request shall include the following:

   (a) the name of the authority conducting the investigation, prosecution, or proceeding to which the request relates;

   (b) a description of the investigation, prosecution, or proceeding, including the specific criminal offenses that relate to the matter;

   (c) information, where available, on the identity, date of birth, and location of the person or persons under investigation or prosecution;

   (d) a statement of the facts relied upon in support of the request;

   (e) a description of the evidence, information, or other assistance sought;

   (f) a statement of the purpose for which the evidence, information, or other assistance is sought;

   (g) an affirmation that the statute of limitations with respect to the criminal offense has not expired; and

   (h) an affirmation that none of the persons being investigated has previously been tried, convicted, or acquitted for the same conduct that is under investigation or, if any such person has previously been tried, convicted, or acquitted for the same conduct that is under investigation, a detailed explanation of why the Requesting Party believes another trial of that person would be proper under its laws.
3. To the extent necessary and possible, a request shall also include:

   (a) information on the identity, date of birth, and location of any person from whom evidence is sought;

   (b) information on the identity and location of a person to be served, that person’s relationship to the proceeding, and the manner in which service is to be made;

   (c) information on the identity and suspected location of a person or item to be located;

   (d) a precise description of the place or person to be searched and of the item to be seized;

   (e) a description of the manner in which any testimony or statement is to be taken and recorded;

   (f) a description of the testimony or statement sought, which may include a list of questions to be asked of a person;

   (g) a description of any particular procedure to be followed in executing the request;

   (h) information as to the allowances and expenses to which a person asked to appear in the Requesting Party will be entitled; and

   (i) any other information that may be brought to the attention of the Requested Party to facilitate its execution of the request.

Article 5

Execution of Requests

1. As empowered by this Treaty or by national law, the Requested Party shall take whatever steps it deems necessary to give effect to requests received from the Requesting Party. The courts of the Requested Party shall have authority to issue subpoenas, search warrants, or other orders necessary to execute the request.

2. When execution of the request requires judicial or administrative action, the request shall be presented to the appropriate authority by the persons appointed by the Central Authority of the Requested Party.
3. Requests shall be executed in accordance with the laws of the Requested Party except to the extent that this Treaty provides otherwise. The method of execution specified in the request shall be followed to the extent that it is not incompatible with the laws and practices of the Requested Party. Where neither the Treaty nor the request specifies a particular procedure, the request shall be executed in accordance with the appropriate procedure under the laws applicable for criminal investigations or proceedings in the Requested Party.

4. If the Central Authority of the Requested Party determines that execution of a request would interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation, prosecution, or proceeding in that Party, or would prejudice the safety of any person in the territory of the Requested Party, it may postpone execution, or make execution subject to conditions determined to be necessary after consultation with the Central Authority of the Requesting Party. If the Requesting Party accepts the assistance subject to the conditions, it shall comply with the conditions.

5. The Requested Party shall use its best efforts to keep confidential a request and its contents if such confidentiality is requested by the Central Authority of the Requesting Party. If the Requested Party believes that the request cannot be executed without breaching such confidentiality, the Central Authority of the Requested Party shall so inform the Central Authority of the Requesting Party, which shall then determine whether the request should nevertheless be executed.

6. The Central Authority of the Requested Party shall respond to reasonable requests by the Central Authority of the Requesting Party concerning progress toward execution of the request.

7. The Central Authority of the Requested Party may ask the Central Authority of the Requesting Party to provide information in such form as may be necessary to enable it to execute the request or to undertake any steps which may be necessary under the laws and practices of the Requested Party in order to give effect to the request received from the Requesting Party.

8. The Central Authority of the Requesting Party shall inform the Central Authority of the Requested Party promptly of any circumstances which make it inappropriate to proceed with the execution of the request or which require modification of the action requested.

9. The Central Authority of the Requested Party shall promptly inform the Central Authority of the Requesting Party of the outcome of the execution of a request. If execution of the request is denied, delayed, or postponed, the Central Authority of the Requested Party shall inform the Central Authority of the Requesting Party of the reasons for the denial, delay, or postponement.
Article 6

Costs

1. The Requested Party shall pay all costs relating to the execution of a request, including the costs of representation, except for the following, which shall be paid by the Requesting Party:

   (a) the fees of experts;
   (b) the costs of translation, interpretation, and transcription;
   (c) the allowances and expenses related to travel of persons pursuant to Articles 10 and 11; and
   (d) other costs incurred by the Requested Party as a direct result of executing a request to the extent agreed upon by the Central Authorities in accordance with paragraph 2 or paragraph 3 of this Article.

2. If it becomes apparent that the Requested Party will incur expenses of an extraordinary nature in the execution of a request, the Central Authorities shall consult to determine the terms and conditions under which execution may continue.

3. If the Requested Party incurs expenses of an extraordinary nature in the execution of a request that were:

   (a) unexpected; and
   (b) incurred through no fault of the Requested Party,

the Central Authorities shall consult to determine whether the Requesting Party shall pay some or all of these expenses.

Article 7

Limitations on Use

1. The Requesting Party shall not use or disclose any information or evidence obtained under this Treaty for any purposes other than for the proceedings stated in the request, without the prior consent of the Central Authority of the Requested Party.
2. The Central Authority of the Requested Party may request that information or evidence furnished under this Treaty be kept confidential or be used only subject to terms and conditions that it may specify. If the Requesting Party accepts the information or evidence subject to such conditions, the Requesting Party shall use its best efforts to comply with them.

3. Nothing in this Article shall preclude the use or disclosure of information or evidence to the extent that there is an obligation to do so under the Constitution of the Requesting Party in a criminal prosecution. The Requesting Party shall notify the Requested Party in advance of any such proposed disclosure.

4. Unless otherwise indicated by the Requested Party when executing the request, information or evidence, the contents of which have been disclosed in a public judicial or administrative hearing related to the request, may thereafter be used for any purpose.

Article 8

Testimony or Evidence in the Requested Party

1. A person in the Requested Party from whom testimony or evidence is requested pursuant to this Treaty shall be compelled, if necessary, to appear and testify or produce items, including documents and records, in accordance with the requirements of the law of the Requested Party.

2. Upon request, the Central Authority of the Requested Party shall furnish to the Requesting Party, in advance, information regarding the date and place of the taking of testimony or evidence pursuant to this Article.

3. The Requested Party shall permit the presence of persons specified in the request during the execution of the request, and shall allow persons specified in the request to ask questions of the person whose testimony or evidence is being taken, through a legal representative qualified to appear before the courts of the Requested Party.

4. If the person referred to in paragraph 1 asserts a claim of immunity, incapacity, or privilege under the laws of the Requesting Party with respect to testimony or evidence that is not subject to a claim of immunity, incapacity, or privilege under the laws of the Requested Party, the testimony or evidence shall nonetheless be taken and the claim made known to the Central Authority of the Requesting Party for resolution by the authorities of that Party.

5. Evidence produced in the Requested Party pursuant to this Article or evidence that is the subject of testimony taken under this Article may be authenticated
by an attestation including, with respect to business records, authentication in the manner indicated in Form A appended to this Treaty. The absence or nonexistence of such records shall, upon request, be certified through the use of Form B appended to this Treaty. Records authenticated by Form A, or Form B certifying the absence or nonexistence of such records, shall be admissible in evidence in the Requesting Party.

Article 9

Official Records

1. The Requested Party shall provide the Requesting Party with copies of publicly available records, including documents or information in any form, in the possession of an executive, legislative, or judicial authority in the Requested Party.

2. The Requested Party may provide copies of any records, including documents or information in any form, that are in the possession of an executive, legislative, or judicial authority in that Party, but that are not publicly available, to the same extent and under the same conditions as such copies would be available to the Requested Party's own law enforcement or judicial authorities. The Requested Party may in its discretion deny, entirely or in part, a request for records that are not publicly available.

3. Records produced pursuant to this Article shall, upon request, be authenticated by an official responsible for maintaining them through the use of Form C appended to this Treaty. No further authentication shall be necessary. The absence or nonexistence of such records shall, upon request, be certified by an official responsible for maintaining similar records through the use of Form D appended to this Treaty. Records authenticated by Form C, or Form D certifying the absence or nonexistence of such records, shall be admissible in evidence in the Requesting Party as proof of the truth of the matters stated therein.

Article 10

Appearance Outside the Requested Party

1. The Requesting Party may request the appearance outside the Requested Party of a person located in the Requested Party for purposes of assistance under this Treaty. The Requesting Party shall invite the person to appear and the Central Authority of the Requested Party shall promptly inform the Central Authority of the Requesting Party of the person's response.

2. The Requesting Party shall indicate the extent to which the person's expenses will be paid. A person who agrees to appear may ask that the Requesting
Party advance money to cover these expenses. This advance may be provided through the Embassy or a consulate of the Requesting Party.

3. The Central Authority of the Requesting Party may, in its discretion, determine that a person appearing in the Requesting Party pursuant to this Article shall not be subject to service of process, or be detained or subjected to any restriction of personal liberty, by reason of any acts or convictions that preceded the person's departure from the Requested Party.

4. The safe conduct provided for by this Article shall cease fifteen days after the Central Authority of the Requesting Party has notified the Central Authority of the Requested Party that the person's presence is no longer required, or when the person, having left the Requesting Party, voluntarily returns.

Article 11

Transfer of Persons in Custody

1. A person in the custody of the Requested Party whose presence outside the Requested Party is sought for purposes of providing assistance under this Treaty shall be transferred from the Requested Party for that purpose if the person consents and if the Central Authorities of the Requesting and the Requested Parties agree.

2. A person in the custody of the Requesting Party whose presence in the Requested Party is sought for purposes of assistance under this Treaty may be transferred from the Requesting Party to the Requested Party if the person consents and if the Central Authorities of both Parties agree.

3. For purposes of this Article:

(a) the receiving Party shall have the authority and the obligation to keep the person transferred in custody unless otherwise authorized by the sending Party;

(b) the receiving Party shall return the person transferred to the custody of the sending Party as soon as circumstances permit or as otherwise agreed by both Central Authorities;

(c) the receiving Party shall not require the sending Party to initiate extradition or any other proceedings for the return of the person transferred;
the person transferred shall receive credit for service of the sentence imposed in the sending Party for time served in the custody of the receiving Party, and

(e) where the receiving Party is a third State, the Requesting Party shall make all arrangements necessary to meet the requirements of this paragraph.

4. Safe conduct shall be provided in accordance with Article 10, paragraphs 3 and 4, except that the person shall be kept in custody for the offense for which the person is incarcerated in the sending Party.

Article 12

Transit of Persons in Custody

1. The Requested Party may authorize the transit through its territory of a person held in custody, by the Requesting Party or a third State, whose personal appearance has been requested by the Requesting Party in an investigation, prosecution, or proceeding.

2. The Requested Party shall have the authority and the obligation to keep the person in custody during transit.

Article 13

Location or Identification of Persons or Items

The Requested Party shall use its best efforts to ascertain the location or identity in the Requested Party of persons or items specified in a request.

Article 14

Service of Documents

1. The Requested Party shall use its best efforts to effect service of any document relating to any request for assistance made by the Requesting Party under the provisions of this Treaty.

2. Service of any subpoena or other process by virtue of paragraph 1 of this Article requesting appearance or production of documents in the territory of the
Requesting Party shall not impose any obligation under the law of the Requested Party to comply with it.

3. The Requesting Party shall transmit any request for the service of a document requiring the appearance of a person before an authority in the Requesting Party a reasonable time before the scheduled appearance.

4. The Requested Party shall return a proof of service to the Requesting Party in the manner specified in the request.

Article 15

Search and Seizure

1. The Requested Party shall execute a request for the search, seizure, and transfer of any item to the Requesting Party if the request includes the information justifying such action under the laws of the Requested Party and it is carried out in accordance with the laws of that Party.

2. The Requested Party may refuse a request if it relates to conduct in respect of which powers of search and seizure would not be exercisable in the territory of the Requested Party in similar circumstances;

3. Upon request, every official who has had custody of a seized item shall certify, through the use of Form E appended to this Treaty, the identity of the item, the continuity of custody, and any changes in condition. No further certification shall be required. The certificates shall be admissible in evidence in the Requesting Party.

4. The Central Authority of the Requested Party may require that the Requesting Party agree to terms and conditions which the Requested Party may deem necessary to protect third party interests in the item to be transferred.

Article 16

Return of Items

The Central Authority of the Requesting Party shall arrange for the return of any item, including documents and records furnished in execution of a request under this Treaty, as soon as practicable unless the Central Authority of the Requested Party waives the return.
Article 17

Assistance in Forfeiture Proceedings

1. If the Central Authority of one Party becomes aware of proceeds or instrumentalities of offenses that are located in the other Party and may be forfeitable or otherwise subject to seizure under the laws of that Party, it may so inform the Central Authority of the other Party. If that other Party has jurisdiction in this regard, it may present this information to its authorities for a determination whether any action is appropriate. These authorities shall issue their decision in accordance with their national laws and shall, through their Central Authority, report to the other Party on the action taken.

2. Each Party shall assist the other to the extent permitted by its laws in proceedings relating to the forfeiture of the proceeds and instrumentalities of offenses, restitution to the victims of crime, and the collection of fines imposed as sentences in criminal prosecutions. This may include action to temporarily immobilize the proceeds or instrumentalities pending further proceedings.

3. The Party that has custody over proceeds or instrumentalities of offenses shall dispose of them in accordance with its laws. Either Party may transfer all or part of such assets, or the proceeds of their sale, to the other Party, to the extent permitted by the transferring Party's laws and upon such terms as it deems appropriate.

Article 18

Treaty as First Resort

Neither Party shall enforce any compulsory measure requiring an action to be performed by any person located in the territory of the other Party with respect to a matter for which assistance could be granted under this Treaty unless the Party proposing such enforcement has first attempted in good faith to obtain the desired assistance pursuant to the Treaty.

Article 19

Compatibility with Other Agreements

Assistance and procedures set forth in this Treaty shall not prevent either Party from granting assistance to the other Party through the provisions of other applicable international agreements, or through the provisions of its national laws. Either Party may also provide assistance pursuant to any bilateral arrangement, agreement, or practice that may be applicable.
Article 20

Consultation

The Central Authorities shall consult, at times mutually agreed to by them, to promote the most effective use of this Treaty. The Central Authorities may also agree on such practical measures as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of this Treaty.

Article 21

Definitions

For the purposes of this Treaty:

1. “Proceedings related to criminal matters” means any measure or step taken in connection with the investigation or prosecution of criminal offenses for which the maximum penalty under the laws of the Requesting Party is deprivation of liberty for at least one year, including immobilization, seizure, and forfeiture of proceeds and instrumentalities of crime, and the imposition of fines related to a criminal prosecution.

2. The Central Authorities, at their discretion, may agree in writing to treat as “proceedings related to criminal matters” any investigation by an administrative agency or hearing before an administrative tribunal or court that may result in the imposition of civil or administrative sanctions.

3. The Parties shall treat as “proceedings related to criminal matters” all civil or administrative proceedings, ancillary to a pending criminal investigation or prosecution, and taken by either Party or its agencies connected with:

   a) the use by any person willfully or dishonestly of any means, directly or indirectly, in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security:

      i) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;

      ii) dishonestly to make any untrue statement of material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statement made, in light of the circumstances under which it was made, not misleading; or

      iii) dishonestly to engage in any act, practice, or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person; or
(b) the offer, purchase, or sale of securities by any person while in possession of material non-public information, directly or indirectly relating to the securities offered, purchased, or sold, in breach of a legally binding duty of trust or confidence.

Article 22

Entry into Force and Termination

1. This Treaty shall enter into force on the date of the latter written notification by the Parties that they have completed their internal legal requirements for the entry into force of this Treaty.

2. This Treaty shall apply to any request presented after the date of its entry into force whether the relevant acts or omissions occurred prior to or after that date.

3. Either Party may terminate this Treaty by means of written notice to the other Party. Termination shall take effect six months following the date of notification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Treaty.

DONE at Hamilton, in duplicate, this 12th day of January 2009, in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA (HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND):

[Signatures]

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Form A

CERTIFICATION OF BUSINESS RECORDS

I, ____________________________, attest on penalty of criminal punishment for false statement or attestation that I am employed by/associated with _____________________________ in the position of ___________________________ and by reason of my position am authorized and qualified to make this attestation. Each of the records attached hereto is a record in the custody of the above-named business that:

(A) was made, at or near the time of the occurrence of the matters set forth, by (or from information transmitted by) a person with knowledge of those matters;

(B) was kept in the course of a regularly conducted business activity;

(C) was made or kept by the business as a regular practice; and

(D) if not an original record, is a duplicate of the original.

__________________________
(date of execution)

__________________________
(place of execution)

__________________________
(signature)
Form B

CERTIFICATION OF ABSENCE OR NONEXISTENCE OF BUSINESS RECORDS

I, ____________________________, attest on penalty of criminal punishment for false statement or attestation that I am employed by / associated with ____________________________ in the position of ____________________________ and by reason of my position am authorized and qualified to make this attestation.

As a result of my employment / association with the above-named business, I am familiar with the business records it maintains. The business maintains records that are:

(A) made, at or near the time of the occurrence of the matters set forth, by (or from information transmitted by) a person with knowledge of those matters;

(B) kept in the course of a regularly conducted business activity; and

(C) made or kept by the business as a regular practice.

Among the records so maintained are records of individuals and entities that have accounts or otherwise transact business with the above-named business. I have made or caused to be made a diligent search of those records. No records have been found reflecting any business activity between the business and the following individuals and entities:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

__________________________
[Date of execution]

__________________________
[Place of execution]

__________________________
[Signature]
Form C

CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL RECORDS

1. __________ (name)__________, attest on penalty of criminal punishment for false statement or attestation that:

   1. __________ (name of office or agency)__________ is a government office or agency of __________ (country)__________ and is authorized by law to maintain official records setting forth matters authorized by law to be reported and recorded or filed;

   2. My position with the above-named public authority is __________ (official title)__________;

   3. In my official capacity I have caused the production of true and accurate copies of records maintained by that public authority, and

   4. Those copies are described below and attached.

   Description of Documents:

   __________ (signature)

   __________ (date)

   Official Seal
Form D

CERTIFICATION OF ABSENCE OR NONEXISTENCE OF OFFICIAL RECORDS

I, __________ [name] __________, attest on penalty of criminal punishment for false
statement or attestation that:

1. __________ [name of office or agency] __________ is a government office or
   agency of __________ [country] __________ and is authorized by law to maintain
   official records setting forth matters authorized by law to be reported and
   recorded or filed;

2. Records of the type described below set forth matters that are authorized
   by law to be reported and recorded or filed, and such matters regularly are
   recorded or filed by the above-named public authority;

3. My position with the above-named public authority is __________ [official title] __________.

4. In my official capacity I have caused the production of true and accurate
   copies of records maintained by that public authority; and

5. No such records have been found to exist therein.

Description of Documents:

__________________________
[signature]

__________________________
[date]

Official Seal
Form E

CERTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO SEIZED ITEMS

I, ___________, attest on penalty of criminal punishment for false statement or attestation that:

1. My position with the Government of __________ (country) is __________ (official title).

2. I received custody of the items listed below from __________ (name of person) on __________ (date), at __________ (place), and

3. I relinquished custody of the items listed below to __________ (name of person) on __________ (date), at __________ (place) in the same condition as when I received them (or, if different, as noted below).

Description of Articles:

Changes in condition while in my custody:

__________________________
(date of execution)

__________________________
(place of execution)

__________________________
(signature)

Official Seal