

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S MINUTES
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA – TUCSON**

U.S. Magistrate Judge: Leslie A. Bowman

Date: January 19, 2022

USA v. Amber Ortega

Case Number: 20-08904MJ-001-TUC-LAB

Assistant U.S. Attorney: Vincent Joseph Sottosanti

Attorney for Defendant: Amy Pickering Knight, Retained

Interpreter: N/A

Defendant: Present Released

**MOTION HEARING re: MOTION TO RECONSIDER ORDER REJECTING RFRA
DEFENSE (Doc. 51)**

Defense counsel argues in support of defendant's motion (Doc. 51). The Government responds. Argument heard.

The Government makes a record that an outstanding disclosure issue is being addressed.

The Court grants the Motion to Reconsider Order Rejecting RFRA (Doc. 51) based on matters misapprehended by the Court. The Court finds that those matters did lead to the Court making manifest error in the Court's Order (Doc. 46).

The Court denies the Motion in Limine to Preclude Any Defense on the RFRA (Doc. 32) and will consider the evidence brought through Lorraine Eiler's and Amber Ortega's testimony. Considering the new evidence, the Court finds the prosecution of defendant did impose a substantial burden on the exercise of defendant's religion and that the Government has not proven a compelling Government interest.

The Court further finds defendant NOT GUILTY.

**Recorded By Courtsmart
Deputy Clerk Susana Barraza**

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