In The Matter Of: ~Taylor v. Howse, et al.~

Shane Grimshaw 02/07/2017

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2/7/2017 et al.∼ Page 3 IN THE STATE COURT OF FAYETTE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA 1 TABLE OF CONTENTS 2 3 EXAMINATION **PAGE** 4 5 Examination by Mr. Butler 5 Plaintiff, 6 CIVIL ACTION 7 FILE NO. 2015SV-0270 8 and NATIONWIDE AFFINITY INSURANCE COMPANY | 9 OF AMERICA, PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION 10 PAGE Defendants. 11 Exhibit A Notice of Deposition 12 Exhibit B Capital Investigations Invoice 13 Exhibit C Thumb Drive of Video Footage 17 14 VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF Exhibit D Series of Screenshots 18 15 Exhibit E Report 31 16 Exhibit F, G Professional Licenses 45 17 Exhibit H Photograph of Camera 52 Tuesday, February 7, 2017 18 19 1:36 p.m. (Original Exhibits A through H have been attached to the original transcript.) 20 21 2970 Clairmont Road 22 Suite 600 Atlanta, Georgia 23 24 Kate Cochran, RPR, CCR-2722 25 Page 2 Page 4 1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL 1 (Reporter disclosure made pursuant to 2 2 Article 10.B of the Rules and Regulations of the 3 On behalf of the Plaintiff: 3 Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council of IAMES E. BUTLER, III, Esq. Butler Tobin 1932 North Druid Hills Road NE Suite 250 Allanta Georgia 30319 404-578-8493 Jeb@butlertobin.com 4 4 Georgia.) 5 5 (Plaintiff's Exhibit A was marked for 6 6 identification.) 7 7 MR. BUTLER: This will be the deposition 8 8 taken pursuant to notice and On behalf of the Uninsured Motorist Carrier: 9 9 agreement in the case of against MARK E. SCOTT, Esq. Law Office of Natalie M. Sm. 2970 Clairmont Road, NE Suite 600 Affanta, Georgia 30329 Mark.scott@nationwide.com 10 10 Nationwide. Smith 11 11 I've marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit A a 12 12 copy of the notice of deposition. And with that, we 13 13 can go on the video. Oh, excuse me, the deposition 14 14 will be taken pursuant to the Civil Practice Act for On behalf of the Defendant: CAITLIN DORNE MATTLER, Esq. Crim & Bassler 100 Galleria Parkway Suite 1510 Affanta, Georgia 30339-3122 Cmattler@cmlawfirm.com 15 15 all purposes permitted by the act and use at trial. 16 16 Now we're ready. 17 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now on video 18 18 record. Today is February the 7th, 2017. Time is 19 19 1:34 p.m. Beginning of Tape No. 1. Videographer: 20 20 MR. BUTLER: Good afternoon, Mr. Quentin Hendrix 21 21 Good afternoon. 22 22 MR. BUTLER: I'm Jeb Butler, as you know. 23 23 We just met before the depo started. State your name for the record. 24 24 25 25 First let the court reporter swear you in.

2/7/2017 et al.~ Page 5 Page 7 1 A. Believe it or not, I don't know his last 2 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 2 name. His first name is oh, wait. 3 3 testified as follows: 4 **EXAMINATION** 4 Q. Now, would have made a video, like BY MR. BUTLER: 5 5 you did? 6 6 A. My name is A. Each investigation does what they do, sir. 7 Q. And you work, I think, for Capital 7 I don't know if he obtained video that day or not. 8 8 Normally, most investigators do obtain video. Investigations? 9 9 do the -- why did A. That is correct, sir. Q. Okay. Why did 10 (Plaintiff's Exhibit B was marked for 10 do the surveillance on June 18? 11 A. I assume because he was assigned it. I 11 identification.) 12 12 Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. I've brought was not. with me here a copy of what I understand to be 13 13 Q. Do you have any idea why he was 14 Capital Investigation's invoice in this case to the 14 assigned --15 Law Office of Natalie Smith. Does that appear to be 15 A. No. 16 correct? 16 Q. -- to it and you were not? 17 A. Honestly, sir, I can't tell you if that is 17 A. No. 18 correct or not. I don't normally deal with the 18 Q. Do you know what he did in terms of 19 conducting surveillance? 19 finances of our company. 20 20 A. No. Q. Okay. 21 21 A. So --Q. Have you talked to him about it? 22 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Scott, does this appear 22 23 to be the invoice that you produced? 23 Q. Have you talked with anybody about it? 24 MR. SCOTT: Yes. 24 A. No. 25 25 MR. BUTLER: Any reason to think it's O. Okay. Seen any reports or anything Page 6 Page 8 inaccurate, inauthentic, or anything like that? authored by Mr. 1 1 2 2 A. Yes. MR. SCOTT: No. 3 Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. I wanted to 3 Q. All right. What did you see? 4 go through the time that you spent on the case. I 4 A. On June 18th he conducted surveillance and 5 think it's probably reflected in your own records as 5 did not observe Mr. at any time. 6 well as this invoice. 6 Q. All right. 7 7 Adding up the -- the numbers and hours on A. According to the reports that I reviewed. 8 Plaintiff's Exhibit B here, the invoice, it looks Q. What report was that that you reviewed? like your total time in conducting surveillance was 9 10 31 and a half hours. Does that look right? 10 Q. Is it in your investigation report? 11 A. That is --11 A. Yes, sir, it is. It's the final day of 12 Q. Strike that. Your total time actually 12 this report. 13 conducting surveillance, excluding the driving, is 13 Q. Okay. Well, let me redo my questions that 14 27 and a half hours? 14 got us started down this path. 15 15 I've got a calculator if you need it. Do you understand the total surveillance 16 16 A. That is incorrect. conducted by Capital Investigations here, excluding 17 Q. Incorrect? 17 driving time, to be 27 and a half hours? A. Yes. 18 18 A. Yes, I do. 19 19 Q. All right. How many hours? Q. And then the total driving time, looks 20 A. 19.5. My - other than my driving time. 20 like it's four hours: three for you and then one 21 I did not conduct the surveillance on June 18th. 21 for Mr. 22 22 Q. Oh, who did? A. That is the billable time that we billed. 23 23 A. Another investigator that works for our The actual driving time is sometimes greater or less 24 24 than that. But that is the amount of time that we company. 25 25 charged them for. Q. Okay. What is that investigator's name?

2/7/2017 et al.∼ Page 9 Page 11 O. Okay. At any rate, the total time for observe activity and document it, sir. which Capital Investigations charged the Law Office 2 Q. What instructions did you get when you of Natalie Smith was 31 and a half hours; is that 3 3 started this project? 4 right? 4 A. I was asked to observe all activities 5 5 A. Correct, correct. concerning Mr. document them on video and 6 6 Q. I've done some more math. And I'm write a report. 7 7 presenting you with a calculator, should you want to Q. Well, did you get, like, his home address 8 use it. 8 to start with? 9 9 A. Thank you. A. Yes, I did. 10 Q. Based on 31 and a half hours and the final 10 Q. What other information did you get to charge being \$2,295, I calculate an hourly rate of 11 11 12 12 \$72.85. Tell me if that's right, please. A. A general brief description of the 13 13 A. That appears correct, sir. gentleman. That was it. 14 Q. All right. What were you asked to do in 14 Q. Where did that description come from? 15 this case? 15 A. I'm not sure. It was -- it was emailed to 16 A. Observe and document Mr. 16 me from my company. Where they obtained that 17 activities on June 13th, 14th, and 15th. 17 information, I'm not sure. 18 Q. Who asked you to do that? 18 Q. Who was it who actually asked you to 19 19 with Capital Investigations. conduct the surveillance? 20 Q. Allow me to fix my microphone. 20 21 21 Q. Did he provide you with the information A. No problem. 22 Q. What sort of activities were you looking 22 that you started with? 23 A. Our administrative assistant that works in

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23 for?

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A. Any and all activity concerning

25 Mr.

Page 10

the office did, yes.

1 Q. Was there anything in particular you were 2

interested in or things that you were not interested

3 in?

4 A. No.

5 Q. I notice that there were some things you

video recorded and some you did not. How did you 6

7 decide what to video record and what not?

8 A. Generally the -- the times that I record

9 video is whenever the subject is in view and it is

not going to take away from the covert nature of our 10

11 investigation. If me filming is going to cause

12 someone to observe me filming, then I do not film.

Q. In other words, if you film it, it might

14 mean someone notices you, you don't film?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. I noticed, for instance, you didn't film

17 Mr. going to Wells Fargo. Do I remember that

18 right?

13

19 A. Yeah. I had lost -- I believe I had some

20 trouble getting into view of him while he was at

21 Wells Fargo.

22 Q. All right. What in particular were you

hoping to find in your surveillance of Mr. 23

A. I don't generally hope to find anything 24

25 with any surveillance I conduct. All I do is 1 A. At the time, it was Amanda

Q. And what is her name?

She's no longer employed at this time --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- there with Capital Investigations.

Q. Did you have any written instructions as

6 to what you were to do?

A. No.

8 Q. As a result of your investigation, did you

reach any conclusions about Mr. and any

10 injuries he may have sustained?

11 A. No.

Q. Do you have any opinions as to whether

13 Mr. really hurt or whether he's faking?

14 A. No.

15 Q. What kind of work does Capital

16 Investigations normally do?

17 A. We're a private detective agency, and we

do all kinds of different things. I mean, we work

19 for a lot of different attorneys. Obtain records

20 and conduct interviews and -- gosh, it's a

21 smattering of things. Locating people, background

22 investigations on perspective employees. Just a lot

23 of different things, sir.

24 Q. What -- are you retained mostly by --

25 strike that. Page 12

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1 Is Capital Investigations hired mostly by 2 lawyers?

3 A. I could not answer that question. I'm not 4 that in tune with the dealings of our company.

- Q. Of the work that you -- how long have you
- 5 been at Capital Investigations? 6
- 7 A. Since 2009.
- R Q. Of the work that you've done for Capital
- 9 Investigations, how much of it, as a rough
- 10 percentage, involve conducting surveillance, like
- you did in this case? 11
- 12 A. In the past, it was much greater. Until 13 recently, it's -- in the last couple years, the
- 14 surveillance portion of my job has slowed down. If
- 15 I had to give a rough percentage, 40 to 50 percent 16 of my work.
- 17 Q. Have you done work for this office before?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And by this office, I mean the law firm of
- Natalie Smith, where we're sitting today.
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. You understand that Mr. Scott seated to
- 23 your right works for the Law Office of Natalie
- 24 Smith?

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25 A. Yes, I do.

Page 14

- Q. How many times have you done work for this
- 2 law office?
- A. That I'm aware of -- because I usually 3
- 4 don't know who our clients are that I'm working for.
- 5 I get a job assignment, it doesn't have who the
- 6 clients are on it.
- 7 But I've been in this office to deliver 8 paperwork a dozen times or something or so.
- 9 Q. All right. Have you worked with Mr. Scott 10 before?
- 11
- 12 Q. Have you ever worked on behalf of someone
- 13 who was hurt in a car wreck or injured in some other
- 14 way?
- 15 A. Me personally, no, not to my recollection.
- 16 Q. When you are working for lawyers, what
- 17 percentage of the time are they lawyers representing
- 18 a defendant?
- 19 A. I don't know, sir, honestly.
- 20 Q. All right. Well, what percentage of the
- 21 time are you working for insurance companies?
- 22 A. That, I don't know either. I'm not very,
- 23 like I said, in tune with a lot of the client
- 24 billing, administrative portion of our company. I
- tend to stay in the field a lot and just take

- assignments and complete them.
- 2 Q. Well, when you're working on a personal
- 3 injury case, I imagine you know that.
 - A. No. I'm not even told what kind of case
- it is. It's either basically an injury-type case,
- or it's not stated how the injury occurred. It's
- 7 just -- because the type of surveillance work I do,
- 8 I just observe what people do. There's no plan to
- 9 obtain anything. There's no -- it's just go
- 10 observe, document -- and document.
- 11 Q. You used the phrase injury-type cases that
- 12 can go -- on the dozen or so times that you worked
- 13 with this office, the Law Office of Natalie Smith,
- 14 had those all been injury-type cases?
- 15 A. No. I don't know, honestly. I couldn't 16 tell you.
- 17 Q. How many times have you testified before,
- 18 whether in deposition or at trial?
 - A. Probably 4 or 5.
- 20 Q. Tell me about those 4 or 5 -- well, have
- 21 those all been depositions, or were some of them at
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- 23 A. I believe one was in trial, and the others
- 24 were depositions, I believe.
 - Q. Were any of the other depositions in cases

Page 16

Page 15

- involving this law office?
 - A. No.
 - 3 O. How about the trial?
 - 4 A. No.
 - Q. What was the trial about?
 - 6 A. It was a domestic matter, I believe,
 - 7 concerning divorce or child custody matters.
 - 8 Q. All right. Your other 3 to 4 depositions,
 - 9 what were they about?
 - A. They were injury related.
 - 11 Q. Who took your deposition? Do you
 - 12 remember?
 - A. No, sir. It's been a long time.
 - 14 Q. All right. In a minute -- well, yeah,
 - 15 I'll state this on the record. I'm going to set all
 - 16 this gear up to my left. And I will play for you

 - 17 the video that I think you took in this case. 18
 - A. Uh-huh.
 - 19 Q. And I'll ask you at the end of it whether
 - 20 it's a true and accurate copy of the video.
 - A. Okav.
 - 22 Q. And I'll also hand you a stack of
 - screenshots that are from the video. And I'll ask
 - 24 you if they appear to be true and accurate still
 - shots from the video.

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Page 17 Page 19 1 A. Okav. A. Would you have a problem with replaying 2 MR. BUTLER: Let's go off video. I guess the video so that I can compare these with each time 3 3 we can stay on steno while I set it up. shot that I actually took? 4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off video. 4 No, I do not. MR. BUTLER: Try to set that up so both 5 5 A. Thank you. y'all can see it. I don't know how the angle is 6 Q. All right. I'm restarting it now. If you 6 7 going to work. want to pause it, let me know. If you want to pause 8 8 it a bunch, I'll just pass you the computer. Let's go back on video. 9 9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're back on video A. Okay. 10 10 record (Plays video.) (Plaintiff's Exhibit C was marked for 11 A. Sir, could you please restate the question 11 identification.) 12 12 again. 13 Q. I think so. Do the screenshots or still 13 Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. Mr. 14 I'm going to show you a video, which I've put on a 14 shots contained in Plaintiff's Exhibit D accurately 15 thumb drive and marked as Exhibit C, given copies to 15 show scenes from the video that you took that's 16 the court reporter and Mr. Scott. I'm playing it 16 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit C? from the hard drive of my computer because I only 17 17 A. Yes, they do. 18 have one USB port. Just the way we have to do it. 18 Q. Okay. When you were taking video shots 19 while you were evidently in a moving car, how did There's a screen in front of you that 19 20 defendants' counsel can see that's going to show the 20 you do that? 21 exact same thing. What I'll do is play the video, 21 A. Watch traffic and just wide open the lens 22 which looks like it's just a hair under eight 22 and just whatever it captures, it captures. 23 minutes long. I'll play it straight through so 23 Q. What kind of camera do you use? 24 that, if necessary, we can splice it into the video 24 A. I use a Canon. If you need an exact model 25 of this deposition. And then, when it's over, I'll 25 number, I can reach in my bag here and pull it out Page 18 Page 20 1 and look at the model. ask you, as I said, whether it's the right video, 1 2 2 authentic, and all that stuff. I'll also ask you Q. Do you have the camera? 3 whether the collection of screenshots marked there 3 A. Yes, I do. 4 as Plaintiff's Exhibit D appear to be true and 4 Q. Yes, please pull it out. 5 accurate screenshots from the video. 5 A. It is a Canon HF G20. A. Okay. 6 6 Q. Okay. Let me take a picture of it. We'll 7 Q. All that make sense? 7 mark this as an exhibit here eventually. 8 8 A. Yes, it does. MR. BUTLER: All right. During a break, Q. All right. Here it goes. Starting the 9 9 remind me; I'll email that around. 10 video now. 10 Q. (By Mr. Butler) So while you drive, you 11 (Plays video.) 11 hold up that camera? 12 Q. All right. That concludes the video. Is 12 A. Yeah, with my hand (indicating). 13 the video that we just watched which is marked as 13 Q. All right. And looking now -- we'll go 14 Plaintiff's Exhibit C a true and accurate copy of 14 through some of these screenshots and ask you 15 15 the video that you took in this case? questions about them. We will not go through every 16 16 A. Yes, sir. one. 17 (Plaintiff's Exhibit D was marked for 17 The first one here is labeled Screenshot 1 18 18 at the bottom right. It's hard to see on the identification.) 19 19 Q. (By Mr. Butler) Look through that screenshot, but this is Mr. house; right? 20 collection of screenshots there, Plaintiff's 20 A. I -- yes.

Exhibit D. You will notice that screenshots have

labeled at the bottom right as Screenshot 1 through

Screenshot 43. Let me know if those appear to be

true and accurate screenshots from the video that we

just watched and is marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit C.

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outside?

Q. And then why do you arrive when it's dark

A. I arrive generally before people would

typically leave for work. So that in case they do

go to work, I will be able to, you know, follow them

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throughout the day as they go to work, to document Q. All right. Did you ever find out who was 2 2 in it? their activity. 3 3 Q. Okay. The second screenshot here, that A. No. 4 also shows Mr. house; right? 4 Do you know who lives at that house with 5 A. No. 5 Mr. O. No? 6 6 A. No. 7 7 A. No. Well, I should strike that. 8 R Q. What does it show? Do you know who lives at that address with 9 9 A. These shots that show this residence --Mr. 10 10 and there's other shots on the video as well -- they A. No, I do not. Q. Screenshot 4. There's a few like this. 11 are merely just shots to show that I am in the 11 12 location at that time of day. And this - this was And I won't ask you every time. But this appears to 12 13 actually taken from Birch Street as it intersects 13 be you taking a shot of Mr. house as you 14 14 drive past it. with Sycamore. 15 Q. All right. Whose house is it we're 15 A. Correct. 16 16 looking at there? Q. All right. No. 5 looks like you're 17 A. I don't know whose house that is, sir. 17 following Mr. is that right? 18 That just documents that I'm in the vicinity, 18 A. Yes. Q. I promise we're not going through every 19 waiting for activity from the subject. 19 20 Q. By the subject, you mean 20 one. It's just the first few. 21 21 A. Yes. A. Okay. 22 Q. Where is Mr. house relative to 22 Q. 6, Screenshot 6 in Plaintiff's Exhibit D 23 the angle we're looking at in Screenshot 2 here? 23 shows a Chick-fil-A; is that right? 24 A. If you go to the stop sign in front of the 24 A. Yes, it is. 25 25 camera and hang a right and go down -- I'm not Q. Why is that important? Page 22 Page 24 1 exactly sure how many yards. But it is on the left 1 A. As I stated, I document all activity which 2 before the -- there's the right-hand turn on his is part of our subject's day. Therefore, if he goes 3 3 road. into a business or any location, I typically try to 4 Q. Why did you park here in the spot shown in 4 document that on video that he went there. Screenshot 2 as opposed to in front of Mr. 5 Q. Do you know of any reason that it's 6 house? 6 important that he went to Chick-fil-A? 7 7 A. Because this is a covert investigation, A. No. and in order for Mr. to probably not observe 8 Q. Do you know of any reason -- well, strike me trying to observe him, I park out of view and 9 that. 10 10 wait for him to go into the public and observe him Seven shows Mr. house again, I 11 there. 11 think. 12 Q. Okay. You parked -- in other words, you 12 A. Yes. parked here so he wouldn't see you? 13 Q. All right. The next few screenshots show 14 A. Correct. 14 you parked in the same location we discussed 15 15 Q. All right. Let's go to the next earlier?

16 screenshot here. Screenshot 3 in Plaintiff's

17 Exhibit D shows you following, looks like, an Audi.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Who's in that car?

20 A. At the -- I don't know who it is, but it

21 was a female at the time.

22 Q. Why did you follow it?

A. Because the vehicle was seen at

residence, I believe, and was - I 24

followed the vehicle to make sure he wasn't in it.

16 A. Correct.

17 O. Let's look at Screenshot 17 in Plaintiff's

18 Exhibit D.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. What's going on here?

21 A. Do you mind if I refer to my report?

22 Q. No.

A. Okay.

24 Q. Do you have a copy?

25 A. Yes, I do. Okay. There was a Ford Focus

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Page 25 Page 27 that I observed parked at Mr. residence. A. I can't tell if he's actually walking a and it was observed departing. I briefly followed 2 dog or not, sir. I can state that he's walking. 3 3 the vehicle and determined that a female was the Q. Okay. Well, the video will show whether 4 only occupant in the vehicle. he was walking a dog, presumably. 5 5 Q. Is the Ford Focus the white car here? A. Okay. Yeah. A. The Ford Focus is actually out of view 6 6 Q. Did you explain to this man what you were 7 7 mostly in this screenshot. It's actually, I doing parked on the screen? g 8 A. You know, I can't remember if I had a believe, turning right here. 9 9 Q. All right. I see to the right of that conversation with him or not. 10 10 Q. Did you have a conversation with anyone pickup -who lived around there? 11 A. Yeah. 11 12 A. Not that I recall. Q. -- truck it looks like there might be a 12 13 13 taillight. Q. Did this guy look at you as he passed? 14 A. Tail. 14 A. Not that I remember, no. 15 Q. That's the Ford Focus? 15 Q. If he had looked at you, would you have 16 16 explained what you were doing? A. I believe so, yes. 17 Q. Okay. Let's look at Screenshot No. 19 --17 A. No. 18 A. Yes. 18 Q. What would you have done if he knocked on 19 Q. -- from Plaintiff's Exhibit D. This 19 your window and said, what are you doing? 20 shows, looks like an old lady -- strike that. 20 A. Well, sir, if you're concerned about my 21 Screenshot 19 in Plaintiff's Exhibit D 21 whereabouts in your neighborhood, you might want to 22 appears to show an older lady walking on the street 22 call the police. 23 with a walker; is that right? 23 Q. So if someone had asked what you were 24 A. Yes, sir. 24 doing, you would have told that person to call the 25 25 police? Q. Did you explain to her what you were doing Page 26 Page 28 1 A. Correct. 1 there parked on the screen? 2 2 A. No, sir. She did not know I was there. Q. Would you have explained to that person 3 Q. Did she look at you? 3 that you were conducting surveillance on one of 4 A. I don't believe so, no. 4 their neighbors? 5 Q. At this point you had been parked in that 5 A. No. 6 same spot for about six hours that day and several 6 Q. All right. Let's go to Screenshot 32. 7 hours the day before; right? 7 A. Okay. 8 Q. Tell me what's going on here. 8 A. Correct. 9 Q. Okay. Let's look at Screenshot 21 in 9 A. I believe Mr. exited his vehicle Plaintiff's Exhibit D. Tell me what's going on 10 and looks to be looking at a cellular phone, 11 here, please. 11 possibly. 12 12 A. The Ford Focus appears to be leaving Q. Okay. He's at this point -- well, the 13 Mr. neighborhood. 13 next screenshot shows he's walking into -- looks 14 Q. You're following the Ford Focus here? 14 like a gym. 15 15 A. Yes, sir. A. A fitness center of some type, possibly. 16 16 O. Why? Q. Do you know what he did inside the gym? 17 A. To make sure that Mr. is not in the 17 A. No, sir, I don't. 18 18 vehicle. Q. Do you know that he's told the defense 19 Q. All right. Screenshot 24 is another one 19 that he goes -- went to a gym at some time? 20 that's hard to see, but I take it that's 20 21 21 Mr. house; is that right? Q. Any idea what Mr. has said with 22 22 A. Yes, I believe so. Yes. regard to his activities at a gym one way or the

Q. Let's look at Screenshot 25 from

walking what I think is a dog; is that right?

Plaintiff's Exhibit D, which appears to show a man

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other?

A. No.

Q. I think you said you don't know what he

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did inside the gym.

2 A. No, I did not -- no, I do not know what he 3 did inside.

4 You're good at keeping a clean record.

All right. Screenshot 34 shows Mr. 5

leaving the gym, I think. 6

7 A. Correct.

R Q. Screenshot 35 in Plaintiff's Exhibit D

9 shows Mr. walking into a DICK'S Sporting

10 Goods; is that right?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. He's got his hand on his back, it looks

13 like, or tucked in his pants.

14 A. Yes, he does.

15 Q. Any idea why?

16 A. Appears to me he may be holding his pants

17 up.

18 Q. Okay. Other than the thought that he

19 might be holding his pants up, any idea why he's got

his hand in that position? 20

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. All right. Screenshot 36 shows Mr.

23 leaving the DICK'S Sporting Goods?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And he's dragging some sort of object that O. All right. Screenshot 43 is the last in

this series and comes from the end of the video; is

Page 31

Page 32

3 that right?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Do you know whether there exists any video

taken on June 18, 2016, when

7 conducted surveillance?

A. No, sir, I do not.

(Plaintiff's Exhibit E was marked for

10 identification.)

Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. I want to ask

12 you a few questions about your report. You're

13 welcome to look at whatever copy -- well, look at --

14 check this, please. I'll show you what I've marked

15 as Plaintiff's Exhibit E, which I'll represent to

16 you is -- well, I think is a copy of your report.

17 Look at it, please, and tell me whether Plaintiff's

18 Exhibit E is a copy of your report in this case.

A. Yes, it is, sir.

20 Q. All right. Earlier I think -- if I

21 remember right, I think you said that

appeared in this report. And I'm not saying

23 you're wrong. But I skimmed it, and I didn't see

24 it. Can you tell me where that is?

No, sir, he is not listed in this report.

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He was listed on this invoice. The date that he

2 worked was in this invoice.

3 Q. I see. So he's in Plaintiff's Exhibit B

4 invoice, not in Plaintiff's Exhibit E, the report?

A. Correct.

6 Q. Where is he listed on Exhibit B?

A. He's not actually listed, but the day that

8 he worked is listed on -- June 18th, that is the day

9 that he worked. I did not work that day.

Q. What report did you see that had

11 Mr. name in it?

12 A. I didn't see a report. I spoke with

our -- our office yesterday about that. And they 13

14 stated that he was responsible for the surveillance

15 that was conducted on the 18th.

16 Q. What report did he generate?

17 A. I don't know. I haven't seen it.

MR. SCOTT: Nor have we. Nor have we.

19 Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. I think you

20 said it was your understanding that Mr.

21 not make contact with or see Mr.

A. He didn't. Yeah, he didn't see

Mr. Because it was discussed yesterday when

I was on the phone with the office, that nothing was 24

25 observed.

1 appears to be something he bought?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Well, he's dragging something. We don't

4 know what it is, I guess.

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Do you have any idea what it is that he's

7 dragging?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Any idea how much it weighed?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. The next screenshot, 37, shows Mr.

12 loading the object we just discussed into his car;

13 is that right?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Did you go in the store and ask anyone

16 what that item was?

17 A. No.

Q. Did you go in the store and look around at

19 inventory to see if you can figure out what the item

20 was?

18

21 A. No, sir.

22 O. No idea what the item is --

23 A. Correct.

Q. -- or was? 24

25 A. Correct.

2/7/2017 et al.~ Page 33 Page 35 1 O. All right. Who at the office did you there's a time not on video that you followed the 2 speak with? Ford Focus; is that right? 3 3 A. That is what it says, sir, yes. 4 Q. Okay. I noticed on the first page of 4 Q. All right. You followed that Ford Focus 5 at least a few times. Here it is again on the Plaintiff's Exhibit E, the report, it says "final report." Was there a preliminary or any other fourth page of your report, at 11:23; is that right? 6 7 7 version of this report? A. Yes. 8 8 A. No -- there's a report which is the Q. One thing I was thinking about before I 9 9 timeline report, which is what I submit. And our came here is that, if this case goes to trial, I may 10 administrative people compile all this and consider 10 need to serve you with a trial subpoena, and I don't really know where to do that. I am supposed to 11 this the -- the report at the end, this 11 12 investigative summary coupled with the investigative 12 serve it, I think, at your house. You would 13 timeline. 13 probably prefer me not to do that, if I had to 14 Q. I see. So I take it, then, that the 14 guess. 15 15 investigative timeline, which begins with the third I can avoid doing that if -- well, if 16 page of Plaintiff's Exhibit E, is something that you 16 Mr. Scott will accept service for you of a trial 17 put together? 17 subpoena and then let you know and everybody can 18 A. Correct. 18 agree to that, we can do it that way? 19 19 MR. SCOTT: Is that agreeable to you? Q. And then the administrative staff at your 20 office put together the first two pages? 20 THE WITNESS: That's agreeable, sir. 21 A. Correct. 21 MR. BUTLER: Good with, Caitlin? 22 Q. All right. There are a few questions in 22 MS. MATTLER: Agreeable. 23 here I wanted to ask you about. 23 MR. BUTLER: No objection. That will save 24 There's a reference on the second page of 24 us that entire thing. 25 25 the report that refers to Mr. going to Q. (By Mr. Butler) Who did you report to in Page 36

Page 34

the course of your surveillance of Mr. 1 2

1 McDonald's. Do you know of any reason why that is 2 important?

3 A. No, sir.

4

Q. There's some talk in here about a hotel

parking lot. My understanding from reading your

6 report is that Mr. just cut through the

7 parking lot but didn't stop?

8 A. Actually, I'm not sure what happened with

9 I followed him to this parking lot, and

10 I lost him. You know, he -- I tried to -- I thought

he was possibly going there to conduct business, and

12 therefore I went to a nearby parking lot, trying to

13 see if I could find a view to observe him. I

14 couldn't find a view to observe him. I went back to

15 the parking lot. His truck was no longer there.

16 Surveillance was concluded for the day.

17 Q. In looking at the bottom entry on the

18 third page of your report, I think it indicates that

19 about 30 seconds after Mr. entered the hotel

20 parking lot, you went into the hotel parking lot and

21 couldn't find his truck, leading you to conclude he

22 had probably left?

A. Correct.

24 Q. Okay. Looking at the entry for 7:49 a m.

25 on the third page of your report, this tells us that

3 Q. Did you ever report to anyone else?

A. No.

4

5

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Q. To whom did report?

6 A. I don't know.

> Q. Did you report to Mr. like at

the end of every day or just when you were finished 8

with three days or throughout the day?

A. Throughout the day and generally at the end of the day.

Q. How many times throughout the day?

A. There's no specific number. As needed.

14 Q. Ballpark of 2? 5? 12?

A. I don't remember how many times I

16 contacted him during the course of the surveillance.

17 Q. What kind of things would have made you 18 contact him?

19 A. Just to update him with what's going on 20 with the case and tell him, you know, how my day is 21

going.

22 Q. Do you have any memory of how many times 23

you contacted him throughout the course of the

24 investigation?

A. No, sir.

23

25

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objection?

1 O. All right. And what was the format of

- your report? In other words, did you call on the
- phone? Did you send an email? Did you send a text?
- 4 Some combination thereof?
- A. Some combination thereof. Generally my
- 6 reports are done via email.
- 7 Q. All right. Do you use a company email?
- 8 A. Do I send my report to a company email?
- 9 Is that what you're asking?
- 10 Q. From a company email?
- 11 A. No, sir.
- 12 Q. Do you use your personal account?
- 13 A. Yes, I do.
- 14 Q. All right. What is the account that you
- 15 use?
- 16 A. It's my personal email account. You want
- 17 the exact address?
- 18 O. Yes.
- 19 MR. SCOTT: Objection.
- 20 Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. Mark can
- 21 object. He doesn't represent you, so he can't
- 22 instruct you not to answer. I presume that's not
- 23 what he's doing.
- 24 I'll save you this. I don't think I need
- 25 it.

1

7

emails, apparently. And ever any phones calls with 18 him?

Q. (By Mr. Butler) Now, in your

additional foundation needs to be laid. Now, it

certainly is calculated to lead to the discovery of

admissible evidence. As you know, as it may say

fact at Nationwide's request and on Nationwide's

MR. BUTLER: Okay. If you think of

communication with Mr. there was some

is here, we can lay

Page 40

another basis, I'd ask you to tell me now so that,

Is there any other reason for your

payroll. So it certainly matters.

if necessary, while Mr.

the appropriate foundation.

MR. SCOTT: I'll reserve.

what was observed during this time where someone was trying to observe matters relevant to damages, in

- 19 A. Be specific as to when you're speaking of.
- 20 Q. Well, I know that you checked in some
- 21 unknown number of times during the investigation of
- 22 We know that some of them were by
- 23 email. Were all those check-ins by email, or were
- 24 some --
- 25 A. No. If you're referring to check-ins,

Page 38 All right. To who -- do you send them to

- a personal account or to a company account? 2
- 3 A. To a company account.
- 4 Q. And that's I take it?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Oh.
 - A. It is
- 8 Q.
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Who monitors that account?
- 11 and the administrative staff
- 12 in our office.
- 13 Q. All right. Will you produce copies of
- 14 those emails?
- 15 A. I cannot because I don't have access to
- 16 that account.
- 17 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Mr. Scott, will you
- 18 produce copies of those emails?
- 19 MR. SCOTT: I have to take that under
- 20 advisement. I doubt it.
- 21 MR. BUTLER: Okay. On what basis would
- 22 you refuse? In case more foundation --
- 23 MR. SCOTT: -- not actually lead to the
- 24 discovery of admissible evidence.
- 25 MR. BUTLER: All right. I ask in case

- those are done by phone. My reports are submitted
- 2 via email.

Q. Okay.

3

9

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18

23

- 4 A. There's no other day-to-day casework
- typically that gets sent via email.
- 6 Q. Is that the same thing you said a minute
- 7 ago?
- 8 A. As far as I recollect, yes.
 - Q. Okay. Well, the transcript will tell us.
 - Let's see. So some of your communications
- 11 were with -- via email -- strike that.
- 12 Some of the communications with your
- 13 office were via email to that
- 14 address and some were by phone. Any other way that
- 15 you communicated with your office about this
- investigation other than speaking with someone in 16
- 17 person when you were at the office?
 - A. No.
- 19 Q. All right. Why did the surveillance on
- 20 Mr. stop?
- 21 A. I don't know the reason for that, sir.
- 22 Q. Who decided to end the surveillance?
 - A. I was told to no longer continue working
- 24 I was no longer assigned on it by
- 25

2/7/2017 et al.~ Page 41 Page 43 Q. All right. Did he tell you to stop upon A. Here in Georgia, but I — I did obtain a 2 email, or by phone, or how? 2 GED later on, so... 3 3 A. I don't recollect. Q. Did you grow up in the Atlanta area or --4 Q. Okay. When you're following someone, what 4 A. Yeah. kind of steps do you take in order to not be 5 Q. In Lawrenceville or where? noticed? 6 A. Yeah, kind of. Pretty much Gwinnett 6 7 7 A. I guess don't be obvious. County. 8 R Q. Try to stay a certain distance back? You Q. Okay. When did you start doing private 9 try to merge with the traffic? 9 investigation work? 10 A. Each -- each case presents different 10 A. 2004. obstacles. And so, I mean, the tactics I use in my 11 Q. And that was with 11 & Associates? line of work are -- they're just all kind of 12 12 A. Yes, sir. 13 13 different ones. I couldn't specifically speak as to Q. How long was & Associates open? 14 what you're -- what you're asking. 14 A. I started working there in 2004, and I 15 Q. Well, you said there are many different 15 believe that it stopped in two thousand -- I can't 16 types of tactics? 16 remember the exact year. 17 A. Uh-huh. 17 Q. Approximate is fine. 18 Q. What types of tactics did you use to avoid 18 A. 2006 it probably ceased. 19 detection in this case? 19 Q. Okay. I take it that you were the 20 A. Not following too closely. Not parking 20 in & associates? 21 directly in front of Mr. house. 21 A. Actually, my father was. 22 Q. When you -- for instance, when you 22 Q. I see. Were you the associates? 23 observed Mr. at DICK'S Sporting Goods, what 23 A. Yes. 24 did you do to avoid being noticed? 24 Q. How many people worked at 25 A. I parked in the same parking lot he was 25 Associates while you were there? Page 42 Page 44

A. It was a fairly inactive company, sir. It

in. The parking lot had rows of bushes and 1 2 separated sections of the parking lot. And I parked 3 in one section, and there was a row of bushes separating us from where he parked. 4

5 Q. Okay. So you're on the other side of a

6 row of bushes, basically?

7 A. Correct.

8

10

14

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Q. Did you get out of your car and, like,

9 hold up the camera, or were you sitting in your car?

A. I stayed in my car the whole time.

11 Q. What about when Mr. went to the

gym? What kind of steps -- what kind of tactics did 12

you use to avoid being noticed?

A. I didn't park right next to him.

Q. Did you park in the same parking lot? I

16 don't remember the footage of it.

17 A. Yes, I did.

Q. What kind of car do you drive when you're

19 doing this work?

A. I drive a silver Hyundai Elantra.

21 Q. I want to ask a little bit about your

22 background as an investigator. How far did you go

23 in school?

24 A. I completed the 11th grade.

25 Q. Here in Georgia or elsewhere? 1

was a -- it was a dream that never took off.

3 Q. Was there anyone there other than you and

4 your dad?

5

A. No.

6 Q. All right. And what did you do after you

7 stopped at & Associates?

A. I went to work for Capital Investigations. 8

9 Q. And that was in when?

10 A. 2009.

11 Q. So what about -- what did you do between

12

13 A. I had a few random jobs, just different

14 jobs, working in restaurants and things like that.

Q. Why did you decide to get back into

personal investigations? 16

17 A. It was just something that I'd always had

18 an interest in, and my father kind of got me into

19 it.

15

20

Q. All right. In the personal investigation

21 field, have you ever worked for any company or --

22 strike that. In the -- I'm using the wrong word.

23 Strike that.

24 In the private investigation field, have

25 you ever worked for any company other than v. et al.~

Page 45 Page 47 & Associates and Capital Investigations? 1 A. I don't know. 2 2 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did anyone 3 (Plaintiff's Exhibits F and G were marked at your office look at Facebook or other social 4 for identification.) media profiles? Q. (By Mr. Butler) All right. I looked you 5 A. I don't believe so. Not that I know of. 5 up on the state licensing board. And I found what 6 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did anyone 6 7 appear to be two licenses. I'll ask you why. else at your office look at photographs of the wreck 8 8 or ask into Mr. medical conditions? I'll show you Plaintiff's Exhibit F and 9 9 A. I don't believe so. Plaintiff's Exhibit G. Why are you on there twice? 10 10 Q. Do you think that Mr. A. One license was for & Associates, his wife, his daughter, or any of their neighbors noticed you and then I started working for Capital 11 11 conducting surveillance in the neighborhood? 12 Investigations. 12 13 13 A. Some of his neighbors may have. Q. Do you have to get a new license every 14 14 Q. What makes you say that? time you change companies? A. Because of strange -- because my car was 15 A. Yes. 15 16 Q. Oh. 16 not a typical car that's parked in their 17 A. If you're an employee of that company. 17 neighborhood, so someone may have observed it. Yes. 18 Q. I see. So if you change companies six 18 Q. Do you have any reason to think that they 19 19 times, there'd be six licenses? did, or are you just saying it could have happened? 20 20 A. I'm just saying it could have happened. A. More or less, yes. 21 21 Q. Is it possible they thought you were, Q. Other than what's captured in that video 22 and in your report, did you do any other 22 like, a burglar, scoping the place out? 23 investigation or research into Mr. 23 A. I don't know what they thought, sir. 24 A. No. 24 Q. Is that possible? 25 25 MR. SCOTT: Objection. Q. Interview any witnesses? Page 46 Page 48 THE WITNESS: Anything is possible, sir. 1 A. No. 1 2 2 I mean, they can think anything. Q. Talked to anyone who knew Mr. 3 3 Q. (By Mr. Butler) Do you think Mr. 4 4 relatives or his neighbors had a right to know what Q. Do you sometimes do those things in the 5 course of your work? 5 you were doing? 6 6 A. No. A. What were those questions again? I'm 7 7 MR. SCOTT: Objection. sorry. 8 8 Q. Interview any witnesses, talk to anyone Q. (By Mr. Butler) Why not? 9 who knew the person you were investigating. 9 A. Because I'm observing -- I have a license 10 10 to conduct the work that I do, and it's legal work. A. Occasionally I'll interview witnesses. 11 But it's -- I don't typically speak with people that 11 It's on public property. It's... 12 12 know the person that I might be investigating. Q. Do you think they would like to know why 13 Q. Did you look at Mr. Facebook or 13 you were parked there for three days? 14 14 other social media profiles? MR. SCOTT: Objection. 15 15 A. No. THE WITNESS: I have -- I don't know, sir, 16 16 Q. Do you sometimes do that? if they'd like to know or not. Q. (By Mr. Butler) You don't think they have 17 A. Occasionally. 17 18 18 a right to know? Q. Did you look at photographs from the car 19 19 wreck that this case is about? A. No. I mean --20 20 Q. Do you think Mr. and his family and A. No. 21 21 Q. Did you ask for medical records or neighbors have any right to privacy? 22 22 Mr. medical condition? MR. SCOTT: Objection. 23 23 A. No. THE WITNESS: I'm not going to answer 24 24 Q. Did anyone at your office look at Facebook that, sir. 25 25 or other social media profiles? Q. (By Mr. Butler) Why not?

2/7/2017 et al.∼ Page 49 Page 51 1 A. Well, I just -- these questions seem very 1 Q. Okay. Anything else? 2 2 speculative. A. No. 3 3 Q. You think whether someone has a right to O. I show -- I found something about a motor vehicle violation with a six-month sentence in 4 privacy is a speculative question? A. The term privacy could mean many different Gwinnett County. Does that ring a bell? 5

things to many people.

Q. Well, do you think Mr. wife and daughter -- well, let me strike that.

Is it important?

10 A. Is what important?

Q. Is it important whether Mr. 11 and his

12 family and his neighbors have a right to privacy?

13 A. Oh, yes.

6 7

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MR. SCOTT: Objection.

15 Q. (By Mr. Butler) It is, okay. Have you

16 ever in the course of conducting surveillance been

17 noticed by the person you were conducting

18 surveillance on?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Have you ever been confronted?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What did you say?

23 A. Actually, I don't think that I said

24 anything. I closed up my window and drove off.

Q. Have you ever been followed or spied upon?

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1 MR. SCOTT: Objection. 2

THE WITNESS: Not that I'm aware of.

Q. (By Mr. Butler) Do you check?

5 Q. Do you take any precautions to make sure

6 you're not followed or spied upon?

A. No.

8 MR. SCOTT: Objection.

9 Q. (By Mr. Butler) Would you like it if you

10 were followed or spied upon?

11 MR. SCOTT: Objection.

12 THE WITNESS: I don't have anything to

13 hide, so it wouldn't bother me.

14 Q. (By Mr. Butler) Do you think you have a

15 right to privacy?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. SCOTT: Objection.

18 Q. (By Mr. Butler) This next question is one

I ask of just about every witness. Have you ever 19

20 been arrested?

21 A. Yes.

22

Q. All right. Tell me about it, please.

23 A. I was arrested at age 17 for minor

24 possession of alcohol, and I believe age 18 for

possession of marijuana.

A. It may have been driving with no

7 insurance. It was a traffic violation of some type

8 back then. It was a long while ago.

Q. Okay. Have you ever been in professional

10 trouble?

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A. No.

Q. Ever been subjected to any discipline by any sort of regulatory authority in the world of

14 private investigations?

A. No.

16 Q. What is the physical address of Capital

Investigations?

18 A. Do you mind if I look on my phone?

19 Q. No, not at all.

> Α. Q. How do you spell

23 sorry. I just lost it. 24

What is your personal home address?

Page 52

A.

3 MR. BUTLER: All right. I think that we

4 are finished. Let me -- we'll go off the record,

5 and I'll review my notes. I think that's going to

be it unless one of those folks has questions for 6

7 you, which is probably unlikely. 8

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off video record.

9 (Off the record.)

10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on video record.

11 MR. BUTLER: No further questions.

12 MR. SCOTT: No questions.

13 MS. MATTLER: Nope.

14 MR. BUTLER: All right. That concludes

15 the deposition.

16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off video record.

17 The time is 2:47 p m.

(Deposition concluded at 2:47 p.m.)

(Plaintiff's Exhibit H was marked for 19

20 identification.)

21 (It was stipulated and agreed by and

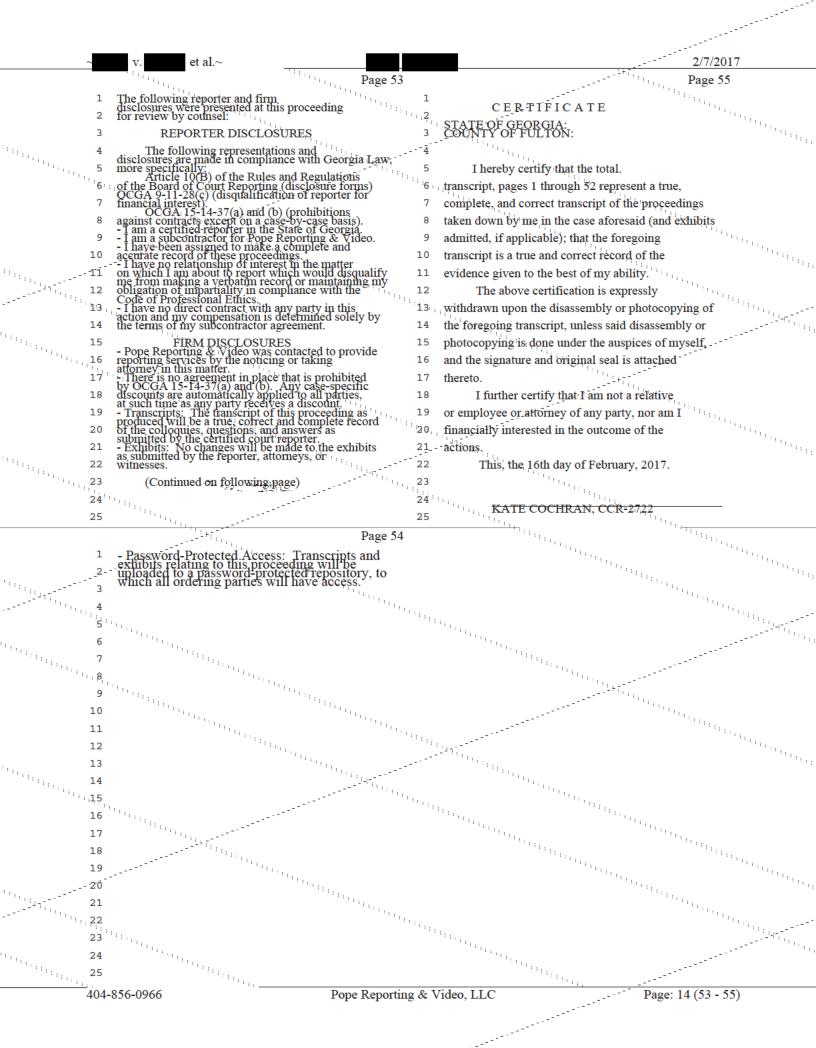
22 between counsel and the witness that the signature

of the witness be waived.)

23 24

18

25



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