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Highway 46 Holdings, LLC. vs. Michael and Jacqueline Myers APPEAL

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                             IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINTH
                             JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
 2
                             ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 3
                             CASE NO.: 08-CA-1466
 4
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     HIGHWAY 46 HOLDINGS, LLC,
 6
             Plaintiff,
 7
     VS.
 8
     MICHAEL B. MYERS, JACQUELINE M. MYERS,
 9
     SOUTHEAST COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF
     CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC., DONALD J.
     HACHENBERGER and GLENDA A. HACHENBERGER,
10
11
             Defendants.
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                              VOLUME VII
15
16
     TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
17
     BEFORE:
                                    HONORABLE DONALD A. MYERS
18
     DATE:
                                    TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017
19
     TIME:
                                    9:00 A.M. - 4:39 P.M.
20
     PLACE:
                                    ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
                                    425 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE
21
                                    COURTROOM 23A
                                    ORLANDO, FLORIDA
                                                       32801
22
     STENOGRAPHICALLY
     REPORTED BY:
                                    LAURA A. GREEN, RPR, CRR
23
24
25
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1	



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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	******
3	(Continued from Volume VI.)
4	THE COURT: Good morning, everybody.
5	MR. CHASE: May I approach, sir?
6	THE COURT: You may.
7	MR. CHASE: Sir, I'm handing the Court a binder
8	of the cases that have upon which the plaintiff
9	has relied on for motions for directed verdict. A
10	copy of those cases have been provided to
11	Mr. Benitez and Mr. Shuker, although they are not in
12	binder form. I tried and I brought binders, and I
13	brought I just ran out of time. But it goes with
14	the highlights, as well.
15	I was able to highlight the first for the
16	Court, which was the most important in mine and
17	then but as I go through the cases, if it is okay
18	with the Court to take a little bit to leave a
19	little bit of extra time for Mr. Benitez to catch up
20	to where we are in the cases, because it is going to
21	be hard for him to find it.
22	THE COURT: That is fine.
23	MR. CHASE: Sir, if it also pleases the Court,
24	I think because there are going to be several
25	motions.
1	



1 THE COURT: I'd like to take them count by 2 count. 3 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. The plaintiffs would 4 argue first, then perhaps Mr. Shuker, and then 5 Mr. Benitez, if that is a good order as we go through each count? 6 7 THE COURT: That's fine. 8 Your Honor, to that end, then, may MR. SHUKER: 9 I approach? 10 THE COURT: You may. 11 MR. SHUKER: We filed this last night. I know 12 you said you didn't want writing, but my wife is 13 obsessive, and started and didn't stop. So that is our directed verdict on all of our counts --14 15 THE COURT: Thank you. 16 MR SHUKER: -- with -- the cases are behind it with all the --17 18 Thank you. THE COURT: 19 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I just received that just 20 a second ago, and I see that it was filed again 2.1 today at -- and I need --22 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Benitez, I can't hear you 23 very well. 2.4 MR. BENITEZ: You can't? 25 COURT REPORTER: No.



1 THE COURT: I am hearing him fine. You're 2 mike'd up? 3 MR. BENITEZ: I am. 4 COURT REPORTER: Okay. I just missed the last 5 part: I received that just a second ago, and --MR. BENITEZ: And I noticed that it was filed 6 7 at 8:05 a.m. today. I haven't even had a chance to review it. 8 THE COURT: Nor have I. We're all in the same 9 10 boat. 11 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, did you have any case 13 law prepared, or are you just going to kind of 14 respond as we go? 15 MR. BENITEZ: Yeah. I haven't had -- I haven't been given a clue as to what they are going to argue 16 17 today. So I'm going to react to whatever they 18 present to the Court. 19 I did go ahead and type up -- or printed up the 20 Chapter 608. If I may approach the Bench, just in 2.1 case that becomes important. I'm sure it is going 22 to become very useful for the Court. And I 23 presented copies to the opposing --2.4 Thank you. THE COURT:

MR. CHASE:

25

Sir, if you look under -- may I

1 proceed, sir? 2 THE COURT: You may. 3 Of course, I note -- I'm certain MR. CHASE: 4 the Court is aware of it, but if you look under Tab 5 A citing 611 So.2d 69 -- it is a 4th DCA case from 6 It's the bottom paragraph; for counsel, on the first page: A directed verdict is appropriate 7 only where there is no evidence, or there are no 8 9 inferences which may be drawn from the evidence to 10 support the position of the party moved against. 11 Switching to Tab 8. Sir, this is the Mower 12 (ph) case. And for counsel, it is -- I'll cite to 13 Page 6 of that case. It is toward the bottom of the 14 The paragraph that begins, It is also 15 generally recognized 16 THE COURT: Is that --17 Do you want me to cite the case? MR. CHASE: 18 It is 121 Florida 654. That would be Ewing, a 19 Supreme Court case from 1935, with rehearing denied 20 in 1936. 2.1 Citing from Page 6 of that opinion: It is also 22 the generally recognized rule that parol evidence is 23 admissible to establish a contemporaneous oral 2.4 agreement which induced the execution of a written 25 contract. Though it may vary, change, or reform the



- 1 instrument, it is true that such rule requires the
- 2 agreement to be shown by evidence that is clear,
- 3 precise, and indubitable; that is, it shall be found
- 4 that the witnesses are credible, that they
- 5 distinctly remember the facts to which they testify,
- 6 and that they narrate the details exactly, and their
- 7 statements are true.
- 8 Recall from the beginning of the trial where I
- 9 read from Black's Law Dictionary the definition of
- 10 "indubitable" as meaning beyond a doubt. And I do
- 11 believe that the parol evidence acts as a -- I
- 12 think, to exclude everything that would include the
- 13 four first counts, which is the breach, fraud in the
- 14 inducement, intentional misrepresentation, and
- 15 negligence, as they are all based on the same -- the
- 16 same alleged oral agreement.
- 17 The next case I would cite is under C -- and
- 18 Mr. Benitez, this is about midway through. It is
- 19 probably going to take a while for you to find it.
- THE COURT: Bottom left, Page 14 of 46.
- 21 MR. CHASE: Sir, citing from Johnson v. FPL.
- 22 This is an 11th Circuit Federal case, 162 F.3d 1290,
- 23 1998. It is citing Florida law. To quote from the
- 24 case: In Florida, evidence of a prior or
- 25 contemporaneous oral agreement is inadmissible to



- 1 vary or contradict the unambiguous language of a
- 2 valid contract. This rule applies when the parties
- 3 intend that a written contract incorporate their
- 4 final and complete agreement. One way to
- 5 demonstrate such intent is through the use of a
- 6 merger clause. In this case, a merger clause is
- 7 found in Section 22 of the 1987 contract entitled
- 8 "Entire Agreement" which states, This agreement
- 9 contains the entire agreement between Telestat and
- 10 JEJ. There are no other agreements or
- 11 understandings stated or implied except as are
- 12 contained herein. It is hereby further understood
- 13 that any changes, modifications, or alterations of
- 14 this agreement shall be in writing, and executed by
- 15 all parties hereto.
- When a contract contains such a merger clause,
- 17 the agreement is deemed to be integrated such that
- 18 evidence of prior or contemporaneous agreements
- 19 shall not be admitted to contradict the terms of the
- 20 contract. There are, however, several exceptions to
- 21 the parol evidence rule that permit the introduction
- 22 of evidence of prior oral agreements, even though
- 23 the final written contract was intended to be
- 24 integrated.
- We have two of these exceptions. Parol



- 1 evidence may be admitted, one, to show that the oral
- 2 agreement induced the signing of the written
- 3 contract; or two, to explain a latent ambiguity in
- 4 the written contract.
- 5 As for the first exception, Florida Courts
- 6 recognize an inducement exception to the parol
- 7 evidence rule, whereby parol evidence is admissible
- 8 to establish a contemporaneous oral agreement which
- 9 induced the execution of a written contract that
- 10 would vary, change or reform the instrument.
- 11 The party submitting parol evidence under the
- 12 inducement exception, however, carries a heavy
- 13 burden of proof. The inducement exception requires
- 14 the oral agreement to be shown by evidence that is
- 15 clear, precise, and indubitable; that shall be found
- 16 that the witnesses are credible; that they
- 17 distinctly remember the facts to which they testify;
- 18 and that they narrate the details exactly, and that
- 19 their statements are true.
- 20 As the trial judge noted in applying the
- 21 inducement exception, we do not believe that when
- 22 the existence of the contemporaneous oral agreement
- 23 rests solely on the credibility choice between two
- 24 witness, the proof of that court is clear, precise,
- 25 and indubitable.



1 Having reviewed the record, including 2 McNamara's testimony denying the existence of an 3 oral mileage guarantee, and Johnson's inconsistent testimony regarding the substance of the alleged 4 5 quarantee, we agree with the district court that JEJ's evidence concerning the oral mileage guarantee 6 7 was not clear, precise and indubitable. district court therefore correctly held that the 8 9 evidence was inadmissible. 10 Judge, in this case, that sums up a lot. 11 Clerk, can I see Plaintiff's 1 in evidence? 12 Johnson case begins talking about the merger clause. And in this case, we have merger clauses in both 13 14 the -- in both the letter agreement and the 15 operating agreement. In fact, the merger clause in 16 the letter agreement has the additional issue of 17 The merger clause in the letter agreement reliance. 18 states, This letter agreement is governed by Florida 19 In any dispute, the prevailing party shall be 20 awarded all of its costs and attorney's fees. Each 2.1 party has had the right to be represented by counsel 22 of their choice and expense. The parties agree that 23 they shall not rely on oral or other representations 2.4 of the parties, except as are specifically set forth 25 in the articles of organization of the company, the



- 1 company's operating agreement, the capital
- 2 contribution agreement and this letter agreement.
- 3 The merger clause in the operating agreement
- 4 created disagreement, represents the entire
- 5 agreement and understanding of the parties. All
- 6 prior or concurrent agreements, understandings,
- 7 representations and warnings with regard to the
- 8 subject matter have been merged into this agreement
- 9 and are superseded entirely.
- 10 So we have two different merger clauses, one of
- 11 which has the reliance language in it, which I'll
- 12 come to in a second. The -- under the next -- the
- 13 next tab is D which has the elements of fraud in the
- 14 inducement. As I said, the argument about parol
- 15 evidence reaches to all of them, all of the first
- 16 four. The elements of fraud in the inducement is a
- 17 false statement concerning a material fact; to the
- 18 representers knowledge that the representation is
- 19 false and intentioned that the representation
- 20 induced another to act on; consequent injury by the
- 21 party acts on reliance on the representation. I'm
- 22 citing from code at 135 So.3d 527. Next up is
- 23 Butler, which --
- MR. BENITEZ: What paragraph?
- MR. CHASE: I'm sorry, Mr. Benitez. Hold on.



- 1 It is the middle of the second page. I apologize
- 2 for that. And then next up is Butler, which
- 3 Mr. Benitez, I'm going to the third page, bottom
- 4 paragraph. The same -- it is talking about the
- 5 difference between fraud in the inducement and
- 6 negligent misrepresentation.
- 7 The same reason does not apply, however, when
- 8 the party transmits false information, but is not
- 9 aware the falsehood arises to a negligent
- 10 misrepresentation. Although justified --
- 11 THE COURT: Slow down.
- 12 MR. CHASE: Sorry. As to negligent
- 13 misrepresentation claims, although justifiable
- 14 reliance on the misrepresentation is required as an
- 15 element of the claim, justifiable reliance on the
- 16 misrepresentation is not the same thing as the
- 17 failure to exercise due diligence.
- 18 And there is a discussion in this case. The
- 19 trial judge applied the due diligence standard, and
- 20 that is why they are bringing up the due diligence.
- 21 I point this case out because you have to have the
- 22 reliance on both the fraud in the inducement,
- 23 intentional misrepresentation, and negligent
- 24 misrepresentation.
- Next up, we come to Billington v. Ginn-La Pine



- 1 Island. This is under Tab F. It is at 192 So.3d
- 2 77, 2016 case out of the 5th DCA. Mr. Benitez, I'm
- 3 on the fifth page of the opinion, the bottom
- 4 paragraph.
- 5 Quoting again: Accordingly, we hold that the
- 6 nonreliance clauses in this case negate the claim
- 7 for fraud in the inducement, because appellant
- 8 cannot recant his contractual promises that he did
- 9 not rely on extrinsic representations.
- Judge, in this case, we have -- we have -- in
- 11 order for the parol evidence -- I think the
- 12 traditional view of parol evidence to exclude
- 13 negotiations and oral representations prior to a
- 14 contract, there is a lot of case law that says that
- 15 it has to contradict an express term.
- I would say -- I would argue that because their
- oral contract deals with this escrow agreement to
- 18 hold everything in escrow so that it is not
- 19 enforceable -- they are saying it was not
- 20 enforceable. That was the testimony over and over.
- 21 It was not enforceable. That directly contradicts
- 22 all of that.
- 23 Holding in escrow and saying it is not
- 24 enforceable -- their entire oral agreement that they
- 25 alleged is in direct contradiction of the express



- 1 terms of the -- both the letter agreement and the
- 2 operating agreement, which say it is effective July
- 3 7th, 2005. If it's -- to, to me, is a direct
- 4 contradiction.
- 5 Further, the cases that I've cited about the
- 6 admissibility citing Johnson (inaudible) the
- 7 reliance and -- that any representation, because of
- 8 the merger clauses, all of it is out. Even if the
- 9 Court found that it is not a direct contradiction of
- 10 those terms, of the letter agreement and operating
- 11 agreement, it is still an oral representation that
- 12 they are relying on to say this is fraud in the
- inducement, or some sort of negligent
- 14 misrepresentation. And because of the merger
- 15 clauses, they lose on that.
- I think I'm the only one doing parol evidence.
- 17 The last thing I have as to those four -- also,
- there is no evidence of any damages as to what
- 19 exactly is their damages for this breach of this
- 20 escrow agreement?
- 21 So in order to have breach of the agreement,
- 22 fraud in the inducement, intentional
- 23 misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, all
- 24 of those have the elements with which I'm sure the
- 25 Court is familiar. And all of them -- the last one



- 1 is damages. What are their damages? What could the
- 2 jury possibly conclude, Here are your damages? Here
- 3 is -- what? What is it?
- 4 And so the -- that brings us to the statute of
- 5 frauds, which I believe Mr. Shuker is going to cover
- 6 under Tab G, is the statute that we printed out --
- 7 I'm not sure if he did it in his submission to the
- 8 Court, but I'll read the relevant parts. It says,
- 9 No action shall be brought upon any contract for the
- 10 sale of lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or of
- 11 any uncertain interest in or concerning them -- that
- 12 is the important part -- unless the agreement or
- 13 promise upon which such action shall be brought or
- 14 some notice or memorandum thereof shall be in
- writing and signed by the parties and charged
- 16 therewith or by some other person by her or him
- 17 thereunto lawfully authorized.
- Now, the testimony was -- so first, it would
- 19 say that the -- as to the agreement -- the alleged
- 20 agreement with Kevin Donaghy, it didn't concern real
- 21 property. There were deeds -- the deeds conveying
- 22 real property. There was money exchanged that
- 23 included money for real property. There were
- 24 payments that need to be made to pay off real
- 25 property. I think it would be a difficult argument



- 1 to say that that agreement to hold those documents
- 2 in escrow didn't concern real property. It
- 3 certainly concerned real property.
- 4 Then you further had the testimony, the
- 5 uncontradicted testimony by Kevin Donaghy, that he
- 6 was not authorized to do anything other than present
- 7 that offer, and then to accept whatever they did.
- 8 He was not authorized to negotiate on behalf of the
- 9 Hachenbergers. He wasn't authorized to enter into
- 10 any other extraneous agreements.
- 11 And so at the very end of it -- again, this is
- 12 the statute -- that it has to be signed. This
- 13 agreement not only has to be in writing, but it has
- 14 to be signed by somebody authorized to bind them,
- 15 and it doesn't have that. I would tender the
- 16 argument to Mr. Shuker.
- 17 THE COURT: Mr. Shuker?
- 18 MR. SHUKER: Good morning, Your Honor. May it
- 19 please the Court. Mr. Chase's argument also went to
- 20 Counts 2, 3, and 4, because there is some overlap.
- 21 Would you like me to restrict mine just to Count 1?
- 22 THE COURT: Let's go ahead and tackle them all,
- 23 but I'm going to come back with specific questions
- on each count, because I want to focus on each one.
- 25 And then you can say, Same arguments, Judge, as to



- 1 that issue. Go ahead and address them.
- 2 MR. SHUKER: Thank you, Your Honor. As
- 3 reflected in our motion that we filed this morning,
- 4 as to Count 1, there are three arguments why we
- 5 request directed verdict. The first is the merger
- 6 clause, which is both in the letter agreement and
- 7 the operating agreement, and is clear and
- 8 unambiguous, and they were pointed out to you by
- 9 Mr. Chase. But they make it clear that nobody is
- 10 relying on misrepresentations or oral contracts.
- 11 The case we cited to you was Jenkins, which is 913
- 12 So.2d 43. That talks about the parol evidence rule
- 13 and the merger clause. I think Mr. Chase covered
- 14 that.
- In terms of -- so the first is the merger
- 16 clause. The second is parol evidence then,
- 17 Your Honor. As Jenkins says, for the terms of a
- 18 voluntary contract are clear and unambiguous --
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Excuse me. Your Honor, if the
- 20 Court's copy has been highlighted -- my copy has
- 21 not. I need a reference page.
- MR. SHUKER: I'm sorry. It is not case pages,
- 23 but printed pages --
- 24 THE COURT: This is Schubot you are referring
- 25 to at this point?



- 1 MR. SHUKER: No; Jenkins, Your Honor. If you
- 2 look at the Westlaw pages, consecutive numbers, it
- 3 is 9 in the middle where it is indented. Where the
- 4 terms of the voluntary contract are clear and
- 5 unambiguous as here, the contracting parties are
- 6 bound by those terms, and a Court is powerless to
- 7 rewrite the contract to make it more reasonable or
- 8 advantageous for one of the contracting parties.
- 9 In terms of the statute of frauds, Your Honor,
- 10 in addition to the fact that it is clear under
- 11 725.01 that this touches upon and affects --
- 12 concerning real property, we think the testimony of
- 13 Mr. Myers that it was designed to go a year, or over
- 14 a year, which is also grounds for statute of frauds.
- 15 I asked him -- the question was: Okay, this was an
- 16 indefinite period of time? And Mr. Benitez
- 17 objected, overruled. Answer: Yes. The contract
- 18 was an indefinite period of time.
- 19 And then I said, question: So you believe that
- 20 it was possible that this could take well over a
- 21 year to get the amendments done, right? Answer:
- 22 Yes, sir.
- 23 So certainly, Mr. Myers contemplated that this
- 24 agreement was going to be over a year. But I was
- 25 asking that question in the context of in October of



- 1 '16, your meeting, it is 15 months from when you --
- 2 this oral escrow agreement took place, and you are
- 3 not panicked. And I said, That is because you
- 4 contemplated it would take over a year? Answer:
- 5 Yes.
- 6 So when the contract -- this oral contract has
- 7 an indeterminate period, but the belief is it could
- 8 take over a year, I think also the statute of frauds
- 9 applies. Even if you don't agree with that, the
- 10 real estate one certainly does.
- 11 Your Honor, as to Counts 2, 3, and 4, we have
- 12 four arguments. The first is that the parties could
- 13 not have relied. The second is the merger clause.
- 14 The third is inducement exception to parol evidence
- does not apply. And the fourth, which is unique to
- 16 us, is that Mr. Donaghy was not our agent, and was
- 17 not authorized to make any statements regarding this
- 18 entire transaction, as evidenced by the testimony.
- 19 THE COURT: I'm sorry. You said there were
- 20 four arguments. The no-reliance provision --
- 21 MR. SHUKER: The merger clause, the inducement
- 22 to the exception regarding parol evidence does not
- 23 apply.
- 24 THE COURT: Thank you.
- MR. SHUKER: And then Mr. Donaghy was not our



- 1 agent.
- 2 THE COURT: Go ahead.
- 3 MR. SHUKER: As to the first, Your Honor, in
- 4 terms of the reliance, I think the case law makes it
- 5 clear, as Mr. Chase was just saying, you can't have
- 6 reliance based on an oral representation when
- 7 something you signed subsequent to that
- 8 representation is directly contradictory.
- 9 So here, as to Mrs. Myers, she didn't say that
- 10 Mr. Donaghy said anything at all. She said they had
- 11 some concerns, he left, they came back and signed
- 12 it. So she made no reference as to this alleged
- 13 misrepresentation.
- 14 As to Mr. Myers's testimony, he said, Well, he
- 15 told me, I'll hold it in escrow, before I signed it.
- 16 But what he signed had the exact opposite. So he
- 17 can't be found to have relied justifiably on
- 18 something directly contradictory at that time.
- 19 And that case, Your Honor, is Schubot, which
- 20 is -- I'm sorry, Schubot, S-C-H-U-B-O-T. That is a
- 21 district court case of the Southern District Federal
- 22 but applying Florida law, 757 F. Supp. 1351. Again,
- on page -- Westlaw, it is 5. It's Headnote 3:
- 24 Reliance upon oral representations, even if false,
- 25 is unreasonable if the party enters into a



- 1 subsequent agreement.
- 2 And this is a case -- you can see to the left
- 3 of that, Count 1 is fraud in the inducement. So we
- 4 are comparing apples to apples, both in the cause of
- 5 action and the facts.
- 6 And so what the Court -- district court goes on
- 7 to say is, Any reliance on the defendant's alleged
- 8 misrepresentation is unreasonable, because the
- 9 statements were not contained in the subsequent
- 10 written agreement.
- Here, that is precisely what we have. If you
- 12 even believe that these statements were made --
- 13 remember, Mr. Donaghy says no such thing happened.
- 14 And Mrs. Myers says no such thing happened. But
- 15 Mr. Myers says, He told me, I'll hold it in escrow,
- 16 but then went and signed something directly
- 17 contrary.
- 18 Your Honor, the inducement exception to the
- 19 parol evidence rule -- and again, Mr. Chase is
- 20 entirely correct. The standard is it has to be
- 21 clear, precise, and indubitable. I think the fact
- 22 that Mr. Donaghy says it didn't happen, Mrs. Myers
- 23 was silent on these alleged representations -- it is
- 24 well out of the range of indubitable.
- The case we cited to the Court and gave is a



- 1 subsequent case to Mr. Chase's, but it is still 11th
- 2 Circuit applying Florida law, 214 F.3d 1279. And at
- 3 the bottom of Page 3, Headnote 3, continuing to the
- 4 next page: However, the party submitting parol
- 5 evidence under this exception -- and this is the
- 6 inducement exception -- carries a heavy burden of
- 7 proof. The inducement exception requires the oral
- 8 agreement to be shown by evidence that it is clear,
- 9 precise, and indubitable; that it shall be found
- 10 that the witnesses are credible, that they
- 11 distinctly remember the facts to which they testify,
- 12 and that they narrate the details exactly, and that
- 13 their statements are true.
- None of that happened. First of all, two of
- 15 the witnesses gave no testimony regarding these
- 16 statements. And then Mr. Myers's statement is
- 17 simply not credible.
- 18 Then following down to footnote 4 -- Mr. Chase
- 19 did not discuss this, but I think it is important.
- 20 This is what this case kind of expounded on. Under
- 21 Florida law -- Headnote 4: Under Florida law, the
- inducement exception does not apply where the
- 23 alleged oral agreement relates to identical subject
- 24 matter embodied in the written agreement, and
- 25 directly contradicts an express provision in the



- 1 written agreement.
- 2 And you will see, Your Honor, beginning in our
- 3 memo on Page 11, Paragraph 27, we go through each of
- 4 the alleged items. Remember, there was the
- 5 handwritten notes that were allegedly part of this
- 6 agreement that was going to be held in escrow until
- 7 each of these terms was defined. Each of those
- 8 terms is in the operating or letter agreement, and
- 9 are inconsistent with what Mr. Myers wanted.
- 10 THE COURT: Can you pull that piece of evidence
- 11 for me, please? It was defense -- go ahead and
- 12 approach, please. What was the defense exhibit
- 13 number with the typed list?
- 14 MR. BENITEZ: You said the Number 5 and 6.
- 15 Five and 6, Your Honor.
- 16 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 17 THE COURT: That is the top of the page --
- 18 MR. SHUKER: That is it.
- 19 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.
- MR. SHUKER: So Your Honor, each of these items
- 21 are contained in and contradicted by the document
- 22 they signed. So again, as said by the 11th Circuit,
- 23 the inducement exception does not apply where the
- 24 alleged oral agreement relates to the identical
- 25 subject matter embodied in the written agreement it



- 1 directly contradicts.
- 2 So you have number one that says -- the
- 3 employment agreement. I'm sorry, Your Honor. So we
- 4 addressed that only Page 12 of our memo that says,
- 5 The operating agreement specifically provides in
- 6 Paragraph 6 that Mr. Myers will be president, and
- 7 that Donald Hachenberger has the power to specify
- 8 the responsibilities of each officer. Paragraph 16
- 9 of the letter agreement states Mr. Myers will be
- 10 president of the company.
- 11 So saying that there is an employment agreement
- 12 directly contradicts. Death agreement. Paragraph
- 13 11 of the operating agreement deals with the death
- 14 agreement. That is not something that needs to be
- 15 addressed by itself. Again, I'm on Page 12 of our
- 16 memo.
- 17 Paragraph 10 of the operating agreement
- 18 specifically addresses the transfer of an interested
- 19 member. Famous Days Financials, Paragraphs 1, 19,
- 20 20, and 26 of the letter agreement specifically
- 21 address the potential affiliation with Famous Days,
- 22 another barbecue-themed restaurant. The operating
- 23 agreement, he wrote that on the list. We just
- 24 signed the operating agreement, so that -- you can't
- 25 have that as an issue to be done when it was just



- 1 signed.
- 2 The line of credit, Your Honor -- the operating
- 3 agreement in Paragraphs 6 and 7 gave Don
- 4 Hachenberger full authority to conduct any and all
- 5 business on behalf of the company, including the
- 6 arranging of financing and/or borrowing of money.
- 7 So again, this is not something that needs to be
- 8 worked out. And including these would contradict
- 9 the terms of the letter agreement and operating
- 10 agreement. The letter agreement, Paragraph 12,
- 11 states that any further contributions by the
- 12 Hachenbergers may be structured as loans.
- And then as to the Myers's note, memorabilia
- 14 note which is the last thing on this letter
- 15 agreement in Paragraph 9, expressly provides the
- 16 Myerses will transfer as their capital contribution
- 17 to the company all right, title, and interest in the
- 18 Gassy Jack's assets, the memorabilia assets, the SR
- 19 46 property, Southeast liquor license, the Jano (ph)
- 20 classic automobiles, and the Department of Motor
- 21 Vehicles license to the company.
- 22 So each of these items would -- is already
- 23 contained in the two operative documents. And then
- 24 including them would be just to contradict what is
- 25 already there. And therefore, Your Honor, under the



- 1 11th Circuit case -- I can't pronounce that name,
- 2 Ungerleider -- those would be improper.
- 3 Your Honor, our final argument that is unique
- 4 to us, I think, regarding counts -- all of them, but
- 5 especially 2, 3, and 4 is the agency. Glenda's
- 6 testimony was clear and unequivocal. She never
- 7 talked to Kevin Donaghy regarding this. She never
- 8 engaged him personally. Didn't engage in a letter
- 9 with him. Mr. Donaghy said he never talked to
- 10 Ms. Stone about this agreement, never got authority
- 11 from her to make any offer or any negotiation, and
- 12 was never her attorney.
- He did say that in general, he viewed himself
- 14 as looking out for her interests, but that was only
- 15 because they were married, which doesn't make
- 16 somebody -- if I go hire a lawyer -- if I hire
- 17 Mr. Chase to be my lawyer, he is not my spouse's
- 18 lawyer. And he also said, because marital funds
- 19 were being used. That does not make someone your
- 20 agent. And he never said he was Ms. Hachenberger's
- 21 or Ms. Stone's agent for purposes of this deal and
- 22 these negotiations.
- He was an employee of Re/Max, and she was
- 24 part-owner of Re/Max. But agency doesn't extend
- 25 that far. So there is no evidence that even if you



- 1 accept Mr. Myers's testimony of what happened, that
- 2 Mr. Donaghy was there on her behalf.
- 3 So that is the final reason we would ask
- 4 directed verdict on 1 through 4. We'll come back
- 5 and hit rescission later, as it is its own kind of
- 6 unique item.
- 7 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Benitez?
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, this case is unique.
- 9 I think I can fairly say so. This is a case where
- 10 I've heard a lot of principles of law. And the
- 11 principles as cited from the cases may be correct.
- 12 But a lot of it does not apply in this case.
- 13 What we've got here is we've got a meeting
- 14 between Mike and Jackie Myers and Donaghy on July
- 15 7th, 2005. And they go in there to transfer the
- 16 property, the property that -- the real property,
- 17 the property that the four forms related to that
- 18 closing were prepared by another law firm.
- 19 They then go ahead, and after -- and you have
- 20 heard their presentation. Their presentation is
- 21 they have problems with the letter agreement and the
- 22 operating agreement. They didn't want to sign it.
- 23 And they asked Mr. Donaghy to go and step out of the
- 24 office, and type up a note directed at
- 25 Donald Hachenberger for things that needed to be



- 1 discussed before those agreements would be
- 2 finalized. He does that. He comes back and they
- 3 say, That is not good enough. The note doesn't say
- 4 much. Write it in your own handwriting, and he
- 5 writes those items.
- The reason why I'm bringing that up in detail,
- 7 Judge, is because they appear to then say that these
- 8 are items that are contradicted by a written
- 9 agreement. First of all, the written agreement that
- 10 they are referring to is the letter agreement or
- 11 operating agreement. That would not have been
- 12 signed but for the agreement between Kevin Donaghy
- on behalf of Glenda and Donald Hachenberger and the
- 14 Myerses to keep those items in escrow.
- And what we've done is we've alleged that that
- 16 is a separate contract, totally separate. The
- 17 contract -- the material terms of that contract has
- 18 nothing to do with the terms of the letter agreement
- 19 or the operating agreement. It has to deal with
- 20 keeping those agreements in escrow, unsigned by
- 21 Donald or Glenda Hachenberger, so that other
- 22 discussions can take place, other agreements can be
- 23 raised, other agreements can be drafted, and that
- letter agreement or operating agreement can be
- 25 modified and corrected. That was the testimony of



- 1 Mike Myers. It is on the record and it is for the
- 2 jury to decide what they believe, and how they
- 3 interpret the facts.
- 4 But the distinction has to be made at this
- 5 point that is a totally separate agreement.
- 6 And the agreement then is completely consummated at
- 7 that point, because the agreement was that Mr. and
- 8 Mrs. Myers would be signing the letter agreement and
- 9 the operating agreement, would be giving it to
- 10 Kevin Donaghy, and that is all their obligation
- 11 under this oral agreement.
- 12 Then Kevin Donaghy is going to keep it in
- 13 escrow. In fact, he did keep it in escrow. He kept
- 14 it in escrow in July, August, and September, until
- 15 he was -- he resigned from the Re/Max of Florida.
- 16 At that time, the agreements were then showing up in
- 17 the agreements that were in his office.
- 18 Donald Hachenberger, Glenda Hachenberger went ahead
- 19 and took them, and at some point in time, they
- 20 signed them.
- 21 But the point that I make with respect to the
- 22 statute of frauds in particular is that that
- 23 agreement was fully consummated. At least, it was
- 24 consummated on the part of the Myerses. They had no
- 25 further obligation. Their obligation was to sign



- 1 them and give them to Kevin Donaghy.
- 2 Kevin Donaghy's obligation under this oral
- 3 agreement was, I'm going to keep it in my
- 4 possession. I'm not going to give it to
- 5 Donald Hachenberger -- Donald or Glenda Hachenberger
- 6 until everything else has been resolved.
- 7 So it is adding credibility to that, Judge. It
- 8 is not only Mike Myers's and Jackie Myers's
- 9 testimony, but it is also the fact you have got
- 10 unequivocal testimony that it doesn't get signed in
- 11 July of 2005. It doesn't get signed in August of
- 12 2005. It doesn't get signed by Donald Hachenberger
- 13 until the last week of September of 2005, after
- 14 Kevin Donaghy has been out of the picture for at
- 15 least three or four weeks. Then Glenda signs it,
- and the testimony appears to be that she was mailed
- 17 the items up in Colorado, and then she mailed them
- 18 back.
- But that is all consistent with Mike Myers's
- 20 and Jackie Myers's testimony of what happened at
- 21 that meeting. But the important part is that under
- 22 the statute of frauds -- statute of frauds counts
- 23 apply to where the parties have fully performed
- 24 under the contract. I submit to the Court that
- 25 that's black-letter law. In this case --



1 Tell me, what was the agreement THE COURT: 2 with respect to the property, the real estate? 3 MR. BENITEZ: With respect to the real estate? 4 THE COURT: Yes. 5 MR. BENITEZ: With respect to the real estate 6 property, where the documents were prepared by the 7 other law firm and given to Don to get them 8 signed --9 THE COURT: What was the agreement? 10 MR. BENITEZ: That was the agreement. The 11 agreement was to go ahead and convey the property. 12 THE COURT: So that wasn't to be held in 13 escrow? 14 MR. BENITEZ: That was not going to be held in 15 escrow. No. 16 THE COURT: Nobody has testified to that. 17 There is no testimony that says it was okay to 18 release the deeds. Who testified to that? 19 MR. BENITEZ: I don't recall right -- standing 20 right here, Judge. 2.1 THE COURT: Give me any piece of testimony that 22 the Court can rely on with respect to the transfer 23 of the property. MR. BENITEZ: Well, let me -- remember when we 2.4 25 had a previous count in this case, and that is that

- 1 they breached the agreement by going ahead and not
- 2 paying for the property? Because the agreement with
- 3 respect to the property was that they were going to
- 4 go ahead and convey it, and they were going to be
- 5 reimbursed in development costs.
- And a third component was going to be there was
- 7 going to be an appraisal done. Because the
- 8 appraisal they relied on initially, \$2.9 million had
- 9 been done two or three years before. This was at
- 10 the time that the market was hot. So they all knew
- 11 what the property was worth. So we had an initial
- 12 claim of breach after contract with respect to that.
- 13 And also, we had equitable liens and --
- 14 THE COURT: You are not answering my question.
- 15 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, sir.
- 16 THE COURT: My question, Mr. Benitez: What are
- 17 the terms of the agreement that your client contends
- 18 were reached as part of this oral escrow agreement
- 19 as related to the transfer of the real estate?
- MR. BENITEZ: No, Your Honor. I think he
- 21 testified to -- that he knew that the property was
- 22 going to be deeded over. And that way, the permits
- 23 could be saved, and the bank would be satisfied. So
- 24 I don't believe I -- now that you brought this up, I
- 25 agree there doesn't appear to be any specific



- 1 testimony with respect to this oral agreement
- 2 applying to the land.
- 3 THE COURT: So did it or did it not apply? You
- 4 signed these documents, sir. But you know, we
- 5 aren't comfortable these accurately represent what
- 6 our agreement should be. You are going to hold them
- 7 in escrow. Which ones were agreed to be held in
- 8 escrow? Because the only testimony is that,
- 9 Everything we signed -- from Mr. Myers -- was going
- 10 to be held in escrow for an indefinite period of
- 11 time.
- 12 MR. BENITEZ: I submit to the Court that is not
- 13 his testimony. He did use the phrase "indefinite
- 14 period of time." That was during cross-examination.
- 15 But his testimony was, while I was questioning him,
- if I remember correctly -- I don't have the verbatim
- 17 transcript -- was that this was going to be done in
- 18 the next few weeks or the next few months.
- 19 THE COURT: That didn't happen.
- MR. BENITEZ: Oh, no. There is no question
- 21 that didn't happen, if you are asking me that.
- 22 THE COURT: It didn't.
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: But the intentions of the parties
- 24 at the time that they entered into that oral
- 25 agreement was it was going to be done within a few



- 1 weeks or a few months, certainly not beyond a year.
- 2 That was the testimony of Mike Myers.
- 3 THE COURT: I don't think so, but okay.
- 4 MR. BENITEZ: Okay.
- 5 THE COURT: So was the special warranty deed to
- 6 be held in escrow?
- 7 MR. BENITEZ: No, Your Honor.
- 8 THE COURT: What is the evidence of that?
- 9 MR. BENITEZ: Because it wasn't held in escrow.
- 10 THE COURT: None of it was held in escrow.
- 11 Does that mean none of it was intended to be held in
- 12 escrow? That is not a fair conclusion. What is the
- 13 evidence -- what is the testimony that says that the
- 14 deed was to be held in escrow, or was not to be held
- 15 in escrow?
- MR. BENITEZ: I have to go back and look at the
- 17 testimony. I thought that Mike Myers indicated and
- 18 the testimony was and the evidence up to that is
- 19 that there has been no objection with respect to the
- 20 deed being conveyed or being recorded. And there is
- 21 no objection with respect to the \$283,000 that was
- 22 given to Mike Myers.
- 23 THE COURT: 288,000.
- MR. BENITEZ: 288,000. I stand corrected,
- 25 Your Honor. There is no question about that.



- 1 Mike Myers had indicated that there was going to be
- 2 an adjustment with respect to the appraisal, and we
- 3 got into a dispute about whether the 2.9 appraisal
- 4 was admissible. The Court ruled it wasn't
- 5 admissible. That testimony, I believe, was covered,
- 6 Your Honor.
- 7 THE COURT: I didn't hear it. I didn't hear
- 8 any testimony about which of these documents that
- 9 were signed would be held in escrow.
- 10 So your client's testimony right now is,
- 11 Everything we signed was to be held in escrow, but
- 12 we get our check. We get to take our money and go.
- THE COURT: Well, I don't think you heard any
- 14 testimony that the warranty deed that is recorded,
- 15 that everybody can see that was recorded, had to be
- 16 held in escrow.
- 17 THE COURT: When was it recorded?
- 18 MR. BENITEZ: I think -- I don't remember. I
- 19 remember the testimony being -- it might have been
- 20 in July, or it might have been later. I'm not sure
- 21 who testified to it. Exhibit 1 would indicate when
- 22 it was recorded.
- 23 THE COURT: It was recorded August the 18th.
- 24 MR. BENITEZ: There you go.
- 25 THE COURT: So they just held onto it for a



1 while? 2 Excuse me, Your Honor? MR. BENITEZ: 3 THE COURT: So it was just held onto for some 4 time? 5 MR. BENITEZ: It might have been held on, because Donald Hachenberger knew that it wasn't a 6 7 done deal. So he didn't instruct Donaghy --8 THE COURT: My point precisely. What were the 9 Your client bears the burden of terms of the deal? 10 proof through parol evidence on this fraud in the 11 inducement claim to a very high standard, according 12 to the case law. 13 How can it be said that he has met that, when 14 there are terms that are -- there is no testimony. 15 And in fact, your client didn't narrate the 16 testimony, as is required by the case law. You 17 narrated it, and got him to simply agree with it. 18 Your questioning went through the allegations 19 of your complaint: And basically, didn't 20 Kevin Donaghy say X, Y, and Z to you? Yes. You 2.1 narrated the testimony. None of that came out of 22 Mr. Myers's mouth. And certainly, none of it came 23 out of Mrs. Myers's mouth. 2.4 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, all that goes to the



weight of the evidence.

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1 But isn't this a weight THE COURT: 2 consideration? I mean, that is -- isn't it? 3 MR. BENITEZ: No. I totally disagree. No. 4 The Court is not to go ahead and have any trial -- a 5 jury trial and decide whether the evidence is 6 sufficient or not. We've got the trier of fact sitting over there, which is going to be the jury. 7 They are going to decide whether there is 8 9 sufficient -- there may be a need for a jury 10 instruction with respect to that. And the jury 11 instruction would say --12 THE COURT: Where is the case law that tells me 13 that? MR. BENITEZ: I don't -- I haven't seen any 14 15 case law that says to the judge, on a motion for 16 directed verdict, based on the fact -- based on the 17 testimony of the party that has the burden of proof 18 having at least testified to those issues, that the 19 Court has the right to go ahead and weigh the 20 evidence to decide whether there is enough or not 2.1 enough to prove his case. We're not here to have 22 to --23 Johnson Enterprises of Jacksonville THE COURT: versus FPL Group, the case cited by both the 2.4 25 plaintiffs and counter-defendants.



1 Which one is it, Your Honor? MR. BENITEZ: 2 THE COURT: Johnson Enterprises of 3 Jacksonville, Inc., versus FPL Group, Inc. 4 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: The paragraph beginning at the The page numbers are in the 6 bottom of Page 14. lower left-hand corner, Page 14 to 46. 7 8 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I don't have the page 9 number, but I think I'm there. It is cut off in my 10 copy. 11 THE COURT: All right. So it is the paragraph 12 that begins, As for the first exception? 13 MR. BENITEZ: I have that. 14 THE COURT: So read that down. That is the 15 statement of the law. Turn over to the next page, 16 the first paragraph: Having reviewed the record, 17 including McNamara's testimony denying the existence 18 of an oral mileage guarantee, and Johnson's 19 inconsistent testimony regarding the substance of 20 the alleged guarantee, we agree with the District 2.1 Court that JEJ's evidence concerning the oral 22 mileage guarantee was not clear, precise, and 23 indubitable. The District Court therefore correctly 2.4 held that the evidence was inadmissible under the 25 inducement exception to the parol evidence rule.



- 1 If the Court is charged with making that
- 2 decision, weighing the evidence, that is what
- 3 happened here in Johnson. The Court heard the
- 4 testimony, weighed it, and then determined that the
- 5 parol evidence was not admissible.
- 6 So if I determine, on the basis of the evidence
- 7 that I've heard, that the parol evidence was not
- 8 admissible, was not properly admissible for the
- 9 jury, you then have no evidence supporting the fraud
- 10 in the inducement claim, and directed verdict would
- 11 be appropriate.
- 12 I'm not determining the directed verdict on the
- 13 basis of this determination. I'm determining the
- 14 admissibility of that evidence that the jury has
- 15 already heard. But now based upon all of the
- 16 evidence that I have heard, which in this case, at
- 17 this moment, is your client -- let me go back to
- 18 Mallard versus Ewing, the Florida Supreme Court
- 19 case: The evidence should be clear, precise, and
- 20 indubitable. It shall be found that the witnesses
- 21 are credible, that they distinctly remember the
- 22 facts to which they testify, and that they narrate
- 23 the details exactly, and that their statements are
- 24 true. That is -- is that not a Court
- 25 determination?



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: I'm not familiar enough with
- 2 those cases to make the distinctions that I should
- 3 be making, like for instance, at what stage of the
- 4 proceedings those rulings were made, and what
- 5 evidence was before the Court.
- 6 I submit to the Court that the Court has made
- 7 numerous rulings with respect to parol evidence
- 8 throughout this trial. It has narrowly taken our
- 9 case from that size to this size, based on the parol
- 10 evidence. We have walked a very fine line during
- 11 this trial, at the instructions and orders of this
- 12 Court to just put enough evidence in that didn't
- 13 violate parol evidence.
- 14 You have already made those rulings. I haven't
- 15 heard Mr. Chase or Mr. Shuker right now -- we argued
- 16 parol evidence admissibility. So what -- where
- 17 we're at right now --
- 18 THE COURT: That was Mr. Chase's argument.
- 19 That was his entire argument this morning.
- 20 MR. BENITEZ: But that would be inappropriate
- 21 at this point in time, because the evidence is
- 22 already in front of the jury. So a question of
- 23 whether the jury should have heard that or not
- 24 should have already been determined. That makes it
- 25 apples and oranges.



- 1 Right now, we're deciding whether there is
- 2 enough evidence to establish our claim. I submit to
- 3 the Court that with respect to the oral agreement --
- 4 going back to the oral agreement, because we cannot
- 5 lose sight of what we've got here.
- 6 We've got an oral -- the discussion has gone
- 7 from the statute of frauds in the one year to now
- 8 the parol evidence. With respect to this agreement
- 9 that we're talking about, the oral agreement, it was
- 10 fully performed. That takes it out of the statute
- 11 of frauds.
- 12 Second of all, we don't submit to the Court
- 13 that it is part of a -- that it can be excluded just
- 14 because there might have been -- or they can argue
- during closing that there is some connection to the
- 16 land. If there is, we can give the jury an
- instruction with respect to them making that
- 18 determination, as the finders of fact.
- 19 But in this case -- and the Court has brought
- 20 up the fact that there is no direct evidence taking
- 21 the deed -- the plaintiffs have said it is the --
- 22 but like I said, the testimony with respect to the
- 23 escrow agreement in particular was -- the testimony
- 24 was clearly directed at the letter agreement and the
- 25 operating agreement.



1 THE COURT: That is just not true. 2 MR. BENITEZ: Well --3 There was no distinction made in THE COURT: 4 the testimony. 5 MR. BENITEZ: Like I said, I'm at a 6 disadvantage here, because the Court is recalling that. I'm not going to contest that. But I don't 7 8 have the access right now at this moment to this 9 testimony. 10 THE COURT: But this is directed verdict. This 11 is what we do in every trial, Mr. Benitez. And the 12 burden is on your shoulders to come forward with 13 record evidence from which a jury could make a 14 determination. I heard -- Mr. Shuker is an officer of the 15 16 court. Is there testimony in this case that 17 apportioned out any of the documents in this case 18 that are part of Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, as 19 consistent with Mr. Benitez's theory that these are 20 to be held in escrow -- that some were and some 2.1 weren't? 22 In fact, it is the opposite. MR. SHUKER: 23 have the rough draft of his testimony, and he says,



anything.

2.4

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answer: Jackie and I (inaudible) refused to sign

1 Question by Mr. Benitez: Okay. And that 2 included the deed? 3 Answer: It included everything. And then when Kevin told you that he would hold 4 5 this in escrow, did you decide to do something? Answer: We discussed all of these things that 6 7 are listed in the agreement. And then was there a decision made as to 8 9 those items in the list? 10 Answer: Kevin Donaghy, at that time, advised 11 us that, I'm your attorney as well as the 12 Hachenbergers' attorney, that I represent Highway 46 13 Holdings, that the LLC had been set up as a 50/50 14 partnership, and that nothing could be done unless 15 you are happy with the agreements. When the 16 Hachenbergers return, we will get back together and 17 work out any questions or details. That is not 18 specific as to --19 THE COURT: Whose testimony was that of? 20 MR. SHUKER: Mr. Myers, put forth by 2.1 Mr. Benitez. 22 THE COURT: Mr. Chase, any testimony, as an 23 officer of the court, that you recall along that 2.4 line? 25 MR. CHASE: No, sir, I do not.



- 1 THE COURT: I think that is problematic. I
- 2 think it ultimately goes to the standard. But let's
- 3 move past that one and let's talk about these other
- 4 issues.
- 5 What about the Billington case? Billington is
- 6 the 5th DCA's most recent case. This is not the
- 7 first trial or issue that I've had an opportunity to
- 8 address Billington. Because the 5th DCA has come
- 9 out and drawn some very clear lines in interpreting
- 10 the Supreme Court case law as relates to the merger
- 11 doctrine, nonreliance, and waiver provisions in
- 12 contracts, and the effectiveness of those things to
- 13 deal with claims like a fraud in the inducement
- 14 claim.
- 15 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. I'm familiar
- 16 with that case. I'm familiar with the distinction
- 17 by the 5th DCA with respect to merger clauses and
- 18 reliance clauses, and so on. As Mr. Chase was
- 19 talking -- we've got a reliance clause, basically,
- 20 and merger clause in the operating agreement, if I'm
- 21 not mistaken.
- 22 THE COURT: Fair.
- MR. BENITEZ: And those -- I have got to,
- 24 again, make the distinction in this case, Judge. We
- 25 are not talking about trying to -- we are not



- 1 talking about trying to set aside the agreement, the
- 2 letter agreement or the operating agreement, based
- 3 on a difference of terms. We're not doing that.
- 4 We're challenging the enforceability of the
- 5 letter agreement and the operating agreement, based
- on the fact that they should never have been
- 7 released from escrow. So we -- when we talk about,
- 8 look at the list and say, well, hey, I did an
- 9 operating agreement here. My list says operating
- 10 agreement, or I did financials, or I did --
- 11 Thomas Smith and those little notes, Judge -- the
- importance the Court has to remember is our oral
- 13 agreement, the oral agreement they entered into,
- does not say we were going to change this or that in
- 15 the letter agreement or operating agreement.
- 16 What their position is, is yes, there were
- 17 corrections that may have to be made, or
- 18 modifications. But that wasn't a subject matter of
- 19 the oral agreement. The oral agreement was, Keep it
- 20 in escrow. If not, I'm not signing it. If not, I'm
- 21 walking out the door, and we will get back together
- 22 some other day.
- 23 So the -- when you have an agreement such as a
- letter agreement with, say, a reliance clause, you
- 25 are making a statement that to agree to these terms,



- 1 I'm not relying on anything else. And in this case,
- 2 this is a unique case. Because we've got an
- 3 agreement before then, an oral agreement, that
- 4 Mike Myers's signature would never appear on that
- 5 document, the letter agreement or operating
- 6 agreement, unless that oral agreement was in place.
- 7 And we submit to the Court that oral agreement was
- 8 in place.
- 9 Then he went ahead and physically signed the
- 10 contract, everybody in that room knowing that they
- 11 weren't going to be held enforceable or binding as
- 12 to the Myerses.
- So when you get into the case law making a
- 14 distinction that, well, once you have got a reliance
- 15 clause or merger clause, you can't change the terms,
- 16 that is fine. I'm not changing the terms.
- 17 THE COURT: Aren't you changing the very first
- 18 term of the letter agreement?
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Which is what?
- THE COURT: This letter agreement is entered
- into by and between Donald J. Hachenberger,
- 22 Glenda A. Hachenberger, Michael Myers, and
- 23 Jacqueline Myers effective July 7, 2005. Now your
- 24 client wants to say, No, we had an oral agreement
- 25 that said it was not effective July 7, 2005.



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, on July 7, 2005,
- 2 unquestionably, that agreement was not effective.
- 3 Unquestionably, Glenda Hachenberger had not signed
- 4 it. Unquestionably, Donald Hachenberger had not
- 5 signed it. And regardless of what that agreement
- 6 says -- and that is a standard clause in most
- 7 agreements, an effective date, and you put in the
- 8 date normally of the last pen that signs. In this
- 9 case, it was gone ahead and typed in.
- But absolutely not. That agreement was not
- 11 effective. I don't care how many times we read it.
- 12 It wasn't effective July 5th, 2007, because
- 13 Donald Hachenberger and Glenda Hachenberger didn't
- 14 sign it that day. So us lawyers looking at this,
- 15 yeah, we can read the effective date. But no, this
- 16 is not an effective date. This is a date where
- 17 Michael Myers and Jackie Myers signed this agreement
- 18 to be held in escrow, pursuant to an oral agreement
- 19 between Kevin Donaghy, who represented the
- 20 Hachenbergers.
- 21 THE COURT: To be effective when?
- MR. BENITEZ: To be effective when it was
- 23 released from escrow and signed by Donald and
- 24 Glenda Hachenberger, which one of them occurred. It
- 25 was released from escrow -- well, actually --



- 1 THE COURT: So that is contrary to the express
- 2 term of the agreement, which says it is effective
- 3 July 7th. I mean, you just, like, flip-flopped
- 4 right back into the exact inconsistency of the
- 5 proposed oral agreement that you want to argue,
- 6 which is absolutely perfectly inconsistent with the
- 7 terms of the express agreement that was signed by
- 8 the parties.
- 9 And then it goes on to contain a nonreliance
- 10 provision: shall not rely on any oral or other
- 11 representations of a party except or as specifically
- 12 set forth in these documents.
- MR. BENITEZ: But Judge, nobody but the Myerses
- 14 signed the contract on July 7th, 2005. There was no
- 15 contract. We all know that it -- like the
- 16 Hachenbergers made an offer --
- 17 THE COURT: Offer, acceptance, consideration,
- 18 money.
- MR. BENITEZ: And where is the signatures?
- THE COURT: Offer, acceptance, consideration.
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: And if you stop at that point --
- 22 THE COURT: Where in the analysis is a
- 23 signature required?
- MR. BENITEZ: Because it is.
- 25 THE COURT: There was an offer that was



- 1 extended by the Hachenbergers. Your clients
- 2 accepted it by signing the documents. They received
- 3 money as consideration for the agreement. Why isn't
- 4 there a contract?
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: Because at that point in time,
- 6 the Hachenbergers had not signed the contract. If I
- 7 could just take a step --
- 8 THE COURT: Is it a statute of frauds argument?
- 9 MR. BENITEZ: No, Judge.
- 10 THE COURT: Okay. Then what is the argument?
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: The argument is that in your
- 12 example, there is an oral agreement, let's say.
- 13 THE COURT: What is the oral agreement?
- 14 MR. BENITEZ: Well, I'll go back to my same
- 15 position, Judge. No. There is not a -- a letter
- 16 agreement was not consummated, was not executed.
- 17 THE COURT: Let's address it this way. I'm not
- 18 going to listen to the same argument. Do you have a
- 19 case that says that?
- MR. BENITEZ: No, Your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: Okay. The last couple arguments
- 22 that were made -- we've addressed the merger and
- 23 nonreliance. We've addressed the parol evidence.
- 24 We've addressed the statute of frauds.
- 25 How about Donaghy not an agent? Donaghy is not



- 1 an agent of Glenda Hachenberger.
- 2 MR. BENITEZ: Mr. Donaghy testified that he was
- 3 the agent of Glenda and Donald Hachenberger.
- 4 THE COURT: He never said that.
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: Well, he said he -- he used the
- 6 word "represented."
- 7 THE COURT: What did he say?
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: He said that, I consider myself
- 9 being a -- or representing Glenda and
- 10 Donald Hachenberger, when I was asking her about the
- 11 letter agreement July 7th, 2005.
- 12 THE COURT: That is never what he said. What
- 13 he said was he considers himself representing the
- 14 interests of the Hachenbergers. That was the quote
- 15 that he said: "the interests of the Hachenbergers."
- And when pressed, had he ever received any
- 17 authorization from Glenda Stone, slash,
- 18 Hachenberger -- I'm sorry. I'll refer to you as
- 19 "Hachenberger" for the moment, please. Did he ever
- 20 receive any authority from Mrs. Hachenberger?
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: I believe -- and again, I don't
- 22 have the benefit of the transcript. I just have the
- 23 benefit of my recollection. But I believe I asked
- 24 Mrs. Hachenberger about that, and I believe her
- 25 testimony is something that the jury can consider,



- 1 and find that Glenda Hachenberger was being
- 2 represented by Kevin Donaghy.
- On top of that, all the facts as presented by
- 4 Mike Myers, and in particular with respect to the
- 5 representation of Kevin Donaghy that he was
- 6 representing Glenda and Donald Hachenberger, is
- 7 evidence before the Court. Based on the facts and
- 8 the way this transaction went -- happened, I think
- 9 the jury can very well conclude that, in fact,
- 10 Glenda Hachenberger was represented by
- 11 Kevin Donaghy.
- 12 THE COURT: Response, Mr. Chase?
- 13 MR. CHASE: No, sir.
- MR. SHUKER: Just briefly, Your Honor, because
- 15 I looked at exactly what Mr. Donaghy said. You are
- 16 correct. He said, I always considered myself
- 17 representing the interests of Don and Glenda. And I
- 18 said, You assumed you represented those interests
- 19 because they were married and it was marital funds?
- 20 Yes.
- 21 You never actually spoke to Glenda about this
- 22 deal?
- 23 No.
- So it goes without saying, Glenda never
- 25 authorized you to make any representations as to



1 this deal? 2 She never did. 3 And she never authorized you to do any 4 negotiations? 5 No. And Glenda was entirely consistent. She said 6 7 she had never hired Mr. Donaghy to represent her on this deal. 8 9 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. What I'm 10 prepared to do with respect to these issues -- then 11 we have others, I know, to address. First, I'd like 12 to take just a brief recess if we could. I want to 13 clarify my thought process. And then I want to talk 14 about my rulings with respect to these issues. 15 then let's walk through the complaint, and see which 16 counts this affects or impacts, and what is 17 remaining at that point. Then we'll address 18 additional argument as to those others. We'll take 19 a five-minute recess. 20 (Brief recess.) 2.1 THE COURT: All right. The Court has had the 22 opportunity to hear the testimony of Mr. Myers, 23 Mrs. Myers, and Mr. Donaghy who were all present at 2.4 the meeting that occurred on July the 7th of 2005. 25 The Court has drawn some lines throughout the



- 1 course of testimony, in an attempt to limit the
- 2 testimony heard by the jury to that which is legally
- 3 relevant and properly admissible, predicated upon
- 4 the theories of the case the Court believes are
- 5 viable legal theories.
- 6 Pursuant to the Supreme Court's holding in
- 7 Mallard versus Ewing at 164 So. 674, the standard
- 8 for the admissibility of parol evidence concerning a
- 9 contemporaneous oral agreement which induced the
- 10 execution of a written contract, the Court looks at
- 11 that evidence to determine whether the testimony is
- 12 clear, precise, and indubitable.
- 13 Under the Mallard standard, the Court is
- 14 required to make findings that the witnesses are
- 15 credible; that they distinctly remember the facts to
- 16 which they testify, and that they narrate the
- details exactly, and that their statements are true.
- Perhaps in a perfect world, the Court would
- 19 have heard the testimony from these witnesses
- 20 outside the presence of the jury initially, to be
- 21 able to evaluate whether that testimony should have
- 22 been heard by the jury at all. But the practical
- 23 considerations associated with the prosecution of
- 24 this now eight-year-old case, the difficulties of
- 25 getting to the -- on last Monday, the beginning of



- 1 trial -- because of the difficulties associated with
- 2 the pretrial compliance in preparation of those
- 3 issues to have a case ready for trial, precluded
- 4 that from happening.
- 5 Nevertheless, the Court has heard that evidence
- 6 now, has had the opportunity to observe the
- 7 witnesses, to evaluate the credibility and the
- 8 substance of their testimony. In this context, the
- 9 Court's determination of whether this testimony is,
- 10 indeed -- it should have been admissible depends
- 11 upon a credibility choice between witnesses.
- The credibility of Mr. Myers with the testimony
- 13 that he gave concerning this issue, which was not,
- 14 by the way, confirmed in a narrative, clear,
- 15 precise, and indubitable fashion by the testimony of
- 16 Mrs. Myers, came out in a completely different
- fashion; and which was directly contradicted by
- 18 Mr. Donaghy, who said that he would have no
- 19 authority to accomplish these things. His authority
- 20 had been defined by the clients, and that was simply
- 21 to extend this offer. He had no authority to hold
- 22 this offer in escrow, to make any changes to the
- 23 offer. He was the go-between, but not the client,
- 24 in making those determinations.
- I don't find the testimony to be clear, precise



- 1 and indubitable. I find it ultimately depended upon
- 2 a credibility choice. I don't find the testimony to
- 3 have been narrated with exact detail, and cannot
- 4 find that the statements alleged by the Myerses are
- 5 true.
- As a consequence, I am striking that testimony
- 7 of parol evidence as it relates to the alleged
- 8 escrow agreement, the agreement to hold the closing
- 9 documents in escrow. Of particular importance, I
- 10 find no specific testimony about any differentiation
- 11 among the various documents that were signed by the
- 12 Myerses at that time, which -- it specifically
- 13 excluded from this alleged oral agreement documents
- 14 related to the interest directly in the real
- 15 property.
- 16 That is significant to the Court, because there
- 17 was an exchange of money for that interest, pursuant
- 18 to the terms of the document. It doesn't make
- 19 sense. It is not indubitable that the parties would
- 20 have agreed not to transfer the real estate, but
- instead for you to go ahead and take the money,
- 22 Mr. Myers. That just doesn't make any sense.
- 23 And so it cuts against the idea that that was
- 24 the terms of the agreement. Yet there has been no
- 25 testimony that there was any separate agreement as



- 1 relates to the special warranty deed for the
- 2 transfer of the property.
- 3 In the absence of the parol evidence which has
- 4 been stricken by the Court pursuant to that
- 5 standard, the Court finds that there is no evidence
- 6 from which a jury could make a determination that
- 7 there was a separate oral agreement to hold these
- 8 documents in escrow.
- 9 Without so finding, because I don't think it is
- 10 necessary -- having made that ruling, I do have
- 11 concerns about the statute of frauds issues.
- 12 Because it clearly was the intent, in the package of
- documents, to transfer an interest in real property.
- 14 But candidly, I -- you know, there is part
- 15 performance. I think it might be sufficient to get
- 16 past the statute of frauds as relates to the
- 17 transfer of real property. There was a special
- 18 warranty that was signed. There is some written
- 19 evidence of that.
- What is lacking is written evidence of what
- 21 Mr. Benitez has characterized as an entirely wholly
- 22 separate agreement to hold those things in escrow.
- 23 And I find no written -- no separate written
- 24 evidence of that agreement that would be sufficient
- 25 to overcome the statute of frauds.



- I would also be expressly concerned about the
- 2 length of time that it may have taken to perform
- 3 this agreement if, indeed, it was longer than a year
- 4 as has been testified to. Then that I think might
- 5 implicate the statute of frauds, but I don't reach
- 6 it because again, I don't think I have to.
- 7 I also believe that -- setting aside the parol
- 8 evidence issue, that the nonreliance provisions and
- 9 the merger provisions of the document would be
- 10 sufficient to foreclose the claim in this context of
- 11 the alleged oral escrow agreement.
- The nonreliance provision that is a part of the
- 13 letter agreement is clear that the parties had
- 14 agreed that they shall not rely on oral or other
- 15 representation of the parties. Yet that is
- 16 precisely what the Myerses want to do.
- When they come into the courtroom on this claim
- 18 for an alleged oral escrow agreement, they want to
- 19 rely on oral or other representations of the
- 20 parties, in this case, Mr. Donaghy, as the alleged
- 21 agent of both Mr. and Mrs. Hachenberger. And those
- 22 representations that they seek to rely upon directly
- 23 conflict with the provisions of the letter
- 24 agreement.
- Nowhere in the letter agreement does it



- 1 indicate that the agreement would not be effective
- 2 until signed by all parties. Indeed, it indicates
- 3 that it's effective on July 7th of 2005. That is
- 4 directly rebutted -- rebutting the alleged oral
- 5 escrow agreement.
- And so on the basis of the Billington case and
- 7 the cases that it interprets, I believe that there
- 8 is no basis to enforce any sort of oral or other
- 9 representations of the party. And of course,
- 10 combined with the merger agreement, which while I
- 11 don't believe is effective to necessarily negate the
- 12 claims, in combination with the nonreliance
- 13 provisions -- under the thought process of
- 14 Billington, I think it supports the Court's
- 15 conclusion in that regard.
- The Court need not reach the issue of agency,
- 17 having made those findings, because I don't find an
- 18 enforceable oral agreement.
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, if I may.
- 20 THE COURT: Yes.
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: Like I expressed to the Court
- 22 earlier today, I hadn't received these documents or
- 23 these case law or the memo prior to this morning. I
- 24 was looking at Mallard versus Ewing, which is what
- 25 the Court relied on. I wanted to bring to the



- 1 Court's attention -- I understand from the Court the
- 2 Court also received this case law this morning.
- 3 THE COURT: No. We all received this case law
- 4 back on day one. This was with the precise case
- 5 Mr. Chase argued on day one of this trial, and the
- 6 case is eight years old.
- 7 MR. BENITEZ: Okay. I apologize, Your Honor.
- 8 I didn't remember that. But with respect to Mallard
- 9 versus Ewing, it appears, in looking at the case --
- 10 the Court has indicated it was a Supreme Court case,
- 11 but it was back in 1935 when there really wasn't
- 12 what we consider to be a Supreme Court today. It
- 13 was divided up into different divisions.
- Second of all, it appears to be, from looking
- 15 at it, a mortgage foreclosure kind of case. It
- 16 appears to have gone to a master, and then reviewed
- 17 by a circuit judge, which is -- so my point is,
- 18 which is the point that I made earlier, I believe --
- 19 I may be not as articulate -- that those are factual
- 20 determinations by the trier of fact. And in that
- 21 case, either the general master or the circuit judge
- 22 reviewing the report would have been the trier of
- 23 fact. In this case, the trier of fact would be the
- 24 jury.
- So I submit to the Court that there is enough



- 1 evidence to go to the jury on all those issues that
- 2 the Court has now disallowed. The evidence, like
- 3 I've stated before --
- 4 THE COURT: I'm not going to hear re-argument.
- 5 Is there anything else?
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: I wanted to bring that up to the
- 7 Court's attention, hoping the Court would reconsider
- 8 its ruling.
- 9 THE COURT: Thank you. That will be denied.
- 10 Now, let's look at the practical impact of those as
- 11 relates to the allegations in the complaint, and
- 12 counts of the complaint.
- 13 So Count 1 is a breach of contract, and that is
- 14 the alleged breach of oral escrow agreement; is that
- 15 correct?
- 16 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.
- 17 THE COURT: The Court will enter directed
- 18 verdict as to Count 1. Count 2 is fraud in the
- 19 inducement, which relates to the same specific
- 20 allegations; is that correct?
- 21 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.
- 22 MR. SHUKER: Yes, sir.
- 23 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, I'm waiting to hear
- 24 from you, as well.
- MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. I'm waiting to



1 turn the page to read it, just to make sure I 2 haven't missed anything. 3 THE COURT: I understand. 4 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: So as to Count 2, the Court would 6 grant directed verdict. 7 Count 3, intentional misrepresentations. Do these relate to the same issues? 8 9 MR. CHASE: Yes, Your Honor. 10 MR. SHUKER: Yes, Your Honor. 11 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: The Court would grant directed verdict as to Count 3. Count 4 are negligent 13 14 misrepresentations. Same matters? 15 MR. CHASE: Yes, Your Honor. 16 MR. SHUKER: Yes, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: The Court would grant directed verdict as to Count 4. Count 5 is a count for 18 19 rescission, revocation, or cancellation. 20 MR. SHUKER: Your Honor -- I'm sorry. 2.1 THE COURT: Go ahead. 22 MR. SHUKER: I have a case -- an argument on 23 that, if you want to hear it. THE COURT: Unique and separate issues, 2.4 25 correct?



- 1 MR. CHASE: They are differentiated. It is
- 2 basically the same thing, but it's -- the property
- 3 has been improved. \$25 million has been spent.
- 4 There is no way we can restore status quo, so
- 5 rescission is unavailable.
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, I believe this
- 7 particular count is going to be held by the Court --
- 8 reserved by the Court as a non-jury issue.
- 9 THE COURT: I apologize. Let's move past that
- 10 one. Thank you. Next I have wrongful removal of
- 11 Mr. Myers as comanager, Count 10.
- 12 MR. CHASE: There is no cause of action for
- 13 wrongful removal of a manager. There are no
- 14 elements to it, and there are no damages. Plus,
- 15 there is a contract that specifically gives
- 16 Don Hachenberger the authority to do what he did.
- 17 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, what is the basis for
- 18 the cause of action?
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: The removal would be based on the
- 20 fact that there was no letter agreement or operating
- 21 agreement. And therefore, you go back to the
- 22 Chapter 608, which indicates that the comanagers
- 23 have to operate jointly. That means they both have
- 24 to agree, and also, it has to obtain members'
- 25 approval.



- 1 So in this case, the role of Mike Myers as a
- 2 comanager was not authorized, based on the fact that
- 3 there was no letter agreement or operating
- 4 agreement, which obviously is inconsistent with what
- 5 the Court has now done, by dismissing the previous
- 6 claims.
- 7 THE COURT: Okay. The Court will grant
- 8 directed verdict then as to Count 10, having found
- 9 that there was a valid letter agreement and
- 10 operating agreement between the parties that
- 11 authorized Mr. Hachenberger to take the actions that
- 12 he did. Count 11?
- MR. CHASE: Wrongful termination, sir. If you
- 14 look under Tab H in the binder, this is the Metro
- 15 Dade case found at 798 So.2d 836 citing,
- 16 Additionally, there is no action in Florida for the
- 17 common law tort of wrongful termination.
- The next case, I believe under I, is Gibbs v.
- 19 H.J. Heinz, 536 So.2d 370: An employment contract
- 20 which is indefinite as to term of employment is
- 21 terminable at the will of either party without
- 22 cause.
- 23 The only way -- the only wrongful termination
- 24 that is allowed for in Florida is discrimination.
- 25 There has been no evidence of discrimination. There



- 1 is no cause of action for wrongfully terminating
- 2 somebody under a contract at will.
- 3 There was no evidence of an employment
- 4 contract. The only evidence is a letter agreement
- 5 and operating agreement, which gives
- 6 Donald Hachenberger full authority to do what he
- 7 did. So there is just no cause of action for
- 8 wrongful termination under that.
- 9 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez?
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: Same argument, Your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: Same ruling. Having found a valid
- 12 letter agreement and operating agreement, the Court
- 13 enters directed verdict as to Count 11.
- 14 Count 12, wrongful removal or denial of access.
- 15 MR. CHASE: It is not a cause of action. There
- 16 are no elements to that cause of action, and there
- 17 are no damages. There is a contract, an express
- 18 contract that gives Donald Hachenberger the
- 19 authority to do what he did. Plus, there are court
- 20 orders that say that is the way it is.
- MR. BENITEZ: I disagree, Your Honor, with
- 22 respect to Count 12. I think Mike Myers -- there is
- 23 nothing in the letter agreement or operating
- 24 agreement that gives Donald Hachenberger or anybody
- 25 else authority to go ahead and keep the Myerses out



- 1 of the premises. There is just absolutely no
- 2 authority that I know of.
- 3 The only way that that could be possibly
- 4 envisioned would be -- is if -- I couldn't even see
- 5 a majority of the members excluding one member from
- 6 the business premises -- bless you.
- 7 THE COURT: What is the basis of the cause of
- 8 action? The first complaint was it doesn't state a
- 9 cause of action.
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: What?
- 11 THE COURT: What is the basis for a cause of
- 12 action for this? What is the law that says there is
- 13 a cause of action for wrongful removal or denial of
- 14 access?
- 15 MR. BENITEZ: I haven't been able to find a
- 16 case on point, Judge, with respect to that. The
- 17 argument that I presented to the Court said this
- 18 case -- Mike Myers and Jackie Myers have certain
- 19 rights and obligations as members of a limited
- 20 liability company.
- 21 And the only way that they can exclude them
- from it would be if there is some kind of an
- 23 agreement, or some authority. There is no agreement
- 24 or authority on the part of Highway 46 to exclude
- 25 the Myerses from coming on the premises. And this



- 1 may be tied in with the other counts with respect to
- 2 duties owed to the members. And maybe more
- 3 applicable -- I think I have -- with respect to
- 4 that, as far as --
- 5 THE COURT: The duty of care and good faith and
- 6 fair dealing?
- 7 MR. BENITEZ: Duty of care and duty of good
- 8 faith and fair dealing.
- 9 Just to focus the Court on this, the reason it
- 10 was pled this way was just to make sure the Court
- 11 addressed it individually. And our argument would
- 12 be that I have found no authority to give
- 13 Donald Hachenberger, as manager of Highway 46
- 14 Holdings -- to exclude the Myerses from the business
- 15 premises, or the business itself.
- 16 THE COURT: Doesn't the business owner have a
- 17 right to determine who comes and goes on the
- 18 property? Isn't that one of the rights of business
- 19 owners?
- 20 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. Mike Myers and
- 21 Jackie Myers are business owners of the particular
- 22 property. That is my point exactly.
- 23 THE COURT: Except that under the terms of the
- letter agreement and operating agreement, they gave
- 25 control of that decision-making to Mr. Hachenberger.



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: Well, I didn't see -- that is the
- 2 point, that I didn't see anything in the letter
- 3 agreement or the operating agreement that gives him
- 4 that authority. If the Court finds that is within
- 5 the confines of the letter agreement and the
- 6 operating agreement -- what it does, the letter
- 7 agreement and the operating agreement allows
- 8 Hachenberger to operate the business, and allows him
- 9 to be the manager, and to make decisions.
- 10 And my suggestion to the Court -- my position
- and my client's position is there is nothing that
- 12 specifically authorizes him to keep Mike Myers and
- 13 Jackie Myers away from the business.
- 14 THE COURT: I think that is fairly within the
- 15 terms of Paragraph 17 of the letter agreement. But
- 16 more importantly, I don't think there is a cause of
- 17 action for it. So I'll deny it on that basis, and
- 18 grant directed verdict on Count 12.
- 19 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. Next up is conversion,
- 20 Count 15. If I could direct the Court's attention
- 21 to Tab J in the binder, citing City of Cars, 526
- 22 So.2d 119. And a couple pages in concerning what is
- 23 conversion: Any act of a person in asserting a
- 24 right of dominion over a chattel which is
- inconsistent with the right of the owner, and



- 1 deprives the owner of the right of possession to
- 2 which the owner is entitled to, may constitute a
- 3 conversion, whether the act is accomplished with or
- 4 without any specific wrongful mental intent.
- 5 Also Belford under the next tab is 243 So.2d
- 6 646: An action in tort is inappropriate where the
- 7 basis of the suit is a contract, either express or
- 8 implied. Belford is dealing with the conversion
- 9 action.
- 10 Also under the next tab, Tab L, is Page v.
- 11 Matthews, 386 So.2d 815, second page: The general
- 12 rule as enunciated in Lilly is that damages for
- 13 conversion are limited to the reasonable value of
- 14 the property when converted. Damages are based on
- 15 the fair market value of the property at the time of
- 16 conversion, plus legal interest to the date of the
- 17 verdict.
- Judge, in this case, there is a contract that
- 19 says that the property is to be transferred. It
- 20 identifies the property. The testimony was the
- 21 memorabilia and everything was on the property. It
- 22 went to the warehouses. It is in the warehouses.
- 23 It was personal property there. There was a bill of
- 24 sale for that. The owner of that property is
- 25 Highway 46 Holdings, LLC. So therefore, there



- 1 cannot be a conversion, because Highway 46 Holdings,
- 2 LLC, owns it.
- 3 There is -- the second issue is with regard to
- 4 the -- the existence of the contract. If we look at
- 5 the -- this case is a contract case. It is a breach
- 6 of contract case. Conversion is thrown in as --
- 7 essentially to say, because I don't agree with the
- 8 contract, therefore there is conversion. But the
- 9 Court has found that there is a contract, and so it
- 10 is improper for conversion to be considered.
- 11 THE COURT: Let's talk about the contract for a
- 12 minute. Direct me inside of the letter agreement,
- 13 the operating agreement, or the special -- the
- 14 quitclaim, I'll say, to the transfer of personalty,
- 15 memorabilia, petrobilia, and the other items that
- 16 are claimed to be converted. Show me where those
- 17 provisions are.
- 18 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. In the letter agreement
- where it begins on the Paragraph 2 of the letter
- 20 agreement -- the Myers's contributions, first up, is
- 21 the real property. If we can go to the next page:
- 22 Michael Myers and Jacqueline Myers are the sole
- 23 owners of drawings, licenses, plans, permits, and
- 24 other intellectual property, and those are referred
- 25 to as the Gassy Jack's assets.



- 1 The next paragraph is 6: Michael Myers and 2 Jacqueline Myers are the sole owners of substantial
- 3 amounts of certain unique petrobilia, Americana
- 4 memorabilia, antiques, classic automobiles, and
- 5 those are referred to as a memorabilia assets, some
- of which are represented on the attached CD, Exhibit
- 7 B, and particularly including the automobiles listed
- 8 on Exhibit C. All of that is in evidence, and it is
- 9 pictures of all the memorabilia, and you have the
- 10 cars that are specifically listed out.
- 11 THE COURT: It is the CD pictures ultimately,
- 12 right?
- 13 MR. CHASE: The CD shows pictures of a lot of
- 14 memorabilia. It is not all of it. It says that,
- 15 "some of which are depicted."
- 16 THE COURT: Right. So where is it ever
- 17 categorized the other memorabilia and petrobilia
- 18 that is owned by the Myerses that was intended to be
- 19 transferred by virtue of the provisions of this
- 20 agreement?
- 21 MR. CHASE: As in identified, like, each item?
- THE COURT: Yes.
- 23 MR. CHASE: It talks about everything that was
- 24 on the property. And there was testimony that there
- 25 was a storage container on the property with a lot



- 1 of memorabilia.
- 2 THE COURT: No. The testimony was that the
- 3 storage trailer on the property had construction
- 4 equipment.
- 5 MR. CHASE: I may have -- my memory may be
- 6 different. My understanding was there was testimony
- 7 that there was --
- 8 THE COURT: Let me cut to the chase here, no
- 9 pun intended.
- 10 MR. CHASE: That is all right.
- 11 THE COURT: I agree that there are contractual
- 12 provisions that address some of this memorabilia,
- and testimony that might support specific pieces of
- 14 the memorabilia which were subject to being
- 15 transferred. But that is contained on the CD
- 16 photographs, and on the list of vehicles that are
- 17 attached to the letter agreement.
- 18 There is a whole other category of this
- 19 memorabilia and petrobilia that isn't ever
- 20 specifically identified, and that there is at least
- 21 a dispute about which, whether it was on the
- 22 property at the time of the transfer or not.
- 23 MR. CHASE: I think that is coming to the
- 24 replevin. Ultimately, at the end of my conversion
- 25 argument, I would say that this claim is for



- 1 replevin. To kind of move beyond that part, there
- 2 is personal property that belongs to the Myerses
- 3 that they need to get back. There is no question
- 4 about that.
- 5 One of the very first things that
- 6 Mr. Hachenberger is going to be testifying today to
- 7 is, I think they should have this back, this back,
- 8 this back, and this back. These are the things that
- 9 he is offering. The testimony will be that, I have
- 10 offered these things to them over and over, but
- instead of taking these things, tell me what you
- 12 want back, and I'll give it back.
- We want everything back. It's all out. And
- 14 Mr. Hachenberger says, I don't agree that you get
- 15 everything back.
- So he is going to testify as to what he
- 17 believes the personal property is. That is subject
- 18 to replevin. To the extent that ultimately, to try
- 19 before the Court the replevin actions -- if the
- 20 Court believes there are certain parts of
- 21 memorabilia that should also go back, that is for
- 22 the Court.
- There is no way conversion can go to the jury,
- 24 respectfully, because there is no way to identify
- 25 the damages. Getting beyond the other issues --



1 THE COURT: I'm not to damages yet. I get 2 that. But isn't there at least a factual dispute --3 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. Agreed. 4 -- that some of this property might THE COURT: 5 have been converted, versus being covered by the 6 agreement? 7 MR. CHASE: I absolutely agree with that. again, if we're looking at the -- and then there are 8 9 a couple other provisions in here that talk about 10 what all it conveys. But I don't think there is any 11 legitimate argument that there is not an issue that 12 needs to be determined by a finder of fact as to 13 specifically what memorabilia. 14 THE COURT: Thank you. Let me ask -- I'm sure 15 you agree with that; is that fair, Mr. Benitez? 16 can't grant directed verdict on that piece of the 17 conversion claim that relates to specific property, 18 because there is a dispute, a factual dispute, about 19 what was there? 20 Even if I accept the operating agreement, which 2.1 I know you dispute -- but assume it is in now. Even 22 assuming that, I'm sure you agree I cannot grant a 23 directed verdict against your client as to 2.4 conversion as relates to what it is that was 25 allegedly converted?



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor.
- 2 THE COURT: Now let's talk about the damages
- 3 issue. What evidence is there of damages for me or
- 4 for this jury to be able to attribute a value -- the
- 5 first claim is for conversion of the Myers's
- 6 property. What evidence is there of value,
- 7 competent evidence?
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: We stipulate \$3.6 million of the
- 9 property at issue. That is the amount of damages
- 10 that I will be requesting from the jury.
- 11 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. BENITEZ: The issue, Judge, is we haven't
- 13 been allowed to go into the letter agreement by the
- 14 Court. But the question is going to be -- our
- 15 position is there shouldn't have been any transfer
- of any property under the letter agreement, even if
- 17 the letter agreement was valid. And that is because
- 18 of what Mr. Chase just said.
- 19 It says it will be transferred, as opposed to
- 20 the previous letter agreement that the Court did not
- 21 allow to be introduced into evidence, which talked
- 22 about, hereby irrevocably transfers all rights to
- 23 this memorabilia. And that was taken out from the
- 24 draft and inserted and said, will be transferred.
- 25 So our position is our damages is 3.6, as has been



- 1 stipulated by the parties.
- 2 THE COURT: What about your client's testimony
- 3 that memorabilia represents \$3.8 million of that
- 4 number?
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: That is an unfortunate event
- 6 after the stipulation, Your Honor. I'm not going to
- 7 argue that, based on my representation with
- 8 Mr. Chase and the Court with respect to the
- 9 stipulation. So I'm going to ignore that testimony.
- But our position at this point is that we did
- 11 stipulate to the \$3.6 million, and that is the
- 12 damages that I will be seeking.
- 13 MR. CHASE: Sir, \$3.6 million included
- 14 everything there. They had two counts of conversion
- 15 where they divide their claims up. There is their
- 16 personal property. There is the memorabilia assets.
- 17 And then there are the assets that are owned by
- 18 Mr. Myers and Sean Myers. That is identified
- 19 separately in a separate count of conversion.
- 20 And because there is no testimony as to what
- 21 value of what went where, there is no way that the
- 22 jury can reconcile that. This is the replevin
- 23 claim.
- MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I attempted to put on
- 25 evidence, and at one point the Court indicated that



- 1 was not appropriate based on standard of value, the
- 2 replacement. I proposed to the jury that my client
- 3 would be prepared to testify with respect to a
- 4 resale value, or the value for that item in its
- 5 condition at the time of the taking. That wasn't
- 6 allowed.
- 7 But I submit to you that the stipulation was
- 8 unequivocal that the items that we're contesting
- 9 today in this court was \$3.6 million. And that is
- 10 why I left it alone at that point in time, based on
- 11 the ruling of the Court and the stipulation by the
- 12 parties.
- 13 THE COURT: The Court's ruling was based upon
- 14 your client's own testimony. The way that he
- 15 calculated the value of those things was not
- 16 predicated upon fair market value, but instead
- 17 predicated on his purchase price, which is through
- 18 relevant evidence. It is not admissible to
- 19 establish the value of those items.
- 20 And then you attempted to come back and have
- 21 him go through that entire list, and try to now
- 22 offer, for the first time, brand new opinions about
- 23 the value of those things, based on a methodology
- 24 that he had not applied. And he was apparently
- 25 going to apply it on the fly, on the stand, correct?



- 1 The Court concluded that.
- 2 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, he was competent to do
- 3 that. He is very knowledgeable on those items. He
- 4 can take each item individually, and give you the
- 5 price as of the date of the taking. He was prepared
- 6 to do that.
- 7 MR. CHASE: His case is concluded. There is
- 8 additional argument cited from Belford. It is at
- 9 the bottom of the same page I was reading a moment
- 10 ago: The rule of damages applicable to an unlawful
- 11 conversion of personal property is that if the
- 12 defendant has an equitable interest in the property,
- 13 recovery against him is limited to the actual net
- 14 amount of the plaintiff's interest, although the
- 15 possession is wrongfully assumed or retained.
- Judge, there is no testimony for the jury to
- 17 parse out anything. There is no question of fact
- 18 about that certain assets were absolutely
- 19 transferred. There is no question of fact about
- 20 that trucks were transferred. There is no question
- 21 about the -- the assets that were specifically
- 22 identified. There is no question of fact as to
- 23 whether or not the items on the CD were transferred.
- Those items on the CD were absolutely
- 25 transferred . There is no question. And so there



- 1 is no value that breaks that out so that -- the jury
- 2 would have to be left with, well, how much are all
- 3 those trucks worth? How much is all that stuff on
- 4 the CD worth? So if we accept the \$3.6 million for
- 5 everything, but they clearly transferred these other
- 6 things --
- 7 THE COURT: I got you.
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, if I may reply. In this
- 9 case -- we've done this case up to now with the
- 10 counts that were alleged, and that have now been
- 11 dismissed. Obviously, the case drastically changes
- 12 when it is boiling down with an assumption that the
- 13 letter agreement and operating agreement is in
- 14 effect and viable and enforceable, which is contrary
- 15 to the testimony.
- So we have been put in a real bad position.
- 17 Because our position would have been, Judge, we were
- 18 expecting that -- with respect to the initial four
- 19 counts, that in fact, the jury would find that there
- 20 is no letter agreement or operating agreement. So
- 21 if they found that, all the property would then be
- 22 returned, and we would start anew.
- Now the entire playing field has been changed
- 24 for us. Because the playing field now, after the
- 25 evidence has been submitted to the jury, and the



- 1 jury has heard the testimony -- now we find that the
- 2 Court is now deciding that the letter agreement and
- 3 the operating agreement are effective. And that is
- 4 a totally different position than we've taken, than
- 5 anybody has -- or that anybody has addressed up to
- 6 this point in time in front of this jury. So that
- 7 is extremely difficult to react to from this point
- 8 forward.
- 9 The points that the Court are making with
- 10 respect to the damages highlight that. I felt
- 11 comfortable with a stipulation of 3.6 back to the
- 12 personal property, knowing that the jury was going
- 13 to decide whether the letter agreement or the
- 14 operating agreement were enforceable. But now that
- 15 that has been taken away from the jury --
- 16 THE COURT: None of that changes the fact,
- 17 Mr. Benitez, that you pled this in two separate
- 18 counts. You pled it, number one, for return of
- 19 personal property; number two, for return of
- 20 memorabilia. The jury has to be asked separate
- 21 questions as to each of those counts. What is the
- value of the personal property?
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I actually did not. I
- 24 actually alleged that in one count. I have got a
- 25 count for replevin where I want the property back,



- 1 and a count for conversion. I think the distinction
- 2 I made with respect to those counts was the property
- 3 that was Mike Myers's and others', and the property
- 4 that was Mike Myers's and Jackie Myers's, the
- 5 Myerses' together.
- 6 MR. CHASE: Two counts of replevin, Judge.
- 7 THE COURT: We're not talking about replevin.
- 8 We're talking about conversion.
- 9 MR. CHASE: Two counts of conversion, Judge.
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: Two counts of conversion, Judge.
- 11 But again, the conversion is not memorabilia and
- 12 personal property. My conversion counts includes
- memorabilia and personal property of the Myerses,
- one count; and personal property and memorabilia of
- 15 Mike Myers and Sean Myers, another count.
- MR. CHASE: And there has been --
- 17 MR. BENITEZ: I should say not Mike Myers and
- 18 Sean Myers; just Mike Myers alone.
- 19 THE COURT: Where is the definition of the
- 20 personal property in your complaint?
- 21 MR. CHASE: It is on the page -- it is the
- 22 paragraph -- there are two separate -- the one for
- 23 just the capitalized personal property, Judge, is at
- 24 Paragraph 205, and refers to memorabilia. The
- 25 memorabilia that is identified in A through P -- I'm



- 1 sorry, no, sir -- A through H of the first count of
- 2 replevin. There was an additional issue about that,
- 3 that an exhibit wasn't attached to the third amended
- 4 complaint.
- 5 THE COURT: I'm looking at Paragraph 205 which
- 6 defines, capital P, personal property. And those
- 7 are counts -- or this is defined as a number of
- 8 exhibits describing memorabilia and certain personal
- 9 property on Exhibits N and O.
- 10 So are you representing to the Court,
- 11 Mr. Benitez, that Paragraph 205 defining personal
- 12 property represents everything?
- MR. BENITEZ: No. My Paragraph 205 very
- 14 clearly states, includes but are not limited to the
- 15 following. And then it provides the list.
- 16 THE COURT: You didn't listen to my question.
- 17 MR. BENITEZ: Okav.
- 18 THE COURT: Are you suggesting that Paragraph
- 19 205 defines personal property as all of those things
- 20 that are listed, both memorabilia and personal
- 21 property?
- MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. That is -- yes.
- 23 THE COURT: That is a different answer.
- MR. BENITEZ: Yeah. The personal property with
- 25 a capital P and --



1 THE COURT: Right. 2 MR. BENITEZ: Yes. 3 MR. CHASE: No. 4 MR. BENITEZ: Personal property with a capital 5 P, and a capital P for -- on both letters -- or both 6 words includes all the property, including 7 memorabilia and personal property unrelated to 8 memorabilia or petrobilia. 9 THE COURT: So for example, if I were to look 10 at Exhibit 10 to the complaint, that is going to be 11 personal property that is not memorabilia or 12 petrobilia? That is -- that is -- that is the 13 MR. BENITEZ: 14 way it is written. Yes, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: So Mr. Chase, how is it that does not include the personal property? 16 17 MR. CHASE: It doesn't include the cars, for 18 instance. If you go to -- because there is another 19 on the next count of replevin, personal property. 20 There is personal property with the MM, which is 2.1 defined at Paragraph 220. Then this is property 22 that was owned by Mr. Myers and Sean Myers. If you 23 go to the conversion, the first count of 2.4 conversion --25 THE COURT: On Page 33?



- 1 MR. CHASE: Right, personal property. The next
- 2 one was the U.S. mail, which you dropped. And I
- 3 think I was wrong about that.
- 4 THE COURT: So 15 and 16 are the personal
- 5 property.
- 6 MR. CHASE: The cars are culled out from that
- 7 definition. Do you follow what I'm saying, Judge?
- 8 There is a separate definition for the automobiles
- 9 under this document.
- 10 And so when he says even if you did accept the
- 11 fact that the, capital P, personal property included
- 12 the lower case p, personal property, then it still
- does not include the automobiles, because they are
- 14 under a separate definition. They are defined under
- 15 Paragraph 220.
- 16 THE COURT: Yet your stipulation, you contend,
- 17 includes the cars?
- 18 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. Everything there
- 19 absolutely includes the cars. That is \$3.6 million.
- 20 There is no way that the jury -- there is nothing --
- 21 THE COURT: I got you. Any argument,
- 22 Mr. Benitez?
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: Our stipulation was the
- 24 memorabilia, the personal property, and the issue
- 25 that we were seeking to recover or get damages for



- 1 was the 3.6. We were not talking about anything
- 2 having to do with any property that may be owned by
- 3 Highway 46.
- 4 If there is property that is of Highway 46 in
- 5 any of those warehouses -- it was the assumption
- 6 that 3.6 was the value of the property at issue in
- 7 this case that we were contending is our property.
- 8 THE COURT: I just asked to see a copy of the
- 9 written stipulation. For the record, the
- 10 stipulation reads as follows: Strictly as relates
- 11 to Case No. 2008-CA-1466 in the Circuit Court in and
- 12 for Orange County, the parties stipulate as follows:
- 13 The total value of all memorabilia, petrobilia,
- 14 antique autos, and personal property currently in
- 15 possession of Highway 46 Holdings, LLC, located on
- 16 State Road 46 in Sanford, the Church Street
- warehouse, and Bobby Lee Point warehouse is \$3.6
- 18 million. Accordingly, the Court finds that it is
- 19 responsible to enforce the stipulation of the
- 20 parties.
- It includes the automobiles. And therefore,
- 22 having determined that the letter agreement and
- 23 operating agreement are effective and effectively
- 24 transfer those things, and the other closing
- 25 documents effectively transfer those things, there



- 1 is no way for the jury to determine the value -- the
- 2 damages of these conversion claims. The Court
- 3 grants directed verdict as to the conversion claims.
- 4 MR. CHASE: Thank you, sir. It was my
- 5 understanding, Judge -- I believe Count 16 is the
- 6 conversion of the U.S. mail. But that one, I
- 7 thought, was dropped.
- 8 THE COURT: That was Count 17.
- 9 MR. CHASE: Okay. And the same argument for
- 10 conversion. So I wasn't wrong. I was right when I
- 11 said -- Judge, I just missed it. The Count 16 is
- 12 the conversion of the autos. So he did plead it
- 13 separately. There was one count. Count 15 is
- 14 conversion of the personal property, capital P.
- 15 THE COURT: Which includes the memorabilia and
- 16 personalty. And then Count 16 --
- 17 MR. CHASE: Is the automobiles.
- 18 THE COURT: Same ruling, same basis.
- 19 MR. CHASE: Judge, next up is the duty of care.
- 20 These are -- the duty of care, if we could look to
- 21 Tab M in the binder. It's -- this is quoting from
- 22 608.4225, coming down to -- I think it would be 13B.
- 23 The duty of care is limited to refraining from
- 24 engaging in grossly negligent or reckless conduct,
- 25 intentional misconduct, or a knowing violation of



- 1 law. So that is our standard.
- 2 C: Each manager and managing member shall
- 3 discharge the duties to the limited liability
- 4 company and its members under this chapter, or under
- 5 the articles of organization or operating agreement,
- 6 and exercise any rights consistent with the
- 7 obligation of good faith and fair dealing.
- 8 E: A manager or managing member may lend money
- 9 to and transact other business with the limited
- 10 liability company. As to each loan or transaction,
- 11 the rights or obligations of the manager or managing
- 12 member are the same as those of the person who is
- 13 not a member, subject to the other applicable law.
- 14 On the next page down at the bottom, Sub 5: A
- 15 manager or managing member is not liable for any
- 16 action taken as a manager or managing member, or any
- 17 failure to take any action if the manager or
- 18 managing member performed the duties of the
- manager's or managing member's position in
- 20 compliance with this section.
- Judge, there are 15 different allegations for a
- 22 breach of duty and breach of duty of good faith.
- 23 They are the same 15 for each one. I believe they
- 24 are so closely aligned that we can take care of both
- 25 the breach of duty of care, statutory care, and good



- 1 faith at the same time for each allegation, if that
- 2 pleases the Court, sir.
- 3 THE COURT: You may proceed.
- 4 MR. CHASE: The first one is removing
- 5 Michael Myers as a manager. The contract documents
- 6 allow him to do that. The testimony was there was
- 7 reasoning behind doing that; and that because of
- 8 difference of opinions and the -- the cost of the
- 9 buildout under -- when Mr. Myers was running things
- 10 was exceeding, by a couple million dollars, what was
- 11 budgeted.
- There is no damages for removing him. So I
- don't believe that he could go forward on removing
- 14 Michael Myers as a manager.
- 15 THE COURT: Continue.
- MR. CHASE: Okay. The next one is terminating
- 17 Michael Myers's employment. The same arguments that
- 18 we had before about there is no contract. There is
- 19 no discrimination. There is no cause of action for
- 20 that. There is nothing inconsistent with the
- 21 statute or the operating agreement and letter
- 22 agreement that occurred there. And there is
- 23 testimony as to the reasoning.
- Then third is not allowing Michael Myers on the
- 25 property. It is -- it is the same argument that we



- 1 had before when we discussed that as a cause of
- 2 action.
- 3 The fourth is converting U.S. mail. It was my
- 4 understanding that that had been dropped. But even
- 5 if it hadn't, there was no evidence adduced about
- 6 anything that had anything to do with converting any
- 7 U.S. mail, and there are certainly no damages.
- 8 The fifth is failure to safeguard the personal
- 9 property, with a lower p. There was testimony about
- 10 some of the memorabilia assets being damaged, but I
- don't recall any testimony about the lower case p,
- 12 personal property. So they failed to have any
- 13 evidence of damages about that.
- And even if the Court did accept that in this
- 15 case, the way that it is pled it is not the capital
- 16 P, personal property, the memorabilia. There is no
- 17 damages as to what the cost was of that. If you put
- 18 a screw through a frame around a picture, what are
- 19 the damages? There is no testimony whatsoever. So
- 20 there is no way -- what could the jury come back --
- 21 what is the remedy?
- 22 Failure to pay real estate taxes. I don't
- 23 recall any evidence on that, nor are there any
- 24 damages.
- The next is -- Number 7 is failure to collect



- 1 and pay sales tax. I don't recall any evidence on
- 2 that, nor are there any damages.
- 3 Number 8 is failing to pay wages and salaries
- 4 owed to employees. I don't recall any evidence on
- 5 that. And there is certainly no damages.
- 6 Mismanaging the business. The contract gives
- 7 Mr. Hachenberger the right to do everything that he
- 8 deems fit for the company, with the exception --
- 9 there is a very narrow exception, the changing of
- 10 distributions, when there is no allegation that he
- 11 did that. But in order to mismanage the business
- 12 under this statute, which is the duty of care and
- 13 the good faith, it would have had to have been
- 14 grossly negligent, reckless, or intentional
- 15 misconduct, or a violation of law.
- There is nothing that could go to the jury that
- 17 could rise to that level. Plus, there was no
- 18 evidence that was introduced that wasn't one of
- 19 these other things that was alleged. And each of
- 20 these things by themselves don't add up -- should
- 21 not even be considered by the jury. I'll come back
- 22 once we get to the end of this list.
- Number 10, closing the business. There was no
- 24 evidence of closing the business, and certainly no
- 25 damages.



- 1 Number 11 is failing to file federal tax
- 2 returns. There was some evidence that the tax
- 3 returns are behind, but there are no damages. There
- 4 have been no damages alleged.
- 5 Number 12 is changing the name and concept.
- 6 There are no damages. Further, changing -- that is
- 7 just -- there is no way that that could be grossly
- 8 negligent. Changing the name from "Gassy Jack's"
- 9 for a restaurant to what it is now is certainly not
- 10 gross misconduct.
- 11 Number 13 is hiring what is alleged in the
- 12 complaint to be Kay Wertz (ph), who was to do
- 13 unnecessary work. There was no evidence of that,
- 14 and no damages. There was evidence that Kay Wertz
- and Liz Best (ph) were hired through their company.
- 16 But there was no evidence that anything they did was
- 17 unnecessary, nor any money spent.
- Number 14 is releasing the operating agreement
- 19 and letter agreement. I believe that that has
- 20 already been ruled on by the Court.
- Number 15, incurring unnecessary and
- 22 unauthorized expenses. There are no damages. There
- 23 could be an argument that he spent so much money on
- 24 this, and so it is unnecessary and -- there could be
- 25 argument. But it hasn't been really broken down as



- 1 to how much of that -- and what would be the
- 2 damages?
- 3 There was testimony that on June 26th, 2007,
- 4 that it was already over budget \$8 million or so,
- 5 and Mr. Hachenberger said, All right, I'm not going
- 6 to spend any extra money. So when Mr. Hachenberger
- 7 came in and took over on June 26th, 2007, if he
- 8 would have said, We're \$2 million over budget, I'm
- 9 not going to spend any more money, I'm going
- 10 dissolve the company -- if he had dissolved the
- 11 company on that day, the Myerses wouldn't have
- 12 gotten anything.
- 13 THE COURT: What is the evidence of that?
- 14 MR. CHASE: The evidence was the Myerses had
- 15 put in \$5 million. Their 1.3 contribution was
- 16 outlined in the contract, plus the total value of
- 17 the memorabilia is \$3.6 million. That is a total of
- 18 \$4.9 million.
- 19 THE COURT: What is the value of the improved
- 20 property at that point?
- 21 MR. CHASE: It is far in excess of \$4.9
- 22 million. Or it is not going to be -- even if it is
- 23 not, the contract -- I'm sorry, Judge. The contract
- 24 says that Don Hachenberger gets paid back first
- 25 everything that he has loaned.



1 So no matter what -- if the property would have 2 been -- if the property would have been \$3 million, 3 then Don Hachenberger would have gotten all \$3 4 million and --5 THE COURT: And if it was a \$10 million 6 property or --7 If they had gotten \$10 million, MR. CHASE: 8 then they could have split that up. 9 unnecessary -- so there was no argument, nothing 10 before the jury that Don Hachenberger should have 11 closed down the restaurant. There is no argument to 12 that, so there can be no damages. 13 So in other words, Mr. Benitez would have to 14 walk up in front of the jury and say, What he should have done was close down the business. If he would 15 16 have closed down the business, and it was worth \$10 million -- which we don't know, so it is speculative 17 18 damages, because there is no evidence what the 19 improvements were with the land -- then the Myerses 20 would have gotten at least maybe another million 2.1 back, because they would have shared the \$2 million 22 in excess of what -- the \$8 million spent. 23 But that is -- that is speculative damages, for 2.4 Plus, it improperly poses to the jury a 25 scenario where they have, what if this happened,



- 1 when there has been no testimony about that? So
- 2 there would have to be that.
- 3 Damages can't be speculative. They have to be
- 4 reasonably certain. So there are no damages as to
- 5 spending unnecessary money. If anything, the only
- 6 testimony was that the Myerses came out \$10 million
- 7 to the good, because of all the money that
- 8 Don Hachenberger and Mrs. Hachenberger continued to
- 9 put into that project. So how could there possibly
- 10 be damages? He has kept it open. He maintained --
- 11 THE COURT: How are they \$10 million to the
- 12 good?
- MR. CHASE: Because it is \$10 million they
- 14 didn't have to pay.
- 15 THE COURT: But it is all debt.
- MR. CHASE: It is debt to Donald Hachenberger.
- 17 But they still have the asset for exactly what they
- 18 contracted for and put into the project. They paid
- 19 a total of \$4.9 million, is what they put into it.
- 20 It is worth whatever it is, and so they still have
- 21 it.
- They wanted a certain thing built. It was
- 23 built. There are some modifications to what the
- 24 original plan was. But when you look at those
- 25 pictures, the Hachenbergers came in -- and when he



- 1 took over, for legitimate reasons, and made changes
- 2 like adding bathrooms and handicap access and things
- 3 like that, changing the way that the smokehouse --
- 4 those are legitimate business purposes. That is not
- 5 wasteful and unnecessary. Those are things that
- 6 needed to be done.
- 7 THE COURT: I just think -- I do think those
- 8 are jury questions. I think ultimately, the jury is
- 9 in the best position to evaluate the purpose behind
- 10 those decisions.
- Now, I can't tell you that I disagree with your
- 12 position on it, but that is not the issue. I mean,
- 13 it doesn't make sense to me that somebody who has
- 14 apparently had the success that Mr. Hachenberger has
- had in business would say, I want to spend \$25
- 16 million so I can acquire \$3.6 million worth of
- 17 memorabilia. That just doesn't make any sense. If
- 18 he wanted the memorabilia, I assume he would have
- 19 written a check, and gotten the memorabilia.
- 20 But I do think there are business judgment
- 21 questions about how much debt has been accumulated
- 22 for the purpose of this business that is fair game.
- 23 I do question, though, what the damages are. I'll
- 24 have to hear from Mr. Benitez on that.
- 25 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.



- 1 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, let's talk through
- 2 each of these allegations. There are some that I
- 3 don't have -- I don't think are worthy of directed
- 4 verdict. I think you survive directed verdict on
- 5 some of these issues. But then we have to address
- 6 the damages issues. We'll get to that.
- 7 I don't think that, notwithstanding Paragraph
- 8 17 of the letter agreement that grants
- 9 Mr. Hachenberger the right to appoint and control,
- 10 ultimately excuses him from necessarily not
- 11 exercising -- I'm going to use these words, and I
- 12 know that is not what the statute used -- to use
- 13 good business judgment in all of that
- 14 decision-making. I still think he is bound by the
- 15 good faith and fair dealing requirements of the
- 16 statute. And I think ultimately, those are jury
- 17 questions.
- I can't -- I don't think I can properly
- 19 evaluate, at this stage of the process, gross
- 20 negligence, recklessness, disregard, all the things
- 21 that the statute uses. So for example, let's look
- 22 at Paragraph 265 of your complaint. By removing
- 23 Mike Myers as a managing member -- he had the right
- 24 to do it.
- MR. BENITEZ: Judge, you have already ruled the



- 1 letter agreement is enforceable.
- 2 THE COURT: But that doesn't excuse him. I
- 3 mean, he can do it. Does it give him unfettered
- 4 discretion, bad-faith discretion?
- 5 MR. CHASE: No, sir.
- 6 THE COURT: I don't think it does. I think it
- 7 is still fair game, notwithstanding the letter
- 8 agreement. I think it is a topic of discussion for
- 9 the jury.
- 10 A is okay. B is okay, in my mind. C is okay.
- 11 D, U.S. mail, is out, right?
- MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor.
- 13 THE COURT: Okay. So I don't need argument
- 14 about that. The Court ruled, as a matter of law,
- 15 that there is no conversion. I can't allow that to
- 16 go to the jury. That one comes out, D.
- 17 What is the evidence of failing to safeguard
- 18 and maintain the personal property?
- MR. BENITEZ: The upkeep of the property while
- 20 it was there, like for instance, the fire truck that
- 21 was out on the Church Street property, and the Coke
- 22 bottle. They have just been sitting out there; wear
- 23 and tear.
- 24 THE COURT: This is little p, personal
- 25 property, not capital P, personal property. So this



- 1 is personalty, not memorabilia.
- 2 MR. BENITEZ: I'm just thinking -- because you
- 3 just brought that up. By converting the personal
- 4 property, taking the property -- for instance, the
- 5 Bobby Lee warehouse, Judge -- you walked in there.
- 6 There is not much memorabilia there.
- 7 THE COURT: Right.
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: I'm not sure there was any there,
- 9 but I didn't take a good look like the jury did, or
- 10 like you did. So I'll let you decide.
- 11 THE COURT: But where is the failing to
- 12 safeguard and maintain? We're on Paragraph E.
- 13 MR. BENITEZ: I'm sorry. I was looking at the
- 14 wrong paragraph, Judge. You went past that.
- 15 THE COURT: I did.
- MR. BENITEZ: Okay. If you are -- I don't know
- if I meant just exclusively personal property in
- 18 this particular line, Judge. I thought I was
- 19 probably referring to all the property of the
- 20 Myerses' there, which included memorabilia and
- 21 petrobilia.
- I would agree that most of the personal
- 23 property, except for the instances that I would -- I
- 24 think there was some talk -- I think the John Deere
- 25 tractor, for instance, and some of the trailers that



- 1 were out there in poor condition -- that would be
- 2 the ones that I was referring to.
- 3 THE COURT: What is the evidence of damages?
- 4 How is the jury to quantify that damage?
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: With respect to that in
- 6 particular, I would let them just decide that, based
- 7 on their examination of the property, or the
- 8 pictures that they have got.
- 9 THE COURT: Okay. That is rank speculation.
- 10 There has got to be some basis for them to determine
- 11 a value of the damage associated with that. There
- 12 has got to be some testimony. You can't say, Look
- 13 at this -- I'm not including the Coke bottle, but I
- 14 think it is a good example. Look at this Coke
- 15 bottle. What was it worth then? What is it worth
- 16 now?
- 17 There has to be some evidence of damages. In
- 18 the absence of that, I can't allow the question to
- 19 go to the jury. So granted as to E.
- 20 What evidence is there of failure to pay real
- 21 estate taxes?
- MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, there isn't any
- 23 evidence, Judge. It is a fact, but it isn't in
- 24 evidence.
- 25 THE COURT: Granted as to F. Collecting and



1 failing to pay sales taxes? 2 MR. BENITEZ: None. 3 THE COURT: Granted as to G. H? 4 MR. BENITEZ: None. 5 THE COURT: Granted as to H. I? I'm going to 6 allow that one to go to the jury. Closing the businesses? Which businesses were closed? 7 8 MR. BENITEZ: They were closed for a period of 9 But I believe the testimony that I heard 10 during the trial was that it was open. 11 THE COURT: Okay. So no evidence of J, so that 12 is out. Failing to file federal tax returns? 13 MR. BENITEZ: No. 14 THE COURT: K is out. L, I'll allow. M? 15 MR. BENITEZ: No evidence. 16 THE COURT: M is out. 17 MR. BENITEZ: Before the Court --18 THE COURT: All right. So what I'm going to 19 allow is A, B, C, I, L, and O. 20 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I think you missed on that 2.1 one. I'll let you -- earlier in the personal 22 property --23 I ruled as a matter of law there is THE COURT: no conversion of personal property, because you 2.4 25 can't prove damages consistent with rendering a

- 1 directed verdict on conversion claims. You can't be
- 2 found to have converted something that you can't
- 3 prove damages for.
- 4 MR. BENITEZ: I apologize. I thought the
- 5 stipulation --
- 6 THE COURT: No. We go back into that same
- 7 analysis we had on the two conversion claims you
- 8 brought. You brought one for, capital P, personal
- 9 property; a separate one for autos. The autos, the
- 10 Court has determined, were legitimately transferred
- 11 under the terms of the letter and operating
- 12 agreement.
- There is no way for this jury to ascertain the
- 14 value of those autos, and therefore no way to
- 15 determine what the actual loss was under a
- 16 conversion theory for personal property, capital P.
- MR. BENITEZ: Judge, are you finding that those
- 18 autos were actually transferred? Because they are
- 19 not -- those autos that are listed are not
- 20 consistent with the evidence before the Court, like
- 21 for instance, Plaintiff's Exhibit 1. The list in
- 22 Plaintiff's Exhibit 1 does not match that list.
- 23 THE COURT: Doesn't match what list?
- 24 MR. BENITEZ: The list in my conversion claim
- 25 or count.



- 1 THE COURT: Right. But -- no. See, that is
- 2 the problem. Yes, I am finding some autos were
- 3 effectively transferred. That alone prevents the
- 4 jury from taking that \$3.6 million number, and
- 5 trying to ascertain what part of it relates to the
- 6 other property, and what part relates to transferred
- 7 autos.
- 8 I read your stipulation in evidence. It
- 9 included autos. But if some of that was
- 10 legitimately there, how do they know what percentage
- 11 or what part of \$3.6 million was attributable to
- 12 each component that you have pled? There is no way
- 13 to effectively get to that.
- MR. BENITEZ: Would I be able to supplement the
- 15 record with that testimony, Judge, now based on your
- 16 ruling? The way your ruling is right now, it is
- 17 allowing us to go into a letter agreement, and
- 18 specify exactly what is included and what isn't
- 19 included.
- THE COURT: No. Respectfully, you didn't even
- 21 meet -- assuming I hadn't ruled that way, you didn't
- 22 meet the evidentiary requirements of those two
- 23 counts for conversion.
- MR. BENITEZ: I would have, if you hadn't ruled
- 25 that the letter agreement transferred --



1 THE COURT: No. 2 MR. BENITEZ: -- because they would have been 3 included. 4 That is not accurate. You THE COURT: No. 5 would have had two counts then, describing \$3.6 million. How does the jury attribute that amount to 6 7 the first part, and an amount to the second part? 8 MR. BENITEZ: That would be done by doing a 9 jury verdict form that includes just the personal --10 all of it as one amount. 11 THE COURT: That is not how you pled it. MR. BENITEZ: Well, Judge, in front of the 12 13 jury, it did not have to come out disjointed. 14 could have been as one question. And I believe -- I 15 don't remember specifically. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Benitez, I'm not 17 revisiting the ruling. We've spent now two hours 18 and 15 minutes on these issues, and I've already 19 been down that road, and ruled very explicitly as to 20 those two counts why it is we didn't do that. 2.1 If you are moving to reopen the evidence, the 22 motion is denied, because it simply is too late in 23 And there was nothing that precluded you the game. 2.4 from offering that evidence early on, as you



25

attempted to offer evidence to distinguish between

- 1 personal property and memorabilia.
- 2 You knew you had proof issues. You attempted
- 3 to deal with that, and failed, understandably. It
- 4 is not your fault. I understand what happened. I'm
- 5 just saying that the evidence did not meet the
- 6 requirements. And it is just too late in the game
- 7 to do that.
- 8 So A, B, C, I, L, and O, the Court is allowing
- 9 you to argue to a jury. Count 19?
- 10 MR. CHASE: Sir, I believe it is the same
- 11 thing, Judge.
- 12 THE COURT: Same ruling. That will go to the
- 13 jury.
- 14 MR. CHASE: Sir, as to the count for --
- 15 nothing, sir.
- 16 THE COURT: Okay. This should narrow the scope
- of proof that is necessary now in your case,
- 18 correct?
- 19 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.
- THE COURT: What I'd like you to do -- we're
- 21 going to take 15 minutes and let's adjust. And I'm
- 22 going to bring the jury back in at 11:30.
- Is there anything else further for you or your
- 24 client?
- MR. SHUKER: Yes, Your Honor. May I be heard?



- 1 THE COURT: You may.
- 2 MR. SHUKER: All the counts as to us are gone
- 3 except for 5 and 20. Those are both your decisions.
- 4 We had contemplated that we would also argue on
- 5 involuntary dismissal, which is the right term of
- 6 art for -- though since it is your decision -- but I
- 7 know the jury is sitting there waiting for 15
- 8 minutes. I'm just balancing that versus
- 9 Mrs. Hachenberger having to continue to pay us for
- 10 evidence that won't be relevant to your decision.
- 11 There isn't any new evidence on Counts 5 and 20.
- 12 But if you think that is overly prejudicial to the
- jury for us not to be there, I'm very respectful of
- 14 that. It may not be all that much longer, just
- 15 tomorrow. So --
- 16 THE COURT: My concern -- what is your thought,
- 17 Mr. Benitez?
- 18 MR. BENITEZ: I think that would probably be
- 19 prejudicial to our side based on the fact they are
- 20 suggesting that they not continue in the trial.
- 21 THE COURT: That is what I'm hearing.
- MR. BENITEZ: And I'm baffled by that because
- 23 remember we're going to have a second phase to this
- 24 trial which is non-jury, and Glenda Hachenberger is
- 25 a party to that process in particular . Those are



- 1 declaratory judgments that have been filed by the
- 2 plaintiff and by the defense. They need to be
- 3 heard. So I'm not sure why he is suggesting that
- 4 she is not a proper party to stay in the room.
- 5 THE COURT: Because what we're going to do --
- 6 what he is suggesting is what we're going to do at
- 7 this point is jury related. Her jury claims are
- 8 gone, so she would prefer not to continue to pay her
- 9 lawyers to be here. I understand that, but I don't
- 10 have any way to effectively deal with that.
- 11 MR. SHUKER: It is fine, Your Honor. We'll
- 12 wait to the end.
- 13 THE COURT: All right. We'll resume at 11:30.
- MR. CHASE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 15 (Brief recess.)
- 16 THE COURT: You may be seated. Are you set to
- 17 go?
- 18 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. I advised the Court that
- 19 Mr. Hachenberger was going to start getting into
- 20 like those specific pieces of personal property, and
- 21 I don't think that is going to happen now. Instead
- 22 he is going to talk about before the jury some of
- 23 the changes that were made, the disagreements in the
- 24 changes.
- 25 Also, I got ahold of Mr. Mike Kassa who is our



- 1 rebuttal deputy and asked him to be here after
- 2 lunch. So Don Hachenberger certainly wouldn't be
- 3 done by that time. Mr. Kassa said he would try to
- 4 be here by 1:30. So I would like to take him out of
- 5 order. Also he doesn't know about walking in so if
- 6 somebody walks in, I'm not going to be able --
- 7 THE COURT: My deputies are in tune with that.
- 8 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir. I have Don Hachenberger,
- 9 I have Bill Beier who will testify -- I will decide
- 10 whether or not we need him to testify. We have Nick
- 11 Carlin but Nick Carlin is not available until
- 12 tomorrow morning, so I'm just telling the Court what
- 13 I know.
- 14 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's return the jury,
- 15 please.
- 16 (Jury in.)
- 17 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated.
- 18 Good morning and welcome back, ladies and gentlemen.
- 19 We ran a little longer than I had anticipated. I
- 20 was overly optimistic and I apologize for that this
- 21 morning. Because of calendars or scheduling
- 22 concerns, we're going to go right up until noon. We
- 23 are going to recess for lunch at that point. We'll
- 24 come back at 1:30 and continue with testimony at
- 25 that time.



- 1 MR. CHASE: Sir, counter-defendants would call
- 2 Donald Hachenberger.
- 3 THE COURT: Mr. Hachenberger, if you would take
- 4 the stand.
- 5 MR. CHASE: May it please the Court.
- 6 DONALD HACHENBERGER, having been previously
- 7 duly sworn, testified under oath as follows:
- 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 9 BY MR. CHASE:
- 10 Q. Mr. Hachenberger, you realize you are still under
- 11 oath?
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 Q. There has been a lot of testimony about some of
- 14 the disagreements you have had with Mr. Myers leading up
- 15 to June 26, 2007.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And what I'd like to do is go through some of the
- 18 changes with you, if we may.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. I'm going to show you -- there are some photos in
- 21 Defendant's Exhibit 2 in evidence that include -- maybe I
- 22 can do it without taking these out.
- MR. CHASE: Your Honor, can the jury see that?
- 24 THE COURT: Are they on the screens at this
- 25 point? Yes. Thank you.



- 1 BY MR. CHASE:
- 2 Q. I'm showing you a document numbered 2223 dated
- 3 July 24th, 2007. This is one of the pictures we were
- 4 looking at earlier. Do you recognize that, sir?
- 5 A. Yes, I do.
- 6 Q. There was testimony about some changes to the
- 7 smokehouse. Do you recall that?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. Can you describe to the jury what you recall about
- 10 the changes to the smokehouse, and if -- were there any
- 11 changes to the entrance, which would be here?
- 12 A. Yes, there was.
- 13 Q. And can you describe the changes to the entrance?
- 14 A. When you originally went into the smokehouse,
- 15 there was two doorjambs. The door was originally put on
- 16 the furthest -- towards the steps of the doorjambs.
- 17 Q. Let me ask you this. Did that door -- you mean
- 18 the first wall you come to when you walk up?
- 19 A. When you walk up the steps across the porch, and
- 20 then the entrance to the smokehouse.
- 21 Q. And did that door open out?
- 22 A. It did open out. It still opens out, but it was
- 23 on the furthest doorjamb to the steps, which meant when
- 24 you opened it, people had to back up. And if there were
- 25 people behind you, they were balancing on the steps that



- 1 were behind them.
- Q. And were there any changes made to that door?
- A. We moved the door into the second doorjamb,
- 4 further into that little mud room.
- 5 Q. Yes, sir.
- 6 A. So when you open the door, it opened against a
- 7 wall. Nobody had to back up. You didn't have a safety
- 8 issue with guests trying to come into the restaurant.
- 9 Q. Does that door still open out?
- 10 A. It does.
- 11 O. And that is the door that the -- after the comfort
- 12 break that the jury first went into when entering for the
- 13 tour?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. And then when you came into that room, sir, what
- 16 was the first room before the changes? What would you be
- 17 walking into?
- 18 A. To the bar.
- 19 Q. So if you showed -- okay. And did you ultimately
- 20 change that?
- 21 A. We did.
- Q. And how did you change it?
- 23 A. The bar was in the front and the -- I'm going to
- 24 call it the POS, the point of sale area that now is in the
- 25 front was where the bar is now. So we just reversed



- 1 those. Because the way it was, if you came in through
- 2 that door, you went through the bar, through the
- 3 restaurant, out an open --
- 4 Q. Hold on a second. I'll ask you questions about
- 5 it.
- 6 MR. CHASE: Judge, we're going to use this as a
- demonstrative exhibit. Madam Clerk, what would be
- 8 my next letter? I guess I need to give it to you --
- 9 for identification purposes.
- 10 THE CLERK: L.
- MR. CHASE: Letter L?
- 12 THE CLERK: L. Yes.
- MR. CHASE: If it please the Court, Mr. Jones
- prepared the exhibit tag.
- 15 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 16 BY MR. CHASE:
- 17 Q. Mr. Hachenberger, do you see the document that is
- 18 on the screen right now?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 O. What is that?
- 21 A. That is a conceptual drawing of the smokehouse.
- Q. Was that the way it used to be?
- 23 A. That is the way it was designed, yes, originally.
- Q. And so this is where you come up the stairs --
- 25 A. Yes, sir.



- 1 Q. -- where you just testified? And those are the
- 2 door issues?
- 3 A. Yeah. There is only one door.
- 4 Q. I understand.
- 5 A. Now, yes.
- 6 Q. So this is then. This is not now?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Because this is what you changed; is that my
- 9 understanding?
- 10 A. In the construction process, this was what was
- 11 conceptualized. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. So I think that when you were talking --
- 13 when you were describing earlier you had come into -- this
- 14 was a bar?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. And then what would happen at that point?
- 17 A. Then you would walk from the bar -- up on this
- 18 drawing is north.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. And so as you went north, you would come through
- 21 the bar and into the dining room.
- Q. Is that right here?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- Q. And what is this right here?
- 25 A. That, in its original design, was a wall that had



- 1 several sets of doors in it to go outside to a patio; I'm
- 2 going to say a covered patio.
- 3 Q. And what is -- what is this right here?
- 4 A. Those are the -- the first one is the men's
- 5 restroom and the second one is the women's restroom.
- 6 Q. That one being the first one, sir?
- 7 A. The men's.
- 8 O. And that one?
- 9 A. The women's.
- 10 Q. And what was this break right here?
- 11 A. That was the area that the food was delivered from
- 12 the kitchen to the dining room.
- 13 Q. And when I was discussing with Mr. Myers these
- 14 changes, I incorrectly said that the door from the kitchen
- 15 was here. Do you recall that?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So I was incorrect. It is actually here?
- 18 A. That is where it was designed.
- 19 Q. And then so if you came in through the dining
- 20 room, how would you -- how would you end up going
- 21 somewhere to order food?
- 22 A. You would go through the bar, through the dining
- 23 room, out the doors.
- Q. These doors?
- 25 A. That's correct.



- 1 Q. Yes, sir. Is this inside or outside?
- 2 A. That is a covered patio.
- 3 Q. Is that air conditioned?
- 4 A. No; outside.
- 5 Q. Okay. Then what would you do?
- 6 A. Then you would turn right into here and go into
- 7 that POS area.
- 8 Q. "POS" means?
- 9 A. Point of sale area.
- 10 Q. Is that like a counter?
- 11 A. It is what -- when the tour was held, the first
- 12 room they came into is what we now call the point of sale
- 13 area.
- 14 Q. So this -- was this moved over here?
- 15 A. No. We actually left the bar there and we used it
- 16 for a counter.
- 17 Q. So you just changed the machines?
- 18 A. Pretty much.
- 19 Q. Did you put all the stuff in the bar into here?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. And then took the stuff in the point of sale area
- 22 over to here?
- 23 A. Generally, yes.
- Q. Okay. Once you -- in the previous design, after
- 25 you made your -- made your order, you ordered your



- 1 barbecue sandwich, what would you do then?
- 2 A. You would then go back outside.
- 3 Q. Through this door?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Yes, sir.
- A. And then you either came back inside the dining
- 7 room --
- 8 Q. Okay. If you wanted to eat in the air
- 9 conditioning, you would come back in and sit down at a
- 10 table?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. If you were sitting at this table and
- 13 somebody opened the door of the bathroom -- what is this
- 14 right here?
- 15 A. That is the urinal.
- 16 Q. Would you be able to see somebody at the urinal if
- 17 somebody opened the door?
- 18 A. Directly. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. And you made changes to stop that?
- 20 A. Yes, sir, we have.
- 21 Q. Okay. Did you change anything with regard to this
- 22 being outside?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What did you do?
- 25 A. We removed the wall, put a beam across the top. I



- 1 think the original dining room had -- seated about 30.
- 2 Might have been a few more. We removed that wall that the
- 3 doors were in. We created a new wall and made all of that
- 4 in the air conditioned area.
- 5 Q. Did you believe those to be necessary changes?
- 6 A. Absolutely.
- 7 Q. Did you consult with anybody about that?
- 8 A. Absolutely. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. Who did you consult with?
- 10 A. The -- the agency that was selected to work with
- 11 us was called QMG, Quantified Marketing Group. They were
- 12 primary in with a lot of the new direction with the
- 13 experience and everything that they had to just raise
- 14 issues that they saw.
- MR. BENITEZ: Objection, nonresponsive.
- 16 THE COURT: Sustained. Just direct him,
- 17 please.
- 18 BY MR. CHASE:
- 19 Q. How did you come to retain QMG?
- 20 A. We interviewed I think three to five agencies,
- 21 asked them to make a -- it is called an RFP, request for
- 22 proposal.
- Q. And then did Mr. Myers evaluate those proposals?
- 24 Let me ask you another question for the predicate.
- 25 Did you receive proposals from different



- 1 companies?
- 2 A. Yes, we did.
- 3 Q. Did you and Mr. Myers evaluate those proposals?
- 4 A. Yes. Yes.
- 5 Q. And ultimately, QMG was chosen?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. On decisions such as this, did you rely on QMG's
- 8 advice on the changes to make?
- 9 A. I relied on them and our team to arrive at
- 10 decisions. Yes.
- 11 Q. I may have asked it before. I apologize if I did.
- 12 Have you ever been a restauranteur?
- 13 A. No. I have eaten in a lot of restaurants, but
- 14 I've never run one before.
- 15 Q. Okay. Going back to this. So as it is now -- and
- 16 the jury all walked through and they saw the different
- 17 changes. Is it possible to leave out this back way?
- 18 A. It is today, and it was during this concept. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. Mr. Hachenberger, when the jury entered
- 20 into the smokehouse, did they come out right around here?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And then walked over this way?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. When they got to right in here, can you
- 25 tell me about any changes or any disagreements you had



- 1 with Mr. Myers about that area over there?
- 2 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, compound.
- 3 THE COURT: Sustained. Rephrase it.
- 4 BY MR. CHASE:
- 5 Q. Did you have any questions -- did you have any
- 6 disagreements with Mr. Myers about that area over there?
- 7 A. Yeah. That would be called the garage bar. Tons
- 8 of disagreements. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can you tell me -- describe to the jury one such
- 10 change -- or disagreement.
- 11 A. Okay. The garage bar is where the stage area is.
- 12 And on that stage, we have concerts. And for instance, on
- 13 New Year's Eve, we'll have up to a thousand people in
- 14 attendance there. And there were no bathrooms provided
- 15 for the men or the women. Zero bathrooms provided.
- 16 Q. Where was the closest bathroom?
- 17 A. Closest bathroom would have been what I'm going to
- 18 describe as the one-holers at the smokehouse, a single
- 19 person in each of those, men and women. The other
- 20 bathroom --
- Q. When you say a single holer, what do you mean by
- 22 that?
- 23 A. One person at a time. I'm from a farm and we had
- 24 outhouses and we called them --
- 25 Q. Answer just the question.



- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Were there any other bathrooms on the complex?
- 3 A. The only other bathrooms would have been the ones
- 4 that the jurors used when they made their comfort stop.
- 5 Q. Were those the ones that were -- where were those?
- 6 A. In the hallway close to the boardroom and the club
- 7 room.
- 8 Q. What reason, if any, did you prefer that the folks
- 9 who were out here listening to the band -- that you would
- 10 not want them to use those bathrooms?
- 11 A. Two problems. Number one, our plan included the
- 12 fact that there were different hours of operation. The
- 13 garage bar is the late night, goes until 2:00 in the
- 14 morning. And Monroe's closed earlier and the saloon
- 15 closed earlier. And if you had those as the only
- 16 bathrooms, you would have had to have kept people there to
- 17 watch out for the partiers that were at the garage bar
- 18 wandering around these other open areas.
- 19 Q. So there was a security issue?
- 20 A. Very much so.
- Q. Was there any other issue with I think you said
- 22 the partiers using those bathrooms?
- 23 A. Well, again, they are not as careful in their
- 24 usage of restrooms. There seems to be more damage from
- 25 people just wanting to hit a wall or something like that,



- 1 tearing doors off the hinges and things like that; and the
- 2 security of the theft of all the memorabilia that was
- 3 scattered throughout those buildings.
- 4 Q. So ultimately, did you consult with QMG about it?
- 5 A. Absolutely. That was part of it. Yes.
- 6 Q. And what, if anything, did QMG recommend?
- 7 A. That we segregate the venues into the garage bar
- 8 as a separate entity, and then make accommodations for it
- 9 to stand on its own, stand alone as it was being operated
- 10 during those hours.
- 11 Q. Did that include constructing additional
- 12 bathrooms?
- 13 A. Absolutely, yes. Necessary.
- 14 Q. Is that something that after June 26th, 2007, when
- 15 you assumed control of the project -- is that something
- 16 that you changed, that you did add bathrooms?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. Where are those bathrooms, the new ones?
- 19 A. On the exterior of the wall --
- 20 Q. Of which one?
- 21 A. Well --
- 22 Q. Try touching that thing, but watch out.
- 23 A. Do you think I can do it?
- Q. I think you can.
- 25 A. Hit that?



- 1 Q. Yes, sir. I think you have got to press hard on
- 2 that one.
- 3 A. This wall right here right now is where the
- 4 bathroom entrances are, and they take up a portion of the
- 5 rest of this where those two garage doors are. That is
- 6 one bathroom. And the entrances are on the outside wall
- 7 close to the tree. And then back under the -- let's clear
- 8 that. I'll clear it.
- 9 O. Go ahead. Start over.
- 10 A. The second set of bathrooms is in this area. And
- 11 you enter from the overhang of the garage bar.
- 12 Q. Okay. On Friday and Saturday nights, do you have
- 13 pretty big crowds out there?
- 14 A. We try our best to get as big a crowd as we can
- 15 get.
- 16 Q. Have you had any complaints about a lack of
- 17 bathrooms?
- 18 A. We haven't since we realigned those bathrooms, or
- 19 built the bathrooms, no.
- 20 Q. Okay. You were just testifying about bathrooms in
- 21 this area and this area here, which I believe there was --
- 22 that hadn't necessarily -- or did that necessarily change
- 23 the original design of this building?
- 24 A. Very definitely. Yes.
- 25 Q. And what was that -- what was that building --



## 1 what was the original purpose of that building?

- 2 A. I think there was testimony that it was for an
- 3 auction area.
- 4 Q. Was that your understanding, was that it was an
- 5 auction area?
- 6 A. I had never heard that term before.
- 7 Q. Okay. What about the interior -- can you still --
- 8 if you wanted to have an auction, is there still -- let me
- 9 strike that, what I just said.
- Is there still a concrete, I don't know, platform
- 11 here?
- 12 A. Yes. It is called the backstage.
- 13 Q. And are both of those doors still there?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 O. Just one?
- 16 A. No. Those two double-wide doors were removed, and
- 17 a smaller door to accommodate just the load-in for the
- 18 bands is in the area of the left door there.
- 19 Q. Right there?
- 20 A. Yeah, sort of in that area. Yes
- 21 Q. Is there any reason why you would not be able to
- 22 do an auction there right now?
- A. None whatsoever.
- Q. Can you think of any reason why you would need two
- 25 larger overhead doors?



- 1 A. I can't, no.
- THE COURT: Folks, it is noon. We're going to
- 3 go ahead and take our lunch recess. I know you were
- 4 just here for half an hour. We've all been working
- 5 all morning and this is the only way to get any
- 6 courtroom staff out to be able to eat lunch. We're
- 7 going to be in recess until 1:30.
- 8 During this time, all the same cautions still
- 9 apply. Please don't talk to each other or anyone
- 10 else face to face or electronically about anything
- 11 having to do with the case or your jury service.
- 12 Don't post anything on any social media or other
- 13 websites. Don't conduct any independent research.
- 14 And forgive us if we run into you out in the
- 15 community and don't speak with you. We just want to
- 16 avoid the appearance of any sort of improper
- 17 communications. So we'll be in recess until 1:30.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 (Jury out.)
- THE COURT: Counsel, we'll see you back at
- 21 1:30.
- 22 (Lunch recess.)
- THE COURT: Please proceed.
- MR. CHASE: Mike Kassa is here and ready to go.
- 25 And also we've asked Mr. Bill Beier to come in to be



- 1 here as close to 2:00 as possible. I'm hoping by
- 2 the time we get done with Mr. Kassa, Mr. Beier will
- 3 be here and we'll recall Mr. Hachenberger.
- 4 THE COURT: Bring Mr. Kassa in, please.
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, before you do, while we
- 6 were doing the argument on directed verdict, I think
- 7 you asked me one time with respect to the value --
- 8 or personal property in the warehouse. I had
- 9 forgotten, Judge, that we had Exhibit 4 for the
- defense which is \$50,696.75 of purchased items that
- 11 are in the warehouse. So that is a piece of
- 12 evidence with respect to the damages. So for the
- discussion as to no identifiable damages other than
- 14 3.6 million, I think that would satisfy our burden
- 15 because it establishes damages for a conversion
- 16 count and for damages of items being kept.
- 17 THE COURT: And for what else?
- 18 MR. BENITEZ: And items -- for items that are
- 19 being kept against our -- against our wishes.
- 20 THE COURT: Conversion?
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: Conversion.
- 22 THE COURT: Response?
- 23 MR. CHASE: Your Honor, you still have to parse
- 24 it out. It is the same thing with the trucks or
- 25 anything else. Then you have got another issue that



- 1 I did argue when that exhibit came in. It is
- 2 purchase value. The Court made the argument --
- 3 which is a good one -- that it was purchased at an
- 4 auction, which I understand that is generally market
- 5 value. But it still -- the purchase price is not
- 6 the price and it is not the time of the actual
- 7 conversion. So it's still -- you can't use that.
- 8 There is no way -- I guess I suppose that they
- 9 could, and if they want to -- we would even do this,
- 10 because they have to elect remedies; that if their
- 11 conversion count is that \$56,000, and then if they
- 12 want to say, All right, that was converted and there
- is our damages for conversion and then that is it,
- 14 so there is no replevin, no conversion, it is just
- 15 that \$56,000, then sure. They can have that. We'll
- 16 do everything to either return those items through
- 17 replevin, or give them what ultimately would be a
- 18 setoff.
- 19 THE COURT: They don't have to elect the
- 20 remedies right now. I think you-all figured that
- 21 out. They can wait and see if they get a verdict
- 22 for this amount in conversion. But this would be
- 23 the total of your conversion claim.
- 24 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I -- that is fine. That
- 25 is better than nothing. But Judge, he is making



- 1 arguments it is already in evidence, and any
- 2 arguments that he made are totally irrelevant.
- 3 THE COURT: I understand. This is evidence of
- 4 fair market value. It is reasonably close in time.
- 5 It is not certainly that date. That is your burden
- 6 ultimately. So you are going to have to somehow
- 7 convince -- start with me.
- 8 Why is this the evidence of the value of those
- 9 items on the date of the conversion?
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: Because that is -- that is a
- 11 piece of evidence that has been submitted into
- 12 evidence with respect to the value of the property
- 13 and what it costs, and I think that is reasonably
- 14 evidence --
- 15 THE COURT: Not what it costs. That is not the
- 16 standard. The standard is fair market value. And I
- 17 have now probably initiated the argument, and I
- 18 apologize to counsel. I hate when I do that.
- 19 Sometimes I jump in with a thought.
- I agree it could be a fair -- some reflection
- 21 of fair market value. But there has been no
- 22 relationship of this list now through the testimony,
- 23 which I thought there was going to be, to the date
- 24 of the conversion. So this is dated back in April
- 25 and May of 2007. The conversion occurred in June.



- 1 So what is the evidence? There is a fairly
- 2 recent case out there in the context of a deficiency
- 3 action in which the Court concluded that evidence,
- 4 even just a couple months away from --
- 5 MR. SHUKER: It was two months. I know the
- 6 case.
- 7 THE COURT: Two months, yeah, away from the
- 8 date of the foreclosure sale was not relevant -- was
- 9 not probative of the value of the property on the
- 10 date of the sale. That is this case. Isn't that
- 11 what these are?
- MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. Like I said,
- 13 we're back -- I just wanted to bring to the Court's
- 14 attention that we do have some evidence of damage,
- 15 whether it is credible or not credible, whether the
- 16 jury will accept it or not. We also have the 3.6
- 17 million that has been stipulated.
- 18 THE COURT: Okay. Same ruling. Do you have
- 19 the witness ready?
- 20 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.
- 21 THE COURT: Let's bring him in the courtroom to
- 22 be prepared to step forward. Have a seat there,
- 23 sir, please. We'll call you up in a moment. Let's
- 24 return the jury, please.
- 25 (Jury in.)



1	THE COURT: All right. Thank you. You may be
2	seated. Ladies and gentlemen, as I've again shared
3	with you in the past, sometimes we take a break in
4	the middle of the testimony of a witness to
5	facilitate the presentation of other testimony due
6	to a witness's scheduling or other concerns. We're
7	about to do that. Call your next witness.
8	MR. CHASE: Sir, we call Mike Kassa.
9	THE COURT: Mr. Kassa, if you would step
10	forward, please. Mr. Kassa, if you will step over
11	here behind the court reporter, please. Just pause
12	there and raise your right hand and face the clerk
13	to be sworn.
14	THE CLERK: Do you swear or affirm the
15	testimony you shall give shall be the truth, the
16	whole truth and nothing but the truth?
17	THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
18	THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Come right around
19	the rail there. Watch your step as you step up.
20	The seat will spin but not move backward or forward.
21	Just adjust that microphone where it is comfortable.
22	Thank you. You may proceed.
23	MICHAEL KASSA, having been first duly sworn,
24	testified under oath as follows:
25	DIRECT EXAMINATION



- 1 BY MR. CHASE:
- Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Kassa. Could you please spell
- 3 your last name for the record?
- 4 A. K-A-S-S-A.
- 5 Q. I'm going to take you back to June of 2007. How
- 6 were you employed in June of 2007?
- 7 A. I was working with the Seminole County Sheriff's
- 8 Office.
- 9 Q. Were you a deputy for the Seminole County
- 10 Sheriff's Office?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Were you familiar with the Highway 46 Holdings,
- 13 LLC, District project that was going on out in Sanford?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- THE COURT: Mr. Chase, is your microphone on?
- MR. CHASE: I don't think it was.
- 17 BY MR. CHASE:
- 18 Q. And if I could further direct your attention to
- 19 sometime around June 26th, 2007, or June 27th, 2007,
- 20 somewhere around there.
- 21 Did you have an occasion to experience an unusual
- 22 situation with Mr. Michael Myers?
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: Object to the form, leading.
- 24 THE COURT: Overruled.
- THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.



- 1 BY MR. CHASE:
- 2 Q. Can you describe to the jury what happened?
- A. I was at the location on official business. The
- 4 purpose was to keep the site security in order.
- 5 Q. When you say "the location," is that the -- the
- 6 property where they were doing the construction, where
- 7 Highway 46 Holdings was doing the construction?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 O. Go ahead.
- 10 A. I observed Mr. Myers essentially behaving in a
- 11 very aggressive manner toward other individuals.
- 12 Q. At this time, were you in your deputy's uniform?
- 13 A. Yes, I was.
- Q. And you had the belt on with the gun?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. You said that you -- what happened next after you
- 17 saw Mr. Myers behaving --
- 18 A. I observed for a short period of time, and then
- 19 decided that I needed to step in to prevent the situation
- 20 from escalating further.
- Q. And what happened after that?
- 22 A. I gave Mr. Myers several commands, if you will, to
- 23 calm down, quit being aggressive toward other individuals.
- 24 He was behaving in a threatening manner and he was not
- 25 complying.



- 1 Q. When you say noncompliant, can you expand on that
- 2 a little bit?
- A. He refused to listen to any of the recommendations
- 4 that I gave him, and his physical demeanor continued.
- 5 Q. When you say "his physical demeanor," can you
- 6 describe that a little bit?
- 7 A. He appeared to be very agitated. His physical
- 8 actions were threatening toward other individuals.
- 9 Verbally he was threatening toward other individuals, and
- 10 I attempted to put a stop to it.
- 11 Q. Do you remember how many other folks were there?
- 12 A. There was a fair amount of individuals there.
- 13 Q. Was this inside or outside?
- 14 A. Outside.
- 15 Q. Okay. What happened next?
- 16 A. To prevent the situation from escalating further,
- 17 I told him initially that if he didn't calm down, that he
- 18 would be placed under arrest. He did not calm down.
- 19 Q. And what happened next?
- 20 A. I -- to prevent it from escalating, I placed him
- 21 in handcuffs.
- 22 Q. After you placed him in handcuffs, did he calm
- 23 down?
- A. He eventually did.
- 25 Q. From the time that you first saw Mr. Myers acting



- 1 in an aggressive behavior until the time you ultimately
- 2 put him in handcuffs, how much time would you say
- 3 transpired?
- 4 A. I'm guessing maybe 10 or 15 minutes.
- 5 Q. Was that 10 or 15 minutes of time that you were
- 6 discussing with him -- let me ask it a different way.
- Were you discussing with him trying to get him to
- 8 calm down that entire 10 or 15 minutes?
- 9 A. I would say pretty much the majority of that, yes.
- 10 Q. Placing someone in handcuffs, is that something
- 11 that deputies typically do?
- 12 A. It can often be the case to assure scene security.
- 13 Q. Is that how you were trained to do that?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Did you place Mr. Myers under arrest?
- 16 A. Not at that time.
- 17 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't place him under
- 18 arrest?
- 19 A. Given the situation and out of respect for
- 20 Mr. Myers and the business relationship that was occurring
- 21 between him and Mr. Hachenberger, I wanted to give him
- 22 every benefit of the doubt before placing him under
- 23 arrest. Had it been a different situation, I would have.
- Q. And then ultimately, Mr. Myers -- did he calm
- 25 down?



- 1 A. Ultimately, I released him. Yes.
- Q. And you took the handcuffs off him?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. What happened next?
- 5 A. They continued about whatever business that they
- 6 were handling at the time, and I just maintained a
- 7 presence.
- 8 MR. CHASE: Tender the witness, Judge.
- 9 THE COURT: Cross-examination?
- MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: Microphones, Counsel.
- 12 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. I'd like with
- permission of the Court to mark Defense Exhibit NN
- 14 for identification.
- 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 17 Q. Are you a deputy now?
- 18 MR. CHASE: Objection, relevance.
- 19 THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead and answer.
- THE WITNESS: No, I'm not.
- 21 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 22 Q. The incident that you just recalled to the jury,
- you said that that occurred on June 26, 2007?
- A. I can't be certain of the exact date.
- Q. Okay. Isn't it -- you only placed Mr. Myers in



## 1 handcuffs in your lifetime once, correct? 2 Α. Correct. 3 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, at this time, I would like to have marked as Defense Exhibit NN for 4 5 identification if I may. THE COURT: Madam Clerk, if you could mark 6 that, please. 7 (Defense Exhibit NN marked for identification.) 8 9 MR. CHASE: Judge, may we approach? 10 THE COURT: You may. 11 (At Bench:) 12 MR. CHASE: That is the incident where they 13 both got arrested. It is a different date. Не 14 didn't say June 27th. He said June 26th or June 15 He is going to try now (inaudible) hearsay 16 document. He is trying to open up this --17 I would suggest that --THE COURT: MR. CHASE: -- 2008 which is a different 18 19 incident where both of them went to jail but they 20 weren't charged. 2.1 And that's -- I apologize. Are you THE COURT: 22 finished? 23 MR. CHASE: Yes. 2.4 If you want to ask him, Isn't it THE COURT: 25 true that you also handcuffed him on January 8th,



- 1 2008, that is okay. You can ask him that. But if
- 2 you are going to get into what Don Hachenberger did
- 3 and all that, that's not --
- 4 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, first of all, that is
- 5 incorrect, what Mr. Chase just said. I just asked
- 6 the witness, How many times have you placed him in
- 7 handcuffs? He said once. The incident where they
- 8 both get arrested has nothing to do with this.
- 9 If the Court will simply read Exhibit NN, it
- 10 will simply show where he is handcuffed and
- 11 unhandcuffed, and this is the incident that he is
- 12 referring to. Mr. Chase is the one that put out the
- date of June 26th which threw my client into a
- 14 frenzy, because he didn't know what he was talking
- 15 about. And clearing it up with the deputy that in
- 16 fact this is the only time he got him handcuffed or
- 17 non-handcuffed -- the other incident that Mr. Chase
- is referring to, they were both handcuffed. They
- 19 were put in the back of the squad car and they were
- 20 booked. There were two different incidents. I'm
- 21 not talking about that one. I'm talking about the
- 22 one that he just testified to and is recited in
- 23 this.
- 24 THE COURT: January 16, '08 or '07? I don't
- 25 know which one of those dates it is.



1 MR. BENITEZ: It's '08.
2 MR. CHASE: Mr. Myers testified that it was

right after the termination -- it was right

4 around --

3

- 5 MR. BENITEZ: No, he did not.
- 6 THE COURT: Hang on.
- 7 MR. BENITEZ: Okay. If he did, he was
- 8 mistaken, Judge.
- 9 THE COURT: Let's go back a little for
- 10 fundamentals. You want to impeach him with this?
- MR. BENITEZ: No, Your Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: What are you going to do with it?
- MR. BENITEZ: Probably I was going to refresh
- 14 his recollection.
- 15 THE COURT: He testified that he doesn't
- 16 remember anything.
- MR. BENITEZ: Because I've been stopped before
- 18 that. I haven't gotten to that point. I wanted to
- 19 have it with me. I'm going to ask him about the
- 20 dates.
- 21 THE COURT: You want to open the door to this
- 22 incident, as well?
- MR. BENITEZ: Judge, this is the incident he --
- 24 if the Judge would just read this report, this is
- 25 what he has just testified to, except he is



- 1 incorrect.
- 2 THE COURT: As to the date? That is what this
- 3 is all about?
- 4 MR. BENITEZ: No. He is incorrect as to a lot
- 5 of things in this report.
- 6 THE COURT: So you want to use it to do what?
- 7 MR. BENITEZ: I want to use it to impeach him
- 8 and to also refresh his recollection.
- 9 THE COURT: Is this under oath?
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: If I may, Judge, it is not. The
- 11 copy I have is not under oath.
- 12 THE COURT: Okay. So what are you going to
- impeach him with?
- MR. BENITEZ: I'm going to refresh his
- 15 recollection.
- 16 THE COURT: He hasn't testified that he doesn't
- 17 remember anything.
- MR. BENITEZ: I was just having it marked and I
- 19 was going to ask him some more questions.
- 20 THE COURT: You are not going to parade this
- 21 around in front of the jury, because it can't be
- 22 used for impeachment. So you can set this over at
- 23 your counsel table. You can proceed with your
- 24 examination. If he wants to say that he is unsure
- 25 about the date beyond what you have talked about



- 1 thus far, I suppose you could offer this to him to
- 2 see if there were a report of an incident, and would
- 3 that refresh his recollection as to the date that it
- 4 occurred. Beyond that, I just don't know why it is
- 5 a big deal.
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: It is a big deal because his
- 7 testimony is inconsistent with this report.
- 8 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, you cannot impeach him
- 9 with this report. It is not a sworn statement of
- 10 the nonparty.
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: I understand. I want to use it
- 12 to -- I'm going to use it to refresh his
- 13 recollection when he needs refreshing of his
- 14 recollection. I'm going to ask him if that would
- 15 help him, to review his report that he did on that
- 16 date.
- 17 THE COURT: So you can refresh his
- 18 recollection?
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Right.
- THE COURT: And that is important why?
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: Because once his recollection is
- 22 refreshed, I would assume he is going to tell the
- 23 truth on the stand and realize that he made certain
- 24 mistakes.
- THE COURT: You better be very careful.



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1
                           Yes, Your Honor.
             MR. BENITEZ:
 2
             (Open court:)
             MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, can I have a sidebar
 4
        real quick?
 5
             THE COURT: Yes.
 6
             (At Bench:)
             MR. BENITEZ: You told me not to parade that in
 7
 8
        front of the jury. Can I at least take it to the
 9
        podium so I can be looking at it? And I'll put it
10
        in my legal pad so it is not noticeable.
11
             THE COURT: Yes. Yes. Do not parade it in
12
        front of the jury.
13
             (Open court:)
14
     BY MR. BENITEZ:
15
             Mr. Kassa, as a result of your encounter with Mike
        0.
16
     Myers on that date, whatever that date may be, did you
17
     write a report?
18
             MR. CHASE:
                         Objection, relevance.
19
             THE COURT: Overruled.
20
             THE WITNESS: I don't recall.
2.1
             MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, if I may -- no.
22
     BY MR. BENITEZ:
23
             And if you did write a report, would that refresh
        0.
24
     your memory with respect to what happened that day?
25
             MR. CHASE: Objection, improper impeachment.
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- 1 THE COURT: Sustained.
- 2 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 3 Q. Do you remember -- the incident that you referred
- 4 to, did it occur on January 16, 2008?
- 5 A. I'm sorry. I -- I can't recall specifically
- 6 without some reference. It has been 10 years.
- 7 Q. Okay. Would that reference be to your police
- 8 report?
- 9 A. I'm sorry?
- 10 Q. Would that reference be to a report that you might
- 11 have done that day?
- 12 A. It could be.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- MR. BENITEZ: May I approach the witness, Your
- 15 Honor?
- 16 THE COURT: Members of the Jury, I'm going to
- ask you to step out of the room for just a moment.
- We need to have a conversation to address an issue.
- 19 All the same cautions still apply.
- 20 (Jury out.)
- 21 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, I cautioned you to be
- careful about the use of that paper.
- MR. BENITEZ: I --
- 24 THE COURT: You have violated my instructions.
- 25 You sat right here and asked him a question that was



- 1 absolutely unrelated to his testimony, but
- 2 consistent with what you want to use this report
- 3 for. You asked him would it refresh his
- 4 recollection about what happened that day if he were
- 5 able to refer to the report that is in your hands.
- 6 He has not testified to any deficiencies in his
- 7 memory about what occurred that day.
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I was referring to the
- 9 date --
- 10 THE COURT: You didn't refer to the date.
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: I'm referring to the date.
- 12 THE COURT: Madam Court Reporter, could you
- read back those questions and answers, please?
- 14 (Requested material was read.)
- 15 MR. BENITEZ: That was before the -- Ms. Court
- 16 Reporter, what were the first two questions that
- 17 were after the sidebar?
- 18 (Requested material was read.)
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: I don't know. Judge, I -- I
- 20 apologize. I don't -- I don't even know -- I
- 21 trained the -- the questions with respect to the
- 22 date.
- 23 THE COURT: No, you did not. That is exactly
- 24 the problem and exactly what I'm exasperated about.
- 25 Because coming out of the sidebar where I told you



- 1 to be careful about how to use that thing, you come
- 2 up here when he has not said the first thing about
- 3 not being able to remember what occurred that date,
- 4 and put your theory on the question.
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I -- I have taken great
- 6 care to have sidebars with the Court to understand
- 7 exactly what I cannot or can do. It is -- and I've
- 8 done the best I could. I don't understand -- I
- 9 thought that the last questions were directly with
- 10 the date, and that is all I was referencing. I -- I
- 11 am -- it is -- it has been very frustrating to try
- 12 to make sure that I walk the fine line, and I have
- 13 been overly cautious.
- 14 THE COURT: How was that overly cautious?
- 15 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, can I read it back one
- 16 more time?
- 17 COURT REPORTER: I can read it back.
- 18 THE COURT: Let me refresh your recollection.
- 19 You came to the Bench at Mr. Chase's insistence that
- 20 we address the use of this report that you have. I
- 21 asked you whether you intended to use it for
- 22 impeachment. You said, No, I'm going to use it to
- 23 refresh his recollection . I responded that he had
- 24 not testified to any improper or incomplete
- 25 recollection about the events of that day. You went



- 1 on then to say, Well, this is -- in essence, I'm
- 2 going to use it to impeach him. That was your
- 3 words.
- 4 The Court expressed frustration because you had
- 5 just told me that you weren't, but now you wanted to
- 6 use it to show that he had told a different story in
- 7 the report. That is impeachment. The Court
- 8 expressed that that was not permissible because it
- 9 was not a sworn statement. Do you disagree with
- 10 that proposition?
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, the only --
- 12 THE COURT: Respond to the question. Do you
- disagree with that proposition, that you have a
- 14 statement that is not sworn? You told me it wasn't
- 15 sworn.
- MR. BENITEZ: No. It is not sworn.
- 17 THE COURT: Do you agree you cannot use it for
- 18 impeachment purposes?
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Your Honor, I believe that I can,
- 20 but not in the form that you are suggesting.
- 21 THE COURT: Under what rule?
- MR. BENITEZ: No, I cannot admit it into
- 23 evidence.
- 24 THE COURT: Under what rule?
- MR. BENITEZ: I would do it by refreshing his



- 1 recollection, thereby correcting the witness from
- 2 his prior statement to his new statement. Because I
- 3 would assume that if I had refreshed the officer's
- 4 recollection, that he would then adopt his new
- 5 statement. That would be an impeachment to his
- 6 previous statement, the statement with respect to
- 7 the date and what exactly occurred at that time.
- 8 So that is what I meant by "impeachment." I
- 9 did not mean by "impeachment" that I was going to
- 10 offer it into evidence. I'm not going to offer it
- 11 into evidence. I'm going to use it with this
- 12 witness in the form of a recollection for the
- 13 purposes of impeachment. That is what I meant.
- I don't -- I don't see any way that I could
- 15 have gotten it admitted at that point in time, so it
- 16 wasn't an admission or admitting an exhibit into
- 17 evidence to impeach. It was a form of impeachment
- 18 of this witness.
- 19 This witness just testified to certain facts
- 20 that are inconsistent with that report. I would
- 21 assume that if the witness is given an opportunity
- 22 to review it, he would correct those statements.
- 23 That is what I meant by "impeachment."
- 24 THE COURT: He has to testify first, because
- 25 you want to refresh his recollection, that he does



1 have a lack of memory of the events that occurred 2 that day. Has he testified so? 3 MR. BENITEZ: To an extent he has testified that he doesn't have recollection. He doesn't 4 5 recall having written a report and he doesn't recall 6 the exact date. So in that sense he has got a lack 7 of recollection. But I was in the process of just starting this 8 9 and just asking him by the date. That is all I was 10 doing. I was --11 THE COURT: You didn't do that. That is what 12 started this problem. You injected your theory that 13 somehow he wasn't remembering the facts correctly on the record in your question to the witness, not just 14 about the date. So we are back full circle to where 15 16 this conversation started, shifting sands. 17 Judge, but I -- my sands aren't MR. BENITEZ: 18 This has been my position all along. shifting. 19 don't want to admit it into evidence. I intend to 20 use it in the form of refreshing his recollection so 2.1 the testimony can be accurate. 22 THE COURT: Lay the predicate now. 23 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor. 2.4 BY MR. BENITEZ: 25 Mr. Kassa, do you recall the incident that you Q.



- just described to the jury?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. Did you -- do you recall whether you did a
- 4 report or not?
- 5 A. I do not.
- 6 Q. Excuse me?
- 7 A. I do not.
- 8 Q. Would it refresh your recollection if I showed
- 9 you -- and I would -- not this one.
- 10 THE COURT: Lay the predicate.
- 11 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 12 Q. And if I showed you the report, would that refresh
- 13 your recollection?
- 14 A. It may.
- 15 Q. And with respect to the incident, have you taken
- 16 any notes of the incident other than your police report,
- 17 if you did one? Have you taken any individual notes? Did
- 18 you take any notes as a result of your encounter with Mike
- 19 Myers?
- 20 A. I don't believe so.
- 21 Q. Okay. So any notes that you would have taken
- 22 would have been taken and used to compose your incident
- 23 report, correct?
- A. That would typically be the case, yes.
- 25 Q. So have you refreshed -- have you reviewed any



- 1 notes that you might have made prior to today's date
- 2 regarding this incident, prior to testifying today?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Have you reviewed your incident report from the
- 5 sheriff's office prior to today?
- 6 A. I don't know if you are asking me if there is an
- 7 incident report or if I reviewed it, because I don't know
- 8 that there is.
- 9 Q. Okay. So then you haven't reviewed one recently?
- 10 A. I have not reviewed anything. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. So if I showed you Defense Exhibit NN --
- 12 let me show you Exhibit NN.
- THE COURT: For what purpose, Counsel?
- 14 MR. BENITEZ: And then I will show it to him.
- 15 THE COURT: For what purpose, Counsel?
- 16 MR. BENITEZ: To refresh his recollection.
- 17 THE COURT: As to what?
- MR. BENITEZ: As to the fact that, one, he did
- a report regarding this incident at this point,
- 20 because that is all we've been able to establish.
- 21 THE COURT: That is it. That's right.
- MR. BENITEZ: So we do a report. Then I would
- 23 walk back up here.
- 24 THE COURT: Walk up and show him the report.
- MR. BENITEZ: Okay.



- 1 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 2 Q. Do you recognize that as your incident report
- 3 for --
- 4 THE COURT: No, sir. He is refreshing his
- 5 recollection.
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: I apologize, Your Honor.
- 7 THE COURT: Do you recognize that, sir? Do you
- 8 need your glasses?
- 9 THE WITNESS: I do, and I don't have them.
- 10 MR. CHASE: Sir, may I approach?
- 11 THE COURT: You may.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 13 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 14 Q. Have you reviewed Defense Exhibit NN for
- 15 identification?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And does that refresh your recollection of the
- 18 incident?
- 19 THE COURT: Sir, no. That is exactly what you
- 20 want, but no. He has not testified to a lack of
- 21 memory about the incident. Second time,
- Mr. Benitez.
- 23 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- Q. Does that refresh your memory as to the date of
- 25 the incident?



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: No, sir. What did you hand him
- the report for? You asked him the question, Would
- 3 it refresh your recollection as to whether you
- 4 prepared a report or not? That is the question.
- 5 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 6 Q. Does that refresh your -- does Exhibit NN refresh
- 7 your memory with respect to whether or not you did a
- 8 report on that day?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 THE COURT: What is your refreshed
- 11 recollection?
- 12 THE WITNESS: That I did, in fact, write a
- 13 report.
- 14 THE COURT: Okay. Next question.
- 15 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 16 Q. And has your memory been refreshed with respect to
- 17 the incident?
- 18 THE COURT: No, sir.
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Well, I --
- 20 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- Q. Do you know the date of the incident?
- 22 A. I would believe it to be the date of the report.
- Q. Okay. And let me show you --
- 24 THE COURT: What is that date, sir? If you
- 25 know, what is that date? You are going to need



- 1 those glasses.
  2 THE WITNESS: The report is dated January 16,
  3 2007.
  - 4 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 5 Q. Okay. And --
- THE COURT: He is going to need the glasses.
- What is the date of the report, sir?
- 8 THE WITNESS: January 16th, 2007.
- 9 THE COURT: Use the glasses, please.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 11 THE COURT: I don't know about this date, sir.
- 12 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I'm looking at the
- narrative. The report is dated January 16th, 2008.
- 14 THE COURT: Next question.
- 15 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 16 Q. Did that --
- MR. BENITEZ: Well, I assume that has refreshed
- his recollection with respect to the date.
- 19 THE COURT: It has.
- 20 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- Q. Does -- has your memory when -- been refreshed --
- 22 or you indicated that you were on site and you saw Mike
- 23 Myers do certain things that alerted you to him; is that
- 24 correct?
- 25 A. I stated that --



1 Judge, am I allowed to object? MR. CHASE: 2 THE COURT: Yes. 3 MR. CHASE: I will object, improper 4 impeachment. 5 THE COURT: The objection is sustained. He has 6 not testified to a lack of memory. 7 BY MR. BENITEZ: 8 Sir, isn't it a fact that on January 16, 2008, at 9 about 12:13 hours you received a call for services of a 10 disturbance? 11 Α. Based on the report, that's correct. 12 0. I mean --13 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, I just don't 14 appreciate what you are trying to get to with the 15 nature of the questions that you are asking. 16 are impermissible. You are using a report that is 17 hearsay and putting it in front of the jury. And I 18 don't know any clearer way to explain it. 19 We have now come full circle again to where I 20 was at the Bench, which is your use of this -- the 2.1 only things that he has testified that he cannot 22 remember are whether he did a report, and the date 23 that the incident occurred. You have now refreshed 2.4 his recollection of that. 25 Is that significant -- is the date significant

- 1 to the facts as in the grand scheme of things that
- 2 the jury is to hear? Does that matter? If you
- 3 think it does, I want you to refresh his
- 4 recollection in front of the jury about that fact.
- 5 But until he testifies that he does not have an
- 6 accurate memory of what occurred, you cannot use it
- 7 to refresh his recollection or to impeach him.
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, what I'm trying to do
- 9 is -- he has given a version of what he recollects
- 10 that is inconsistent with the report. I'm going to
- 11 go line by line in the report and ask him, Did that
- 12 happen?
- 13 THE COURT: So you are going to publish the
- 14 report?
- 15 MR. BENITEZ: No.
- 16 THE COURT: Yes, you are, because you are going
- 17 line by line reading it in front of the jury. That
- 18 is publishing.
- MR. BENITEZ: But Judge, they are not going to
- 20 know necessarily that I'm going through the report
- 21 until I get out from behind the podium and walk over
- there to let him see it.
- 23 THE COURT: After you have refreshed his
- 24 recollection as to the date, they will know that you
- 25 are in possession of a report.



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, he has testified almost
- 2 totally different than his report.
- 3 THE COURT: So you want to impeach him. We're
- 4 back full circle again.
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: Right, impeach him by having him
- 6 recollect what he wrote.
- 7 THE COURT: No, sir.
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: No?
- 9 THE COURT: No, sir.
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: Okay.
- 11 THE COURT: Have you got a case on that? I'm
- 12 open to case law. I've been open to case law this
- 13 entire trial, Mr. Benitez.
- MR. BENITEZ: I didn't know this was going to
- 15 come up.
- 16 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, I'm sorry.
- 17 Respectfully, the Court is growing weary of, I
- 18 didn't know this was going to happen, or, I wasn't
- 19 prepared for this.
- This case is eight years in the making. This
- 21 witness has been disclosed for at least a day, I
- 22 think two, in response to the issues that you
- 23 elicited in testimony from your client and from an
- 24 independent witness, Mr. Nicks. And here we are.
- MR. BENITEZ: I never thought it was going to



- 1 be a problem to refresh this man's recollection.
- 2 But I never even thought of it before today, Judge,
- 3 before this happened. Because I never thought he
- 4 would get on the stand and say something totally
- 5 different than what was in his report.
- I assume he would have tracked at least his
- 7 report so the report would not have been
- 8 significant. But in this case, I'm faced with a
- 9 witness that his story doesn't match his own report
- 10 from 2008. And I'm trying to get him to refresh his
- 11 recollection so he can accurately recite his
- 12 testimony to the jury. And that is all I'm trying
- 13 to do.
- It is a form of impeachment, because he has
- 15 already made a statement as to what happened that is
- 16 inconsistent with his incident report. But it is
- 17 just a matter of just refreshing his recollection.
- 18 I'm sure the witness will go ahead and adopt his
- 19 prior testimony. That will then be before the jury.
- 20 If not, just because the incident report is not
- 21 under oath, I don't intend to elicit it or move it
- 22 into evidence.
- 23 THE COURT: You are going to publish the entire
- 24 thing in front of the jury by reading from it.
- MR. BENITEZ: I read -- I read the date and I



- 1 read -- I might have read the first sentence
- 2 asking -- if I was asking a question. Without the
- 3 jury really looking at me necessarily as opposed to
- 4 the witness, and with a podium that doesn't show
- 5 that, with the permission of the Court to have it up
- 6 here --
- 7 THE COURT: There is a reason that the rule
- 8 requires that the witness testify that he does not
- 9 have a present recollection. You are not complying
- 10 with 90.613. So what rule of the evidence code do
- 11 you intend to offer this line of questioning under?
- 12 MR. BENITEZ: It would be that rule -- that
- 13 rule of evidence, Judge, just to refresh the
- 14 witness's testimony. I don't see any other way.
- 15 THE COURT: When a witness testifies that he or
- she has no present recollection or memory of a fact,
- 17 counsel may show the witness a writing or other
- 18 object to attempt to refresh the witness's
- 19 recollection, because the witness has demonstrated a
- 20 need to have his or her memory refreshed. That is
- 21 the prerequisite.
- There is no demonstrated need. You cannot use
- 23 it in that form or fashion. And if you ask another
- 24 question related to the substance of that report
- 25 without proper foundation or predicate for it, I'm



- 1 going to stop this trial and we're going to talk
- 2 about an appropriate sanction.
- I have cautioned you previously. You have
- 4 disobeyed my order. It is clear to me, candidly,
- 5 that I don't think you intend to comply with the
- 6 Court's order by virtue of the proffer that we've
- 7 now made here where you intend to continue to
- 8 attempt to elicit this testimony, in contravention
- 9 to the rules of evidence and in contravention to the
- 10 Court's order. We're just not going to do it.
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: I just want clarification so I
- 12 know what not to do. You do not want me to use
- 13 Defense Exhibit NN during my questioning of this
- 14 witness, correct?
- 15 THE COURT: No, sir. I have not said that. I
- 16 don't know where you get that from, Mr. Benitez.
- 17 MR. BENITEZ: Then --
- 18 THE COURT: If you need to refresh his
- 19 recollection as to the date, if that is significant
- 20 to you, you may use the report to refresh his
- 21 recollection as to the date, and now apparently to
- 22 the fact that he prepared a report.
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: In order to avoid what the Court
- 24 perceives to be possibly improper, can I just -- now
- 25 that he has been refreshed outside the presence of



- 1 the jury, can I just ask him whether -- can I do it 2 without showing the exhibit, since the Court wants 3 me to --4 THE COURT: I don't care. That is a proper 5 purpose for the use of the exhibit, Mr. Benitez. Ι am not here to prevent you from doing things that 6 7 are proper. You can choose strategically how you 8 choose to do that. I'm not here to try your case 9 for you. But you are not going to parade it around 10 and ask questions about impeachment relative to 11 statements made earlier to statements made today 12 until there is an appropriate foundation laid for 13 impeachment. 14 MR. BENITEZ: And can I use the exhibit myself 15 to read from it to myself, and then to formulate a question and ask him a question from me? 16 17 THE COURT: About what? 18 MR. BENITEZ: About anything, like for 19 instance --20 About the substance of what THE COURT: 2.1 occurred that day? 22 MR. BENITEZ: Yes. 23 THE COURT: For what purpose?

MR. BENITEZ:

to the truth of the matter.

2.4

25

ORANGE LEGAL

To cross-examine the witness as

- 1 THE COURT: So you want to impeach him with his
- 2 prior statement.
- 3 MR. BENITEZ: No, no. I'm saying are you
- 4 allowing me to make -- to ask the witness a
- 5 statement like, Isn't it a fact that you were
- 6 already on site -- or isn't it a fact that you were
- 7 not on site when Mike -- when you were called to the
- 8 incident involving Mike Myers?
- 9 THE COURT: And then how do you intend to do
- 10 anything with that statement?
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: I'm hoping that he will say that
- 12 that's correct and correct himself.
- 13 THE COURT: No. You are not going to use the
- 14 substance of the document in an attempt to impeach
- 15 him without laying a proper foundation for doing so.
- MR. BENITEZ: Okay. With respect to that in
- 17 particular, can I ask the witness --
- 18 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez, I don't understand
- 19 this process that we're engaged in. I don't coach
- 20 other lawyers through how to try a case. Why am I
- 21 coaching you?
- MR. BENITEZ: It is not a matter of coaching,
- 23 Judge. I just want to make sure I follow your
- 24 instructions to a T. I don't want to deviate the
- 25 slightest.



- 1 THE COURT: I have told you clearly what you
- 2 may use the report for, and anything else that you
- 3 can lay an appropriate foundation for. Okay. You
- 4 are the lawyer. Do it. Let's go. Bring the jury
- 5 back in.
- 6 (Jury in.)
- 7 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated. You
- 8 may proceed, Counsel.
- 9 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 10 Q. Did -- the incident that you referred to, did that
- 11 take place -- do you remember the year that that took
- 12 place in?
- 13 A. I believe it was 2007.
- 14 Q. Okay. Do you remember if you wrote an incident
- 15 report back in --
- MR. CHASE: Objection, relevance.
- 17 THE COURT: Sustained. Lay the foundation,
- 18 Counsel.
- MR. BENITEZ: Yes, Your Honor.
- 20 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 21 Q. If you wrote -- if you had written an incident
- 22 report back in -- at the time of the incident with
- 23 Mr. Mike Myers, would that report contain the date in
- 24 which the incident occurred?
- 25 A. It should.



- 1 Q. Okay. And if you viewed that report, would that
- 2 refresh your memory with respect to the date?
- 3 A. It would.
- 4 Q. And you don't have any independent recollection of
- 5 that date as you sit here today, correct?
- 6 A. I'm sorry?
- 7 Q. You don't have any independent recollection of
- 8 that date as you sit here today, correct?
- 9 A. Independent recollection? No. It has been 10
- 10 years.
- MR. BENITEZ: May I approach the witness, Your
- 12 Honor?
- 13 THE COURT: You may.
- 14 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 15 Q. And sir, I want to show you what has been marked
- 16 for identification as Exhibit NN. Can you please review
- 17 it? And there is no question pending. Don't say
- 18 anything. May I have the exhibit?
- 19 A. I have a --
- THE COURT: Don't say anything, sir. Are you
- complete with the exhibit? Are you finished with
- the exhibit, sir?
- 23 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 24 THE COURT: Just hand it to Counsel, please.
- 25 BY MR. BENITEZ:



```
1
             Having reviewed Defense Exhibit NN, has your
        0.
 2
     memory been refreshed?
 3
        Α.
             No.
 4
             MR. CHASE: As to what?
 5
             MR. BENITEZ:
                           As to the date.
 6
             THE WITNESS:
                           No, it has not.
 7
     BY MR. BENITEZ:
             Do you have -- you have already testified in front
 8
        Q.
 9
     of the jury with respect to you being on site at the time
10
     that you noticed Mike Myers, correct?
11
             MR. CHASE:
                        Objection. Your Honor, may we
12
        approach?
13
             THE COURT:
                         Approach, please.
14
             (At Bench:)
15
             MR. CHASE:
                         And there he goes.
16
                         What was the question, please?
             THE COURT:
17
             MR. CHASE:
                         You just testified about being on
18
        site in the manner -- he said one of the things he
19
        wanted to impeach him with was that he was called
20
        there, and that was the predicate question for the
2.1
        next question.
22
                           No.
             MR. BENITEZ:
23
             THE COURT: I don't know that until he asks the
2.4
        next question. That is fine.
25
             MR. BENITEZ:
                           Am I okay?
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THE COURT: So far, although he did not testify
 1
 2
        to a lack of memory.
             MR. BENITEZ: I can't -- Judge, I can't use
        that, so I can't --
 4
 5
             THE COURT: Not for impeachment. I'm not
 6
        saying you can't use it for impeachment.
                                                   I'm
        saying, Counsel, if you believe you are going to use
 7
        it for impeachment, you are going to have to lay the
 8
 9
        appropriate predicate and tell me what the rule of
10
        evidence is that you are proceeding under.
11
             (Open court:)
12
             MR. BENITEZ: May I, with the permission of the
13
        Court, have the court reporter read back the
        question, please?
14
15
             COURT REPORTER:
                               Sure.
16
             (Requested material was read.)
             THE WITNESS: Yes.
17
18
     BY MR. BENITEZ:
19
             And do you have an independent recollection of
        Q.
20
     that fact?
2.1
        Α.
             I'm sorry?
22
             Do you have an independent recollection of that
        Q.
23
     fact at this time?
2.4
        Α.
             Referring to?
25
        Q.
             Your statement that Mike -- that you were on site
```



- 1 at the time that you noticed Mike Myers and became
- 2 involved with Mike Myers.
- 3 A. I recall that. Yes.
- 4 MR. BENITEZ: If I may have a second, Your
- 5 Honor.
- 6 THE COURT: You may.
- 7 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 8 Q. Isn't it a fact, sir, that you were not on site at
- 9 the time?
- 10 MR. CHASE: Objection, improper impeachment.
- 11 Sir, it's --
- 12 THE COURT: Finish the question, please.
- 13 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 14 Q. Isn't it a fact that on January 16, 2008, is when
- 15 you came in contact with Mr. Mike Myers?
- MR. CHASE: Objection, improper impeachment.
- 17 THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.
- 18 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 19 Q. Is that correct?
- 20 A. I have concerns about the date.
- 21 Q. Okay. But you only -- but you have only been in
- 22 contact with Mike Myers once, when you actually handcuffed
- 23 him and then released him, correct?
- MR. CHASE: Asked and answered, Judge.
- THE COURT: Sustained.



- 1 BY MR. BENITEZ: 2 Isn't it a fact that you got -- you were off site Q. 3 at the time that you got a call to respond to Highway 46 Holdings, LLC, on January 16, 2008? 4 5 MR. CHASE: Objection, improper impeachment. THE COURT: Approach, Counsel. 6 7 (At Bench:) 8 MR. BENITEZ: I am not using that report, 9 Judge. I'm using my client's testimony. THE COURT: Your client knows he was off site. 10 11 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, he does, Judge. He has had 12 the report for 10 years. 13 THE COURT: That is his knowledge based on 14 hearsav. Does he have personal knowledge of the 15 fact? 16 MR. BENITEZ: He has personal knowledge that he 17 wasn't on site, that he responded while -- and Brad 18 Nicks also testified that a deputy came from off 19 That testimony is already before the jury. 20 It is straight out of the report. MR. CHASE: 2.1 He is just going down the report. He just won't 22 stop. 23 I will throw away the report, MR. BENITEZ:
- Judge. I know what happened so I want to be able to
- cross-examine with the testimony.



1 THE COURT: You are cross-examining with facts 2 at this point that are in evidence from your client and from Brad Nicks only, right? Is that what you 4 are saying? 5 MR. BENITEZ: Brad Nicks testified --6 THE COURT: Is that what you are saying, yes or 7 no? MR. BENITEZ: Yes. I'm not sure how much 8 9 detail my client got into -- yeah, my client also --10 my client and Brad Nicks. 11 THE COURT: So yes? 12 MR. BENITEZ: Yes. But Judge, I've got to find 13 out where I'm standing here, because I'm ready to sit down and not do anything with this witness, and 14 15 that is not fair to my client. I know -- I have 16 evidence of what happened that day. This witness --17 THE COURT: Do you know how to use it? 18 use it the way that the rules allow you to, and 19 let's move on. 20 (Open court:) 2.1 BY MR. BENITEZ: 22 Q. You work for -- excuse me. Back in 2007, you 23 worked for Donald Hachenberger, correct? 2.4 I worked for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. Α. 25 Q. Okay. Did you work from time to time for



- 1 Donald Hachenberger?
- 2 A. That is not correct.
- 3 Q. So you haven't worked off duty for Donald
- 4 Hachenberger?
- 5 A. Sir, the way that any off-duty --
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: I'm going to object to his
- 7 response, Judge, and ask the Court to instruct him
- 8 to answer yes or no.
- 9 THE COURT: Sir, did you work directly for
- 10 Donald Hachenberger? That is the question.
- 11 THE WITNESS: No, sir.
- 12 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 13 Q. Did you work directly with Highway 46 Holdings,
- 14 LLC?
- 15 A. No, sir.
- 16 Q. When you are saying directly, are you saying that
- 17 you were working off duty at Highway 46 Holdings, LLC, but
- 18 you were indirectly working as a deputy sheriff at the
- 19 time?
- MR. CHASE: Misstates evidence. He didn't say
- "working."
- 22 THE COURT: Overruled. He is asking the
- question. Is that what you are saying, sir?
- 24 THE WITNESS: One more time, please.
- 25 BY MR. BENITEZ:



- 1 Q. Let me do it better. Tell me what you mean by not
- 2 working for Highway 46 Holdings, LLC.
- 3 A. Any vendor has an opportunity to contract with the
- 4 sheriff's office for security personnel, which would be
- 5 deputies in an off-duty capacity. The deputies at that
- 6 time are working for the agency. The vendor is contracted
- 7 with the sheriff's office. The deputies are paid by the
- 8 sheriff's office. I was working for the sheriff's office.
- 9 Q. Okay. But not for a function with the sheriff's
- 10 office at that time? You were working off duty, correct?
- 11 A. Incorrect.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. My off-duty security detail is for the sheriff's
- 14 office on behalf of whomever requests that service.
- 15 Q. Okay. So what were your functions when you
- 16 were -- when you were working for Highway 46 Holdings
- 17 through the office? What were your duties?
- 18 A. To provide on-site security services.
- 19 Q. And what does that mean?
- 20 A. That means to protect the property as well as to
- 21 prevent any incidents of violence and anything of that
- 22 nature.
- 23 Q. How often -- back in 2007, how often would you
- 24 work at Highway 46 Holdings, LLC?
- 25 A. It varied from week to week depending on the needs



- 1 of the vendor.
- Q. Okay. After this incident that we've been
- 3 referring to where you handcuffed and then unhandcuffed
- 4 Mike Myers, were you allowed to do any additional off-duty
- 5 work for Highway 46 Holdings?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. For how long after that?
- 8 A. I don't recall. Years.
- 9 Q. So you continued doing work for Highway 46
- 10 Holdings for years after 2007?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And when did you stop doing work for Highway 46
- 13 Holdings, LLC?
- 14 A. I believe it was when they ceased business.
- 15 O. And when was that?
- 16 A. Active business. I don't recall.
- Q. Do you have a year?
- 18 A. Specifically -- I would only be quessing at this
- 19 point.
- 20 Q. Okay. When you came in contact with Mike Myers on
- 21 that date that you referenced where you handcuffed him and
- 22 unhandcuffed him, was anybody else there with Mike Myers
- 23 at that time?
- A. There were many people on scene. I don't know
- 25 specifically.



- 1 Q. I'm asking specifically, was Mike Myers talking to
- 2 anyone in particular?
- 3 A. I can't say that I can answer your question
- 4 specifically. There were multiple individuals present at
- 5 the time.
- 6 Q. Multiple individuals present? Do you mean people
- 7 that were visiting the site?
- 8 A. There were employees. There were staff members of
- 9 Highway 46 Holdings.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. There was myself. There was a variety of
- 12 different people.
- 13 Q. And was Donald Hachenberger there?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Was he there at the time that you noticed Mike
- 16 Myers for the first time?
- 17 A. I don't recall specifically when I first saw
- 18 Mr. Hachenberger. It was through the course of that
- 19 incident.
- 20 Q. So you don't know if he was with you at the time
- 21 that you first observed -- observed Mike Myers?
- 22 A. I believe he was in the area. Nobody was
- 23 necessarily with me.
- Q. Okay. Your testimony is you, out of wherever you
- 25 were staying, reacted and approached Mike Myers, correct?



- 1 A. I reacted based on my training. Yes.
- 2 Q. And when you approached Mike Myers, was he by
- 3 himself walking a certain direction or standing still or
- 4 what?
- 5 A. He was moving about that general area on foot.
- 6 Q. Okay. By himself?
- 7 A. I can't say who each of the individuals that were
- 8 in and around that area were. There were many I didn't
- 9 recognize.
- 10 Q. But I want to find out who was with him. Was
- 11 anybody with him?
- MR. CHASE: Objection, asked and answered.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I can't answer that.
- 14 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 15 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- Q. Who was in charge of the complex when you were
- 17 there?
- 18 MR. CHASE: Objection, foundation.
- 19 THE COURT: Sustained.
- 20 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 21 Q. On the date that you handcuffed and then
- 22 unhandcuffed Mike Myers, who was in charge of the complex?
- MR. CHASE: Objection, foundation.
- 24 THE COURT: Sustained.
- 25 BY MR. BENITEZ:



- Q. Who was the head person of Highway 46 Holdings,
- 2 LLC?
- MR. CHASE: Objection, foundation.
- 4 THE COURT: Just a second, Counsel.
- 5 MR. CHASE: Sorry, sir.
- 6 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 7 Q. At the time that you approached Mike Myers on that
- 8 date --
- 9 MR. CHASE: Objection, foundation.
- 10 THE COURT: Sustained.
- 11 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 12 Q. Do you know the employees at Highway 46 Holdings,
- 13 LLC?
- 14 A. I was familiar with some of them, not all.
- 15 Q. Okay. And who were you familiar with?
- 16 A. Several private security individuals, several of
- 17 the -- what I would call restaurant staff. There was a
- 18 manager I believe on scene by the name of Brad. I don't
- 19 recall the last name.
- Q. Brad. What was -- you don't know his last name?
- 21 A. I don't recall his last name; and Mr. Hachenberger
- 22 and a couple of the wait staff, but I don't recall their
- 23 names. I recognize them visually.
- Q. Okay. So you would recognize Mr. Hachenberger,
- 25 correct?



- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And Brad whatever his last name is, you would
- 3 recognize him?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Does the name "Brad Nicks" sound familiar?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And who else would you recognize on that day, the
- 8 day that you handcuffed and then released Mr. Mike Myers
- 9 that works for Highway 46 Holdings, LLC?
- 10 A. A security individual by the name of Mr. Namath
- 11 (ph), I believe it was.
- 12 Q. Anybody else?
- 13 A. I don't recall offhand.
- Q. Was the security person present at the time that
- 15 you approached Mike Myers on the date that he was
- 16 handcuffed and unhandcuffed?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. He was present with you or -- or in the area?
- 19 A. He was on site.
- 20 Q. Did he have -- where was he in relationship to
- 21 Mike Myers?
- 22 A. Mr. Myers was near an area of the complex that was
- 23 a live entertainment venue, and the security individual
- 24 was near the parking area of the facility.
- 25 Q. And how many feet would that security person be



- 1 from Mike Myers?
- 2 A. Seventy feet maybe.
- 3 Q. And did the security person that -- did he have
- 4 anything to do with you approaching Mike Myers?
- 5 A. He provided me some information about what had
- 6 been occurring prior to my witnessing.
- 7 Q. So he gave you some information regarding Mike
- 8 Myers?
- 9 A. Regarding the incident.
- 10 Q. What incident?
- 11 A. The disturbance.
- 12 O. What disturbance?
- 13 A. The one that I described at the beginning of my
- 14 testimony.
- 15 Q. Okay. Can you describe it again?
- MR. CHASE: Objection, asked and answered.
- 17 THE COURT: Go ahead.
- 18 THE WITNESS: That there was a situation that
- was escalating. There were concerns for safety
- 20 because of the threatening behavior of Mr. Myers at
- 21 the time verbally, and his physical demeanor. I
- 22 witnessed that myself for a period of time, and
- 23 ultimately approached him.
- 24 BY MR. BENITEZ:
- 25 Q. For how long a period of time did you witness



- 1 that?
- 2 A. I would say 10, 15 minutes.
- 3 Q. So while this conduct was going on for 10 or 15
- 4 minutes, you were just simply watching?
- 5 A. I was observing the situation to determine what
- 6 appropriate action would be needed, if any.
- 7 Q. Did anybody talk to you during those 10 or 15
- 8 minutes?
- 9 A. I don't believe, besides the security personnel,
- 10 anybody else spoke to me.
- 11 Q. The security personnel was 70 feet away from Mike
- 12 Myers in the parking area?
- 13 A. I'm only estimating.
- 14 Q. Okay. But you were on the other side of Mike
- 15 Myers, correct?
- 16 A. I'm sorry?
- 17 Q. Were you standing on the other side of Mike Myers?
- 18 A. No, sir. I was in the parking area as well.
- 19 Q. So were you standing next to each other?
- 20 A. I was -- can you identify who you are asking me --
- 21 who I was standing next to?
- 22 Q. Security, Namath.
- 23 A. We -- yes. We did make contact and he spoke to
- 24 me.
- Q. Okay. So you were making contact with him and



- 1 talking to him for about 10 or 15 minutes before you
- 2 approached Mike Myers?
- A. No, sir. That is not what I stated.
- Q. Okay. What is it that you stated?
- 5 A. I stated I received information from the security
- 6 person about what had been occurring. I observed the
- 7 situation for a period of time. And then based on my
- 8 observations, I approached Mr. Myers.
- 9 Q. Okay. Now, was Mr. Hachenberger there talking to
- 10 Mike Myers right as soon as you were approaching Mike
- 11 Myers?
- 12 A. I can't be certain that he was actually speaking
- 13 to Mr. Hachenberger at that time.
- Q. Was Mr. Hachenberger on site at that time?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Was he next to you at that time?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 O. Where was he?
- 19 A. If I recall correctly, he was near the general
- 20 area of the live entertainment.
- Q. And who is "he" that you are referring to?
- 22 A. Mr. Hachenberger as well as the majority of the
- 23 other individuals that were on site.
- Q. I thought you had mentioned that that's where Mike
- 25 Myers was located.



- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. So Mike Myers was next to Mr. Hachenberger?
- 3 A. They were in the same general vicinity.
- 4 Q. Were they talking to each other?
- 5 A. I don't -- I recall observing Mr. Myers yelling,
- 6 using words that were threatening in nature. His physical
- 7 demeanor was threatening in nature. He was very
- 8 aggressive in general. As I observed him for a period of
- 9 time, it appeared to be escalating. That is when I made
- 10 contact with Mr. Myers.
- 11 Q. Who was Mike Myers shouting at?
- 12 A. I'm not sure I know. Anybody that was in the
- 13 area, from what I could see.
- 14 Q. So anybody in the area, he was shouting to?
- 15 A. He was very upset.
- 16 Q. Okay. You don't remember what he was saying?
- 17 A. Verbatim, sir, no, I don't.
- 18 Q. And was he shouting at -- was anybody -- withdraw
- 19 that.
- Was anybody talking to him when you approached
- 21 him?
- 22 A. There were several other individuals trying to
- 23 calm him down as well.
- Q. And who are those individuals?
- 25 A. I don't know.



- 1 Q. Did Mr. Hachenberger direct you to place Mike
- 2 Myers in handcuffs?
- 3 A. No, sir.
- Q. Did Mr. Hachenberger advise you that he wanted
- 5 Mike Myers out of the property?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Did Donald Hachenberger instruct you to issue a
- 8 trespass warning to Mike Myers?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. And Mike Myers was handcuffed for approximately 15
- 11 to 30 minutes?
- 12 A. I never stated that.
- 13 Q. What -- how long did you have Mike Myers
- 14 handcuffed?
- 15 A. It was a relatively short period of time.
- 16 Q. Can you tell the jury how long?
- 17 A. I would estimate under 10 minutes.
- 18 Q. And during that time, Donald Hachenberger is there
- 19 with you and Mike Myers, correct?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And Brad Nicks, did you see him that day?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- MR. CHASE: Objection, asked and answered.
- 24 THE COURT: We've covered this.
- MR. BENITEZ: Excuse me, Your Honor?



1 I said, "We've covered this." THE COURT: 2 MR. BENITEZ: May I have a second with my 3 client? 4 THE COURT: You may. 5 MR. BENITEZ: Nothing further, Your Honor. 6 THE COURT: Counsel, approach. 7 (At Bench:) 8 THE COURT: I want to clear up something I may 9 have said that I think may have been an incorrect 10 statement of the law. And you are welcome to adjust 11 as you wish. 12 I may have said something to the effect that 13 because this was not a sworn statement, it could not 14 be used for impeachment purposes. That is not 15 accurate. Unsworn statements can be used if 16 properly authenticated for impeachment purposes. 17 want to be clear about that. 18 So if that changes how you wish to use the 19 document -- I'm telling you because I don't want you 20 to walk out of here without the opportunity. 2.1 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, I'm paranoid to the hilt 22 with respect to how to do this. In 40 years of 23 doing this, I'm not sure I know anything now. I 2.4 don't want to offend the Court and I don't want to 25 do anything --



- 1 THE COURT: I'm telling you now and giving you
- 2 the opportunity to fix anything you want to fix.
- 3 MR. BENITEZ: I want to do it right. Can I
- 4 cite -- can I refer to it in --
- 5 THE COURT: I can't tell you how to do it,
- 6 Counsel. You have to do it. I'm back to where I
- 7 began which is if you believe there is a way to do
- 8 it under the rules, use the rule. Tell me the rule.
- 9 Tell me the basis that you want to use this to do
- 10 that with. This business of my telling you how to
- 11 do this is stopping.
- 12 MR. BENITEZ: Probably what -- I ended up doing
- 13 it the way I thought I should do it. But I just
- 14 want to make sure at this point, having been
- 15 cautioned by the Court and indicated that the Court
- 16 was concerned about even holding sanctions against
- 17 me for doing this stuff -- I want to make sure I
- 18 don't step on the Court's foot.
- 19 THE COURT: For disobeying my orders, that's
- 20 correct.
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: I don't mean to disobey.
- 22 THE COURT: It is intentional. You can't
- 23 continue to disobey and say, Well, Judge, I'm sorry,
- 24 Judge, I'm sorry I did that but it is unintentional.
- 25 That just doesn't fly and it is not credible. Even



- 1 if you weren't (inaudible) you want to use it, use
- 2 it. I'm just telling you, you do it pursuant to the
- 3 rule. Tell me what the rule is and you do it
- 4 appropriately. That is all, okay?
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, will you consider allowing
- 6 it to be admitted into evidence?
- 7 THE COURT: No. There is no circumstance that
- 8 I'm aware of unless you tell me there is a basis for
- 9 the admission of that into evidence.
- 10 MR. BENITEZ: Okay. Can I --
- 11 THE COURT: Can you tell me a basis for that?
- MR. BENITEZ: Not right now, I can't; just --
- 13 just to impeach his testimony because it is totally
- 14 different from the affidavit.
- 15 THE COURT: It is an unsworn statement. How is
- 16 it admissible?
- 17 MR. BENITEZ: I withdraw that, Judge. With
- 18 respect to impeaching him with that unsworn
- 19 statement, can I refer -- because you have
- 20 instructed me not to refer --
- 21 THE COURT: No. What I've told you is don't do
- 22 it without laying the appropriate foundation. That
- is what I've told you multiple times now.
- MR. BENITEZ: Can I read from the sworn
- 25 statement if I lay the proper foundation?



1 I'm not here to coach you through THE COURT: 2 your examination. If you believe that you have an 3 appropriate methodology for doing it, I'm opening the door for you to do that. But I'm not going to 4 5 coach you through it. (Open court:) 6 7 THE COURT: Any further questions? MR. BENITEZ: 8 Yes, Your Honor. One second, 9 Your Honor. Nothing further, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Any cross, Mr. Shuker? 11 MR. SHUKER: No, thank you. 12 THE COURT: Thank you. Redirect? 13 MR. CHASE: Nothing further, Judge. 14 THE COURT: Any questions from our jury? If 15 you will just write that down, don't show it to anybody, fold it up and hand it to the deputy, 16 17 please. Counsel, if you will approach, please. 18 (At Bench:) 19 THE COURT: The question is, When working for a 20 vendor that obtained your services through the 2.1 sheriff's office, do you have the same capacity to 22 behave as if you were working directly for the 23 sheriff's office? Any objections? 2.4 MR. CHASE: No. 25 MR. BENITEZ: No.



1 (Open court:) 2 THE COURT: Mr. Kassa, I'm going to direct the 3 question to you. If you will respond to the jury, 4 please. 5 When working for a vendor that obtained your services through the sheriff's office, do you have 6 7 the same capacity to behave as if you were working directly for the sheriff's office? 8 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, we do. In fact, that is an 10 obligation. We are working as a law enforcement 11 officer any time we're working in an off-duty 12 capacity for the sheriff's office. 13 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Follow-up, Mr. Chase? 14 15 MR. CHASE: No, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Mr. Benitez? 17 No, Your Honor. MR. BENITEZ: 18 THE COURT: Mr. Shuker? 19 MR. SHUKER: No, Your Honor. 20 Thank you, sir. You may step down. THE COURT: 2.1 Call your next witness, please. 22 Bill Beier. MR. CHASE: 23 Mr. Benitez, do you have that THE COURT: 2.4 exhibit for identification? 25 MR. BENITEZ: Yes, sir, I do.



- 1 THE COURT: Would you give that to the clerk,
- 2 please? Good afternoon, sir. I need you to pause
- 3 right there for just one moment. Raise your right
- 4 hand and face our clerk to be sworn.
- 5 THE CLERK: Do you swear or affirm the
- 6 testimony you shall give shall be the truth, the
- 7 whole truth and nothing but the truth?
- 8 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 9 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. If you will take
- the witness stand. Watch your step up. That chair
- spins but does not slide. Adjust the microphone so
- it is comfortable.
- MR. CHASE: May it please the Court.
- 14 THE COURT: You may proceed.
- 15 WILLIAM BEIER, having been first duly sworn,
- 16 testified under oath as follows:
- 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. CHASE:
- 19 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Beier.
- 20 A. Good afternoon.
- Q. Could you please spell your last name for the
- 22 record, sir?
- A. B-E-I-E-R.
- Q. What do you do for a living, sir?
- 25 A. I'm a CPA.



- 1 Q. How long have you known Don Hachenberger?
- 2 A. I have known Don Hachenberger for about 29 years.
- 3 Q. And since the time that you have known
- 4 Mr. Hachenberger, have you had occasion to work as a CPA
- 5 on any of his various businesses?
- 6 A. Yes, I have.
- 7 Q. Sir, do you -- are you involved with the financial
- 8 reporting for Highway 46 Holdings, LLC?
- 9 A. I am.
- 10 Q. And as such, do you have access to the financial
- 11 records of Highway 46 Holdings, LLC?
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 Q. Are you familiar with the -- a list of
- 14 reimbursements that were made to Mike Myers in the years
- 15 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- MR. BENITEZ: Objection.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 18 MR. BENITEZ: Foundation and hearsay.
- 19 THE COURT: Approach, please.
- 20 (At Bench:)
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: This was not an expert witness,
- and apparently he is about to testify back to some
- records -- or this hearsay, and the records have not
- been produced to me, have not been part of the
- exhibit list, have never been shown to me, I



- 1 anticipate, because I haven't seen it unless
- 2 Mr. Chase can represent otherwise. And there is not
- 3 a proper foundation at this point.
- 4 MR. CHASE: I'm not going to enter them into
- 5 evidence. They are business records. We've talked
- 6 about it but we agreed that we're not going to have
- 7 any issues with authenticity. They are business
- 8 records. It is simply he reviews the financial
- 9 records. He is familiar with the documents. He has
- 10 reviewed the reports.
- 11 THE COURT: What is he going to testify to?
- MR. CHASE: He is going to testify about the
- reimbursements that I asked Mr. Myers about and he
- 14 said, No, I don't remember that, I don't remember,
- 15 and that is all. That is it. Do the records
- 16 reflect that Michael Myers was reimbursed X on that
- 17 date? And then I'll go to the next one and the next
- one and that is it. There is no opinion testimony
- 19 so it is not an expert witness.
- 20 MR. BENITEZ: And Judge, if that is the case --
- 21 first of all, with respect to authenticity and so
- 22 on, this is with respect to exhibits that were
- 23 produced that we got a chance to look at and take a
- look at, keep copies and so on. These records, I've
- 25 never, ever seen. If I look at his file right now,



- 1 that would be the first time I've ever seen them.
- 2 Second of all, with respect to relevancy, his
- 3 only claim is with respect to the David Chauvin
- 4 reimbursement which we didn't even touch on during
- 5 our case-in-chief if the Court recalls, not even
- 6 touch, not even one word as to that, which is now --
- 7 that doesn't give him a right to come back and open
- 8 up the door.
- 9 He asked about the reimbursement. He got an
- 10 answer. And reimbursements were rather -- were
- 11 rather not relevant, really, and not materially --
- 12 not material fact.
- 13 THE COURT: The main issue that you are calling
- 14 him for is to testify to the contents of a business
- 15 record?
- MR. CHASE: No, sir. It is the specific
- 17 reimbursements. I'm not moving the records in.
- 18 THE COURT: I understand you are not moving the
- 19 records in. But what is the source of the data that
- 20 he is testifying to?
- 21 MR. CHASE: Business records, financial records
- 22 kept for the company for which he is a CPA.
- 23 THE COURT: I understand. The records have not
- 24 been produced during discovery?
- MR. CHASE: That's correct.



1 The records would be the best THE COURT: source of information. Otherwise, what he is going 2 3 to testify to is hearsay. 4 MR. CHASE: Okay. 5 THE COURT: So the objection is sustained. 6 MR. CHASE: Okay. Thank you, Judge. 7 (Open court:) BY MR. CHASE: 8 9 Mr. Beier, your afternoon just opened up, sir. 0. Ι 10 have no further questions. 11 THE COURT: Cross? 12 MR. BENITEZ: No cross, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: As to his name or relationship 14 with --15 MR. BENITEZ: No, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Mr. Shuker? 17 MR. SHUKER: No, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: It is just about 3:00. Let's go 19 ahead and take our midafternoon recess. We'll be in 20 recess for 15 minutes. During this time, all the 2.1 same cautions apply. Thank you. 22 (Brief recess.) 23 THE COURT: Are we ready to resume with 2.4 Mr. Hachenberger? 25 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.



- 1 THE COURT: Mr. Hachenberger, take the stand,
- 2 please.
- 3 MR. CHASE: Judge, I believe we'll be calling
- 4 Nick Carlin in the morning. He is going to take a
- 5 while, probably could even be -- with the
- 6 cross-examination, that could be all day. I can't
- 7 see it being more than a day. So I think the charge
- 8 conference, we're going to need significant time,
- 9 for whatever that is worth.
- 10 THE COURT: We're down to very few counts at
- 11 this point. I don't see the charge conference
- 12 taking a significant amount of time.
- MR. CHASE: With the verdict form and reducing
- 14 it and coming up with that -- okay. Just --
- 15 THE COURT: I'm optimistic. I agree it will
- 16 take us at least a couple hours. But thank you for
- 17 the insight.
- 18 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.
- 19 THE COURT: Return the jury, please.
- 20 (Jury in.)
- THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated.
- 22 We're going to resume at this time the testimony of
- 23 Mr. Hachenberger. Counsel, you may inquire.
- MR. CHASE: Thank you, Judge.
- 25 DIRECT EXAMINATION CONTINUED



- 1 BY MR. CHASE:
- Q. Mr. Hachenberger, before lunch today we were
- 3 talking about the changes made to the Route
- 4 Entertainment -- Route 46 Entertainment District. I
- 5 believe we were looking at -- we were looking at this
- 6 exhibit.
- 7 MR. CHASE: Judge, can the jury see that?
- 8 THE COURT: Yes, sir.
- 9 BY MR. CHASE:
- 10 Q. Mr. Hachenberger, we were discussing these two
- 11 doors and the changes in particular to this part of the
- 12 building right here. Do you recall that?
- 13 A. I do. Yes.
- Q. Were there any other changes with regard to this
- 15 area right here that were -- that you had to change after
- 16 Mr. Myers left?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Can you describe that for the jury, please?
- 19 A. When we added the bathrooms on this side right
- 20 here, in order to allow for handicap access, we had to
- 21 have -- we extended a -- a walkway and we had to put in a
- 22 handicap elevator.
- Q. Anything else, sir?
- 24 A. We removed some over -- all these garage doors,
- 25 both the front and the back, were electric open and all



- 1 that stuff. We changed some of that around because we
- 2 basically just have bands that use that center area in
- 3 that -- and that stage area right now.
- 4 Q. Anything else in that area, sir?
- 5 A. That is all that I can recall.
- Q. If we -- so then we talked about this?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. And then we go inside the garage bar. There was
- 9 some testimony about some changes inside the garage bar.
- 10 Do you recall that testimony?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. What disagreements did you have with Mr. Myers
- 13 regarding the garage bar?
- 14 A. We had a huge disagreement over the decor and I'm
- 15 going to call it brand identification of that garage bar.
- 16 The name --
- 17 Q. Let me stop you. When you say "we," was it QMG --
- 18 what was the marketing company?
- 19 A. The marketing company was QMG.
- Q. QMG. Were you including QMG when you said "we"?
- 21 A. No. Mr. Myers and I --
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. -- specifically had a difference of opinion there.
- 24 Q. Yes, sir.
- 25 A. He had spent I don't know how much money having



- 1 slate put on the floor.
- Q. Slate put on the floor?
- 3 A. Slate as in rock, very expensive rock, stones.
- 4 Q. Is slate typical to a garage?
- 5 A. Not in any garage I've ever had.
- 6 Q. Okay. So you had a difference of opinion with
- 7 Mr. Myers about the slate being put down and what else?
- 8 A. He had decorated the actual physical bar with the
- 9 same exact oak wood cabinets in the back bar, bar area,
- 10 bar top so that it looked identical to what was in the
- 11 saloon.
- 12 Q. And so when we went out there -- we came in
- 13 somewhere around here; is that correct?
- 14 A. Somewhere generally in that area.
- 15 Q. And then to the right -- what was immediately to
- 16 the right as you walked in that door?
- 17 A. We had the disc jockey booth.
- 18 Q. Yes, sir. What --
- 19 A. And we have a simulated --
- 20 Q. Simulated --
- 21 A. Simulated lift with a hotrod on top of it.
- Q. Yes, sir. And then straight across, is that the
- 23 bar that you are talking about?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. And when you mentioned the saloon bar, is that



- 1 that long saloon bar that was somewhere right in here?
- 2 A. Maybe a little further south even. It is kind of
- 3 directly back from the auto display area.
- 4 O. Like in here?
- 5 A. Somewhere in that range, yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And what were your discussions with
- 7 Mr. Myers regarding having put the same type of bar in the
- 8 garage as was in the saloon?
- 9 A. I told him --
- 10 Q. Without specifics like what you told him, but just
- 11 generally the discussions. Was there disagreement over
- 12 it?
- 13 A. There was definitely disagreement over the look
- 14 being the same as the saloon.
- 15 Q. Did it seem to you that -- would Mr. Myers concede
- 16 on any of these points?
- 17 A. Never.
- 18 Q. On the things that we're talking about, you would
- 19 ask him -- or would you ask him if he would concede to the
- 20 changes?
- 21 A. Yes, I would.
- Q. And he did not?
- 23 A. Absolutely not.
- Q. Okay. And ultimately, did you change the garage
- 25 bar?



- 1 A. Yes, I did.
- 2 Q. Did you change the slate floor?
- A. Took the slate floor up for two reasons. Number
- 4 one, it -- the application of it was faulty, and they
- 5 were -- the slate was popping up.
- 6 Q. Who put down the slate?
- 7 A. A subcontractor that Mike hired.
- 8 Q. Okay. And was there an ability to get the
- 9 subcontractor to come back and fix it?
- 10 A. Nope. Nobody had the arrangement except a verbal
- 11 arrangement with Mike.
- 12 Q. They didn't have a written contract?
- 13 A. No, sir.
- Q. So you had no warranties on the work that was
- 15 done?
- 16 A. No warranties.
- 17 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, leading.
- 18 THE COURT: Sustained.
- 19 BY MR. CHASE:
- Q. Was there anything else different about the garage
- 21 bar?
- 22 A. We changed the back bar and the front bar, and put
- 23 the cabinets up that hold the automobile memorabilia and
- 24 parts and things of that nature.
- 25 Q. On Friday and Saturday nights, what's -- what is



- 1 one of the busier areas of the District?
- 2 A. Depends on the time of day.
- 3 Q. On Friday or Saturday night.
- 4 A. Friday or Saturday night, the smokehouse is very
- 5 busy but it closes at 9:00. And the garage bar then takes
- 6 over, and that is where the action is.
- 7 Q. Is the garage bar popular?
- 8 A. We wish it was more popular, but yes, it is
- 9 popular.
- 10 Q. If you were to characterize -- I think the
- 11 testimony was that you had different venues for different
- 12 things. There was the smokehouse for like barbecue
- 13 sandwiches, I think has been some testimony.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And at some point there was reference to this area
- 16 being Monroe's that was an upper-scale dining; not high
- 17 end, but upper scale anyway, dining, sir?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, leading.
- 20 THE COURT: Sustained. This is direct
- 21 examination, Counsel.
- MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.
- 23 BY MR. CHASE:
- Q. Would you have -- were there different types of
- 25 clientele that would use the different venues?



- 1 A. Very definitely. There's different price ranges.
- 2 There's lots of different reasons for different venues.
- 3 Q. The folks -- the clientele who used the garage bar
- 4 and are listening to bands, are they on the scale of being
- 5 rowdy or not so rowdy? Would they be more rowdy or less
- 6 rowdy than folks that say would be using the saloon?
- 7 A. It depends on the time of night. The later the
- 8 night goes, the more lubricated they get, the more rowdy
- 9 they get. But it is definitely a difference. The saloon
- 10 is more of a date night kind of sophisticated warm and
- 11 cozy feel. The garage bar is for rock and roll and people
- 12 partying and having a good time.
- Q. What is the garage bar made out of right now?
- 14 A. The garage bar is a concrete floor, easy to clean.
- 15 Q. The garage -- I guess I was referring to the bar,
- 16 where you sit.
- 17 A. The actual bar?
- 18 Q. Yes, sir.
- 19 A. It is actually concrete also. It is a poured
- 20 concrete-over-block foundation there, or lower area.
- 21 Q. Does the concrete bar hold up better to the
- 22 rowdier clientele than say a nice finished oak?
- 23 A. You know, there have been people known to dance on
- 24 that bar.
- 25 Q. Sir, the -- okay. As we keep on going this



- 1 direction towards Monroe's from the garage bar, what would
- 2 be the next change that you recall?
- 3 A. In the east end of the garage bar we also changed
- 4 some windows and made for a VIP area in there.
- 5 Q. Are you referring to this area here?
- 6 A. Pretty much so, yes.
- 7 Q. Did Mike Myers agree that should be done?
- 8 A. I think that took place afterwards. I don't think
- 9 he was a part of that decision.
- 10 Q. Okay. As we keep moving south, what would be the
- 11 next thing?
- 12 A. Next would be our club room.
- 13 Q. What was the club room?
- 14 A. The club room is a -- it would be off the hallway
- 15 that we walked heading south on, and it is used for
- 16 special events for meetings. We do rehearsal dinners. We
- do bachelorette parties, bachelor parties, smaller groups
- 18 of people because it is adjacent to the garage bar. So
- 19 they can have a private room that opens to the garage bar,
- 20 and they can then do whatever level of mixing they want
- 21 from that standpoint.
- Q. Was that a change that was made after Mr. Myers
- 23 left?
- A. I believe, yes.
- 25 Q. What else can you think of, the next thing that



- 1 you -- if we continue our tour south --
- 2 A. Probably in the saloon. The --
- 3 Q. What was changed in the saloon?
- 4 A. The first thing you notice when you come in is the
- 5 saloon doors.
- 6 Q. Yes, sir.
- 7 A. They swing which Mr. Myers was dead set against
- 8 that.
- 9 Q. Why was he dead set against -- did he tell you why
- 10 he was dead set against the swinging saloon doors?
- 11 A. Every difference to what his original concept was,
- 12 he resisted because it didn't fit his, quote --
- 13 MR. BENITEZ: Objection --
- 14 THE COURT: Just a second.
- MR. BENITEZ: -- nonresponsive.
- 16 THE COURT: Sustained. Direct him to -- that
- is where you want him, but it is not responsive.
- 18 BY MR. CHASE:
- 19 Q. Did he tell you specifically why he didn't like
- 20 the saloon -- swinging saloon doors?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. What was his reason?
- 23 A. It didn't match his dream.
- Q. Was that a common response to your inquiries
- 25 regarding changes?



- 1 A. All the time. Yes.
- Q. As we keep on moving through our tour, what was
- 3 the next thing that you recall?
- 4 A. In the south end of the -- south end of the
- 5 saloon, there were windows in between the booths in the
- 6 saloon and the Monroe's restaurant. So if you were eating
- 7 in one, you were watching -- somebody was watching you out
- 8 the window of the other, no matter which one you were in.
- 9 And it -- and it was the recommendation of our group,
- 10 including --
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, hearsay.
- 12 THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Including QMG; that people were
- 14 looking for a little more privacy than what they
- afforded. So we removed those windows and put some
- shadow boxes in there.
- 17 BY MR. CHASE:
- 18 Q. As we keep on moving south past the saloon, were
- 19 there any changes to Monroe's?
- 20 A. Yes. There were two specific changes -- probably
- 21 three specific changes. One was that the windows that
- 22 looked out at the vacant lot on the west were removed.
- 23 Q. So those would be -- would this be the west back
- 24 here?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.



- 1 Q. So there -- is there a fireplace right in here?
- 2 A. Yes, sir, that's correct, to the --
- 3 O. So the windows would have been to the south of the
- 4 fireplace?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. And they looked out into the vacant lot?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 O. You removed those?
- 9 A. Yes. We replaced them.
- 10 Q. Was that a point of contention between you and
- 11 Mr. Myers?
- 12 A. Very definitely so.
- 13 Q. You said there were three things. What was the
- 14 second?
- 15 A. The other things were the big garage doors that
- 16 were on the south right next to Highway 46. They were
- 17 originally installed with a mechanism so they could
- 18 operate.
- 19 Q. Yes, sir.
- 20 A. And it was the opinion of our group, including
- 21 QMG, that nobody wanted to sit there and listen to the
- 22 road traffic of Highway 46 as they were enjoying a meal.
- 23 Q. All right. So did Mr. Myers -- was that a point
- 24 of contention with Mr. Myers?
- 25 A. I'm not sure that came up during that time period



- 1 when he was an employee.
- Q. I didn't ask the question about why you felt it
- 3 was necessary to take out the windows just because they
- 4 looked out on the vacant lot. Was there a reason why you
- 5 wanted to take those out?
- 6 A. Very definitely. We do a lot of weddings and
- 7 things of that nature.
- 8 Q. Yes, sir.
- 9 A. And if there were windows that you had to cover
- 10 because -- to be clear, the wedding hall is a pretty plain
- 11 backdrop. So we didn't believe there was any advantage to
- 12 having windows there, and that was a group decision.
- 13 Q. There was a third thing you mentioned.
- 14 A. The third thing was we -- at the front -- I'm
- 15 going to say that is the east end of Monroe's.
- 16 Originally, there was no way that we could close off that
- 17 room. It had no doors so that it was just always open.
- 18 Q. The front of Monroe's was always open?
- 19 A. Correct. There is a set of doors there now. And
- 20 originally, there was no doors.
- 21 Q. What were the hours of operation planned to be
- 22 when Mr. Myers was -- for what ultimately would be
- 23 Monroe's, did Mr. Myers have a plan for what hours it
- 24 would be open?
- 25 A. Mr. Myers's original concept was everything is



- 1 open all the time, including Monroe's and the saloon and
- 2 the garage bar and the smokehouse and everything.
- 3 Q. What time in the morning would be opening time for
- 4 the District?
- 5 A. I think it would have been typically 11:00 in the
- 6 morning.
- 7 Q. And what time would typically be closing time?
- 8 A. When the garage bar closed at 2:00.
- 9 Q. Did you agree that everything should be open all
- 10 the time?
- 11 A. Absolutely not.
- 12 Q. Did you have that discussion with Mr. Myers?
- 13 A. Repeatedly, yes, sir.
- Q. Did Mr. Myers concede that maybe that wasn't the
- 15 best idea?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Why did you believe that it wasn't the best idea
- 18 to keep everything open all the time?
- 19 A. Our team, our management team at QMG, had issues
- 20 with, number one, the security aspect; that if the -- if
- 21 the garage bar is open and the partiers are going on there
- 22 and Monroe's were closed, as a business closed, you had a
- 23 big, open space with no supervision, no security, unless
- 24 you physically stationed a person there. And so we needed
- 25 to have some doors. Otherwise, you know, someone could be



- 1 taken up there and who knows what happens.
- 2 Same thing with the saloon. We needed to be able
- 3 to close it off. And we had to add the doors so that when
- 4 we closed off the rest of that building, we -- the only
- 5 thing open for people in the late-night hours is the
- 6 garage bar.
- 7 Q. So did you have to make changes to the building to
- 8 be able to close it off?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Do you remember, was there -- what is back here?
- 11 A. That whole wall is kitchen.
- 12 Q. Were there any changes made to the kitchen?
- 13 A. Some changes, yes.
- Q. Do you recall Mr. Nicks talking about this gate?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. That is the front gate?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. Is that gate open right now?
- 19 A. I hope not. My orders are no.
- Q. Did you have conversations with Mr. Myers about
- 21 that front gate?
- 22 A. We did. Yes.
- Q. Why do you believe the front gate should not be
- 24 open?
- 25 A. It is my opinion and the opinion of other people



- 1 that --
- 2 Q. Just your opinion. Just your opinion.
- 3 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, nonresponsive.
- 4 THE COURT: Just a second. Overruled as to
- 5 nonresponsive.
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: Hearsay.
- 7 THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.
- 8 THE WITNESS: It is my opinion and it is shared
- 9 by the management team that the building -- this
- whole building from Monroe's going all the way north
- 11 through the -- through the -- to the -- starting at
- the south end by 46 and going all the way back
- through the garage bar, if that building would have
- 14 been shifted to the north about 30 feet --
- 15 BY MR. CHASE:
- 16 Q. This way?
- 17 A. Yes, that --
- 18 Q. Is the building too close to the road?
- 19 A. That's correct, to effectively handle traffic in
- 20 and out of that front gate.
- 21 Q. Have you ever had issues with -- there is that
- 22 area where -- let me ask it this way.
- When we came out of Monroe's, there was some gas
- 24 pumps there with some old cars parked there.
- 25 A. We call that the portico. Yes.



- O. What was the intention to use that for?
- 2 A. In the original concept, it was going to be a
- drop-off point for people coming to the restaurants or the
- 4 bars. And people -- if it was inclement weather or
- 5 something of that nature, you would be able to drive
- 6 through there and drop people off.
- 7 Q. Have you ever had an issue with the use of that
- 8 for that purpose?
- 9 A. We have.
- 10 Q. Can you describe that to the jury?
- 11 A. Specifically, we had a wedding one time that
- 12 somebody tried to drive a limousine through there and got
- 13 stuck. They couldn't maneuver it. And we had to bring in
- 14 two tow trucks and lift the whole limousine up from both
- 15 ends to move it around far enough to be able to get it out
- 16 of there. And we've had other issues also.
- 17 Q. Was that Mr. Myers's design of that particular
- 18 part of the building?
- 19 A. It was on his watch that it was designed that way.
- 20 Yes.
- Q. Was it Mr. Myers's decision to place the building
- 22 that close to the road?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you believe the inability to use the front gate
- 25 affects the business?



- 1 A. I'm told that. Yes.
- Q. In order to fix that, would that require moving
- 3 the building back?
- 4 A. Not possible.
- 5 Q. What other changes do you remember, if any?
- 6 A. I think that is the bulk of the changes. But then
- 7 each change you make -- it's like a Rubik's Cube. You
- 8 have to make two other moves to accommodate that. In the
- 9 smokehouse area, extending the wall to include the rest of
- 10 the dining room inside required us to change the decks
- 11 outside, the handicap ramps and all those types of things.
- 12 That was another big expense. I think that is pretty
- 13 much --
- Q. Did you -- did you fund all of these changes?
- 15 A. Yes, sir. Glenda and I did.
- Q. Did the Myerses ever contribute money to help
- 17 change it?
- 18 A. No, sir.
- 19 Q. How much did you budget for the buildout? What
- 20 was supposed to be -- how much did you fund for the
- 21 buildout?
- 22 A. The original estimation was in the range of five
- 23 to \$6 million.
- Q. On June 27th -- on June 26th, 2007, how much had
- 25 you invested just in the construction?



- 1 Something just about \$8 million just in the Α. 2 construction. 3 Was it over \$8 million? Q. 4 Α. It was over -- yes. Do you remember the exact number? 5 Q. I have notes on it, but I don't recall. 6 Α. I don't. 7 Q. If you were to look at your notes, would that help you remember the exact number? 8 9 Α. Yes, sir. 10 MR. BENITEZ: May I see that first, Your Honor? And it should be marked for identification. 11 12 THE COURT: Madam Clerk, how is that marked, 13 please? 14 THE CLERK: Μ. MR. CHASE: Plaintiff's M for identification. 15 16 Can you staple it? Nope. I have a clamp. 17 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, if I may have a sidebar. 18 THE COURT: Approach. 19 (At Bench:) 20 MR. BENITEZ: Exhibit --2.1 THE COURT: One second. Okav.
  - ind coont. one second. only.
  - MR. BENITEZ: Plaintiff's Exhibit M for
  - identification, I have never seen these before.
  - 24 MR. CHASE: He is just --
  - THE COURT: Just a second, please.



- 1 MR. BENITEZ: I haven't seen this before today.
- 2 And I understand that he is now going to be shown
- 3 these documents.
- 4 THE COURT: Correct.
- 5 MR. BENITEZ: And he is going to testify from
- 6 these documents.
- 7 THE COURT: No, sir, he is not.
- 8 MR. BENITEZ: Okay. Well, I would object for
- 9 not having seen them before. It appears that he is
- 10 going to use them during trial.
- 11 THE COURT: He is going to use them to refresh
- 12 his recollection. He testified that he does not
- 13 have a present recollection of the total number that
- 14 he had spent as --
- MR. CHASE: Of June 26th, the exact number. He
- 16 knows the approximate numbers. These are the ones
- 17 that are taken from these documents. He is going to
- 18 give exact numbers. He is not going to remember
- 19 them.
- MR. BENITEZ: Is that his handwriting?
- 21 MR. CHASE: No, sir. I did do that with him.
- 22 THE COURT: It does not have to be his own
- 23 writing to refresh his recollection.
- MR. BENITEZ: I object to this exhibit, Your
- 25 Honor, based on the fact that I haven't seen it



1 before and based on the fact that it is hearsay. Не 2 is going to be testifying from this document. THE COURT: He is not testifying from that 4 document. Trust me. I'm not going to let him 5 testify from the document. 6 MR. BENITEZ: Okay. THE COURT: He can refresh his recollection. 7 8 And if his recollection is refreshed, he may 9 testify. Overruled. 10 (Open court:) THE COURT: You may approach. 11 12 MR. CHASE: Thank you, sir. 13 BY MR. CHASE: 14 The question was, what was the exact dollar amount **Q**. 15 that you had invested in construction as of June 26th, 16 Do you recall that exact dollar amount? 17 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, improper foundation 18 and predicate. 19 THE COURT: Sustained. 20 MR. CHASE: Okay. 21 BY MR. CHASE: 22 Does that document help refresh your recollection Q. 23 as to the exact dollar amount that you spent --2.4 Α. Yes, sir. 25 Q. -- on construction as of June 26th, 2007?



- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What was that amount? Don't -- do not read from
- 3 the document.
- 4 THE COURT: Sir, just flip the document over.
- 5 THE WITNESS: 8,434,000 and I forgot the
- 6 change.
- 7 BY MR. CHASE:
- 8 Q. Eight million 434. That was just construction?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. All of that was spent on Mr. Myers's watch?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Did you also, during that time that Mr. Myers was
- in charge, contribute money for operating expenses?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Do you recall how much you spent, or about how
- 16 much?
- 17 A. About \$2 million.
- 18 Q. Do you recall the exact number --
- 19 A. I don't.
- 20 Q. -- that you had spent as of that date?
- 21 A. I don't.
- 22 Q. Can you take a look at that document and see if it
- 23 helps refresh your recollection, and read it to yourself?
- Does that document help refresh your recollection
- 25 as to the exact dollar amount that you spent on operating



- 1 capital for Highway 46 Holdings --
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. -- as of June 26th, 2007?
- 4 A. 1,854,500 and something.
- 5 Q. Did those two numbers include the money that you
- 6 spent at closing?
- 7 A. No, sir.
- 8 Q. How much did you spend at closing?
- 9 A. We --
- 10 Q. How much did you pay for the equity in the land?
- 11 A. \$1,300,000.
- 12 Q. Did you also make a cash payment?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 O. How much was that?
- 15 A. I think it was \$400,000.
- 16 Q. So on June 26th, 2007, was the total amount that
- 17 you had contributed to Highway 46 Holdings, LLC, just
- 18 under \$12 million?
- 19 A. That's correct. Yes.
- Q. Is \$12 million about twice -- is that two times \$6
- 21 million?
- MR. BENITEZ: Objection.
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 24 BY MR. CHASE:
- 25 Q. Is the -- was that one of the reasons that you



- 1 removed Michael Myers as a manager?
- 2 MR. BENITEZ: Objection, leading.
- 3 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Very definitely.
- 5 BY MR. CHASE:
- 6 Q. You answered the question.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. The changes that you talked about, how long did
- 9 that take to complete all those changes?
- 10 A. I believe the end of construction was sometime in
- 11 2009, so almost two years.
- 12 Q. Did you have to contribute more money for
- 13 construction to fix the things that you believed were
- 14 wrong?
- 15 A. Very definitely. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. How much did you -- how much additional money
- 17 after June 26th, 2007, did you spend on construction?
- 18 A. More than \$5 million.
- 19 Q. Do you remember the exact number?
- 20 A. I don't.
- Q. Would your notes help refresh your recollection?
- 22 A. They would.
- 23 Q. Would you take a look at them and read it to
- 24 yourself?
- Do your notes refresh your recollection as to how



- 1 much additional money you spent on construction after June
- 2 26th, 2007?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. How much is that?
- 5 A. \$5,777,290.92, I think.
- 6 Q. If you add that to the 12 million that you had
- 7 spent on Highway 46 Holdings, LLC, as of June 26, 2007,
- 8 how much does that come to?
- 9 A. Approximately 18 million.
- 10 Q. As we sit here today, what is the total amount of
- 11 money you have contributed to Highway 46 Holdings, LLC?
- 12 A. In the range of 23 million.
- 13 Q. You had testified earlier that it was somewhere
- 14 around 25 million. Do you recall that?
- 15 A. I do recall that.
- 16 Q. Were you mistaken?
- 17 A. I was inaccurate. Yes.
- 18 Q. Do you know the exact number right now?
- 19 A. I have it in my notes.
- 20 Q. If you refer to your notes, would that help
- 21 refresh -- do you remember what that number is?
- 22 A. I don't remember exactly, no.
- 23 Q. If you referred to your notes, would that help
- 24 refresh your recollection, sir?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.



- 1 Q. Would you refer to your notes and read it to
- 2 yourself?
- 3 Did that help refresh your recollection as to the
- 4 total amount of money as we sit here today that you
- 5 contributed -- you and Mrs. Hachenberger contributed to
- 6 Highway 46 Holdings, LLC?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. What is that number, sir?
- 9 A. 23,023,000 and something. I forgot the rest of
- 10 it.
- 11 Q. Approximately \$23,023,000, sir?
- 12 A. More than 23 million. Yes.
- 13 Q. So after the construction was done, you continued
- 14 to contribute money. Was that for operating?
- 15 A. Yes, operating.
- 16 Q. Would that be about \$5 million?
- 17 A. It would. Yes.
- 18 Q. What sort of expenses have you incurred that have
- 19 run up that number?
- 20 A. There has been a huge amount invested in the
- 21 litigation and associated things --
- Q. Without going too much into that, is that the
- 23 instant litigation that we're talking about?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And this case has been going on for how long?



- 1 A. Since '08 so that is nine years.
- 2 Q. What other big expenses did you have that ran up
- 3 that number?
- 4 A. I have costs associated with the storage of the
- 5 memorabilia in the warehouses that we visited on Friday.
- Q. At all times since July 7th, 2005, have you funded
- 7 the storage for the memorabilia in those warehouses?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Have the Myerses ever contributed a dime to help
- 10 you with that?
- 11 A. No, sir.
- MR. CHASE: May I have a moment, Judge?
- THE COURT: You may.
- MR. CHASE: May we approach, Judge?
- 15 THE COURT: You may.
- 16 (At Bench:)
- 17 MR. CHASE: Here is what we've got. We've got
- this not allowing on the property, the reason he is
- 19 violent -- he has exhibited violence, he steals
- 20 stuff -- that is really, really prejudicial, the
- reason why he doesn't allow him on the property.
- The reason why he videotapes him is because he
- steals stuff. Because when they started, he would
- 24 grab things and try to take it and leave with it.
- 25 It is incredibly prejudicial and there is no damages



- 1 there. 2 This is one of the -- the first three -- you 3 said out of the breach of duty or good faith and the 4 breach of duty of care. I've got removing him -- I 5 can handle terminating. I can handle the management and I can handle all the other stuff. 6 That one is 7 incredibly prejudicial. There is a reason for it 8 and it is so prejudicial. The stories will be bad. 9 THE COURT: And --10 MR. BENITEZ: And if he is going to get into --11 Mr. Chase wasn't around when the taping started. 12 came way after, years after. I don't remember 13 any -- I don't remember a solitary allegation of 14 Mike Myers taking anything from the warehouse. 15 inspections were always with Donald Hachenberger 16 there, with a crew there, even in the best of times, 17 even when there wasn't -- prior to the fight in the 18 deposition, prior to that. So I have never heard 19 any of these allegations before. 20 MR. CHASE: He has got a bunch of them. 2.1 example, he has got it on tape and --22 THE COURT: It is on tape?
- MR. CHASE: He says he does. I never looked at
- 24 the tapes. I don't think that we should get into
- 25 it. And then you get up to the point where he is



- 1 not the only one who is not allowing -- the Court
- 2 won't allow him there.
- 3 So how do you get into that? I'm not asking
- 4 you how to try my case. I guess what I'm saying is
- 5 there are no damages. There has been no testimony
- of any damages that he has. There is no way --
- 7 there is no remedy under your breach of duty of
- 8 care, breach of good faith -- I don't understand
- 9 these either. There is no damages. I can get maybe
- 10 terminating his employment, but it's -- there is no
- 11 damages, and yet the prejudice is so bad.
- 12 THE COURT: Can I just ask, what do you want me
- 13 to do?
- 14 MR. CHASE: I want -- how about let's let the
- 15 Court decide that and the jury not decide that. So
- 16 you keep it --
- 17 THE COURT: Which one is it?
- 18 MR. CHASE: It is the not allowing him on the
- 19 property.
- 20 THE COURT: Duty of good faith and fair
- 21 dealing, and you had listed the various allegations
- 22 we went through this morning. This is one of those.
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: Yeah. But I thought that this is
- 24 more directed because there is an injunction in
- 25 place and we weren't going to go there, so to speak.



- 1 But this more has to do with the business premises
- 2 itself. It's not -- do you understand what I'm
- 3 saying?
- 4 The distinction is he is talking about
- 5 supposedly there is him taping, which I've never
- 6 heard of even in the (inaudible) allegation in this
- 7 case. But that has to do with in the warehouses.
- 8 And that is when I'm taping, he is taping, they are
- 9 taping --
- 10 THE COURT: There is an injunction that
- 11 prevents your client from coming on the business
- 12 premises, correct? Haven't we already addressed --
- wasn't your ultimate concern was that he was
- 14 trespassed from the property? Isn't that sort of
- 15 the cutoff?
- 16 MR. BENITEZ: That has been the clean cutoff.
- 17 MR. CHASE: Still if he is going to get up --
- 18 because he is going to say that he hasn't been
- 19 allowed back for all this time, all these -- he has
- 20 only been allowed to see his stuff 10 times and
- 21 things like that. That is prejudicial to my guy
- 22 without explaining why.
- 23 THE COURT: He is not allowed back there
- 24 because he was trespassed by your client.
- MR. CHASE: But there is also an order of the



- 1 Court that says he can't come back. So why doesn't
- 2 he get to say that?
- 3 THE COURT: Why does it matter if your client
- 4 trespassed?
- 5 MR. CHASE: He is violent and attacks me,
- 6 continues to attack me, he steals things and attacks
- 7 me.
- 8 THE COURT: There is no allegation of theft or
- 9 physical violence.
- MR. CHASE: Oh, yes, there was.
- 11 THE COURT: At the time that he was trespassed?
- MR. CHASE: No, but he was being violent, yes,
- 13 and that he was taking things. If you let him
- 14 testify as of the date that he did that, the
- 15 testimony is going to be -- and I know it is going
- 16 to be because he would take stuff.
- 17 THE COURT: We're not going there.
- 18 MR. CHASE: I know. That's what I'm saying.
- 19 MR. BENITEZ: I think cut it off at the
- 20 trespass, at that point in time. He hasn't come
- 21 back.
- THE COURT: He has no right to be back after he
- 23 was trespassed. Your client removed him from the
- 24 property and said that he is not allowed to be here,
- 25 he is off. That didn't change.



1 There is a -- I'm disagreeing. MR. CHASE: 2 THE COURT: Why did it change? 3 MR. CHASE: I'm sorry. The trespass changed --4 THE COURT: Beginning of January 2008, he was 5 trespassed. 6 MR. CHASE: I think it was June. I'm not sure about that. 7 8 THE COURT: The date of the report --9 MR. CHASE: I saw that. THE COURT: It could be January 2008. From 10 11 that date forward, your client said, You are not 12 welcome on my property. 13 MR. CHASE: That is a fact. 14 THE COURT: Okay. 15 MR. CHASE: And there is a reason. Why doesn't 16 he get to testify about the reason? 17 THE COURT: He did. 18 That is not the only reason. MR. CHASE: 19 MR. BENITEZ: At that point, it is. 20 THE COURT: At that point in time. Had there 2.1 been other incidents, then why wasn't he previously 22 trespassed or why wasn't (inaudible) sought or 23 anything else? 2.4 MR. CHASE: You can ask him that on 25 cross-examination. I quess he gets to testify about



- 1 the things that were going on that led him up to the
- 2 point where he would trespass his partner from the
- 3 property. It wasn't just a whim.
- 4 MR. BENITEZ: He got him off the property even
- 5 before the trespass. But the trespass was the last
- 6 act, and then soon thereafter is when the injunction
- 7 gets in place, because they get in the fight out
- 8 there and they both get arrested.
- 9 MR. CHASE: The thing is -- what the closing
- 10 argument would be to the jury is he hasn't let him
- 11 out there in all of this time, and it hasn't been
- 12 his decision to let him out there all this time.
- 13 What if he changed his mind six months later when
- 14 all this cooled off?
- 15 And then it says damages. However they are
- 16 going to come up with damages, then it is not
- 17 allowing him there for the last 12 years as opposed
- 18 to six months. This is something that should go to
- 19 the Court. This should go to the Court.
- THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Here is my
- 21 perspective. As of the trespass date, whatever the
- 22 reasons were that led up to the trespass and his
- 23 decision to remove him from the property, I think
- 24 that is all fair game, so anything up to that point.
- 25 Anything after that, I think it's unfairly



- 1 prejudicial to get into those issues in front of the
- 2 jury. There is no reason the Court can't consider
- 3 them. The problem is this is a legal claim. It is
- 4 not an equitable claim. I can't be a factfinder and
- 5 somehow contribute to that.
- 6 MR. CHASE: He can agree to it.
- 7 THE COURT: Can't you --
- 8 MR. SHUKER: Did you have a business
- 9 justification for seeking the trespass?
- 10 MR. CHASE: He is going to -- the thing is it
- 11 would be -- why can't I ask him then, Why did you
- 12 continue? Because it has been 12 years.
- 13 I'm telling you it is bad. That is an appeal
- 14 for both of us. Either way it is bad. Let's agree
- 15 to let the judge hear that one little claim on that
- 16 issue.
- 17 THE COURT: What are the damages?
- 18 MR. BENITEZ: Refusal to permit him to be on
- 19 the property.
- 20 THE COURT: That is out.
- 21 MR. BENITEZ: Not being able to come back,
- 22 basically, not being -- access to the property and
- 23 so on.
- 24 THE COURT: Isn't that the same as employment
- 25 damages though?



1 In a sense. But if he wants to MR. BENITEZ: 2 carve that out -- if I could talk to the client, 3 that may --4 What do you mean "carve out"? THE COURT: It is not going anywhere. We just 5 MR. CHASE: add that to the things that the judge decides. 6 have 15 minutes, now six -- that are going to the 7 jury on the breach of duty and breach of good faith. 8 9 That one is so bad and so complex that it is just 10 going to screw us up. Either way it is going to 11 screw us up. If he determines it, we're fine. It is too 12 13 prejudicial in front of the jury because it necessarily would involve -- you want to argue, and 14 15 I don't blame you, that, man, he hasn't been able to 16 be there for 12 years. There has got to be some 17 sort of damage for that. But all of that can't rest on him. 18 I get some contribution from the Court that 19 said no --20 MR. BENITEZ: Are you willing to hear it, 2.1 Judge? 22 What I'm hearing, I'm hearing. THE COURT: The 23 question is, what can I do with it? 2.4 MR. BENITEZ: I think Mr. Chase is suggesting 25 we give you the jurisdiction and the right to



- 1 adjudicate it. That is part of the --
- 2 THE COURT: In essence, you would be asking me
- 3 to determine whether his refusal to permit access to
- 4 the property is a violation of his responsibilities
- 5 under the statute, and if so, if I find yes, then to
- 6 do what with it?
- 7 MR. BENITEZ: Damages.
- 8 THE COURT: To award damages that I think are
- 9 attributable separate and apart from what I think
- 10 the jury may award for other issues?
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: Of course. But I would have to
- 12 check with my client of course.
- 13 THE COURT: I understand. I imagine where that
- 14 is going then.
- MR. BENITEZ: I mean, Judge, I think the way --
- 16 getting back to my initial position. I think the
- 17 way we've indicated cutting it off as to a trespass
- 18 warning is exactly right.
- 19 THE COURT: But it doesn't address the reasons
- 20 for keeping him off the property for the rest of the
- 21 years, and that is a concern.
- MR. BENITEZ: And then I guess the option would
- 23 be -- I think what you are asking for is just an
- 24 explanation.
- 25 THE COURT: Let me send the jury back to the



1 room for five minutes, okay? 2 (Open court:) 3 THE COURT: Not too often, but occasionally I'm 4 described as the eternal optimist in hoping that we 5 would be able to move right back into testimony, but I see there is more conversation I need to have with 6 counsel. This is my responsibility. You should 7 never look at counsel and attribute any fault to 8 9 them. This is the Court's responsibility to try to 10 get any information necessary to make good, sound 11 decisions. 12 We're going to take a brief recess. I'll send 13 you back to the room to relax at least five minutes Thank you. 14 and I'll call you back. 15 (Jury out.) 16 Take a minute and speak with your THE COURT: client about that idea to give context to it. 17 18 Paragraph 265, Sub C: The defendant has alleged 19 that Mr. Hachenberger breached his duty of care owed 20 to the Myerses by engaging in grossly negligent or 2.1 reckless conduct, intentional misconduct or knowing violation of law, including but not limited to by 22 23 not allowing the Myerses back onto the business 2.4 premises. 25 And so the issue as the Court perceives it at



- 1 this point is that there came a time when Mr. and
- 2 Mrs. Myers were not permitted back on the property.
- 3 There has been some discussion about when exactly
- 4 that occurred, but it certainly would be as of the
- 5 trespass warrant.
- In order not to mislead the jury, the question
- 7 is, do we have to have some explanation as to why
- 8 there has been a continued refusal to allow the
- 9 Myerses back on the premises? If we open that door,
- 10 it has been represented to the Court that there are
- 11 a number of instances, many of which could
- 12 potentially be very inflammatory and unfairly --
- 13 potentially unfairly prejudicial, but which are
- 14 necessary to explain the continued refusal to allow
- 15 the Myerses back on the property.
- And as I understand the proposal, it would be
- 17 to say that we let the jury decide all of the other
- 18 questions of fact that are part of that paragraph,
- 19 and perhaps ascribe to the Court the ability to be
- 20 the factfinder as to this piece, and fact-find as to
- 21 whether this, indeed, is a breach of the duty of
- 22 care under the statute, and if so, what damages flow
- 23 from that, thereby avoiding the need to have the
- 24 jury hear that evidence and it being presented to
- 25 the Court for its consideration.



- 1 So take a minute and speak with your client
- 2 about whether that proposal makes sense. If not,
- 3 then I have to confront the issue and how it is we
- 4 present this evidence to the jury.
- 5 MR. CHASE: To clarify, Judge, you mentioned
- 6 the breach of duty of care which is Count 18. It is
- 7 the same question for Count 19 because it is the
- 8 same for denial of access.
- 9 THE COURT: Correct. It is incorporated into
- 10 19 as well.
- 11 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, as I understand it, the
- 12 alternative would be to advise the jury that there
- was a Court order in place after the trespass
- 14 warning where the property could not be touched? Is
- 15 that --
- 16 THE COURT: That could be, A, part of the
- 17 remedy. But if that is the case, what does that do
- 18 to damages, where it's no longer Mr. Hachenberger's
- 19 decision to refuse entrance to the property? It is
- 20 now pursuant to a Court order. I don't think you
- 21 can recover damages pursuant to that.
- 22 So either -- it may be that we just have to cut
- 23 off the claim as of a certain date, and we tell the
- 24 jury that it's cut off as of this date, but you are
- 25 not to consider any claim relative to the inability



- 1 to access the property past a certain time. I don't
- 2 know. I'm just thinking out loud here.
- 3 MR. CHASE: The testimony would still be I
- 4 think highly prejudicial. It shouldn't be something
- 5 that the jury hears. They are going to weigh
- 6 whatever that testimony is as to why the
- 7 Hachenbergers said, Mr. and Mrs. Myers, we don't
- 8 want you on the property anymore.
- 9 It is going to -- it is going to affect all the
- 10 claims and it is just -- I'm trying -- I'm just
- 11 trying to be open to the Court and fair -- it is
- 12 fair. So that is why I brought it up. I could have
- 13 just elicited the testimony. It is relevant. It is
- 14 highly probative. But it is also highly
- 15 prejudicial.
- THE COURT: There is a 403 process in this
- 17 though and I think there is a legal question. And
- 18 the legal question is, what is the impact of the
- 19 injunction? Because if the injunction cuts off the
- 20 damages -- because it is no longer Mr. Hachenberger,
- 21 right?
- MR. CHASE: That's correct.
- 23 THE COURT: You can't argue that after the date
- of the injunction that Mr. Hachenberger continued to
- 25 exercise poor business judgment resulting in your



- 1 client's inability to access the property, because
- 2 that is not true. He had no judgment at that point.
- 3 It was up to the Court. I'm pointing at me, but the
- 4 Court generically. So it seems to me this claim is,
- 5 at best -- for a minimal time period, at best.
- 6 MR. BENITEZ: Judge, can I ask something of
- 7 Mr. Chase?
- 8 THE COURT: Yes.
- 9 MR. BENITEZ: If we do that and put it in a
- 10 non-jury bracket, would that relieve having to put
- 11 on Nick Carlin?
- MR. CHASE: No. Nick Carlin is going to go
- 13 through the A and B -- all the rest -- every one of
- 14 them, I, L and O. Maybe not O. But Nick Carlin
- 15 definitely -- I mean, I don't even see where.
- Nick Carlin has anything to do with that,
- 17 although that stuff that Nick Carlin would say has
- 18 to do with that. It's -- that is a terrible one.
- 19 Just drop it. There is no damages there. Just drop
- 20 it.
- 21 THE COURT: That is a conversation for you-all
- 22 to have, not for me to rule on.
- 23 MR. BENITEZ: Understood. May I step outside,
- 24 Your Honor?
- 25 THE COURT: Yes, you may.



- APPEAL 1 (Brief recess.) 2 THE COURT: Mr. Hachenberger, you may step 3 down. All right. Let's return the jury, please. 4 (Jury in.) 5 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated. Members of the Jury, thank you for your patience 6 7 with us. I think we've worked through a number of 8 issues and our position is again to continue to move 9 forward. Now however, it is 4:37 and it probably 10 doesn't make sense to press back into any more 11 testimony, so we're going to break for the evening 12 recess. We're going to resume tomorrow morning at 13 9:00. At that time, we'll continue with the 14 testimony that is being presented. 15 I want to thank you-all. I do a fair amount of 16 mission work and the number one thing they tell us 17 in mission work is to be flexible. I think that is 18 appropriate here in the courtroom as well. You want 19 to be flexible. Your attitude has been wonderful
  - 2.1 grateful for that. Thank you.
  - 22 So we will resume tomorrow morning at 9:00.

and your work ethic has been wonderful. I'm

- 23 All the same cautions do apply. Here we are in week
- 2.4 two and I'm sure you have got lots of guestions.
- 25 Please continue with, The Judge told us we are not



20

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1
     permitted to talk about this case. You can't do it
 2
     face to face and you can't do it electronically.
 3
     You can't do it on social media or other websites.
          Thank you very much for continuing to obey the
 4
 5
     rules and orders in that regard. We'll see you
 6
     tomorrow morning at 9:00. Thanks.
 7
          (Jury out.)
          THE COURT: We're off the record. Thank you.
 8
 9
          (Proceedings adjourned at 4:39 p.m.)
10
          (Continued in Volume VIII.)
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1	COURT CERTIFICATE
2	
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4	
5	STATE OF FLORIDA )
6	COUNTY OF ORANGE )
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	I, Laura A. Green, Registered Professional
12	Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, certify that I
13	was authorized and did stenographically report the
14	foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a true
15	and complete record of my stenographic notes.
16	
17	DATED this 20th day of September, 2018.
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	Laura A. Green
24	Laura A. Green, RPR, CRR Notary Public - State of Florida
25	notary rabite beate or riorrad



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