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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

██████████, individually,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) No. 21-2-08166-1 SEA)
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF)
ZOOLOGICAL PARKS AND AQUARIUMS,)
INC., d/b/a ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS)
& AQUARIUMS, a Maryland)
corporation doing business in)
King County, Washington; JAMES)
J. BREHENY, Chair, a resident)
of the State of New York; PEGGY)
SLOAN, Vice Chair, a resident)
of the State of Illinois;)
DENNIS KELLY, Past Chair, a)
resident of the State of)
Georgia; ALEJANDRO GRAJAL,)
Director, a resident of the)
State of Washington;)
Defendants.)
(caption continuing))

REMOTE VIDEOTAPED
DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF
LORRAINE PERKINS
October 13, 2022

Taken remotely
Witness location: Birmingham, Alabama

GRETCHEN J. PALETTA, RPR, CCR #3326
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(caption continuing))
)
CHRISTOPHER KUHAR, Director, a)
resident of the State of Ohio;)
JOHN LEWIS, Director, a)
resident of the State of)
California; NORBERTO CASTRO,)
Director, a resident of the)
State of Arizona; CHRIS)
GENTILE, Director, a resident)
of the State of North Carolina;))
ADRIENNE ROWLAND, Director, a)
resident of the State of)
Nevada; BRIAN L. DAVIS,)
Director, a resident of the)
State of Georgia; ELIZABETH A.)
WHEALY, Director, a resident of)
the State of South Dakota;)
DANIEL M. ASHE, President and)
Chief Executive Officer, a)
resident of the State of)
Maryland; KRISTEN VEHR,)
Executive Director, a resident)
of the State of Maryland; and)
RONDA SCHWETZ, a resident of)
the State of Wisconsin,)
individually and the marital)
community composed thereof,)
)
Defendants.)
)

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ALSO PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

LINDSEY LEWIS, VIDEOGRAPHER
JACK KEENEY, IN-HOUSE COUNSEL, AZA
[REDACTED] PLAINTIFF
RONDA SCHWETZ, DEFENDANT

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I N D E X

██████████ v. AZA, et al.
21-2-08166-1
October 13, 2022

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Thursday, October 13, 2022,
2 at 10:00 a.m., Birmingham, Alabama, the deposition of
3 LORRAINE PERKINS was taken before Gretchen Paletta, RPR,
4 Certified Court Reporter. The following proceedings took
5 place:

6
7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now on the record.
8 Today's date is October 13, 2022. The time is now
9 10:03 a.m. This is the video recorded deposition of
10 Lorraine Perkins in the matter of [REDACTED]
11 versus the American Association of Zoological Parks
12 and Aquariums, Inc., et al., in the Superior Court of
13 the State of Washington in and for the County of
14 King, case No. 21-2-08166-1 SEA. This deposition is
15 at the request of plaintiff.

16 My name is Lindsey Lewis, your videographer, here
17 with Gretchen Paletta, your court reporter. We
18 represent Nelson Court Reporters. This deposition is
19 taking place via Zoom.

20 Will Counsel please identify and state your
21 appearances for the record.

22 MS. THOMPSON: My name's Jessica Thompson. I'm
23 with Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro. I'm here with my
24 colleagues, Marty McLean and Elizabeth Hanley.
25 Together, we represent [REDACTED]

1 MR. STONE: Good morning, everyone. Ben Stone,
2 and with me is Kyleene Slocum. We represent all
3 defendants in the case with the exception of
4 Defendant Ronda Schwetz.

5 MR. MACARIO: Matt Macario from Fisher Phillips on
6 behalf of Defendant Ronda Schwetz.

7 MR. KEENEY: And Jack Keeney, general counsel of
8 AZA and named defendant.

9 THE COURT: Will the court reporter please
10 administer the oath.

11
12 LORRAINE PERKINS, being first duly sworn to tell the
13 truth, the whole truth, and nothing
14 but the truth, testified as follows:

15
16 EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. THOMPSON:

18 Q. Hello, Ms. Perkins. My name is Jessica Thompson. I
19 represent [REDACTED] I'm going to be taking
20 your deposition today.

21 Can you please state your name and occupation for
22 the record?

23 A. My name is Lorraine Perkins. I am a consultant with a
24 zoological consulting company.

25 Q. How long have you been a consultant with a zoological

1 consulting company?

2 A. Since July of this year.

3 Q. What is the company?

4 A. It's called Canopy Strategic Partners.

5 Q. What do they do?

6 A. They do consulting and strategic planning and executive
7 search for zoos, aquariums, nature centers, and
8 botanical gardens.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 It looks like you're appearing from your home
11 today; is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Is there anybody else in the room there with you?

14 A. No, there's not.

15 Q. Anyone else in your home?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you have any other windows on your computer open
18 other than this Zoom meeting?

19 A. Just the Zoom and my -- I have my -- a program I use
20 called Evernote is open because that's where much of my
21 information related to this case is stored.

22 Q. Do you recall producing some documents in response to a
23 subpoena, correct?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. You primarily got those documents from your Evernote

1 files; is that right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And other than Evernote, do you have -- and this Zoom
4 meeting, do you have any other windows open on your
5 computer?

6 A. It looks like I have my email open. I can close that.
7 That's it.

8 Q. Okay. And the reason I'm asking is I -- we're just
9 curious as to whether or not you're able to communicate
10 with anyone through your computer during the
11 deposition. I'm not trying to be nosy. That's why.
12 So as long as your email is closed and you don't have
13 any instant messages closed, we're satisfied with that.

14 A. Just Zoom and Evernote are the only two open windows on
15 my computer.

16 Q. All right. And if that changes at any time, will you
17 let us know.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And what about a cell phone? Do you have any
20 cell phones or iPads in the room with you today?

21 A. I have my phone in the room.

22 Q. Okay. And are you able to receive text messages and
23 emails on your phone?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. During this deposition?

1 A. Yes. They could come in. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So I would just ask you to please turn it over
3 and place it somewhere that you cannot look at it while
4 you're testifying.

5 A. I put it over on a table that I would have to get up to
6 reach.

7 Q. Okay. And if a text message came in right now, could
8 you see it?

9 A. Actually, I could see it on my watch so I'll put my
10 watch over there as well.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 Okay. And if you put your watch back on or bring
13 your cell phone back to where you can see it at any
14 point in the deposition, will you let us know?

15 A. Yes. And you'll be able to see as such because I can't
16 reach them from here.

17 Q. Okay. Thank you.

18 You began your career as a research intern at Zoo
19 Atlanta; is that correct?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And you got there because you had a graduate school
22 professor who became the zoo director, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. That was back in 1984?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And you worked there in various roles, with a
2 brief break to go to the Bronx Zoo, until about 2016;
3 is that right?

4 A. I also left in 2002 to 2004 to work at the Lincoln Park
5 Zoo, but otherwise, yes. That's correct.

6 Q. In 2016 and 2018, you were the education and science
7 director at Disney's Animal Kingdom?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And from 2018 until you became a consultant in July
10 of -- I believe you said '22 -- you were the deputy
11 director of the Birmingham Zoo; is that right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And in your role as a consultant for Canopy Strategic
14 Partners, can you talk a little bit more about the
15 executive search that you consult on?

16 A. Executive search is something that the company is
17 beginning to do more work in. I've been involved in
18 two of the searches thus far. The company itself has
19 done some number greater than that. That's been my
20 involvement thus far.

21 Q. Can you give an example of a zoo executive that your
22 company would do a search for?

23 A. My company is presently doing the executive search for
24 a vice president of life sciences at the Detroit Zoo.

25 Q. I'd like you to talk a little bit about your role with

1 the AZA. From 1991 to 2021, you were the chair of the
2 Orangutan SSP, correct?

3 A. That's correct. The title was technically coordinator,
4 but, yes.

5 Q. What was your role in the AZA before that?

6 A. Before 1991?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. I believe that before 1991, I was a studbook keeper for
9 orangutan, and I don't recall that I had any other
10 official role within the AZA, other than being a
11 member, prior to 1991.

12 Q. From 2021 until now, you chaired the ape T-A-G; is that
13 right?

14 A. TAG. I no longer chair the Ape TAG, but I did until a
15 few months ago -- until a few months ago.

16 Q. What's the Ape TAG?

17 A. It stands for Taxonomic Advisory Group, and it is an
18 umbrella coordinating body that oversees all of the ape
19 SSP programs.

20 Q. So as part of the TAG, would you have had some role in
21 coordinating, for example, the provision of genetic
22 samples for a specific researcher?

23 A. No. The TAG doesn't -- that would be the purview of an
24 individual SSP program.

25 Q. Okay. Thank you.

1 That would be the purview, for example, of the
2 Orangutan SSP which you were the coordinator of from
3 1991 to 2021, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. You were also a program advisor to the Orangutan SAFE
6 committee, correct?

7 A. I think I was. I don't know if I still am, honestly,
8 but I believe I was.

9 Q. Have you ever been deposed?

10 A. Have I ever been?

11 Q. Deposed?

12 A. Deposed? No.

13 Q. Have you ever testified in court?

14 A. In college, I had to sue a person who sublet my
15 apartment one summer for running up my phone bill and
16 not paying it. That is the only time that I have
17 testified in court.

18 Q. Have you ever submitted any declarations to a court?

19 A. I don't believe so.

20 Q. I would like to ask you, please, to go through some
21 basic ground rule questions, only because you haven't
22 been deposed before, and I want to make sure.

23 Actually, we do this with everybody, whether they've
24 been deposed before or not. It's a good reminder for
25 all of us. Sometimes I need to remind myself.

1 So it's really important today that you answer yes
2 or no and refrain from answering with a head nod or
3 mm-hm or uh-huh. The court reporter is really good
4 about jumping in and catching that when it happens,
5 usually, but we try to avoid it because it's a lot of
6 work for the court reporter to do that and type
7 everything down. So does that sound good?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. It's really awkward and I do it too, but we have
10 to try to make it clear for the record whether we're
11 saying yes or no to a question.

12 The court reporter, as I said, might interrupt us
13 for a number of reasons. She's not trying to be rude.
14 She just wants to make sure she's getting an accurate
15 record. Does that make sense?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Please, during the course of the day, let me
18 know if you need me to clarify any of my questions. I
19 try to ask short questions, but sometimes that doesn't
20 happen. So if you want me to clarify or define
21 anything in one of my questions, please let me know.
22 Okay?

23 A. Yes, I will.

24 Q. And if I don't hear from you that you didn't understand
25 my question or that you need a clarification, I will

1 assume you did understand the question. Okay?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. For the same reason as it's important to say yes or no,
4 it's important that we don't talk over each other, is
5 that clear?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that's because the court reporter needs to write
8 everything down, and it's really hard for her to just
9 kind of jump in and untangle everything. Okay?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you on any medications that would prevent you from
12 remembering or otherwise testifying fully and
13 accurately today?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you have any medical conditions that will prevent
16 you from remembering or otherwise testifying fully and
17 accurately today?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You're aware that the AZA's lawyers are here today,
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You're aware that they represent the AZA, not you,
23 right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Likewise, Ronda Schwetz's lawyer is present today,

1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you're aware that Mr. Macario represents
4 Ms. Schwetz, not you, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You're also aware that this is a civil lawsuit brought
7 by ██████████ against the AZA and Ronda Schwetz,
8 right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You're aware that ██████████ alleges that Ms. Schwetz
11 sexually assaulted him at the AZA annual conference,
12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You're aware that ██████████ also alleges that the AZA
15 discriminated against him by failing to investigate or
16 take any action following the assault, right?

17 A. Yes. I am aware of that because of the subpoena I
18 received. Yes.

19 Q. You're aware that ██████████ also alleges that both
20 Ms. Schwetz and the AZA retaliated against him for
21 reporting these allegations, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And as you said, you received a subpoena for documents
24 in connection with this case, didn't you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you produced documents, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall that we asked you to speak with us
4 informally about these documents, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you declined our request?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that was because Ronda Schwetz told you not to
9 speak with [REDACTED] lawyers?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Was it because AZA's lawyers told you not to
12 speak with us?

13 A. It was because I did not feel comfortable speaking with
14 [REDACTED] lawyers without having a representation.

15 Q. When you first arrived on this Zoom conference,
16 Mr. Stone said, Nice to see you again. Do you recall
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So you have spoken with the AZA's lawyers about this
20 case, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And what did you speak of?

23 A. When I had to submit the documents in relation to the
24 original subpoena requesting documents, I spoke with
25 Kylene Slocum and Ben Stone about that.

1 Q. You did that by email?

2 A. I believe we did it by phone call, either phone call or
3 Zoom call. I don't recall which.

4 Q. How long did that call last?

5 A. Probably 10 minutes.

6 Q. What did they advise you?

7 A. They didn't advise me because they're not representing
8 me. I was asking them about just, you know, how do
9 I -- how do I produce? How do I go through all of
10 these documents? How do I submit them? That was
11 the -- the gist of that conversation.

12 Q. They helped you determine how to go through and submit
13 the documents, correct?

14 A. I was asking them because of the way that I use my
15 Evernote account. How should I submit what I have in
16 my Evernote account, since that's what I use? And
17 while they were very clear that they couldn't advise me
18 on what to do since they don't represent me, they
19 essentially said, Submit everything you have in the
20 form that you have it. And so that's what I did.

21 Q. You also, in addition to submitting your Evernote,
22 submitted text messages, right?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. What did you do to determine whether or not you had any
25 text messages that were responsive to the subpoena?

1 A. I looked through what -- the text messages on my phone
2 to see what text communications I'd had with any of the
3 individuals involved in this situation, and then I
4 screenshotted those and submitted them.

5 Q. Are those texts still on your phone right now?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you have also spoken with the AZA's lawyers about
8 this deposition, right?

9 A. About this deposition, the only communication I had was
10 to notify AZA that I had received a subpoena to give a
11 deposition, and since I didn't receive a Zoom link for
12 this, I asked Kylene Slocum if she had received a Zoom
13 link or if she could send me one, which she did, which
14 is how I got this link.

15 Q. You have spoken with Ronda Schwetz about the
16 allegations in this case, right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you have spoken with Ronda Schwetz about your
19 testimony here today, right?

20 A. Not about my testimony today. No.

21 Q. Okay. What did Ronda tell you happened in the hotel
22 room with [REDACTED] in Seattle?

23 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

24 So, Ms. Perkins, the lawyers may make objections
25 from time to time. They're just for the record.

1 Unless someone instructs you not to answer, you can
2 go ahead and answer them.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay. Were you instructing me not
4 to answer?

5 MR. MACARIO: No. Not at all. I just made an
6 objection. Go ahead.

7 MS. THOMPSON: I appreciate that instruction.

8 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Go ahead.

9 A. So you're asking me if Ronda spoke with me about the
10 alleged activities in the hotel room, and my answer to
11 that is yes, but not in -- yes, Ronda and I have spoken
12 about the allegations about that -- that night. Put it
13 that way. Yeah.

14 Q. And in those conversations, she has denied the sexual
15 assault; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. What else did she say?

18 A. I don't recall specifically what she said.

19 Q. And do you recall generally?

20 A. Generally, our conversations have been about how
21 upsetting the allegations were, and that they -- that
22 they were not true and that she didn't understand why
23 this was happening. That's essentially what we've
24 talked about.

25 Q. In those conversations, you have tried to console her,

1 right?

2 A. Absolutely.

3 Q. Okay. You attended AZA conferences with Ronda Schwetz,
4 didn't you?

5 A. Over my 30-some-year career, yes. Of course.

6 Q. And at those conferences, you observed Ronda consuming
7 alcohol, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. To excess at times?

10 A. I have not seen her consume alcohol to excess. No.

11 Q. You're aware that at the Seattle conference in 2018,
12 James Breheny and Craig Piper observed Ronda Schwetz in
13 a, quote, exceedingly intoxicated state in the lobby at
14 the Sheraton hotel, correct?

15 MR. MACARIO: Object to form and foundation.

16 Go ahead.

17 A. I'm not aware of that. No.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Do you have any
19 reason to think that Mr. Breheny and Piper are lying
20 about that?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form.

23 A. No. I don't have any reason to believe that they would
24 be lying, but I have not heard that information before.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You know who Kris Vehrs is,

1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. She was the executive director of the AZA back in 2018?

4 A. Yes. I believe she was still there then.

5 Q. Okay. You're aware that she also testified that Ronda
6 Schwetz was drinking to excess at the Seattle annual
7 conference, correct?

8 MR. MACARIO: Object to form and foundation.

9 A. I'm not aware of that.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you have any reason to
11 dispute Ms. Vehrs' sworn testimony that Ronda Schwetz
12 was drinking to excess at the Seattle conference?

13 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

14 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

15 A. No, I don't.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You're also aware that Jack
17 Keeney, AZA's general counsel, testified that
18 Ms. Schwetz drank to excess at the Seattle conference?

19 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

20 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form and foundation.

21 A. No. I'm not aware of that.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you have any reason to
23 dispute Jack Keeney's sworn testimony that Ms. Schwetz
24 was drinking to excess at the Seattle conference?

25 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form.

1 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

2 A. No. I have no reason to dispute Mr. Keeney's
3 testimony.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Do you understand
5 that Mr. Breheny and Piper also observed Ms. Schwetz in
6 the Sheraton lobby attempting to sit on the lap of a
7 man in a bar, correct?

8 MR. MACARIO: Object to form and foundation.

9 MR. STONE: Object to form and foundation.

10 A. I'm not aware of that.

11 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you have any reason to
12 dispute that?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. And Mr. Breheny and Piper also observed Ms. Schwetz
15 attempting to unbutton the shirt of this man. Are you
16 aware of that?

17 MR. MACARIO: Object to form and foundation.

18 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

19 A. I'm not aware of that.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you have any reason to
21 dispute that that happened?

22 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

23 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form.

24 A. I have no reason to dispute the testimony.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you aware that the AZA

1 testified that it believed this to be unwanted sexual
2 touching of a male?

3 A. I'm not aware of that.

4 Q. I'm going to show you -- we'll mark this Exhibit 1.

5 (Exhibit No. 1 marked for identification.)

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'm going to drop this in
7 the chat, Ms. Perkins. If you're able to open it,
8 that's usually the easiest way for you to look at it,
9 but I can also share my screen.

10 A. Whichever works -- whichever you prefer.

11 Q. I'm just making sure I'm putting the right document in.
12 One moment. It should be coming through shortly, and
13 when you receive it, please try to open it and let me
14 know if that's possible. Just for fun, I will share my
15 screen as well.

16 A. So this is the -- I've opened it. So now I can't see
17 you.

18 Q. That's okay. However you want to look at it, you can
19 look it with the document. I would ask you just to
20 scroll to page -- it's a lot of legal stuff. It's
21 page 12 of 28 in the PDF.

22 A. Well, since you have it open, is that easier?

23 Q. Sure. That's totally fine. Whatever you want to do.

24 A. Okay. I'm looking at the Zoom screen now.

25 Q. All right. So I'll scroll up to the question. It

1 says, Please describe in detail Ronda Schwetz's
2 performance in any positions held within your
3 association, whether positive or negative. Please
4 include in your answer a description of any and all
5 awards, commendations, warnings, or complaints related
6 to her.

7 And I'm going to scroll down to the answer, and
8 I'm going to read out loud to you: Apart from [REDACTED]
9 complaint at issue in this case, Schwetz received a
10 verbal complaint by AZA Chair James Breheny regarding
11 sexual touching of males at a bar during the Seattle
12 annual conference and an email of an anonymous
13 complaint regarding Schwetz in February of 2019.

14 Do you see that?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. And you were not aware, you testified, that she had
17 been engaged in sexual touching of males at the bar at
18 the Seattle conference, right?

19 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

20 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form.

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) But you don't have any
23 reason to dispute the AZA's sworn answers to their
24 interrogatories, correct?

25 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

1 A. I don't dispute what others have testified. No.

2 MR. MACARIO: Just for the record, I'm going to
3 object to the introduction of this exhibit. I
4 believe there is a more recent version of this
5 document. So it's just for the record. You can go
6 ahead and ask as many -- go ahead. Sorry.

7 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you. All right.

8 I'm going to stop share, and I think I asked for
9 this to be marked as Exhibit 1, but if I didn't, I
10 just want to remember to do that now. I'm going to
11 stop share.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you aware that with
13 respect to Ms. Schwetz's conduct in the bar where she
14 was straddling a man and unbuttoning his shirt, the AZA
15 testified that it believed that to be unwanted sexual
16 touching of a male?

17 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

18 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

19 A. And I'm sorry. I have to ask you to repeat. Are you
20 asking me if I'm aware of that allegation? Or I'm
21 sorry. Please repeat your question.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Sure. I'll just say it
23 again.

24 So you're aware that the AZA testified that it
25 believed the straddling and unbuttoning of a man's

1 shirt by Ms. Schwetz in the lobby of the Sheraton
2 annual conference hotel to be unwanted sexual touching
3 of a male?

4 MR. STONE: Object to form.

5 A. I'm not aware of that unless it's in this document that
6 I just downloaded.

7 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you have any reason to
8 dispute that testimony?

9 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

10 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

11 A. No.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And do you understand that
13 when confronted by Ms. Vehrs about this, Ms. Schwetz
14 did not deny that she engaged in the unwanted sexual
15 touching of males, correct?

16 MR. STONE: Object to form.

17 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

18 A. I'm not aware of that.

19 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you -- do you -- are you
20 aware -- are you aware that the AZA informed Ronda that
21 she should seek help for her drinking problem?

22 MR. STONE: Object to form.

23 A. I'm not aware of that.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) She didn't share that with
25 you?

1 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

2 A. No.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Were you aware that
4 AZA testified that Ms. Schwetz was not disciplined for
5 this because she was a long-time member of the
6 community with an otherwise good reputation?

7 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

8 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form.

9 A. I'm not aware of that.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Do you have any
11 reason to dispute that?

12 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

13 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

14 A. No.

15 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you aware that on the
16 very same evening that the AZA board observed
17 Ms. Schwetz straddling and unbuttoning the shirt of a
18 male in the lobby bar of the Sheraton hotel, she went
19 upstairs to the hotel room that she shared with
20 [REDACTED] at the Seattle conference?

21 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

22 A. I'm not aware of that. I would presume that she went
23 up to her room at some point.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So when you were talking
25 with Ms. Schwetz about what happened in that hotel

1 room, she didn't mention what happened before, did she?

2 A. No.

3 Q. She didn't tell you that she was observed straddling
4 and unbuttoning the shirt of males in the Sheraton
5 lobby bar, correct?

6 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

7 A. No. I don't recall having a conversation like that.

8 No.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) She didn't tell you that
10 Ms. Vehrs spoke with her about it and that she didn't
11 deny it, right?

12 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

13 A. I recall her saying that she had conversations with
14 Kris Vehrs, but she -- I don't know what the substance
15 of those conversations was.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. What she told you
17 was, I can't believe this is happening to me; I didn't
18 assault [REDACTED] Right?

19 A. That's the gist of what her conversations were with me.
20 Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And you're also aware that [REDACTED]
22 allegations that she drunkenly assaulted him, came on
23 to him, asked to have sex with him, and grabbed his
24 penis very forcefully in the hotel room after she left
25 the lobby of the Sheraton hotel bar?

1 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

2 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

3 A. I'm aware of that through public records.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Ms. Schwetz didn't
5 tell you any of that, right?

6 A. Not in that -- not to that level of detail. No.

7 Q. Okay. You're aware as well that on Monday,
8 September 24, so -- excuse me. I'll try to ask you
9 that question again.

10 Because you're aware of the public record, right?

11 A. I'm aware of what came out in the newspapers. Yes.

12 Q. And you have reviewed the plea agreement that included
13 the police report, right?

14 A. If -- I don't know the names of these documents. If
15 that's something that was in the newspapers, yes. I
16 had read the things that were produced in the
17 newspapers.

18 Q. I'll represent to you that I saw in one of your text
19 messages that you said you reviewed that agreement.

20 A. Oh, okay. Good. Then the answer is yes.

21 MR. STONE: Just note my objection to the form of
22 that last question. Thank you.

23 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You're aware that [REDACTED]
24 reported to the police that on Monday, September 24, he
25 observed -- he also observed Ms. Schwetz straddling a

1 man in the bar and unbuttoning his shirt?

2 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

3 A. I have to ask you to repeat it. I'm sorry.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You're aware that [REDACTED]
5 reported to the police that on Monday, September 24, he
6 also observed Ms. Schwetz straddling a man in the bar
7 and unbuttoning his shirt?

8 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

9 A. If it was in the police report, yes. I don't have a
10 specific recollection of that, but if it's in the
11 police report, then, yes.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And [REDACTED] and his
13 colleagues also observed that this conduct was unwanted
14 by the male?

15 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

16 A. Again, if it's in the police report, yes, but I don't
17 have a specific recollection of that.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You don't have any basis to
19 claim that [REDACTED] police report about this conduct
20 is not true, right, because you weren't there?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 A. That's correct. I don't have any. I have no awareness
23 of what actually happened.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you aware that [REDACTED]
25 reported to the assault at the time it happened to

1 Barbara Shaw by email?

2 A. I'm not aware of that.

3 MS. THOMPSON: Excuse me. I'm going to drop
4 Exhibit 2 into the chat, please.

5 (Exhibit No. 2 marked for identification.)

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Barbara Shaw is a colleague
7 of yours, correct?

8 A. Yeah. I guess I would call her a colleague. Yes. I
9 know her.

10 Q. She also works with apes?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Let me know when you have this document.

13 A. I have it. I have it open.

14 Q. Okay. So I will also share screen. All right. Do you
15 see that this is [REDACTED] email address right here?

16 A. Oh, wait. I'll go back to -- let me go back to the
17 screen so I can see what you're showing. Yeah. Yes.
18 That's a -- that's an email address I have seen him
19 use.

20 Q. And I'm going to scroll down, and you see that the date
21 here is 24 September 2018, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And this is the date that [REDACTED] alleges the attack
24 happened, correct?

25 A. Apparently.

1 Q. What do you mean "apparently?" You don't know the date
2 of when he alleged it happened?

3 A. I don't know the specific date. No. I wasn't involved
4 in this. So I -- I know it's around September of 2018,
5 but I couldn't have told you that the specific date was
6 September 24.

7 MS. THOMPSON: I'm going to stop sharing this one
8 moment and put Exhibit 3 into the chat.

9 (Exhibit No. 3 marked for identification.)

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'm going to put Exhibit 2
11 aside for one moment and pull up Exhibit 3, please.

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. I'll share my screen as well.

14 A. I have it open.

15 Q. I'm going to scroll down. If you're looking at your
16 copy, we'll scroll all the way down to...

17 A. I'm looking at the document so I can't see you.

18 Q. Okay. No problem. So can you scroll down to -- it's
19 page 8 of the PDF, and it says page 3 of 6 of the
20 police report.

21 A. Page 8 of PDF. Yes. I have the -- I have page 8. Do
22 you have it on your screen too? Would it be simpler
23 for me to --

24 Q. Yeah. You can just -- sorry. Look at my screen if you
25 want, and then let's go to 9 and 4 of 6. My fault.

1 And I'm going to scroll to where it says, The next
2 night, Monday the 24th, right?

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Can you go ahead and read that out loud, please?

5 A. Read which?

6 Q. Starting at, The next night, Monday the 24th, and then
7 you can stop at the end of the paragraph.

8 A. Then, next night, Monday the 24th, B saw Ronda in the
9 bar. Ronda was very intoxicated and -- very
10 intoxicated again and, quote, falling over men, closed
11 quote, at the bar. Ronda then straddled a man at the
12 bar and started to unbutton his shirt. B thought the
13 man looked uncomfortable so B and one of his friends
14 pulled Ronda off of the other man.

15 Q. Okay. And the next paragraph?

16 A. B got Ronda into the hotel room. When the two of them
17 were alone, Ronda started to get sexually aggressive
18 again. She was talking about how attractive B and his
19 boyfriend were and how she wanted to join them for sex.
20 Ronda reminded B that -- that he caught her having sex
21 with another man at the zoo and that she wanted him to
22 join if that ever happens again.

23 Q. Okay. The next paragraph?

24 A. Ronda tried to kiss B, and B had to push her away. B
25 fell back onto the bed and Ronda got on top of him and

1 grabbed his penis. She was very intoxicated so B was
2 able to get her off of him easily. Ronda went into the
3 bathroom, like she did the night before, and then fell
4 asleep.

5 Q. Okay. Does that refresh your recollection that
6 [REDACTED] is alleging Ronda Schwetz assaulted him on
7 the evening of Monday, September 24?

8 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. STONE: Object to the form.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Let's go back to Exhibit 2,
13 please. I will share my screen again. And starting
14 with the paragraph -- do you see the paragraph on my
15 screen that says, Ronda came back to the hotel room?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Can you read that from the beginning to end of
18 that paragraph, please, out loud?

19 A. Ronda came back to the hotel room screaming and crying,
20 threatening to kill herself, drunk out of her mind,
21 completely falling to pieces. That went on for an
22 hour. Then she started telling me how attractive I am
23 and tried to grab my dick. Then she went into the
24 bathroom and cried for half an hour and screamed to the
25 point where I had to call the front desk and tell them

1 she was fine because people were complaining.

2 Then she came out completely naked and told me she
3 was leaving right now. Then she got angry and
4 aggressive.

5 Now she was wandering around the hotel room,
6 shouting about how she can't live anymore because this
7 is the worst thing that could ever happen. I am now
8 trying to ignore her so that she would go to sleep
9 before somebody called the police, and now she is
10 shouting about how pretty I am and how I need to have
11 sex with her because Jim can't stay hard. I am about
12 ready to shoot her and then myself.

13 Q. Okay. Your understanding, then, is that [REDACTED]
14 the evening of September 24, 2018, is contemporaneously
15 reporting what he alleges happened to him in that hotel
16 room, correct?

17 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

18 A. Yes. I understand that that's what he was reporting to
19 Barb.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) On the evening that he
21 alleges it happened, right?

22 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You don't have any
25 reason to dispute [REDACTED] account because you

1 weren't there that night, were you?

2 A. I was not.

3 Q. And you didn't speak with Ms. Schwetz about these
4 details, correct?

5 A. No.

6 Q. All right. [REDACTED] also described what happened to
7 him with handwritten notes on the letterhead of the
8 convention center at the Seattle conference. Do you
9 have any reason to dispute that he did that?

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

11 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

12 A. I have no reason to dispute that.

13 MS. THOMPSON: For the court reporter or
14 videographer, what exhibit are we on?

15 COURT REPORTER: This would be No. 4.

16 MS. THOMPSON: 4. Okay. Thank you. All right.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'm going to show you
18 Exhibit 4.

19 (Exhibit No. 4 marked for identification.)

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And for the record, this is
21 AZA 000864 to AZA 000865. I'll represent to you,
22 Ms. Perkins, that those numbers mean this document was
23 produced by the AZA in this litigation. I will share
24 my screen, but also let me know when you've had a
25 chance to scroll through and review it.

1 A. Okay. I've scrolled through it.

2 Q. All right. And starting on page 000864, which is the
3 first page of the document, there's some redactions
4 here. We didn't make those redactions. That's how it
5 was produced to us, just so you know. This isn't
6 something we're trying to hide from you. Do you see
7 who this email is from?

8 A. It's anonymous.

9 Q. Okay. And who it's to?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And who is it to?

12 A. To Jack Keeney.

13 Q. And Jack Keeney is the general counsel for the AZA,
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And at the bottom here, it says, I am writing
17 from an anonymous email address as I'd like to keep
18 this confidential.

19 Can you go ahead and read aloud this next
20 paragraph?

21 A. I'm an AZA member who experienced an incident that I
22 would describe as a borderline code of conduct issue.
23 I don't want the person punished, and I'm not looking
24 for any sort of action to be taken. I just want there
25 to be a record of the incident, as the person involved

1 has a record of this sort of thing. Mostly, I'm
2 concerned about her behavior and drinking.

3 Q. Go to the next page. This is 000865. At the top, can
4 you please read this paragraph out loud?

5 A. The incident took place at the DPC conference in
6 Nashville. I was at a bar one evening with about six
7 other conference attendees. The person involved is
8 Ronda Schwetz, the zoo director at Henry Vilas Zoo.
9 She was extremely inebriated, approached me at my seat
10 and began rubbing her body and torso against me,
11 speaking to me from closer than 2 inches from my face,
12 and holding me by the arms, slash, putting her arms
13 around me. The incident lasted about 30 seconds before
14 I removed myself.

15 Like I said, I know that this is pretty
16 borderline. It's not like she groped me, nor did she
17 say anything sexual. Honestly, she was slurring so
18 much, I have no idea what she was saying. But the
19 whole incident was very unprofessional, and it made me
20 extremely uncomfortable. I'm married and have
21 children, which she knows about me. I don't know if
22 any of the other people in our group saw it happen or
23 not.

24 Q. Okay. And Ms. Schwetz never told you about this, did
25 she?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. This is -- this is being reported February 8,
3 2019, which is very shortly after the Seattle
4 conference, correct?

5 A. Yes. The Seattle conference was September, September
6 of '18. Yes.

7 Q. And we know from the AZA's and multiple individuals'
8 testimony that the AZA observed Ms. Schwetz engaging in
9 unwanted sexual touching of men, including straddling,
10 and unbuttoning and rubbing herself on them in the
11 Sheraton lobby bar at Seattle conference, right?

12 MR. STONE: Object to form.

13 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

14 A. Yes. That's what you showed me earlier.

15 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And here, this
16 anonymous complainant is describing Ms. Schwetz as
17 extremely inebriated, rubbing her body and torso
18 against him, and speaking to me from closer to two
19 inches from his face, holding me by putting her arms --
20 by the arms and putting her arms around him. Do you
21 see that here?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. So this is similar conduct as what's being described in
24 Seattle, isn't it?

25 MR. STONE: Object to form.

1 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And don't you think that
4 ought to be investigated?

5 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

6 A. I don't think that's for me to say. I'm not sure what
7 you're asking. Do you mean -- how do you mean that?

8 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I think these are pretty
9 serious allegations, aren't they?

10 MR. STONE: Object to form.

11 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

12 A. I agree.

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And they should be
14 investigated by the AZA, shouldn't they?

15 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Thank you.

18 Were you aware also that in 2019, the head of the
19 Henry Vilas Zoo society also accused Ronda of drinking
20 to excess at conferences, right?

21 MR. STONE: Object to the form.

22 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

23 A. I'm not aware of that. No. I had not heard that.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. It was in the news,
25 and you claimed to have read the articles. So...

1 A. I don't have a specific recollection. I'll put it that
2 way. But if it was in the news, I'm confident that I
3 read it.

4 Q. Okay. That person also said that she had been making
5 sexually explicit and demeaning comments towards zoo
6 staff, correct?

7 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

8 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

9 A. I don't have a specific recollection.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You don't have any
11 reason to dispute that person's account?

12 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

13 A. Not if it -- not if it was something that I read in the
14 newspaper, then, no. I don't have any reason to
15 dispute it.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You're also aware
17 that in June of 2020, the head of the Henry Vilas Zoo
18 union reported racist comments by a deputy zoo director
19 to Ronda, correct?

20 MR. STONE: Object to form.

21 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) This was also in the news?

23 A. Yes. I am aware of that.

24 Q. Okay. And then afterwards, he was threatened with
25 discipline, correct?

1 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

2 A. I'm aware that that was alleged. Yes.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And so he alleged
4 that Ms. Schwetz retaliated against him in connection
5 with his report of racism to her, correct?

6 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

7 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

8 A. I'm aware of that.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You're aware that in 2021,
10 two Black zookeepers left the Henry Vilas Zoo, citing
11 racism and discrimination by leadership as the reason
12 for quitting their jobs?

13 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

14 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

15 A. I'm aware.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Let's take an 8-minute break
17 and come back at 11:00.

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going off the record.
19 The time is 10:52 a.m.

20 (Recess taken at 10:52 a.m.)

21 (Proceedings resumed at 11:03 a.m.)

22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the record.
23 The time is 11:03 a.m.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You are aware that you're
25 still under oath, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you speak with anyone during the break?

3 A. No, I didn't.

4 Q. Okay. With respect to the incident that we just
5 discussed here today, the unwanted sexual touching of
6 males in the Sheraton lobby in a drunken state; the
7 specifics of [REDACTED] allegations of drunken,
8 unwanted, sexual touching of him in a hotel room; the
9 February 2019 allegation of drunken, unwanted, sexual
10 touching in Jacksonville; Ms. Schwetz never shared any
11 of that information with you, did she?

12 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

13 A. The only things that we have talked about were the
14 allegations from Seattle. I was not aware of the
15 allegations from Nashville or from the Seattle hotel
16 lobby.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So the answer to my question
18 is no, she did not share those things with me, correct?

19 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

20 MR. STONE: Join.

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) In the face of a report of
23 sexual assault, you chose to accept her flat denial
24 that it just didn't happen, right?

25 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

1 A. Actually, I'm not even sure how to answer that. I
2 mean, yes.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay.

4 A. Ronda and I are friends, and so she told me it didn't
5 happen and I supported my friend.

6 Q. Wasn't [REDACTED] your friend?

7 A. He was.

8 Q. Yeah, he was. So your friend is alleging that his boss
9 sexually assaulted him, right?

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

11 A. Yes. [REDACTED] --

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay.

13 A. Go ahead.

14 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to cut you off.

15 A. I was just saying he didn't -- he didn't discuss those
16 things with me.

17 Q. Did you ask him?

18 MR. STONE: Object to form.

19 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Did you say, Hey, [REDACTED],
20 what's going on? Did this happen to you?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 A. No, I didn't.

23 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You didn't.

24 Did you do anything other than accept
25 Ms. Schwetz's flat denials that it didn't happen?

1 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

2 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

3 A. I didn't discuss it with [REDACTED] It was not a
4 comfortable topic.

5 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So it was a comfortable
6 topic with Ms. Schwetz but not with [REDACTED]

7 A. Ronda called me to discuss the allegations, and so I
8 had that conversation with her.

9 Q. Are you familiar with the phrase "believe the victim?"

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Don't you think it's important to believe the victim --

12 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

13 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) -- when they're alleging
15 sexual assault?

16 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

17 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

18 A. Generally, yes.

19 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) But not in this case, right?
20 Even though this victim was your friend?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 A. I never disbelieved him. I didn't tell [REDACTED] that I
23 disbelieved him.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So you didn't disbelieve
25 [REDACTED] right? Is that what you're saying?

1 A. I didn't --

2 Q. That's your testimony?

3 A. I didn't take a side in the -- in what was clearly a
4 very ugly dispute.

5 Q. You didn't take a side.

6 Did you read your text messages before you
7 produced them?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. We'll get to those.

10 Are you familiar with the Rape, Abuse & Incest
11 National Network?

12 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

13 A. I don't -- no. I don't think so.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. It's sometimes
15 abbreviated as RAINN, and it's a resource for victims
16 of sexual assault.

17 A. Okay.

18 MR. STONE: Object to form.

19 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) The Rape, Abuse & Incest
20 National Network defines grooming as manipulative
21 behaviors that the abuser uses to gain access to a
22 potential victim, coerce them to agree to the abuse,
23 and reduce the risk of being caught. Do you have any
24 reason to disagree with that definition?

25 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

1 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

2 A. No. I have no reason to disagree with that.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) They go on to explain that
4 grooming behaviors are not only used to gain a victim's
5 trust, but often are used to create a trustworthy image
6 and relationship within the family and community. Do
7 you have any reason to disagree with that statement?

8 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

9 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

10 A. No, I do not.

11 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) They also go on to say that
12 sexual abusers are often charming, kind, and helpful.
13 Any reason to disagree with that?

14 MR. STONE: Object to form.

15 A. No.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And being charming, kind,
17 and helpful is exactly the type of behavior we value in
18 friends and acquaintances, right?

19 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

20 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) One of the ways in which
23 sexual abusers escape liability for so long is that in
24 many cases their community continues to support them.
25 Wouldn't you agree with that?

1 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

2 A. Yeah. I suppose to. Yes.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Sure. So the Catholic
4 Church, for example, covered up allegations and
5 transferred priests, right?

6 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

7 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) With respect to Jeffrey
10 Epstein, who was a purveyor of child prostitutes, he
11 had an old boys' network that very much supported what
12 he was doing. This is from an article. The reporter
13 goes on to say, I don't see that we can underestimate
14 his ability to create an ecosystem which really
15 supported his abuse.

16 Do you have any doubt that that's true with
17 respect to Jeffrey Epstein and the community that
18 supported him?

19 MR. STONE: Object to form.

20 A. No. I have no reason to dispute that.

21 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You're familiar with
22 Bill Cosby and the allegations against him, right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You don't have any reason to dispute that Bill Cosby
25 was, quote, a long-time member of the community with an

1 otherwise good reputation at the time the allegations
2 surfaced, right?

3 MR. STONE: Object to form.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You're familiar with Larry
6 Nassar and the allegations against him?

7 A. Less so than the others, but, yes.

8 Q. Okay. He was accused of abusing girls during
9 gynecological exams in USC and with the U.S. Olympic
10 Gymnastic Team. You're familiar with that, right?

11 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And before his allegations
14 surfaced, he was also a long-time member of his
15 community with an otherwise good reputation, right?

16 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

17 A. I would assume so. I don't know him. I don't know
18 that situation.

19 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. He wouldn't be
20 getting away with abusing a bunch of girls if he wasn't
21 a long-time member of his community with an otherwise
22 good reputation, right?

23 MR. STONE: Object to form.

24 A. I assume so.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And likewise here, as

1 we've discussed today, the AZA testified that
2 Ms. Schwetz was not disciplined because she was, quote,
3 a long-time member of the community with an otherwise
4 good reputation, right?

5 MR. STONE: Object to form.

6 MR. MACARIO: Object to form and foundation.

7 A. Yes. According to what you showed me, yes.

8 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Would you agree with
9 me that victims of people in power are all too aware
10 that speaking up may lead to stalled careers and ruined
11 reputations?

12 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

13 MR. STONE: Object to form.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And that's because
16 predators like Cosby, Nassar, Weinstein, and Epstein
17 are skilled at building a network of allies, right?

18 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

19 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

20 A. I assume so.

21 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Well, you just testified
22 that they are.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. So you agree with that statement?

25 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Thank you.

3 And that's in part because they can be charming
4 and likable, right, according to RAINN?

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

7 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And they're often kind and
8 helpful, right?

9 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You viewed Ronda Schwetz as
12 charming and likable, didn't you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You viewed her as kind and helpful?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You valued her as a friend and acquaintance, at least
17 in part for that reason, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that's part of the reason that you wanted to help
20 her with the charges she faced in March of 2021, right?

21 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

22 A. I'm not sure what you mean by "help her." My -- my --
23 my view of helping her was to listen to her when she
24 needed an ear.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Well, I promised you we

1 would get back to that, so we will.

2 A. Okay.

3 MS. THOMPSON: I'm going to put -- is this

4 Exhibit 5?

5 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

6 MS. THOMPSON: Exhibit 5 into the chat.

7 (Exhibit No. 5 marked for identification.)

8 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I will share my screen. Go

9 ahead and review this text message.

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. I will scroll down if you'd like me to, or you can

12 review the copy that's in your chat.

13 A. Okay. You can scroll down.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Okay. You can scroll down. You can scroll down.

16 Okay.

17 Q. Okay. We didn't get the remainder of this text

18 message. Is it still on your phone?

19 A. It should be.

20 Q. Okay. Can you -- well, we'll come back to it. If you

21 can look for it on a break, I think that would be

22 helpful.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. So I asked you -- I asked you -- I said to you, you

25 valued Ms. Schwetz as a friend and acquaintance for

1 that reason, right? And you testified that you did.
2 And then I asked you, That's part of the reason that
3 you wanted to help her with the criminal charges she
4 faced in March 2021. Now that you've reviewed this
5 text message, can you answer that question differently?

6 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

7 MR. STONE: Object to form.

8 A. I was -- I viewed my responses to Ronda not necessarily
9 as helping her with the criminal charge, just helping
10 her with supporting her position.

11 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) In the criminal case, right?

12 A. Yes. In the situation that she was facing. Yes.

13 Q. So you wanted to help her with the situation she was
14 facing with respect to the criminal charges, right?

15 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) How is that different from
18 what I said, which was you wanted to help her with the
19 criminal charges she faced in March 2021?

20 A. I was -- I think that the way that I was reading your
21 question was in a more specific light, as if I were
22 helping her amass evidence or something like that, and
23 my interpretation of that was just she was asking me,
24 Do you have any -- do you have any of this information?
25 And I was saying, Yeah. Let me look and see what I

1 have. So, yes. I was trying to help her.

2 Q. So when you looked to see what you had, with respect
3 to, quote, threatening or harassing information, that
4 wasn't helping her amass information to defend herself
5 in the criminal case? That's your testimony?

6 A. I suppose it was.

7 Q. Okay. And if you see down here at 3:07, you said, at
8 the last sentence, I want to be able to help if I can.
9 Right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So you did take a side here. You wanted to help Ronda.

12 A. I did.

13 Q. Specifically with respect to the criminal allegations
14 of sexual assault made by [REDACTED]

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who was also, at some point at least, your friend?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I will take this down.

19 You looked for communications that were
20 threatening or harassing, right?

21 A. I'm sorry. I didn't hear the beginning of what you
22 said.

23 Q. At Ms. Schwetz's request, you looked for communications
24 from [REDACTED] that were threatening her or harassing,
25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you couldn't find any, right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And you agree that according to that text message at,
5 least by that time, March 2021, he had never been
6 outwardly angry with you?

7 A. He had been outwardly angry with me, I think. Yes. He
8 had been outwardly angry with me but not threatening.

9 Q. I will share screen again.

10 Well, here, you said at the 3:04 text message, He
11 never got outwardly angry with me. Was that true when
12 you said it?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 Do you want to change your testimony then?

16 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

17 A. I'll say that I think by that time, [REDACTED] had been
18 frustrated with a dispute he had been having with a
19 different scientist, and that he had expressed
20 frustration in some of those communications. But I
21 will amend it to say that he had never been outwardly
22 angry with me.

23 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And when you say
24 here, Renew his research letter, stuff like that,
25 that's the SSP letter endorsing his genetic research

1 into orangutans, right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. All right. And then if we scroll down, this is
4 page 2 of 2 in the PDF, and at 4:40 p.m., you text
5 Ms. Schwetz, On another call, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that means she was calling you, but you couldn't
8 pick up right away because you were on another call,
9 right?

10 MR. STONE: Object to form.

11 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And at some point, it
14 does look like you spoke with Ms. Schwetz because
15 there's nothing here, and then there's a text message
16 that says, Found her. She's at Utah now, but this is
17 her. Right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And so you spoke with Ms. Schwetz about this person,
20 Leslie Ann Knapp, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. She's the chair of the department of anthropology,
23 correct?

24 A. I -- I don't know.

25 Q. Well, this is -- go ahead. Sorry.

1 A. I don't know what her position is, but, yes. She's --

2 Q. Okay. Well, this is somebody that you believe

3 [REDACTED] had conflict with when he was in college,
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Ms. Schwetz writes back, You should be a PI.
7 Thanks.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you see that? A PI means private investigator,
10 right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. She's saying, Good sleuthing, thanks very much?

13 A. Yes. I suppose so. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. I'll take this down, go back a few weeks to
15 March 11, 2021, and I'll put Exhibit 6 in the chat.

16 (Exhibit No. 6 marked for identification.)

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'll share screen, and
18 you'll see that the file name of this is 2019, but I
19 believe it was just named incorrectly because you'll
20 see the correct date in the document, Exhibit 6, is
21 March 11, 2021. Do you see that? And I'll share it
22 with you too, if it's easier for you to review it that
23 way.

24 A. Yes. I see that that's the date.

25 Q. Okay. And this is where Ms. Schwetz first asks you to

1 look for emails that show what she calls a pattern of
2 harassment by [REDACTED]?

3 A. Yes. She is asking, Do I have any emails that show
4 harassment? Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And you say, I don't think I have anything that
6 could be called harassment. Right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That was true when you said it, right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And we saw from your last text message that between
11 March 11, 2021, and March 24, 2021, you looked for
12 emails like this, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you didn't find any, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Okay. And you say here, He has moved from friendly to
17 cordial and ended by being extremely formal when he was
18 unhappy that I refused to recuse you and others from
19 the review. That's what you said, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that was true at the time you wrote it, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the review that you're discussing here is the
24 review of [REDACTED] work that had been submitted to
25 the SSP, right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Thank you. I'll put that aside.

3 Are you familiar with Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's
4 allegations against Brett Kavanaugh?

5 A. You mean the Supreme Court Justice Kavanaugh?

6 Q. That's correct. Yes.

7 A. Not super familiar, but, yeah.

8 Q. Do you recall that many, including Republican U.S.
9 senators, portrayed Judge Kavanaugh as the real victim
10 of Dr. Blasey Ford's allegations?

11 A. I believe I recall hearing that. Yeah.

12 Q. You're aware that this is a very common pattern? This
13 has an acronym called DARVO, which means deny, attack,
14 and reverse victim and offender. Are you familiar with
15 that acronym?

16 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

17 A. No.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I was not. I was not either
19 before this, but Dr. Ford explained -- she is a
20 psychologist as well. As psychologists and
21 sociologists, we expect that survivors of sexual
22 assault will experience what we call DARVO. That
23 acronym, she explains, stands for denial by the
24 accused, attack the accuser, and then recast the victim
25 as the offender. Do you have any reason to dispute

1 that phenomenon?

2 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

3 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

4 A. No, I don't.

5 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And we observed that very
6 publicly when Dr. Ford came out and reported sexual
7 assault by -- by Judge Kavanaugh, correct?

8 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

9 A. Yeah. I think so.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. She goes on to say,
11 The victim becomes the offender and the offender
12 becomes the victim. So we see that playing out in the
13 news right now. We see that in just about all public
14 cases of sexual assault, and I think it's really
15 important that we all learn to recognize that and call
16 it out while it's happening and understand that
17 paradigm. Do you have any reason to disagree with that
18 statement?

19 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

20 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

21 A. No, I don't.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you agree that it's
23 really important that we all learn to recognize that
24 paradigm and call it out when it's happening?

25 MR. STONE: Object to form.

1 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

2 A. I agree.

3 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I'm going to show you
4 what we will mark as Exhibit 7.

5 (Exhibit No. 7 marked for identification.)

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Let me know when you've had
7 a chance to review it.

8 A. Yes. You can scroll. Okay.

9 Q. All right. And the article at the top here is an
10 article that describes both the sexual assault charge
11 and the civil lawsuit, correct?

12 A. As I recall, yes.

13 Q. Okay. And who is -- Ms. Cossaboon is also a member of
14 the Orangutan SSP steering committee; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Okay. She says, Holy shit. That's bad.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. And you say, I'm on the phone with her now. And that
19 person is Ronda, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then Cindy says, Poor Ronda. Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Isn't that a textbook example of reversing the role of
24 victim and offender?

25 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

1 MR. STONE: Object to form.

2 A. I don't know if it's a textbook example of reversing
3 the form. I do know that, obviously, we believed -- we
4 believed that the allegations were untrue.

5 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Ronda is the alleged
6 offender here, right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And Ms. Cossaboon is portraying her as a victim, right?

9 A. Yes. I believe she says, Poor Ronda. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Then you say in the second text message, I will
11 stand up for Ronda if called on to do so. Do you see
12 that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. You testified earlier that you weren't taking
15 sides, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And now you have a text message from June of
18 2021 saying, I will stand up for Ronda if called on to
19 do so.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That's not taking sides?

22 A. Yes. I guess it is.

23 Q. Okay. And it says here, Cindy, this is insanity. He
24 is vicious. Just downright vicious.

25 Do you see that?

1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. Okay. So you're attacking someone for reporting sexual
3 assault and claiming that he's vicious, right?

4 A. I don't know that I would say I was attacking him, but
5 in a private conversation between me and a friend, I
6 was absolutely taking sides.

7 Q. So calling someone vicious -- what is it -- vicious,
8 downright vicious, is not an attack?

9 A. It's not an attack when it was not directed to him.

10 Q. Okay. So if you were to call [REDACTED] and say, You're
11 vicious, downright vicious, that's an attack, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And your quibble with my word "attack" is just that
14 it's in a conversation with Ms. Cossaboon, right?

15 MR. STONE: Object to form.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And Ms. Cossaboon is also a
18 steering committee member on the Orangutan SSP, right?

19 A. Yes, she is.

20 Q. Okay. You don't say here, when Ms. Cossaboon says,
21 Poor Ronda, you don't say, Hey, wait a second, Ronda
22 isn't the victim here. [REDACTED] is saying she
23 sexually assaulted him. You're not saying -- you're
24 not correcting Ms. Cossaboon, right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. You're not saying, as you testified repeatedly here
2 today, Actually, I have no basis to dispute what he was
3 saying because I wasn't there.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Okay. What you do say is, I will stand up for Ronda if
6 called on to do so. Right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And that's what you're doing here today, isn't it?

9 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

11 A. What I'm doing here today is -- is testifying, as I've
12 been subpoenaed to do, and testifying truthfully to the
13 best of my recollection.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So [REDACTED] gets up the
15 courage to speak up about what Ms. Schwetz did to him,
16 right?

17 MR. STONE: Object to form.

18 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

19 A. I'm sorry. I didn't understand your question.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) [REDACTED] finds the courage
21 to speak out about what he alleges Ms. Schwetz did to
22 him.

23 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) That's your understanding of
25 what has just happened here, correct?

1 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

2 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And for that, he's vicious,
5 right?

6 A. I believed his allegations to be untrue and vicious in
7 their intent. That was my personal belief. Yes.

8 Q. Based on what?

9 A. Based on -- based on the people that I knew. Based on
10 the people that Ronda and [REDACTED] were.

11 Q. So you believed that Ronda is just not the kind of
12 person who would get drunk and assault men, period?

13 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

14 A. I did not believe that the allegations that [REDACTED] made
15 against her as to what happened whatever day that was
16 in the hotel, I didn't -- I didn't believe that that
17 was true.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You testified that that was
19 based on who you believed Ronda was, right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. In part, at least, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you did not believe at the time that Ronda was the
24 kind of person who would get drunk and engage in
25 unwanted sexual touching of males, correct?

1 MR. STONE: Object to form.

2 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Now you know differently,
5 right?

6 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

7 MR. STONE: Object to form.

8 A. Now I know that allegations to the contrary have been
9 made against her. Yes.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) By multiple people, right?

11 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

12 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay.

15 MR. STONE: I'm sorry. Can you read that question
16 back?

17 COURT REPORTER: I didn't hear it all either. I
18 was just about to say something.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Can you hear me now okay?

20 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

21 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Sorry about that.

22 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you know who else called
23 his accusers vicious --

24 MR. STONE: Object to form.

25 MR. MACARIO: Objection to form.

1 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) -- in around 2016?

2 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You're not aware that Donald
5 Trump called his accusers of sexual assault repeatedly
6 vicious?

7 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

8 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

9 A. Sure. Yes.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I want to go back
11 to -- let me try to have the right exhibit. I'm going
12 to take this down for one moment. It should be
13 Exhibit 6. I will open it and share my screen. And
14 just so that we can have the full message, which I
15 think might be -- oh, no, it's not. Okay. So I think
16 this is another example of when we don't have the whole
17 message so I would just ask you to look in your phone
18 and produce that when you have a second.

19 This green one here, you say here, He has moved
20 from being friendly to cordial and ended by being
21 extremely formal. I think he was unhappy that I
22 refused to recuse you and others from review.

23 Do you see that?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. And that's true, isn't it?

1 A. What? What's true?

2 Q. That you refused to recuse Ms. Schwetz and others from
3 the review of ██████████ research submitted to the SSP?

4 A. Actually, no. It's not true. What I refused to do was
5 to tell Graham who was going to be recused. What I
6 consistently told Graham was that our procedures
7 internally were honest and aboveboard, but because
8 Graham wanted me to recuse -- to say that I would
9 recuse Ronda, and he wanted me to recuse Cindy, and I
10 wouldn't say that. He was unhappy with that.

11 Q. You've had a couple of instances here today, though,
12 where your testimony has not been consistent with the
13 documents that you've produced. You're aware of that,
14 right?

15 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So here, we have another
18 instance where you are making a long explanation about
19 what you would say to ██████████ but your text message
20 clearly says something different. So I will read it to
21 you again.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. He has moved from being friendly to cordial, and ended
24 by being extremely formal when he was unhappy that I
25 refused to recuse you and others from review.

1 Do you see that?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Okay. And it said -- it doesn't say, I refused to tell
4 him that I was recusing you. It says, I refused to
5 recuse you. Right?

6 A. Yes, it does.

7 Q. Can you see how someone on a jury might not believe
8 your long explanation about how really it was because
9 you wouldn't tell [REDACTED] that you were recusing Ronda
10 Schwetz?

11 MR. STONE: Object to form.

12 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Thank you. I'll take this
15 down.

16 I'm about to start another module, but it's only
17 11:37. So I'll leave it up to you. Do you want to
18 take a short break now, or do you want me to start and
19 then we can take a break?

20 A. Are you asking me?

21 Q. Yep.

22 A. I'm fine to keep going. Whatever you prefer.

23 Q. Okay. If we get stuck in the middle of this and you
24 want a break, just let me know.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. I'm going to make a statement, and I want you to let me
2 know if you agree with it. The act of rape is based on
3 sexual desire, and therefore, attractive victims ask
4 for it by being desirable. Do you agree with that
5 statement?

6 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

7 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

8 A. No, I don't.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You don't because you
10 understand that sexual assault is about power and not
11 about desire, right?

12 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

13 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

14 A. Because I understand that rape is an act of violence.
15 It's not an act of sex.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And the corollary to that is
17 that it's also a myth that an unattractive or
18 promiscuous person cannot possibly have been victimized
19 because she is undesirable. You agree that's -- that's
20 a myth, right?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And you recognize that
25 attackers often claim that they could not have done

1 what they're accused of because the victim is
2 undesirable, right?

3 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

4 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

5 A. If you -- could you repeat it again? I'm sorry.

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Sure. You recognize that
7 attackers often claim they could not have done what
8 they're accused of because the victim is undesirable,
9 right?

10 MR. STONE: Object to form.

11 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And you remember back
13 in 2016 when Trump said of Jessica Leeds, who accused
14 him of grabbing her breasts and sticking his hand up
15 her shirt while seated next to her on a flight in the
16 1980s, he said, Believe me, she would not be my first
17 choice. Do you remember him saying that?

18 A. Not specifically, but -- but, yes.

19 Q. Do you recall generally that he made statements like
20 that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And he also mocked a writer for People by saying
23 in a rally, Check out her Facebook page. You'll
24 understand. Implying that she is too ugly to be the
25 victim of sexual assault. You remember that generally,

1 right?

2 A. Yeah. Not specifically, but generally, yes.

3 Q. Okay. Are you aware that Ronda Schwetz testified that
4 she would not have assaulted [REDACTED] because she was
5 not attracted to him?

6 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

7 A. I'm aware that -- I'm aware that one of the -- one of
8 the concerns -- not concerns. One of the issues was
9 the fact that [REDACTED] is gay, and Ronda had awareness of
10 that. So in that context, yeah. That's what I would
11 assume that meant.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you think that [REDACTED]
13 could not have been assaulted by a woman because he's
14 gay?

15 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

16 A. I don't believe it couldn't happen. No. I don't
17 believe that couldn't happen.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You think that it's less
19 likely, though, that [REDACTED] was assaulted, as he
20 says he was, because he's gay?

21 A. I think it's less likely that someone who is aware of
22 him being gay would make sexual advances toward him.

23 Q. We just established that assault is not about sexual
24 desire, right?

25 A. Correct. Yeah. Go ahead. I can see where you're

1 going.

2 Q. Sure. It's an act of violence.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And so you believe that it is less likely that
5 Ms. Schwetz committed an act of violence against
6 [REDACTED] because she knew that he was gay?

7 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

8 THE WITNESS: Yeah. That's a weird form. I
9 agree.

10 A. No. I don't think that that's -- I don't think that
11 being gay would preclude a sexual assault on [REDACTED]

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you aware that Ronda
13 Schwetz testified that she was -- she could not have
14 assaulted [REDACTED] because he was too promiscuous?

15 MR. MACARIO: Object to form. Misstates the
16 testimony.

17 Go ahead.

18 MR. STONE: Object to the form.

19 A. I had not heard that. No.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you believe that
21 [REDACTED] is too promiscuous to be raped?

22 MR. STONE: Object to form.

23 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

24 A. I'm not aware of whether or not he's promiscuous, and I
25 don't know what promiscuity has to do with rape.

1 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) We agree there.

2 Donald Trump also sought to portray his accusers
3 as liars, right?

4 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Are you aware that
7 Ms. Schwetz also testified that she believes [REDACTED]
8 to be lying, right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you never said to anyone, though, that you believed
11 [REDACTED] to be a liar, right?

12 A. I -- I probably have said that.

13 Q. Okay. When have you said that?

14 A. I don't know. Over the past -- the course of the past
15 four years, I probably have said that. I don't -- I
16 can't give you a specific.

17 Q. Okay. Sitting here today, though, you don't have any
18 basis to claim that [REDACTED] is lying when he reported
19 to the police that he was sexually assaulted by Ronda
20 Schwetz?

21 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

22 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

23 A. I don't have -- I don't have a basis on which to
24 believe that he is -- is lying. I don't have a -- I
25 can't give you a basis on which to position that.

1 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You don't have any
2 basis to believe that when [REDACTED] emailed Barbara
3 Shaw in the middle of the night to report what was
4 happening to him, that he was lying in that email,
5 right?

6 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

7 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

8 A. I don't. I wasn't -- I wasn't there so I don't have
9 any reason to believe that he was lying.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And you don't have
11 any reason to believe that [REDACTED] was lying when he
12 contemporaneously wrote the details of his attack on
13 convention center letterhead, right?

14 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

15 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You don't have any basis to
18 believe that [REDACTED] was lying when he reported the
19 attack to Ms. Vehrs, right?

20 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Even when you helped Ronda
24 at her request in March 2021, you never said to her
25 that you believed [REDACTED] to be lying, right?

1 A. I apparently didn't say it in that communication. No.

2 But I -- I believed Ronda more than I believed [REDACTED]

3 Q. Okay. So you believed the assailant more than you
4 believed the victim, right?

5 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

6 A. I believed Ronda more than I believed [REDACTED] Yes.

7 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And Ronda is the alleged
8 assailant, right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And [REDACTED] is the alleged victim, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. So you believed the alleged assailant more than you
13 believed the alleged victim, right?

14 A. In this instance, yes.

15 Q. And you took that position without ever reaching out to
16 [REDACTED] who you claim in many emails that he was
17 your friend and that you -- I think I saw an email
18 where you said you really cared about him.

19 A. I did.

20 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

21 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You didn't reach out to him
22 when you found out about this and say, Hey, are you
23 okay?

24 A. I did not.

25 Q. You didn't call him and say, You know what? I'm not

1 taking sides here, but if this happened to you, I'm
2 really sorry?

3 A. I did not.

4 Q. Are you familiar with the phrase, When they go low, we
5 go high?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 Q. Who famously says that?

8 A. Michelle Obama.

9 MR. STONE: Object to form.

10 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you still believe that?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Do you believe that someone who reports sexual assault
13 is going low?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Well, you -- you claimed that [REDACTED] was vicious,
16 right?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And that's going low, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You said you would stand up for Ronda when called on,
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you believe that's going high?

24 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

25 A. You're asking if I believe that standing up for Ronda

1 is going high? I didn't understand your question.

2 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you believe that standing
3 up for the alleged assailant in a sexual assault when
4 you claim that both of those people were your friends,
5 at least at one point in time, do you believe that's
6 going high?

7 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

8 A. In this instance, yes, I do.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And that's because
10 you don't believe that Ronda Schwetz is the kind of
11 person who would get drunk and engage in unwanted
12 sexual touching of males, correct?

13 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

14 A. It's because I don't believe that the allegations that
15 were made by [REDACTED] against Ronda were accurate.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Other than what you've
17 testified today, you didn't do anything to satisfy
18 yourself that they were not accurate, right?

19 A. No, I didn't.

20 Q. Okay. Do you believe that someone who is trying to
21 salvage his career after being sexually assaulted by
22 his boss is going low?

23 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

24 MR. STONE: Object to form.

25 A. No.

1 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you recognize that
2 [REDACTED] worked his whole life to get to where he was
3 in his career on the night of September 24, 2018?

4 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

5 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Do you believe that helping
8 an alleged assailant discredit her accuser is going
9 high?

10 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

11 A. No. I guess I wouldn't call it going high. No.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I'm going to read you
13 a quote from Ms. Obama's husband we're all familiar
14 with. It says, For anybody whose once normal, everyday
15 life was suddenly shattered by an act of sexual
16 violence, the trauma, the terror can shatter you long
17 after one horrible attack. It lingers. You don't know
18 where to go or who to turn to, and people are more
19 suspicious of you, as if it's your fault, not the fault
20 of the person who assaulted you. We still don't
21 condemn sexual assault as loudly as we should. We make
22 excuses. We look the other way. Laws won't be enough
23 unless we change that culture that allows assault to
24 happen in the first place.

25 Do you agree with that statement?

1 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

2 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

3 A. Yes. Yes.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'll show you one more
5 exhibit and then we will go on a break. Go ahead and
6 open that one when you have a moment.

7 (Exhibit No. 8 marked for identification.)

8 A. I see that. Okay.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) This was one of your
10 Facebook posts from July 3 of this year, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And it says, This is the level of, quote,
13 minding my business I am currently on, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That is a great example of somebody looking the other
16 way when something horrible is happening, right?

17 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

18 MR. STONE: Object to form.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Thank you.

21 We can take a 10-minute break.

22 COURT REPORTER: Were you going to mark that as an
23 exhibit?

24 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Do you want to go off the
25 record?

1 MS. THOMPSON: That's okay with me if it's okay
2 with everybody else.

3 COURT REPORTER: Before we do, can -- were you
4 going to mark that as an exhibit, that last --

5 MS. THOMPSON: Yes. Sorry.

6 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

7 MS. THOMPSON: One, two, three, four, five, six,
8 seven, eight, right?

9 COURT REPORTER: Okay. Yes. Okay. Just making
10 sure. Thanks.

11 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Thanks for checking because
12 I sometimes forget. See you guys at noon, in
13 10 minutes.

14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off the record.
15 The time is 11:50 a.m.

16 (Recess taken at 11:50 a.m.)

17 (Proceedings resumed at 12:04 p.m.)

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the record.
19 The time is 12:04 p.m.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Ms. Perkins, you realize
21 you're still under oath?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. And did you speak with anyone during the break?

24 A. No. I texted with my wife, but I haven't spoken with
25 anyone.

1 Q. Okay. And your text with your spouse, I don't want to
2 know what the contents were unless it has anything to
3 do with this case. Did it have anything to do with
4 this case?

5 A. She asked me how it was going, and I replied that it's
6 awful.

7 Q. That's -- that's the universal experience for everyone
8 that has their deposition taken so you're not alone, if
9 that's any reassurance.

10 MS. THOMPSON: All right. Let's do Exhibit 9.
11 Thank you.

12 (Exhibit No. 9 marked for identification.)

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You can go ahead and open
14 that, but I'll also share screen if that's helpful.
15 Let me know when you have a chance to look it over.

16 A. I see it.

17 Q. Okay. And this is a Facebook post by you, and you're
18 tagging in this post, Julia Anastasia Horsch Knox and
19 [REDACTED] right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And just for the jury who is seeing this for the first
22 time and doesn't know who anybody is, can you describe
23 who the people in this picture are?

24 A. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] boyfriend at the time. Julia is my
25 wife, and the third person is [REDACTED]

1 Q. And Julia is in the middle here, right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And this was May 18, 2018, when [REDACTED]
4 came to visit you in Orlando, right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Were you living and working in Orlando at Disney at the
7 time?

8 A. I was.

9 Q. Okay. All right. And I'm going to put this aside.
10 And we'll do 10.

11 (Exhibit No. 10 marked for identification.)

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Go ahead and open that when
13 you get a chance, and I'll also share screen.

14 A. Oh, right. Yes. Mm-hm.

15 Q. This is another Facebook post by you, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And it's from a couple days after Exhibit 9, which we
18 just looked at, correct?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. And you say here, I could learn to love having
21 houseguests if they were all as fun, easy, and
22 enjoyable as [REDACTED] right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] the plaintiff in this case,
25 correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Okay. And they -- it looks like they brought you some
3 hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil apes as a
4 gift, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. This was May 20, 2018, which would have been
7 several months before the attacks alleged to have
8 happened at the Seattle annual conference, right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. We can put that aside.

11 You also, in December of 2014 -- and I will put
12 Exhibit 11 in the chat -- wrote a letter to U.S.
13 immigration services regarding [REDACTED] right?

14 A. Yes.

15 (Exhibit No. 11 marked for identification.)

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) All right. And I will share
17 my screen with you. You can also open it. You know
18 the drill by this point.

19 You say here that you would like to attest to the
20 skills -- and I'll just highlight it -- attest to the
21 skills of [REDACTED] right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So you submitted this letter to the USCIS in support of
24 a visa for [REDACTED] right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Okay. And you're describing the specifics of
2 [REDACTED] work, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. All right. And your description of these specifics is
5 meant to demonstrate [REDACTED] extraordinary skills
6 and abilities, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And you continue on throughout the letter to
9 extol [REDACTED] work and the value of it to -- to your
10 community and to the U.S., right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Let's put this aside.

13 And everything -- sorry. Everything you said in
14 this letter was true when you said it, right?

15 A. Yes. [REDACTED] drafted the letter for me. So he wrote
16 most of it, and I just went through and, you know, made
17 sure it sounded like my voice, but I don't disagree
18 with anything that I -- that I signed off on in that
19 letter.

20 Q. Okay. And at the bottom here on page 2, this is your
21 signature, right?

22 A. Yes, it is. Yes. I signed it.

23 Q. So you endorse everything written in this letter about
24 [REDACTED] right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 MS. THOMPSON: So let's do Exhibit 12, please.

3 (Exhibit No. 12 marked for identification.)

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) This is -- I'll share my
5 screen. So this is a letter from you, another letter
6 from you, dated September 12, 2018, to the USCIS, and
7 this is also in support of an immigration application
8 made [REDACTED] correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And here, you are explaining about how [REDACTED]
11 has engaged in years of relationship-building, and
12 based on that, he's been able to secure an agreement
13 with the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens to
14 hold a national orangutan workshop in October of 2018
15 in the Nanjing Hongshan Forest Zoo in Jiangsu province.
16 I'll highlight that for you.

17 A. Yes. I see it.

18 Q. If I can. Yeah. It doesn't let me recognize
19 characters.

20 And that was true when you wrote it, right?

21 A. Yes. As far as I knew, yes.

22 Q. Okay. And everything you wrote here in this letter is
23 true and you endorse it, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And this is your signature at the bottom, right?

1 A. Yes. Yes, it is.

2 Q. All right. I'll put that aside.

3 We could not find a single incident before
4 September 24, 2018, where you were critical of
5 [REDACTED] professionalism. Do you have any reason to
6 dispute that?

7 MR. STONE: Object to form.

8 A. No, I don't.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Your opinion of
10 [REDACTED] took a turn for the negative toward the end
11 of 2018, didn't it?

12 A. Yes. I think it was around that time.

13 Q. Okay. Around that time, Ronda Schwetz indicated that
14 she was having problems with [REDACTED] that she would
15 tell you about by phone, right?

16 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I will show you the
19 document in one moment.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 MS. THOMPSON: This would be Exhibit 12, right?

22 COURT REPORTER: That would be 13, actually.

23 MS. THOMPSON: 13, thank you.

24 (Exhibit No. 13 marked for identification.)

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I'm going to scroll

1 all the way down, and you see here that there's an
2 email from -- how do you pronounce this person's name?
3 Stacia? Stacia?

4 A. Stacia.

5 Q. Stacia. Saying, I want to forward this to see if the
6 efforts were being duplicated. And you see your email
7 address here, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And this is Ronda Schwetz's email?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The schwetz@countyofdade.com?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And this is Megan Elder's email, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And this is Stacia's email, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And Ronda replies, FYI for this group, I may not
18 have the help I need with [REDACTED] and citations are not
19 my strong suit. Let's try again to highlight this. If
20 there is any part that could be done if [REDACTED] falls
21 through, would you please let me know? I have some
22 things I need to prioritize at the zoo for the next
23 little while.

24 Right? Do you see that?

25 A. I see it.

1 Q. Okay. And then you say, What's happening with [REDACTED]
2 Ronda? Let me know how I can help. I'm happy to pitch
3 in.

4 Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And then she says, I can fill you in by phone
7 when you have a minute or 30.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And Ms. Schwetz did fill you in by phone around
11 December 26, 2018, right?

12 A. I'm going to assume so. I don't have a specific
13 recollection.

14 Q. Okay. And before this, I have not seen an email or a
15 text or anything like that from you with any criticisms
16 of [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] professionalism.
17 Do you have any reason to dispute that?

18 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

19 A. No, I don't.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And do you recognize
21 that by December 26, 2018, [REDACTED] alleged assault
22 had already occurred, right?

23 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. In July of 2019,

1 which is almost a year after the assault, you called
2 ██████████ in a text message, a petty piece of shit.

3 Do you recall that?

4 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

5 A. Yes. I don't recall this, but I don't have the
6 specific email in front of me, but, yes.

7 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'll show it to you.

8 A. Yeah.

9 (Exhibit No. 14 marked for identification.)

10 MS. THOMPSON: I'll mark this. Is it 14?

11 COURT REPORTER: Yeah.

12 MS. THOMPSON: And I'll share my screen.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And you and
15 Ms. Cossaboon, who is a member of the steering
16 committee of the Orangutan SSP at this time, right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are texting back and forth about an email received from
19 ██████████ right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And Ms. Cossaboon is saying, He is such a baby.
22 Right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I will send a PC response to tell him I will pass his
25 suggestion on to the steering committee. Right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And you say, Yes, please do. I have an idea I
3 will share with you. I'm enraged and completely done
4 with him. I wrote and deleted several emails. I want
5 the SC to see his complete email to see what a, quote,
6 petty piece of shit he is.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. So you agree with me that in July of 2019, you called
10 [REDACTED] a petty piece of shit in a text message,
11 right?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. And you would call this an attack if you had called
14 [REDACTED] and told him to his face that you believed
15 him to be a petty piece of shit, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But it's not an attack because it was just in a text
18 message with someone else, right?

19 A. Yeah. I guess so. Yeah.

20 Q. Do you think that calling someone a petty piece of shit
21 is going high?

22 A. No. It's not going high.

23 Q. Okay. She says, I can do that for you. I will email
24 him back, and I will forward the email to the
25 committee. Maybe people will see his true colors.

1 Do you see that?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Okay. So what you're discussing here is an animus
4 towards [REDACTED] correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you're not sharing that animus with [REDACTED]
7 Instead, you're sending him a PC response, right?

8 A. Cindy was going to. Yes.

9 Q. Cindy was going to send him a PC response, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that means politically correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Right.

14 And so you go on to say, I certainly hope people
15 will see who he is, a selfish, petty, self-destructive,
16 petulant baby.

17 That's not going high, is it?

18 A. No.

19 Q. No.

20 It's too bad because he's also very intelligent
21 and has a lot to offer the world, but it's overshadowed
22 by his assholery.

23 Do you see that?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. That's not going high either, is it?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. This conversation was about funding, right? Provided
3 by the SSP?

4 A. I actually don't know. That's what I was trying to
5 look for. I'm trying to figure out what the emails
6 were around that time. I don't know unless you have
7 it.

8 Q. Well, the only clue I have is in this 8:02 text message
9 from Ms. Cossaboon, where she says, How in the world
10 does he even know that the host covers the hotel?

11 A. Oh, yes. Yes, yes, yes. Yes.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. That is what it's about. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. So at this time, if you put yourself in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] shoes, he's getting PC responses to requests
16 that he is sending to the Orangutan SSP steering
17 committee. Do you agree with that?

18 A. He certainly got one. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And those PC responses do not share with him the
20 fact that behind his back, the leader of the SSP and a
21 member of the SSP steering committee is saying things
22 like, He's a petty piece of shit. He's a
23 self-destructive, petulant baby. Right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. You also told David Powell of the Saint Louis Zoo that

1 [REDACTED] was dramatic because he was gay, right?

2 A. Yeah. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Okay. And I'll show you that email.

4 (Exhibit No. 15 marked for identification.)

5 MS. THOMPSON: This will be 15. All right.

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Dr. Powell emails you on
7 March 7, 2019, saying, I'm looking at [REDACTED] CV.

8 And he wanted to ask you a question about that, right?

9 A. Yes. About a paper that I was on.

10 Q. Okay. And you explained here that you disagree with
11 [REDACTED] conclusion, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. But -- well, first of all, what is your highest
14 level of education?

15 A. I have a master's degree in psychology.

16 Q. Okay. And so you don't have, as [REDACTED] does, a
17 Ph.D. in genetic research, right?

18 A. Not at all. I have very little genetic training.

19 Q. Okay. And yet, you're sharing with Dr. Powell that
20 you -- you disagree with [REDACTED] conclusion here,
21 right?

22 A. Correct. He was asking me if I thought the global
23 population of orangutans was sustainable, and my view
24 was that, yes, it was sustainable. I don't have a
25 Ph.D. or an advanced degree in genetics, but I was --

1 and I was skilled in the population management
2 strategies that the AZA uses and it taught me.

3 Q. Do you recognize, though, that at the very least,
4 reasonable minds can differ as to the conclusion that
5 [REDACTED] offered in that paper, correct?

6 A. Of course. Of course.

7 Q. And you say, though, that, Graham tends to be dramatic,
8 which doesn't help him.

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. It says, He has set off a giant kerfuffle in the
12 Chimpanzee SSP this week, by all virtues.

13 Do you see that?

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. Oh, the gays.

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. Okay. So rather than saying, You know what,
19 Dr. Powell? I am not a Ph.D. I only know what I
20 learned from the AZA's population management, but I
21 just disagree with [REDACTED] here. You didn't say
22 that, right?

23 A. No, I didn't say that.

24 Q. You didn't say that there's, you know, reasonable
25 disagreement in the scientific community as to whether

1 or not that's true, right?

2 A. No. It wasn't necessary to say. David is a friend of
3 mine of long standing who is also gay. The reason that
4 I said, Oh, the gays, was because I knew that I, as a
5 gay woman, was speaking to a gay man about another gay
6 man, and it was intended as a joke.

7 Q. Okay. But you recognize the concept of self-loathing
8 when it comes to certain protected classes, right?

9 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form. Yeah.

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You don't think that
13 a gay person cannot discriminate against another gay
14 person, correct?

15 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

16 A. I'm trying to figure out this -- the negative.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I'll redress it --
18 rephrase it. That's a good point.

19 You're not saying here that it's impossible for a
20 gay person to discriminate against another gay person,
21 right?

22 A. I -- I believe it is possible for anyone to
23 discriminate against anybody. I still didn't follow
24 the negatives in your thing, but, yes. A gay person
25 can discriminate against another gay person.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. That is not what I was doing in this instance. I
3 thought that the smiley face indicated that I was
4 having a joke with a friend, based on the stereotype of
5 gay people being dramatic. I was using it in that
6 hyperbolic humor sense between two friends, somebody
7 who I knew would understand my joke.

8 Q. Okay. So the answer to my question is no, because you
9 believe that it is possible for a gay person to
10 discriminate against another gay person, correct?

11 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And you also
14 recognize, as you testified, that being dramatic is a
15 common stereotype applied to people who are gay?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you also recognize that the exchange that you're
18 having with your friend is about a job interview that
19 [REDACTED] is taking part of at this time, right?

20 A. My exchange was about the specific article that Dave
21 asked me about, and the article was what I thought
22 was -- I thought it was a little dramatic to try to say
23 that the global population of orangutans was on the
24 verge of collapse. To me, that seemed over the top in
25 the premise that [REDACTED] was presenting, and that's

1 why I said, Oh, it's a little dramatic.

2 Q. You also just testified that reasonable minds in the
3 scientific community could disagree as to whether or
4 not that's true?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And instead of saying that, you chose to label a gay
7 man dramatic in the context of a job interview that he
8 was engaged in with the Saint Louis Zoo?

9 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

11 A. I was -- I was indicating in answer to my friend,
12 David's, question about whether I agreed that that
13 catchy title, Drama, as Dave says, was accurate, and my
14 response was that I, as you say, reasonable people can
15 disagree. I said that I disagreed with that conclusion
16 and that I thought it was dramatic.

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. But you recognize
18 that your friend, David, has quite a bit of power over
19 whether or not ██████ gets a job at the Saint Louis
20 Zoo, right?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

23 A. I would presume so. I don't know what -- what Dave's
24 role was in the -- in that specific position. I don't
25 know, but I would assume so.

1 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. This position was
2 with what's called WildCare, correct?

3 A. I think so. WildCare institute or something like that,
4 I believe.

5 Q. Okay. And you testified that you don't understand the
6 specifics of this position. However, we have a
7 document that shows you invited Dr. Powell to join in
8 the process of vetting [REDACTED] in his application for
9 these positions.

10 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

11 A. I invited Dr. Powell?

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I will show you that one.
13 Okay. But you understand here, on page -- at the top
14 of page 2 of the PDF, Dr. Powell is saying, Looking at
15 [REDACTED] -- he says mister, it should be doctor -- CV
16 in advance of his interview -- and he has a paper
17 listed, right? So you understand, based on the first
18 sentence in this email, that [REDACTED] is applying for
19 a job at the Saint Louis Zoo. He's being interviewed.
20 Dr. Powell is reviewing his CV, correct?

21 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And instead of
24 responding to Dr. Powell, who, although he's your
25 friend, is also the director of research and the

1 director of the AZA Reproductive Management Center at
2 the Saint Louis Zoo, instead of saying, Oh, Dr. Powell,
3 I disagree, but, you know, reasonable minds can
4 disagree, and I just don't agree; you said instead that
5 ██████ tends to be dramatic.

6 A. I said both. I said I don't agree and I concluded with
7 saying that I thought it was being dramatic in the way
8 he had presented that article.

9 Q. All right. We'll put 16 in the chat.

10 (Exhibit No. 16 marked for identification.)

11 A. You can scroll. Okay.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) All right. Now let's go to
13 the top. There's no date on this, but I'm assuming --
14 and I would like you to confirm, if you can -- that
15 this is related to the email exchange that we just saw
16 as Exhibit 15.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. This is somewhere around March 2019, yes?

19 A. That's my guess.

20 Q. Okay. Oh, and actually, the title is 3 March 2019. So
21 that would make sense, right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay. So you text Dr. Powell, and you say, I'm a
24 masochist in addition to my appealing qualities related
25 to grammar and syntax. Your old friend ██████ is being

1 brought in for an interview for WildCare.

2 Do you see that?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. And you say -- he says, Yes, I'm going to be there.
5 Right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you say, Oh, good. I'm conflicted and wanted to be
8 sure -- there to be something in place to ensure
9 that -- to ensure good diligence. You're that thing.
10 Phew.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And -- but you know that Dr. Powell is not --
13 doesn't prefer to spend time with [REDACTED] right?

14 A. I know that there had been a -- some sort of dispute
15 between the two of them at some point in the past. So,
16 yes. I was aware of that.

17 Q. But you wanted to make sure he was there, right?

18 A. Yes. I wanted to make sure that David was there as
19 part of the -- part of the interview. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And you didn't go around and try to solicit
21 people that you knew had a good opinion of [REDACTED] in
22 connection with this interview, right?

23 A. The only person that I knew that was going to be
24 involved in the interview was David. That's the only
25 person that I was in communication with at Saint Louis.

1 Q. But you knew that he had conflict with [REDACTED]
2 right?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. And you wanted to make sure that he was part of this
5 interview process, right?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. And then he says, From you, it sounds like he rubs a
8 lot of people the wrong way. Correct?
9 A. Yes. That's what David said. Yes.
10 Q. All right. And so do you have any reason to dispute
11 that you shared with Dr. Powell that you believed
12 [REDACTED] to rub people the wrong way?
13 A. I actually don't know what he's referring to there, but
14 I don't know.
15 Q. Okay. And you described [REDACTED] as Pigpen from the
16 old Peanuts cartoons, and there's a cloud of debris
17 that's constantly churning around his feet.
18 Do you see that?
19 A. Yes, I do.
20 Q. Okay. And then you say, I love him as a friend.
21 Do you see that?
22 A. Yes, I do.
23 Q. Is that something you say about a friend?
24 A. Sometimes, yeah.
25 Q. Okay. So this is the same friend, however, that you're

1 saying is a petty piece of shit and a petulant baby in
2 text messages with Cindy Cossaboon?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Does that sound like a good friend to you?

5 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

6 A. You mean am I being a good friend to him? Or is he
7 being a good friend to me? I don't know which way
8 you're asking.

9 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I'm asking --

10 A. I was not being a good friend to him. No, I was not.

11 Q. Okay. Do you think it's going high to say -- to
12 describe someone as Pigpen from the old -- the old
13 Peanuts cartoons?

14 A. I don't think it's going either high or low. It's a --
15 it's a character. It's a character. It's a -- it's a
16 cartoon character. No, it's not going high.

17 Q. So Dr. Powell says, Got it. He knows I'm still here so
18 I'm sure he's very curious to know how or whether our
19 paths will cross if he got the job. LOL.

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. And you say, I know I sure am.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Don't you think it's catty to talk about someone this
25 way who is earnestly applying themselves to try to get

1 a job and make a livelihood and a career in zoo
2 sciences?

3 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

4 A. I would agree. Yes. It was catty.

5 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. So Dr. Powell laughs.
6 He says that [REDACTED] will be sweating, I believe is what
7 that emoji means. Is that your understanding as well?

8 A. I assume so.

9 Q. Okay. It's either sweating or crying, right?

10 A. I would -- I would assume so.

11 Q. Okay. And then he portrays himself as some kind of
12 strange devil monster, right?

13 MR. STONE: Object to the form.

14 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I didn't hear your answer.

17 A. I said yes.

18 Q. Okay. And so here we are again, talking about
19 [REDACTED] behind his back while he is earnestly
20 applying himself to try to get a job and further his
21 career in zoo sciences. Do you see that?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. Okay. And you didn't call [REDACTED] and say, Hey, you
24 know, I just wanted to let you know that I saw your
25 application, and you might want to watch out for

1 Dr. Powell because he said that you guys had conflict.
2 Right?

3 A. No, I didn't.

4 Q. You claimed to be [REDACTED] friend, but you don't
5 share any of these concerns with him, right?

6 A. No, I didn't.

7 Q. Okay. And then let's take this down.

8 You and Ronda Schwetz and a third person that
9 Lance Miller does not remember approached Lance Miller
10 at the 2019 AZA convention. Do you recall that?

11 A. I don't.

12 Q. You don't recall having any conversation with Lance
13 Miller at the 2019 AZA convention?

14 A. I'm trying to remember. I know that there's -- I know
15 I have an -- there's an email exchange or something. I
16 don't remember talking with Lance in person. Let me
17 just say that. I don't remember talking with him in
18 person, but if there's indication that I did, then
19 certainly I know who Lance is.

20 Q. Okay. I will share his deposition transcript with you.

21 A. Okay.

22 MS. THOMPSON: Let's just put it in so that it's
23 an exhibit. We're on 17 now, right?

24 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) So I'm putting the whole

1 transcript of the deposition of Lance Miller, and I'll
2 also share my screen and the relevant page. And you're
3 welcome to review it there, if that's easier, or if you
4 open the document, it starts on page 19 of the PDF.

5 A. Okay.

6 (Exhibit No. 17 marked for identification.)

7 A. Okay. You can scroll.

8 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay.

9 A. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay.

10 Q. It stops where you see the Exhibit 1 at the bottom of
11 page 26.

12 A. Okay. Okay.

13 Q. Does that refresh your recollection as to whether or
14 not you spoke with Lance Miller at the 2019 AZA
15 conference?

16 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

17 A. It actually does not. I still don't have a memory of
18 speaking with Lance at the conference. I do recall
19 speaking with Lance on the phone.

20 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I'm asking about the
21 conference right now. I understand there's one note in
22 your documents where you're talking with him by phone.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Reading this --

25 A. I'm not disputing -- I'm not disputing Lance's

1 testimony. I just can't tell you that I have a memory
2 of talking with him in person.

3 Q. So as far as you know, Lance's -- Lance Miller's
4 testimony is accurate here, right?

5 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

6 A. That's as far as I know.

7 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. I'm going to stop
8 share.

9 Have you ever considered for a moment [REDACTED]
10 could be telling the truth?

11 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

12 A. About what?

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) That he was assaulted by
14 Ronda Schwetz.

15 A. Yes. I have considered that he could be telling the
16 truth.

17 Q. Okay. And can you see how someone who has worked his
18 whole life to get where he was on the night of
19 September 24, 2018, would reasonably be concerned that
20 he was -- that Ronda was badmouthing him behind his
21 back after this happened?

22 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

23 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

24 A. Can I see how he might think she was saying things
25 about him behind his back? Yes.

1 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And I'll show you --
2 this is Exhibit 2. I'm going to put it on the screen.
3 Ms. Shaw says -- I'll scroll down. And do you see on
4 my screen where it says, And I'm also concerned about
5 the fallout for you when or perhaps if she remembers
6 how she behaved in the room. Jeez.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. And don't you think that's a reasonable concern?

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

11 A. I'm sorry. Say it again?

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Sure. Don't you think
13 that's a reasonable concern?

14 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

15 A. Reasonable for Barbara to say that she is concerned
16 about the fallout for [REDACTED]

17 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Correct.

18 MR. STONE: Object to form.

19 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

20 A. I don't know. I don't know.

21 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Well, do you think it's
22 reasonable for the victim of a sexual assault to be
23 concerned about fallout in his career when or if his
24 assailant remembers how she behaved in the room?

25 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

1 A. Yeah. Yes. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. And, in fact, as you have testified here today,
3 there was a lot going on behind [REDACTED] back that he
4 had no idea of, right?

5 A. I can only speak to what I was saying behind his back.
6 But, yes.

7 Q. And that was quite a bit, right?

8 A. Yeah. I had a few -- yeah.

9 Q. Okay. And on the face of it, what he was getting were
10 PC emails rejecting requests that he was making to the
11 SSP, right?

12 A. Not rejecting requests that he was making to the SSP.
13 No. He was asking -- he was asking me to recuse --
14 this is ridiculous. He was asking me to recuse Ronda
15 and Cindy from voting on his study, which was not up
16 for a vote. It had been approved and it remained
17 approved, and he wanted me to say that I would recuse
18 them. I can't recall if he had other people he wanted
19 me to recuse. I was not willing to allow Graham to
20 tell me who on my committee was allowed to vote. Ronda
21 already had recused herself, and I believe that Graham
22 indicated some awareness of that at some point or
23 another. But that's -- that's really what -- that's
24 what this came down to.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. He was wanting me to say I would recuse them. I said,
2 I am not going to recuse them, but your study is
3 approved and valid and ongoing, and that was kind of
4 it.

5 Q. Okay. So your text message before, when you said you
6 refused to recuse Ms. Schwetz, that was -- that was a
7 lie. You were lying to Ms. Cossaboon, right?

8 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

9 A. I wasn't lying to her. I was speaking in -- I was
10 writing in shorthand because it was not that I -- it
11 never was the case that I refused to recuse Ronda. I
12 refused to tell [REDACTED] whether I would recuse Ronda or
13 whether Ronda would recuse herself.

14 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) I reviewed all of the
15 documents that you produced.

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. We, as a team, have reviewed all the documents that are
18 produced by every defendant in this litigation.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I have not seen 1 ounce of paper that says you -- you
21 recused Ronda from voting on anything. Do you have any
22 reason to dispute that?

23 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

24 A. No. I think that -- again, I feel like there was
25 something from Ronda where she said that she was -- but

1 it was not something [REDACTED] would have seen. It was an
2 internal communication, but I don't -- no. There
3 probably wasn't anything where I stated that.

4 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You made an offhand
5 comment while you were giving your answer before that
6 this was ridiculous. Do you remember saying that?

7 A. Yeah. I did. Sorry about that.

8 Q. Okay. And it's ridiculous then, what you're saying
9 is -- let me try again.

10 Is it ridiculous for a person who has been
11 sexually assaulted by his boss to ask that she not have
12 any power over his research or his ability to do his
13 research?

14 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

15 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Is that ridiculous?

16 MR. MACARIO: Object to form.

17 A. No. It's not ridiculous.

18 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You recall the Barack Obama
19 quote that we discussed earlier, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you don't disagree that this is very traumatic for
22 people?

23 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

24 A. No. I don't disagree.

25 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) And that subjecting

1 themselves to the arbitrary power of the person who
2 assaulted them is traumatizing, you understand that,
3 right?

4 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) But this was your committee,
7 right?

8 A. It was a committee that I coordinated. Yes.

9 Q. You just testified it was your committee, right?

10 A. (No audible answer.)

11 Q. And you weren't going to allow this person to tell you
12 who is going to vote and who is not going to vote,
13 right?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. And because you have the power and he doesn't?

16 A. Because -- yes. Because my -- my committee, the
17 committee I led operated with integrity, and I didn't
18 feel that it was appropriate for [REDACTED] to be able to
19 give me a list of who could vote.

20 Q. You recognize, however, as you testified, that a
21 survivor of sexual assault is going to be retraumatized
22 by continuing to subject themselves to the power of the
23 person they accuse of assaulting them, right?

24 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

25 MR. MACARIO: Object to the form.

1 A. Yes, I agree.

2 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. Thank you.

3 A. But given that Ronda had recused herself, he was -- he
4 was making a supposition that was not true, that was
5 not accurate.

6 Q. Even if that's true, which I don't see any support for
7 in the record, even if that's true, he didn't know
8 that, right?

9 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You never told him, Don't
12 worry. It's going to be fine. We're fair. We're
13 not -- we're not -- she's already recused herself so
14 don't worry about it. Right? You never said that to
15 him?

16 A. No, I didn't.

17 Q. And he's your friend, right?

18 A. He was. Yes.

19 Q. Yes, he was.

20 I'm going to read you another quote. People can
21 believe whatever they want of us. All we control is
22 our own actions and words.

23 Do you know who said that?

24 A. Probably me.

25 Q. You said that. Okay? And throughout this process

1 while you led the Orangutan SSP, you controlled your
2 words and actions, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You controlled your words and actions when you failed
5 to call [REDACTED] to see if he was okay when you heard
6 about these allegations?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You controlled your actions when you failed to ask him,
9 Hey, did this really happen to you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You controlled your words when you talked behind his
12 back and called him a petulant baby, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You controlled your words when you told David Powell
15 that he was dramatic because he's gay, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you knew that it was in the context of [REDACTED]
18 interview for a job with the Saint Louis Zoo, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And you controlled your actions when you failed
21 to reach out to anybody else in the AZA to find out,
22 Hey, did this really happen? Did we investigate this?

23 A. Do you mean did I reach out to AZA and ask them if they
24 were investigating?

25 Q. That's right.

1 A. No. I did not reach out to the AZA and ask them if
2 they were investigating.

3 Q. And those were your actions under your control, weren't
4 they?

5 A. Yes, they were.

6 Q. Okay. You controlled your actions in March 2021 when
7 you aided an accused sexual assailant and looked for
8 emails or other documents that might show that the
9 victim was being harassing to the assailant, right?

10 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) You controlled your actions
13 in March 2021 when you acted as a private investigator
14 to provide the name and contact information for
15 somebody who had a conflict with [REDACTED] in college,
16 right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You didn't control your actions to act as a private
19 investigator to find out whether or not this actually
20 really happened, did you?

21 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

22 A. No, I did not.

23 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. You controlled your
24 words in 2021 when you said you were going to stand up
25 for Ronda when you were called on, right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You controlled your words in June 2021 when you called
3 [REDACTED] vicious for reporting sexual assault, right?

4 A. Yes.

5 MS. THOMPSON: It's 12:53. Let's take a 7-minute
6 break, and I don't think I have much more after that.

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. We are going off the
8 record. The time is 12:53 p.m.

9 (Recess taken at 12:53 p.m.)

10 (Proceedings resumed at 1:02 p.m.)

11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record.
12 The time is 1:02 p.m.

13 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Ms. Perkins, you're aware
14 that you're still under oath, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And did you speak with anyone during the break?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did anyone -- let me try again.

19 No one in the AZA ever reached out to you and
20 said, Don't retaliate against [REDACTED] Right?

21 A. No. No one would have needed to do that. I don't
22 understand.

23 Q. I'm just asking you whether anyone in the AZA ever
24 reached out to you to say, Don't retaliate against
25 [REDACTED] for any reason.

1 A. No. Not to -- not that I can recall. No.

2 Q. Okay. No one in the AZA ever reached out to you and
3 said, There's been an allegation of sexual assault by
4 [REDACTED] against Ronda Schwetz. Right?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And no one in the AZA ever said, Ms. Perkins, do not
7 interfere with any job opportunities with respect to
8 [REDACTED] Right?

9 A. No. Of course not. No.

10 Q. And if they had called you and said, Don't interfere
11 with [REDACTED] job opportunities at the Saint Louis
12 Zoo, you would have followed that instruction, right?

13 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Okay. And if they had asked
16 you -- if they had told you not to retaliate in any way
17 against [REDACTED] you would have followed that
18 instruction too, right?

19 MR. STONE: Objection to form.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. (MS. THOMPSON continuing) Because you were the chair
22 of the Orangutan SSP committee, right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. All right.

25 MS. THOMPSON: I don't have any more questions for

1 the witness.

2 MR. MACARIO: Go ahead, Ben.

3 MR. STONE: I only have a couple of questions for
4 you Ms. Perkins, just to clarify for the record.

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. STONE:

7 Q. When -- you were testifying at the beginning of the
8 deposition that Ronda Schwetz told you that [REDACTED]
9 had accused her of sexual assault. Do you remember
10 that?

11 A. Mm-hm. Yes.

12 Q. When was that?

13 A. Oh, gosh. I don't -- I don't know. Obviously, some
14 time after September of 2018, but I -- I quite honestly
15 don't know when I first spoke with her about that. But
16 probably some time after the newspaper articles came
17 out. I'm really not sure. I'm sorry.

18 Q. That's okay.

19 Do you remember if it was after criminal charges
20 were filed against Ms. Schwetz?

21 A. Perhaps. I -- again, I'm sorry. I really don't recall
22 when we first spoke about it. No.

23 Q. Okay. Does it -- did it occur -- did she first tell
24 you sometime in 2019?

25 A. It could have been.

1 Q. I'm guessing the same answer for 2020. You just don't
2 recall?

3 A. Yeah. I mean, once the -- once all of this became
4 public in the papers, there were multiple conversations
5 with multiple people about, I mean, it's obviously
6 something that a lot of people were talking about. So
7 I don't recall exact time frames.

8 Q. Yeah. That's okay.

9 You mentioned it was after a newspaper article
10 came out. What newspaper article was that? Do you
11 remember?

12 A. The newspaper article that had a link to the actual
13 police report was the one that -- that certainly was my
14 first awareness of how serious this -- this appeared to
15 be -- these accusations appeared to be.

16 Q. So it sounds like it would have been after at least
17 there was a police report filed?

18 A. Yes. But it was -- sorry.

19 MS. THOMPSON: That's okay.

20 A. I know that it was linked in the article. That was
21 when I first had that awareness.

22 Q. (MR. STONE continuing) Okay. And the link you're
23 talking about, just so the record is clear, is the
24 police report?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And is that the police report with the Seattle Police
2 Department?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you ever talk to Kris Vehrs or did Kris Vehrs ever
5 talk to you about a complaint [REDACTED] made against
6 Ms. Schwetz that she had sexually assaulted him?

7 A. No. I don't recall speaking with Kris about any of
8 this.

9 Q. Okay. Do you recall speaking with Jack Keeney?

10 A. Not about any of this.

11 Q. I have nothing else.

12 A. Well, I -- except when I got my subpoena, the person I
13 called was Jack, who -- that's the only time I've
14 spoken with Jack.

15 Q. But you didn't speak with Jack Keeney, like, in 2019 or
16 2020?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. That's all I have. Thank you.

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. MACARIO:

21 Q. Hi, Ms. Perkins. I'm Matt Macario. I introduced
22 myself off the record before the deposition, but again,
23 I represent Ronda Schwetz.

24 We haven't spoken before today, have we?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. And, Ms. Thompson, who represents [REDACTED],
2 showed you a series of allegations earlier in your
3 deposition, including the police report, an email that
4 [REDACTED] sent to Barbara Shaw, things like that. You
5 understand that the information in those documents are
6 just [REDACTED] allegations, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you didn't attend Ms. Schwetz's deposition in this
9 case, correct?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And so you're not aware that Ms. Schwetz provided sworn
12 testimony denying those allegations and providing her
13 explanation for what we believe -- what she believes
14 [REDACTED] possible motivation is for making these
15 false allegations?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. And you also didn't hear Ronda Schwetz testify
18 that she was completely unaware that [REDACTED] made any
19 of these sexual assault allegations until March of
20 2021, when she received a summons or some document in
21 the mail from the City of Seattle. You didn't hear
22 that, did you?

23 A. I didn't hear that she said that. No. No.

24 Q. Okay. And Ms. Schwetz testified that [REDACTED] didn't
25 tell her that he had accused her of sexual assault and

1 that no one at the AZA informed her that [REDACTED] had
2 accused her of sexual assault.

3 MS. THOMPSON: Objection, foundation.

4 Q. (MR. MACARIO continuing) Do you have any reason to
5 dispute any of Ms. Schwetz's testimony on that,
6 Ms. Perkins?

7 A. No, I don't.

8 Q. How long have you known [REDACTED]

9 A. Oh, boy. I -- sometime in the early 2010s, maybe. I'm
10 not sure when he first started working here. It's been
11 quite a while, 12 years, 15 years, something like that.

12 Q. If someone were to ask you your general impressions of
13 [REDACTED] how would you respond?

14 A. I would say, as I have said in many -- to many people,
15 I think he is a brilliant scientist, a brilliant
16 geneticist. I think that he is a -- I haven't spoken
17 to [REDACTED] in a couple of years now, but at my last time
18 of being friends with him, I find him to be dramatic.
19 That's not based on his sexuality in any way. I find
20 him to be dramatic. But I think he is a brilliant
21 scientist, and it's a loss of a friendship that I -- it
22 makes me very sad.

23 Q. Have you experienced any conflict with [REDACTED] or the
24 impression that, for example, he won't take no for an
25 answer or he pushes things, that sort of thing? Do you

1 have any personal experience of that?

2 A. Yes. Yes, I do. That's part of what I see as the
3 immaturity.

4 Q. Tell us everything that you can recall about that.

5 A. The -- this whole conflict that has culminated in
6 what's happening right now, today, to me, came about
7 for me when we had -- there's another scientist that
8 does orangutan work. This is a human medical doctor
9 who does respiratory work, a cystic fibrosis
10 specialist. She started doing research with our
11 support and endorsement, and at some point, this was at
12 the Kansas City conference, which I think was -- that
13 might have been '18 as well -- is when I became very
14 aware of the fact that there was a lot of fighting
15 between -- her name is Dr. Taylor-Cowser -- between
16 Dr. Taylor-Cowser and [REDACTED]. And I think it was
17 essentially turf. This is mine. This is mine. This
18 is mine. This is mine. This is yours. And I refused
19 to get involved in it.

20 I remember at the Kansas City orangutan workshop,
21 which was prior to the Seattle AZA conference, I
22 remember [REDACTED] asking me, you know, Isn't it -- it's
23 not fair what Jennifer is doing, and why is she getting
24 to do this? And sort of just being very pushy about
25 that, that dispute. And my consistent position was,

1 I'm not getting in between the two of you. I think the
2 two of you should talk. I'm not going to mitigate
3 this. You're two grown-up scientists. You fix it. So
4 I know there was that.

5 I know that there was some sort of aggressive
6 communication that [REDACTED] directed to other members of
7 the Orangutan SSP steering committee. A woman named
8 Erin Jones, who, again, didn't want to be involved, and
9 [REDACTED] kept pushing Dr. Meredith Bastian at the
10 Smithsonian who didn't want to be involved in the
11 dispute. And he kept pushing and pushing.

12 So that's what I mean when I say, it's just -- I
13 think -- I think that [REDACTED] is a brilliant scientist.
14 I think that he pushes too hard on things when he
15 doesn't get 100 percent of his way. That's been my
16 experience.

17 Q. All right. And do you have any experience with [REDACTED]
18 assuming the worst or perhaps assuming people are out
19 to get him when that is not actually the case?

20 A. I would say that that was certainly the case with
21 Dr. Taylor-Cowser; that he -- his -- it appeared that
22 he was, you know, she wants my stuff and she wants my
23 turf and that's not fair, and you have to stop this and
24 you have to make her back off. So that was the
25 impression I got. But, again, please recall, [REDACTED]

1 was my friend, and I -- I didn't -- I just didn't want
2 to get -- I don't want to be the person that mediates
3 this dispute between the two of you. Go do your
4 science.

5 Q. Okay. You understand that in this case that [REDACTED]
6 is alleging that you, Ms. Schwetz, and the AZA in
7 general has retaliated against him, and so I just have
8 a few questions for you about that. First of all,
9 what's your -- what's your general understanding of
10 what retaliation means?

11 A. Reacting negatively against someone in response to some
12 action of theirs.

13 Q. Okay. I think that's a reasonable definition.

14 Has Ronda Schwetz ever asked you or intimated to
15 you that you should retaliate against [REDACTED] in any
16 way?

17 A. No. Ronda has consistently said that she -- I want to
18 stay out of this. I don't want to, you know, I'm not
19 going to be involved in any of this.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. She recused herself and [REDACTED] knew that. In a
22 conversation that he and I had 12 -- it should be in
23 your stuff, but 12/18 -- I was looking it up over the
24 break because I knew it was there somewhere. A
25 12/18/19 phone call, and that's when he said, Since

1 Ronda has, according to him, recused herself, could we
2 just not share? When we sent his stuff out on -- we
3 had a listserv. Could we just not share stuff with
4 her, since according to him, she had recused herself.
5 So it wasn't like this big, hidden thing.

6 Q. Okay. So from your perspective at least, your
7 impression was that Ms. Schwetz wanted nothing to do
8 with [REDACTED] and preferred to kind of stay away from the
9 whole issue, is that fair?

10 A. That was absolutely my impression.

11 Q. All right. Have you personally, by your definition,
12 engaged in any retaliation against [REDACTED]

13 A. No, I haven't. I recognize that I used sarcasm and I
14 used perhaps ill-placed humor, and I used strong
15 language in some of my -- what I believed were private
16 communications between me and my long-time friends and
17 colleagues, but none of it was retaliatory. I didn't
18 take any action against -- against [REDACTED] In fact, I
19 encouraged him to continue his doing his work.

20 Q. Okay. Sorry to interrupt you.

21 And you don't have any axe to grind against

22 [REDACTED] do you?

23 A. No, I don't. I wish that he would continue doing his
24 work because I think it's valuable to the orangutan
25 population.

1 Q. And, in fact, testifying in this case is probably the
2 least favorite thing you've done in quite some time,
3 right?

4 A. It's one of the most horrible things that I've been
5 forced to do in many, many years, and I -- yeah. It's
6 a pretty horrible thing.

7 Q. All right. Well, the case is scheduled to go to trial
8 in January of next year, and one of the things I would
9 like to ask you is whether you have any conflicts or
10 concerns about your ability to testify if called as a
11 witness in that trial. Can you tell us?

12 A. You mean, do I have, like, a trip planned or something?

13 Q. Exactly. Is there any reason you'll be unavailable in
14 January of next year?

15 A. I wish that I could say I was. I don't want to
16 continue any of this ugliness, but obviously, if I'm
17 called to testify, that's what I'll do.

18 Q. All right. And what is your physical address, in
19 case -- I didn't subpoena you. So if I do have to,
20 what's your address, please?

21 A. My address 1801 Vestaview Lane.

22 Q. Can you spell that?

23 A. It's -- I can put it in the chat. It's easier that
24 way.

25 Q. Okay. 1801 Vestaview Lane, Vestavia Hills, Alabama; is

1 that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. 35216. Okay. Thank you very much.

4 I have no further questions for you. Thank you
5 again for your time.

6 MS. THOMPSON: I don't have any recross.

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: All right. This concludes the
8 videotaped deposition. We're now going off the
9 record. The time is 1:19 p.m.

10 (Discussion held off the record.)

11 THE WITNESS: I would like to receive it if I can.

12 MS. HANLEY: Yeah. We'll order a copy. We prefer
13 E-Trans and -- E-Tran and a copy of the exhibits as
14 well. You can send it to Marty at Hagens Berman or
15 Jessica, and they'll also provide my office at
16 Schroeter Goldmark a copy.

17 COURT REPORTER: And then, Mr. Stone, do you need
18 a copy?

19 MR. STONE: No, thanks.

20 COURT REPORTER: And how about you, Mr. Macario?

21 MR. MACARIO: Yeah. I'll take a copy, please.
22 Just same thing. E-Tran with a PDF of the exhibits.
23 I don't need the hard copy of the transcript. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. STONE: Actually, yeah. I will take -- I'm

1 sorry. I will take just an E-Tran without exhibits.

2 (Deposition concluded at 1:21 p.m.)

3 (Signature reserved.)

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