

J. Hodges
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FILED

MAR 07 2018

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
DEPUTY

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Case No.: **18MJ1062**

2 v.

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF

3 ESTEBAN ANTONIO LOAIZA,

Title 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) —
Possession of Cocaine with
Intent to Distribute

4 Defendant.

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7 The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

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9 On or about February 9, 2018, in the Southern District of California, defendant
10 Esteban Antonio Loaiza knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute 5
11 kilograms and more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine,
12 a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section
13 841(a)(1).

14 And the complainant states that this complaint is based on the attached statement
15 of facts, which is incorporated herein by reference.



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17 Chad T. Plennes
Special Agent
Drug Enforcement Administration

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19 Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 7th day of March, 2018.



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21 HON. NITA L. STORMES
United States Magistrate Judge

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PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

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2 On February 9, 2018, law enforcement officers were conducting surveillance of a
3 silver Mercedes SUV when it arrived at a townhouse residence located at 1044 Fern
4 Avenue, Imperial Beach, California. An officer observed the Mercedes enter the two-car
5 garage pertaining to that address and the garage door was then closed. Approximately
6 ten minutes later, the garage door opened and the Mercedes departed the garage. After
7 following the Mercedes for a brief period, a San Diego Sheriff's Deputy contacted the
8 driver of the Mercedes, later determined to be defendant Esteban Antonio LOAIZA,
9 after he stopped in a public parking lot.

10 The Deputy used a canine trained in narcotics detection to conduct a sniff of the
11 Mercedes. The canine displayed a positive alert to the rear of the Mercedes, indicating
12 that narcotics were, or had been, present. The Deputy searched the Mercedes and
13 observed an aftermarket compartment in the rear of the Mercedes of the type commonly
14 used to smuggle drugs and drug proceeds. The Deputy also located a garage door remote
15 in LOAIZA's shirt pocket. Attached to the remote was an adhesive note that read "1044
16 Fern Ave," which was the address LOAIZA had recently departed.

17 Based on these observations, officers obtained a search warrant for 1044 Fern
18 Avenue. Officers used the garage door remote obtained from LOAIZA to enter the
19 residence. Officers observed that the residence lacked furniture or personal belongings,
20 but that there was a grey Nissan minivan parked in the garage. In the rear cargo area
21 of the Nissan, officers observed several baseball bags, some of which were labeled
22 "Loaiza." Defendant LOAIZA was formerly a professional baseball player.

23 Underneath the baseball bags and the rear floor panels of the Nissan, officers
24 found 20 packages, consistent with the usual appearance of packaged narcotics,
25 concealed inside a factory void. Officers checked three random packages and each
26 contained a white powdery substance matching the appearance of powder cocaine. The
27 total mass of the suspected cocaine net of packaging was approximately 20 kilograms.

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