

1 <u>Appearances</u>: 2 For the Taishan Alston & Bird, LLP MICHAEL P. KENNY, ESQ. CHRISTINA HULL EIKHOFF, ESQ. 3 Defendants: BY: 4 1201 West Peachtree Street Atlanta, Georgia 30309 5 6 For the BNBM Dentons US, LLP BY: RICHARD L. FENTON, ESQ. Defendants: 7 233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 7800 Chicago, Illinois 60606 8 For the Knauf 9 Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC BY: KERRY J. MILLER, ESQ. Defendants: 10 201 St. Charles Avenúe, Šuite 3600 New Orleans, Louisiana 70170 11 12 Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR 500 Poydras Street, B-275 New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 Official Court Reporter: 13 (504) 589-7778 14 15 16 17 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography using computer-aided transcription software. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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	1	PROCEEDINGS
	2	(May 20, 2015)
09:26	3	THE COURT: Okay. I'll hear the motion at this
09:26	4	point.
09:26	5	MR. KENNY: May it please the Court. Good morning,
09:26	6	Your Honor. Michael Kenny on behalf of Taishan.
09:26	7	Based on some game-changing circumstances last
09:26	8	week that were beyond Taishan's control, we have filed two
09:26	9	motions this past Monday. One is a motion to modify the
09:26	10	scheduling order for the June 9 damages hearing and one is a
09:26	11	motion to compel. I will address the motion to modify the
09:26	12	scheduling order and Ms. Eikhoff will address the other.
09:26	13	What happened, Your Honor, is last week, and
09:26	14	specifically last Friday, the plaintiffs submitted a reply
09:26	15	brief and yet another new declaration from their expert
09:26	16	witness, Mr. Inglis. The reason we characterized those events
09:26	17	as game-changing is Your Honor will recall and I want to
09:26	18	take you back just a little bit because I think it's important
09:26	19	to set the table.
09:26	20	Last fall the plaintiffs filed a motion for
09:26	21	class damages and they attached an affidavit of Robert Wright.
09:27	22	In that motion they sought on behalf of I'm going to
09:27	23	estimate, but on behalf of about 3,800 property owners they
09:27	24	were seeking three distinct components of damages for class
09:27	25	treatment: remediated property, alternative living expenses,

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1 and loss of use and enjoyment.

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They also asked Your Honor to send out a supplemental notice in which the notice gave great detail as to the methodology of Mr. Wright and all three components of the damages and actually had precise dollar figures on all three components. It added up to more than \$1.2 billion.

Those people who received notice were given an opportunity to opt out. That period has run. On February 12, Your Honor had a hearing in which Your Honor was going to hear at that time presumably an unopposed motion for classwide damages and we first entered an appearance.

Since that time we have tried -- on behalf of Taishan, we have had basically one animating purpose. Given our position in the case, we have said all along and it's been our strategy who do we owe and what reasonable amount do we owe.

17 We came in, as Your Honor has already pointed out, and we addressed the contempt issues. We paid \$40,000 to 18 19 We paid \$15,000 to the plaintiffs' counsel. We the Court. have been participating in the litigation. We paid, with all 20 21 interest, the seven *Germano* plaintiffs, and now we have been 22 participating. Our whole goal here is to figure out who do we 23 owe, which of these members do we actually owe under the law, 24 and what's the reasonable amount we owe them. We need to 25 figure this out all in comporting with, of course,

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Fifth Circuit controlling law. 1

We filed opposition papers to the classwide motion for damages in the aggregate of more than \$1.2 billion with its three components. Last week we received notice that the plaintiffs were going to make a dramatic change to their Now, they have not amended their motion, but the motion. dramatic change is this.

First, with regard to who do we owe, we started out at approximately 3,800 people. Now they say there are approximately 1,000 people that they are stripping out. So they do not intend on June 9 to present evidence for more than 1,000 people, a third of the class. We think, Your Honor, that raises serious due process issues and notice issues. Those people have not been told that their claim for damages is not going to be presented for class treatment on June 9.

Is that your issue or their issue? THE COURT: It's our issue, Your Honor, because MR. KENNY: ultimately this raises a serious one-way intervention problem. To get this case resolved, we need to know who is actually in this class, and nobody has thrown them out of the class. Your Honor hasn't. The one-way intervention problems that Your Honor noted back in 2006 in your Turner v. Murphy Oil decision -- where you actually said, "We are going to do supplemental notice because of the changed circumstance." But we have 1,000 people now who are in limbo.

09:30 I	THE CO
09:30 2	3,800.
09:30 3	MR. KE
09:30 4	are 2,888. We w
09:31 5	it's a reliable
09:31 6	actually is owed

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THE COURT: So you only have 3,700 as opposed to 00.

MR. KENNY: According to Mr. Inglis' affidavit, there are 2,888. We will get to whether that is a precise figure and it's a reliable figure and that really does identify who actually is owed money.

7 The second category: Alternative Living 8 In the supplemental notice, they presented to the Expenses. 9 3,800 people that they were going to seek classwide damages of 10 more than \$95 million. They have pulled that down. They told 11 in the supplemental notice, its opt-out provision, all the class members that they were going to present loss of use and 12 13 enjoyment damages of about \$360 million. They are pulling that 14 out.

15 Based on our opposition paper, they are conceding, in other words, Your Honor, that with regard to 16 three categories of damages now they say they are owed, two of 17 18 them they are conceding must be adjudicated on an 19 individualized basis. Then with regard to the 3,800 people, 20 the 1,000 that they have stripped out, they are essentially conceding that those damages need to be adjudicated on an 21 22 individualized basis.

THE COURT: Well, doesn't that make your job easier,
though? I'm trying to figure out what the problem is.
MR. KENNY: It makes it extremely more complicated

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THE COURT: I may not agree that those are class
deals because it's specific.

MR. KENNY: Your Honor has put your finger precisely on the problem. We think the better course here -- this is the reason we have asked to modify what's going to happen on June 9. We think that what ought to happen June 9 is let's address the legal issues about the propriety of proceeding on a classwide basis even for the remediated damages.

We think there needs to be a little bit of a timeout, though. We think new notice has to go out to figure out -- and Your Honor needs to wrestle with the issue of whether, in fact, you are going to accept this new gambit as to whether 1,000 people are out and you are going to pull down damages even though Your Honor approved a notice that said just the opposite.

We think, at a minimum, we need to have a time-out to figure out that issue and how best to proceed because, from Taishan's point of view, we share the Court's interest, we share the plaintiffs' interest in that we want to get this done as fast as we can but within the parameters of the law and due process. We think the due process case has gone off the rails.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KENNY: Now, the second issue for postponing the

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evidentiary hearing is Mr. Inglis now has a declaration that he submitted on Friday that raises a couple of points where we just need more time to be able to properly and adequately defend what, in fact, he is now apparently saying with respect to a couple of matters.

6 One is he is relying on a spreadsheet to 7 determine ultimately -- the new number on remediated damages 8 dropped from about \$785 million to \$670 million for more than 9 2,888 people. He is relying on a spreadsheet that has summary 10 data. The spreadsheet was not created based on his direction. 11 He just got it. He got it from BrownGreer. That spreadsheet 12 supposedly -- we just don't know -- was created as a result of pulling materials from, now we know, about 64,000 documents 13 14 that have the underlying data. That would be the subject of the motion Ms. Eikhoff will address. 15

We need to get those documents so that we can 16 make an assessment as to whether the data on the summary sheet 17 Right now we have no way of knowing and there's 18 is accurate. 19 no way of testing under the current state of the record, but 20 there is a way to test because the documents are there. Thev 21 are readily available. As Ms. Eikhoff will address, they can 22 be given to us right now. There's no practical impediment for 23 getting us those documents, but we need to get those documents.

Our experts are going to have to look at those documents. We just need time for them -- our experts may have

supplemental reports that they are going to do to challenge
 this number. This is the fundamental number that they want to
 go forward with on June 9.

THE COURT: By not doing anything, you are winning. By not doing anything, they are claiming less. So you want to check it out so you can pay more?

MR. KENNY: No, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: I'm trying to figure that one out.

9 If, in fact -- and this would raise MR. KENNY: 10 If, in fact, they were pulling down -- they are problems. 11 pulling down about \$655 million for class presentation, but 12 they are vaguely reserving their rights to go after all those 13 dollars and apparently more in subsequent proceedings which 14 raises, just as an aside, fundamental 23(b)(3) superiority 15 issues whether this is the way to proceed. They are saying they are not giving it up, so we are just going to be having a 16 series -- a series -- of individualized inquiries, as it turns 17 18 out, for everybody -- for everybody -- on some issues.

19 Now, there's a second issue with regard to 20 Out of those 2,800 people, he says, "Well, there Mr. Inglis. 21 are 131 properties where I didn't have" -- even under their 22 methodology, "I didn't have verified property data 23 information." So he does a couple of averaging techniques --24 he is an engineer, Your Honor. He is not a statistician. He 25 does a couple of averaging techniques and he says, "Now I have

an estimate for those properties." 09:36 1 2 A lawyer for the plaintiffs apparently called 09:36 3 some guy named Michael Grossman in Boston and said, "Can you 09:36 4 take a look at this and tell me what you think?" Grossman 09:37 5 sends back a two-page -- excuse me, a two-paragraph letter that 09:37 essentially says, "I looked at what he did. It looks good to 6 09:37 7 me." Inglis says, "All right. So that's a reasonable 09:37 estimate." 8 09:37 9 I mean, we have an engineer wandering into an 09:37 area beyond his expertise, statistics, supposedly gets a 10 09:37 11 statistician -- who is not on the witness list. Nobody knows 09:37 12 Inglis yesterday in his deposition said, "I don't who he is. 09:37 know who he is. I never talked to him," and he says, "Well, I 13 09:37 14 bless this analysis." 09:37 15 Then we have the whole issue with the 2,888 09:37 This thing is trundling towards a June 9 hearing when 16 people. 09:37 we know from the data that we have and have the strong reason 17 09:37 18 to believe that there is a substantial group, a subset within 09:37 19 that 2,800, where their property has already been remediated. 09:37 Inglis doesn't try to figure out whether any of those 20 09:38 properties have been remediated, in which case you can look at 21 09:38 22 the actual cost, which is the best evidence of what we would 09:38 Instead, he does an estimate for those. 23 owe them. 09:38 24 Well, we need to figure out, out of those 2,800, 09:38 25

how many of these properties have actually been remediated.

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think that information is contained in the 63,000 documents that are ready to be burned to a disc and produced.

For those reasons, Your Honor, we would ask that the Court modify the schedule. We can go forward on June 9 and argue whether, in fact, the whole rubric of classwide damages now for the remediated component of the damages is proper under Fifth Circuit law. In the meantime, we can go ahead and we can get this information. If, in fact, Your Honor, decides after the June 9 hearing that it is, then we can have an evidentiary hearing after we have had an opportunity to fully prepare to see what the actual numbers should be.

THE COURT: The problem to some extent, when I'm listening to you, I would be a lot more receptive if your client didn't quit. See, 10 or 12 months ago, when the Fifth Circuit ruled against them, they said, "We quit, and we fire our lawyers." They fired their lawyers and they quit.

I kept their lawyers in because I wanted them to have every opportunity to rethink it. I wanted them to participate in it because I didn't want just emotion to take care of it. Notwithstanding the fact that they got all of the information as it was unfolding, they just thumbed their nose at the Court. Now they come in and they say, "Well, we have reconsidered after 10 or 11 months and now we want a continuance."

I hear you, and you are doing a wonderful job of

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09:40	1	presenting it, but let me hear the other side.
09:40	2	MR. KENNY: Your Honor, can I just make one comment
09:40	3	about that?
09:40	4	THE COURT: Sure.
09:40	5	MR. KENNY: Bernard Taylor, the first time we
09:40	6	appeared before Your Honor, he stood before Your Honor
09:40	7	essentially with hat in hand. We understand our position, but
09:40	8	that doesn't
09:40	9	THE COURT: You're not to blame at all and Bernard is
09:40	10	not to blame. You just got into the litigation. In fact, you
09:40	11	sent some young fellow to get on the last plane to New Orleans
09:40	12	and he ran in and made an appearance.
09:40	13	MR. KENNY: Well, we told him, Your Honor, "It's
09:40	14	either the judge or our wrath you have to incur, so you better
09:40	15	get in there." Look, there's no denying it. We wish we
09:40	16	weren't in the position we are in. But having said that, the
09:40	17	rules apply.
09:40	18	THE COURT: No, I understand. My grandma said, "You
09:41	19	have to dance with the one who brung you."
09:41	20	MR. FENTON: Your Honor, may I make some additional
09:41	21	comments on behalf of BNBM? We have joined in the motion.
09:41	22	THE COURT: Okay. I'll hear one side first and then
09:41	23	I will hear the other side.
09:41	24	MR. FENTON: I'll be brief, your Honor. Rick Fenton
09:41	25	on behalf of the BNBM entities.

Your Honor, first of all, I very much agree with 1 09:41 2 Mr. Kenny's remarks. We have got some additional problems with 09:41 3 respect to the notice. The class that this Court certified 09:41 4 last year was specifically for remediated properties. The 09:41 5 supplemental notice that went out in December removed the word 09:41 So included in this mix of class members now that 6 remediated. 09:41 7 received the supplemental notice are a number of persons who 09:41 8 were not part of the certified class but who also have 09:41 9 unremediated properties. 09:41 10 We have been dealing with a moving target, as 09:42 11 Mr. Kenny has indicated, on damages. Part of the reason for 09:42 12 that, Your Honor, is that there are some fundamental problems 09:42 13 with the analysis that has been done. 09:42 14 As Mr. Kenny mentioned, Mr. Inglis, who is the 09:42 15 plaintiffs' expert, is not a statistician. He is a 09:42 construction expert. He freely admitted in his deposition 16 09:42 yesterday that there was absolutely -- other than this letter 17 09:42 that Mr. Kenny mentioned that I will get to in a minute, that 18 09:42 19 there was absolutely no statistical analysis done to determine 09:42 whether his construction factor of \$86 per square foot was 20 09:42 21 statistically sound. 09:42 22 He simply assumed that this small group of 09:42

He simply assumed that this small group of plaintiffs in Northeast Virginia, within 60 miles of one another, was somehow a representative sample of a group that spans I believe it's 18 states and many thousands of claimants.

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So there's some fundamental problems to begin with, and that's part of the reason that we are seeing the damages shift.

We are not trying to delay, Your Honor, but we are trying to avoid error. We don't want to have to go through this again. It is tremendously expensive for all the parties, it has taken up a tremendous amount of the Court's time, and there are some threshold fundamental issues that need to be addressed. Besides the problems with notice -- and I think renotice is required in view of the changes that have been made to the plaintiffs' damage theory.

We articulated and Taishan articulated in our opposition some threshold legal issues. In addition to the lack of any statistical rigor in the expert reports, there is Fifth Circuit authority that is very clear on the use of aggregate damage awards in this kind of setting. There is Fifth Circuit authority and a lot of authority out of this Court -- much of it was created during Hurricane Katrina -where the courts have held, look, if actual remediation has been done, you have to look at the actual costs. At that point, estimates have no place. Now, approximately three-quarters of the class that remains have remediation that has already been done to their properties.

THE COURT: But those cases really involve insurance claims against their own insurer and the policy provisions say that if you are remediated, this is what you get. That's where 09:45 09:45 09:45 09:45 09:45 09:45 09:45 09:45 09:45 10 09:45 11 09:45 12 09:45 13 09:45 14 09:45 15 09:45 16 09:45 17 09:45 18 09:45 19 09:46 20 09:46 21 09:46 22 09:46 23 09:46 24 09:46 25 09:46

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those cases come down, primarily. It's not against the tortfeasor. It's against the insurance company.

MR. FENTON: I believe, Your Honor, the cases are broader than that. The Katrina cases, you are right, those were insurance cases, but there is Fifth Circuit authority and the principle is the same. If you have actual costs, those are your damages. You don't rely on an estimate when there are actual numbers available.

Now, these class members here are active These are people who are plaintiffs in individual litigants. cases. They are subject to discovery. The plaintiffs never asked them, "What are your actual costs? What were your actual costs of remediation?" Mr. Inglis never asked them.

THE COURT: The problem with actual cost of remediation when you are looking at a tort feasor is that the person loses their house. They don't have any other place to live, so they have to get back in their house. They just do everything they can to get back in their house as guickly as they can. They don't even put insulation in it. They take the drywall out and they may slap something up against the wall just to get in the house. That's their actual damages. Now, the tortfeasor created that situation. To then stick them with that actual damage, that's just --

MR. FENTON: Well, Your Honor, part of the problem is that if you look at Mr. Inglis' spreadsheets, in many cases, on 09:46 09:46 09:46 09:46 09:46 09:46 09:46 09:46 09:46 10 09:47 11 09:47 12 09:47 13 09:47 14 09:47 15 09:47 16 09:47 17 09:47 18 09:47 19 09:47 20 09:47 09:47 22 09:47 23 09:47 24 09:48 25 09:48

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an individual basis, he is very low. The actual costs of remediation were actually higher. It goes both ways.

My point, though, Judge, is there are a lot of threshold legal issues here that I think really should be sorted out before we proceed to take proof. We are not saying June 9 should be deferred forever. What we are saying is on June 9 we should take the time to deal with the threshold legal issues, make sure that the notice to the class is sufficient, supplement the notice if need be, and then we can move to an evidentiary stage if the Court determines that that's appropriate. There will be plenty to do on June 9. Thank you, Your Honor.

> Thank you very much. THE COURT:

MR. LEVIN: Arnold Levin for the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee. Your Honor, I will be very brief because the colloguy between the Court and counsel answered a lot of the questions that I would have responded to.

I was born but not yesterday. It sounds to me like it was a motion to decertify the class by a defaulted party, who can't do that. I haven't seen this argument in 21 30 years where the defendant comes in and says the class is being denied due process. The last I saw it was in two cases that we cited to the Court, the *Sley* case and *Umbriac* by Judge Higginbotham in the district court, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and then the Third Circuit, chief

judge in the Third Circuit, where he said, "You are not fooling 1 09:48 2 us. You are not protecting the class. You really want no 09:48 3 class." And that's exactly what they want is no class, and 09:48 4 they have been defaulted. 09:48 5 As far as how we structured the class 09:48 proceedings, the class definition is for remediated homes or 6 09:48 homes to be remediated, and the damages are the cost of 7 09:48 remediation not the cost of the Band-Aids that these poor 8 09:48 9 people had to do to get into their homes. They don't benefit 09:48 from that. They are estopped from benefiting from that. 10 09:48 They caused that to happen by ignoring 4,000 11 09:48 12 homeowners in Louisiana, Virginia, Florida, and some other 09:48 states sprinkled in. They don't gain the benefits of their 13 09:49 14 outrageous conduct. They had every opportunity to do what the 09:49 15 Knauf defendants did. They chose not to. They held back. 09:49 They are still holding back. 16 09:49 Now, we looked at the class and we haven't 17 09:49 18 denied any member that has sued on the Amorin complaint or the 09:49 19 Gross complaint or any of the complaints with due process. In 09:49 20 fact, we gave them due process. 09:49 21 Those damages that clearly could be presented on 09:49 22 a class basis are the cost of remediation. That's arithmetic. 09:49 23 We moved other damages on an individual basis for another day 09:49

on another phase of the trial, and we said a final judgment

would not be entered until there was complete relief for

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09:50	1	everybody. We think that's a proper structure and we think
09:50	2	that is due process.
09:50	3	As far as renoticing the class, again this is a
09:50	4	red herring. This class has been noticed twice. One opt-out.
09:50	5	Only one opt-out. Now they want to give the others a chance to
09:50	6	opt out. Those that opted out have individual claims and they
09:50	7	are already opted out because they are going to be handled for
09:50	8	foreclosures caused by the defendant, bankruptcies that they
09:50	9	withstood caused by the defendant, alternative living expenses
09:50	10	that they are due caused by the defendant. Every item of
09:50	11	damages is preserved. It's neatly preserved.
09:50	12	Well, I guess I know why they are doing it.
09:51	13	They have delayed for five, six years and they want to continue
09:51	14	to delay.
09:51	15	Your Honor, we want to hold that June 9 hearing.
09:51	16	We are prepared to go forward on that June 9 hearing. As to
09:51	17	the comments with regard to our expert, Mr. Inglis,
09:51	18	Chris Seeger will address the Court.
09:51	19	MR. SEEGER: Good morning, Your Honor. Chris Seeger
09:51	20	for plaintiffs. I will keep my comments brief.
09:51	21	The defendants had an opportunity to depose
09:51	22	Mr. Inglis, which they took yesterday, and deposed him over
09:51	23	seven hours. All of the questions that they say they are
09:51	24	confused on, or this change or that change, they questioned him
09:51	25	about. They questioned him about how the numbers got crunched,

1 what houses came out.

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2 They questioned him about BrownGreer's 3 spreadsheet, which Mr. Inglis made very clear to them that he 4 relied upon the information provided to him by BrownGreer. 5 Now, BrownGreer is a claim administrator not only appointed by this Court but courts throughout the country to do exactly what 6 they are doing in this case, whether it's a personal injury 7 case or a property damage case. They are collecting data and 8 9 they are making that data available in this case through a summary format. 10

11 I have never heard of a situation where a 12 Court-appointed claim administrator has been asked to produce 13 the kind of information they are asking for here. They are 14 trusted to do this. They are the gold standard in claim 15 administration. As I said, nobody has ever questioned the reliability of the information and the data they have provided. 16

Mr. Inglis' approach -- and I'm going to keep 18 this really brief -- is simple. It's based on some simple 19 The scope of work has been established by this Court in math. your findings of fact in both Germano and Hernandez. 20 That's based upon the hard work of a lot of scientists that the Court 21 22 has heard from, scientists from Sandia. One person and one firm that's been in the middle of this since the very 23 24 beginning, since 2009, is Berman & Wright and George Inglis. 25 They have been in the middle of this establishing the scope,

1 studying the science.

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2 He testified very plain. The scope is 3 It's set forth. It's ripping down the houses to established. 4 the studs. All he simply did is applied cost factors from 5 He adjusted the \$86 a foot, which was in Your Honor's RSMeans. findings in Germano, to 2015 and then further refined the 6 number to benefit the defendants, further refined the number to 7 adjust for cost factors based on localities. He used ZIP codes 8 9 to do that.

10 It's straight math. So if there are 2,800 11 homes, you apply the straight math to the 2,800. If they want 12 to put the other 1,000 homes back in, we can do that and apply 13 the straight math to the 3,800. It's very straightforward.

0n the issue on the statistician, that really is a red herring because they know, because they have read the deposition, that Mr. Inglis made something very clear. He is not a statistician. He did not rely upon statistics.

They raised some issues about representative sampling. We didn't ask Mr. Inglis to do it. The lawyers did it. We asked a statistician to take a look at it, double-check our work, make sure we got it right. He came back and he had said, yeah, we absolutely got it right.

23 Mr. Inglis didn't know who the statistician was 24 because that wasn't part of what he was asked to do. He didn't 25 care. It doesn't matter. It's just math. There's no extrapolating. There's no statistical work being done by
 Mr. Inglis. So, again, a red herring and inappropriate to
 really cite to that testimony knowing what Mr. Inglis said on
 it.

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Not knowing what properties are remediated again is another red herring. Again, it's math. Whatever the number is, it is. If a home has been remediated, it doesn't mean they are still not owed the money for remediating just because a homeowner did it on their own. So I'm not really clear on what all these points are, but I think Mr. Levin summed it up.

I think, Your Honor, it would really serve the Court well to get these witnesses into your Court on June 9, hear what they have to say, both Mr. Inglis and Mr. Woody, who is going to testify about this information, and let them come in with their experts. Jerry and I are flying to Atlanta today to talk to their experts. I think that would serve the Court well just to cut down on the delay.

THE COURT: Okay. Any response?

MR. KENNY: Just real briefly, Your Honor. The issue of the constant punishment should just end. We are in the case and we have the right to litigate and defend in accordance with the law.

With regard to the notice issue, I just repeat, the way the case is proceeding now is fundamentally different than what the class was told in your Court-approved notice that

went out, and they have not been informed that the game is 1 2 completely changing.

THE COURT: Any response?

4 MR. FENTON: Yes, Your Honor. I have to take issue 5 with counsel's remarks and I stand exactly by what I said. Mr. Woody said that he applied no statistical analysis. 6 The Grossman letter relates to one aspect of his analysis and that 7 is how one extrapolates unknown square footage. Mr. Grossman 8 9 did not bless the representative sample. He didn't address it 10 at all even though our experts had gone into great detail about why the sample is not representative. So Mr. Grossman's 11 12 silence on that issue, I think, speaks volumes. Without statistical rigor, the Fifth Circuit has said you can't have 13 14 classwide damages, and that's why I think we should address 15 these threshold issues on June 9. Thank you, Your Honor.

Thank you very much. Let's continue with THE COURT: the discovery and I'll write something on this. Let's go 18 forward with the discovery.

The next motion is the motion to compel.

20 MS. EIKHOFF: Yes, Your Honor. Christina Eikhoff on behalf of Taishan. 21

22 The subject of the motion to compel is a set of documents that exists in a place where we know they exist. 23 24 They are being held by BrownGreer, and up until a few days ago 25 we had representations that they were being burned to a disc

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2 These documents identify who the class members 3 are in detail, the type and size of property that's at issue, 4 whether they have been already remediated, and the extent to 5 which the properties were remediated, is it a Band-Aid job that the Court referenced earlier or was it a more thorough 6 7 remediation whose drywall was identified as being in the properties, and whether or not these claimants have been made 8 9 whole.

THE COURT: As I understand it, we started when you asked for all of the documents and data and now, at my request, you have trimmed it down to the documents, data, information BrownGreer reviewed, and that's what you want the information to be.

MS. EIKHOFF: Your Honor, we want the documents that are the backup to the summary spreadsheet that is the cornerstone of the plaintiffs' motion for damages and of their expert's report.

THE COURT: I understand.

What's the response?

21 MR. MEUNIER: May it please the Court. Jerry Meunier22 for the plaintiffs.

Your Honor, I'm not sure I understood what
Ms. Eikhoff just said because they have every plaintiff profile
form, which identifies every plaintiff class member, which

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gives the property address, which gives the square footage where it's available. Mr. Woody is going to be deposed next Tuesday and will explain under oath in detail to the defendants, who have noticed his deposition, exactly what he did when he had to come up with the summary of the data.

So I think you have seen in Knauf's opposition to this that for them to request the entirety of the material is to necessarily have BrownGreer produce that which is proprietary, which has nothing to do with the Taishan class damages trial. So I think they should go forward with Mr. Woody's deposition next Tuesday, ask him how he came up with the data he provided, and they have all of the fact sheets.

THE COURT: I understand that. Before she begins the deposition, she wants the material that he relied upon. It seems to me that she is entitled to that; not all the documents that you have looked at since you have been in this business, but the documents that you looked at. If you just looked at the sheets, that's what the documents are.

I don't want them to take the deposition and then all of a sudden Mr. Woody say, "Well, I also relied on this document," which she doesn't see. So anything that he relied on to give the information that he is going to give they ought to have.

MR. MEUNIER: Well, that's fine, Your Honor. I have

1 talked to Mr. Woody about it. He can address it. It is going 10:00 2 to take time for him to pour through the material, which is the 10:00 3 64,000 documents you keep hearing about, and identify exactly 10:00 4 what fits that precise characterization. I suppose it will 10:00 5 take time and maybe --10:00 **THE COURT:** Well, let's look at it, Mr. Woody. 6 You 10:00 7 don't have a dog in this fight, so I don't need your comments. 10:00 The material that you have looked at to base your opinion on, 8 10:00 9 that's what they want. 10:00 10 **MR. MEUNIER:** Judge, in addition, that's not counting 10:00 11 what we have already given them, which is all the fact sheets. 10:00 12 **THE COURT:** Right. If they have it, don't give it 10:01 We have to deal with the costs in this case. If you 13 again. 10:01 14 have given them the fact sheets and that's all you relied on, 10:01 15 that's it. If you relied on something else, give it to them. 10:01 I understand. 16 MR. WOODY: 10:01 17 **MR. MEUNIER:** Thank you, Judge. 10:01 18 **MR. MILLER:** Your Honor, if I may for a second? 10:01 19 THE COURT: Yes. 10:01 20 MR. MILLER: Kerry Miller on behalf of Knauf. We put 10:01 21 in an opposition to this yesterday. I just want to reserve my 10:01 22 rights on that, Your Honor. 10:01 23 It appears that some of the 64,000 documents 10:01 24 that are the issue include inspection reports and/or cost 10:01 25 estimates prepared by consultants retained by Knauf and paid 10:01

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for by Knauf, particularly Moss. Some of the 64,000 documents 1 2 include the repair scope analysis that Moss prepares. Knauf 3 pays Moss \$1.45 a square foot to do those documents. Those 4 documents are then signed by the homeowner, and then they 5 control the scope of work and the cost of work and that kind of So in these cases these would either be mixed homes or 6 thing. these would be homes where it was believed it was Knauf board 7 only then to find out it was Taishan board. Of course, Taishan 8 9 could use these documents for litigation purposes.

The other sets of documents, Your Honor, would be inspection reports done by the Court-approved inspectors as part of the Knauf remediation program. I think in the schedule of documents that Jake Woody submitted, it looked like there are about 300 of those in the 64,000 documents; not 300 documents but 300 reports. Knauf pays on average about \$800 for those reports.

So I just want to make sure that -- I know things are truncated. It's an accelerated timeline. It's easier sometimes to do a document dump then to sift through them on the front end, but Knauf does have a claim that those materials are proprietary for previous reasons stated and certainly would seek reimbursement of those funds at the appropriate time from Taishan or through the Court.

THE COURT: That's another issue, costs, and I'm sensitive to that. You ought to see what he gives. If any of 1 those are material that you incurred costs in, I will take that
2 up at another time.

MR. MILLER: Thank you, Judge.

MS. EIKHOFF: Your Honor, if I just may respond to that, to Mr. Miller's points about the cost of the inspections. For all of the reasons we have already articulated, the inspection reports that identify whose drywall was in the homes that are now the subject of these damages claimed is very relevant and very --

10 THE COURT: No, I agree with that. I think you ought to have it. It's a question later on of whether or not you 11 12 ought to pay for it or not pay for it. I won't decide that now. I don't know what we are talking about. It's just too 13 14 general to decide now. If it's one dollar, that's one thing. 15 If it's \$100,000, that may be another thing. I will give you 16 an opportunity to respond to that. I'm not going to 17 automatically say you have to pay costs, and I'm not going to 18 automatically say you don't have to pay costs. Let's get the 19 documents first and then I will hear about that situation.

20 MS. EIKHOFF: Yes, Your Honor. Now, the deposition 21 of Mr. Woody is scheduled for Tuesday. So in terms of us 22 getting these documents that we have been asking for --

THE COURT: Well, you ought to get them as quickly as you can.

Jake, give them the documents as quickly as you

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1 can. 10:04 2 MR. WOODY: Yes, sir. 10:04 3 MS. EIKHOFF: Thank you. 10:04 4 **THE COURT:** I have another motion, but the lawyer has 10:04 5 to be contacted on the phone. This has to do with another 10:04 issue we haven't talked about yet. It has to do with the 6 10:04 7 motion to enforce the Banner settlement. I'll take a 10:05 five-minute break. 8 10:05 9 May we approach very quickly with MR. HERMAN: 10:05 Mr. Miller regarding a Knauf/PSC problem? 10 10:05 11 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you very much. 10:05 12 THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise. 10:05 * * * 13 10:05 14 CERTIFICATE 15 I, Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court, Eastern District 16 of Louisiana, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct 17 18 transcript, to the best of my ability and understanding, from 19 the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. 20 21 22 ⁄ Toni Doyle Tusa Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR 23 Official Court Reporter 24 25

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2015 [3] 1/8 3/2 20/6 2047 [1] 1/5	admitted [1] 13/16	average [1] 26/15
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changing [3] 3/7 3/17 22/2 В begin [1] 14/19-md-02047-EEF beginning [1] 19/24 begins [1] 24/14 beňalf [8] 3/6 3/22 3/23 4/12 12/21 12/25 22/21 25/20 being [5] 16/22 21/1 22/24 22/25 23/7 believe [3] 10/18 13/25 15/3 believed [1] 26/7 benefit [2] 17/9 20/7 benefiting [1] 17/10 benefits [1] 17/13 Benjamin [1] 1/21 Berkowitz [1] 2/9 Berman [2] 1/15 19/24 Bernard [2] 12/5 12/9 Besides [1] 14/8 best [3] 7/18 10/22 28/18 better [2] 7/5 12/14 between [1] 16/16 beyond [2] 3/8 10/10 billion [2] 4/6 5/3 Bird [1] 2/2 bit [2] 3/18 7/10 blame [2] 12/9 12/10 bless [2] 10/14 22/9 BNBM [3] 2/6 12/21 12/25 22/14 board [2] 26/7 26/8 born [1] 16/18 Boston [1] 10/3 both [3] 16/2 19/20 21/13 break [1] 28/8 brief [5] 3/15 12/24 16/15 18/20 19/18 briefly [1] 21/19 broader [1] 15/4 BrownGreer [6] 8/11 19/4 19/5 22/24 23/13 24/8 BrownGreer's [1] 19/2 brung [1] 12/19 burned [2] 11/2 22/25 business [1] 24/17 but [21] 3/23 5/6 5/24 7/21 8/19 8/23 9/11 12/1 12/7 12/16 13/8 14/3 14/23 15/5 16/18 19/6 21/10 24/18 26/15 26/20 28/4 Caldwell [1] 2/9 called [1] 10/2 came [4] 4/17 19/1 20/21 24/11 can [18] 7/21 8/16 8/21 9/6 10/3 10/21 11/4 11/7 11/7 11/9 12/2 15/18 15/19 16/9 20/12 25/1 27/24 28/1 can't [2] 16/20 22/13 care [2] 11/20 20/25 case [12] 4/14 5/19 7/22 10/21 16/23 19/7 19/8 19/8 19/9 21/20 21/24 25/13 cases [10] 1/8 14/23 15/1 15/3 15/4 15/5 contained [1] 11/1 15/11 15/25 16/22 26/6 categories [1] 6/17 category [1] 6/7 caused [4] 17/11 18/8 18/9 18/10 CCR [3] 2/12 28/15 28/22 certainly [1] 26/22 CERTIFICATE [1] 28/14 certified [2] 13/3 13/8 certify [1] 28/17 challenge [1] 9/1 chance [1] 18/5 change [4] 5/5 5/7 18/24 18/24 changed [1] 5/24 changes [1] 14/9

characterization [1] 25/097 characterized [1] 3/16 Charles [1] 2/10 check [2] 9/6 20/20 Chicago [1] 2/7 chief [1] 16/25 CHINESE [1] 1/5 CHINESE-MANUFACTURED [1] 1/5 chose [1] 17/15 Chris [2] 18/18 18/19 Chris Seeger [1] 18/18 CHRISTINĂ [2] 2/3 22/20 CHRISTOPHER [1] 1/18 Circuit [9] 5/1 11/7 11/15 14/14 14/16 15/5 16/25 17/1 22/13 circumstance [1] 5/24 circumstances [1] 3/7 cite [1] 21/3 cited [1] 16/23 claim [5] 5/14 19/5 19/12 19/14 26/20 claimants [2] 13/25 23/8 claimed [1] 27/8 claiming [1] 9/5 claims [2] 14/24 18/6 class [30] classwide [6] 4/10 5/2 6/9 7/9 11/5 clear [4] 14/14 19/3 20/16 21/9 clearly [1] 17/21 client [1] 11/14 codes [1] 20/8 collecting [1] 19/8 colloquy [1] 16/16 come [4] 11/22 15/1 21/14 24/5 comes [1] 16/21 comment [1] 12/2 comments [4] 12/21 18/17 18/20 25/7 Committee [1] 16/15 company [1] 15/2 compel [3] 3/11 22/19 22/22 complaint [2] 17/18 17/19 complaints [1] 17/19 complete [1] 17/25 completely [1] 22/2 complicated [1] 6/25 component [1] 11/6 components [4] 3/24 4/4 4/6 5/4 comporting [1] 4/25 computer [1] 2/17 computer-aided [1] 2/17 conceding [3] 6/16 6/18 6/21 conduct [1] 17/14 confused [1] 18/24 constant [1] 21/20 construction [2] 13/16 13/20 contempt [1] 4/18 continuance [1] 11/24 continue [2] 18/13 22/16 control [2] 3/8 26/5 controlling [1] 5/1 cornerstone [1] 23/17 correct [1] 28/17 cost [10] 10/22 15/14 17/7 17/8 17/22 20/4 20/8 25/24 26/5 27/5 costs [10] 14/19 15/6 15/12 15/13 16/1 25/13 26/24 27/1 27/17 27/18 could [2] 17/21 26/9 counsel [2] 4/19 16/16 counsel's [1] 22/5

counting [1] 25/10 Filed 06/08/15[1] p19/6e 30 of 36 couple [4] 8/2 8/5 9/23 9/25 course [3] 4/25 7/5 26/8 court [28] 1/1 2/12 3/5 4/19 11/4 11/22 13/3 14/17 16/10 16/16 16/23 16/24 18/18 19/6 19/12 19/19 19/21 21/12 21/12 21/16 21/25 23/6 23/21 26/11 26/23 28/15 28/16 28/23 Court's [2] 7/19 14/6 Court-appointed [1] 19/12 Court-approved [2] 21/25 26/11 courts [2] 14/18 19/6 created [4] 8/10 8/12 14/17 15/22 crunched [1] 18/25 current [1] 8/19 cut [1] 21/17 D damage [4] 14/10 14/15 15/23 19/8 damages [28] 3/10 3/21 3/24 4/5 4/11 5/3 5/14 6/9 6/13 6/17 6/21 7/9 7/15 8/7 11/5 11/6 13/11 14/2 15/7 15/21 17/7 17/21 17/23 18/11 22/14 23/17 24/10 27/8dance [1] 12/19 data [12] 8/10 8/14 8/17 9/22 10/17 19/8 19/9 19/16 23/11 23/12 24/5 24/12 David [1] 1/21 day [1] 17/23 days [1] 22/24 deal [2] 16/7 25/13 dealing [1] 13/10 deals [1] 7/3 December [1] 13/5 decertify [1] 16/19 decide [2] 27/12 27/14 decides [1] 11/8 decision [1] 5/23 declaration [2] 3/15 8/1 defaulted [2] 16/19 17/4 defend [2] 8/4 21/21 defendant [4] 16/21 18/8 18/9 18/10 defendants [7] 2/3 2/6 2/9 17/15 18/21 20/7 24/4 deferred [1] 16/6 definition [1] 17/6 delay [3] 14/3 18/14 21/17 delayed [1] 18/13 denied [2] 16/22 17/18 Dentons [1] 2/6 denying [1] 12/15 depose [1] 18/21 deposed [2] 18/22 24/2 deposition [8] 10/12 13/16 20/16 24/4 24/11 24/15 24/20 27/20 detail [4] 4/3 22/10 23/3 24/3 determine [2] 8/7 13/19 determines [1] 16/10 did [8] 10/6 17/15 20/4 20/17 20/19 21/9 22/9 24/5 didn't [8] 9/21 9/22 11/14 11/19 20/19 20/23 20/24 22/9 different [1] 21/24 direction [1] 8/10 disc [2] 11/2 22/25 discovery [3] 15/11 22/17 22/18 distinct [1] 3/24 district [7] 1/1 1/2 1/12 16/24 16/25 28/16 28/16 do [24] 4/15 4/15 4/22 4/23 5/8 5/11 5/23 9/1 15/17 16/11 16/20 17/9 17/14 19/6 19/14 20/9 20/12 20/19 20/24 24/9

D	exist [1] 22/23	funds [1] 26/22
do [4] 26/3 26/19 28/5 28/67-EEF-J	exists [1] 22/23 expenses [3] 3/25 6/8 18/9 Filed 06	futblerg21 2026 20271 of 36
Docket [1] 1/5	expensive [1] 14/5	G
document [2] 24/22 26/19	expert [5] 3/15 13/15 13/16 14/13 18/17	gain [1] 17/13
documents [28] 8/13 8/16 8/20 8/23	expert's [1] 23/18	Gainsburgh [1] 1/21
8/23 8/25 11/1 22/23 23/2 23/11 23/12 23/15 24/16 24/18 24/19 25/3 25/23	expertise [1] 10/10 experts [5] 8/24 8/25 21/15 21/16 22/10	gambit [1] 7/13 game [3] 3/7 3/17 22/1
26/1 26/3 26/4 26/9 26/10 26/13 26/14	explain [1] 24/3	game-changing [2] 3/7 3/17
26/15 27/19 27/22 27/25	extent [2] 11/12 23/4	gave [2] 4/3 17/20
does [5] 6/5 9/23 9/25 10/23 26/20 doesn't [6] 6/23 10/20 12/8 20/25 21/7	extrapolates [1] 22/8 extrapolating [1] 21/1	general [1] 27/14 George [1] 19/24
24/22	extremely [1] 6/25	Georgia [1] 2/4
dog [1] 25/7	F	GERALD [1] 1/22
doing [5] 9/4 9/5 11/25 18/12 19/7		Germano [3] 4/21 19/20 20/6
dollar [2] 4/5 27/14 dollars [1] 9/13	fact [13] 7/13 8/4 9/9 9/10 11/5 11/8 11/20 12/10 17/20 19/20 24/12 25/11	get [17] 5/19 6/4 7/21 8/16 8/23 11/8 12/11 12/15 13/18 14/25 15/17 15/18
don't [14] 8/12 10/12 14/4 15/7 15/16	25/14	15/21 17/9 21/12 27/18 27/23
	factor [1] 13/20	gets [1] 10/10
27/13 27/18 done [7] 7/21 13/13 13/19 14/19 14/22	factors [2] 20/4 20/8 fall [1] 3/20	getting [2] 8/23 27/22 give [7] 18/5 24/23 24/23 25/12 25/15
21/1 26/11	FALLON [1] 1/11	27/15 27/25
Donelson [1] 2/9	far [2] 17/5 18/3	given [5] 4/7 4/13 8/22 25/11 25/14
double [1] 20/20	fast [1] 7/21 ECRE [3] 2/12 28/15 28/22	gives [3] 24/1 24/1 26/25
double-check [1] 20/20 down [8] 6/10 7/14 9/10 9/11 15/1 20/3	FCRR [3] 2/12 28/15 28/22 feasor [1] 15/15	giving [1] 9/16 go [9] 7/11 9/3 9/12 11/4 11/7 14/4
21/17 23/12	February [1] 4/8	18/16 22/17 24/10
Doyle [4] 2/12 28/15 28/22 28/22	February 12 [1] 4/8	goal [1] 4/22
dramatic [2] 5/5 5/7 Drive [1] 2/7	fellow [1] 12/11 FENTON [2] 2/6 12/24	goes [1] 16/2 going [21] 3/22 4/9 5/5 5/15 5/23 6/9
dropped [1] 8/8	few [1] 22/24	6/12 7/6 7/13 7/14 8/24 9/1 9/16 18/7
drywall [4] 1/5 15/20 23/7 27/7	Fifth [7] 5/1 11/7 11/15 14/14 14/16 15/5	
due [8] 5/13 7/22 7/22 16/22 17/19 17/20 18/2 18/10	22/13 Fifth Circuit [6] 5/1 11/7 11/15 14/14	27/17 gold [1] 19/14
dump [1] 26/19	14/16 22/13	gone [2] 7/23 22/10
during [1] 14/17	fight [1] 25/7	good [3] 3/5 10/6 18/19
E	figure [10] 4/22 4/25 6/4 6/5 6/24 7/11	got [8] 8/11 8/11 11/20 12/10 13/2 18/25
earlier [1] 23/6	7/18 9/8 10/20 10/24 figures [1] 4/5	20/21 20/22 grandma [1] 12/18
easier [2] 6/23 26/19	filed [3] 3/8 3/20 5/2	great [2] 4/3 22/10
EASTERN [3] 1/2 16/24 28/16	final [1] 17/24	Gross [1] 17/19
EIKHOFF [6] 2/3 3/12 8/15 8/21 22/20 23/24	find [1] 26/8 findings [2] 19/20 20/6	Grossman [4] 10/3 10/4 22/7 22/8 Grossman's [1] 22/11
either [2] 12/14 26/6		group [3] 10/18 13/22 13/24
ELDON [1] 1/11	finger [1] 7/4	guess [1] 18/12
else [1] 25/15 emotion [1] 11/19	fire [1] 11/16 fired [1] 11/16	guy [1] 10/3
end [2] 21/20 26/20	firm [1] 19/23	Н
enforce [1] 28/7	first [6] 4/11 5/8 12/5 12/22 13/1 27/19	had [11] 4/5 4/9 4/13 11/10 17/9 17/14
engineer [2] 9/24 10/9	Fishbein [1] 1/15	18/21 20/21 22/10 22/25 24/5
enjoyment [2] 4/1 6/13 entered [2] 4/11 17/25	fits [1] 25/4 five [2] 18/13 28/8	hand [1] 12/7 handled [1] 18/7
entirety [1] 24/7	five-minute [1] 28/8	happen [3] 7/6 7/7 17/11
entities [1] 12/25	Floor [1] 1/19	happened [1] 3/13
entitled [2] 24/16 28/19 error [1] 14/4	Florida [1] 17/12 flying [1] 21/15	hard [1] 19/21 has [26] 4/8 4/17 5/20 7/4 7/11 7/22 8/1
ESQ [7] 1/15 1/18 1/22 2/3 2/3 2/6 2/10	fooling [1] 17/1	8/9 10/19 13/11 13/13 14/6 14/18 14/22
essentially [3] 6/20 10/6 12/7	foot [3] 13/20 20/5 26/3	17/18 18/4 19/12 19/15 19/19 19/22
established [2] 19/19 20/3	footage [2] 22/8 24/1	21/7 22/13 24/9 28/4 28/5 28/6
establishing [1] 19/25 estimate [5] 3/23 10/1 10/8 10/23 15/7	foreclosures [1] 18/8 foregoing [1] 28/17	hasn't [1] 5/21 hat [1] 12/7
estimates [2] 14/20 25/25	forever [1] 16/6	have [84]
estopped [1] 17/10	form [1] 23/25	haven't [3] 16/20 17/17 28/6
even [5] 7/9 7/15 9/21 15/19 22/10 events [1] 3/16	format [1] 19/10 forth [1] 20/3	having [2] 9/16 12/16 he [46]
events [1] 3/16 ever [1] 19/15		hear [8] 3/3 4/9 11/25 12/1 12/22 12/23
every [5] 11/18 17/14 18/10 23/24 23/25	freely [1] 13/16	21/13 27/19
everybody [3] 9/18 9/18 18/1		heard [2] 19/11 19/22
everything [1] 15/18 evidence [2] 5/11 10/22	front [1] 26/20 fully [1] 11/10	hearing [9] 3/10 4/9 8/1 10/16 11/9 11/10 18/15 18/16 25/3
evidentiary [3] 8/1 11/9 16/10		held [3] 14/18 17/15 22/24
exactly [5] 17/3 19/6 22/5 24/4 25/3	14/7	here [5] 4/22 7/5 15/9 16/4 19/13
excuse [1] 10/5	fundamentally [1] 21/24	Hernandez [1] 19/20

Н	involve [1] 14/23	litigate [1] 21/21
herring 141 218/4 20/15 27/2 27/6 EEF-JC	is (90] Issue [17] 5/16 5/16 5/17 7/12 7/18 7/25	$\frac{140}{100}$
Higginbotham [1] 16/24		little [2] 3/18 //10 live [1] 15/17
higher [1] 16/2		living [3] 3/25 6/7 18/9
him [9] 10/13 12/13 18/22 18/24 18/25	issues [12] 4/18 5/13 5/13 7/8 9/15 9/18	LLC [1] 1/21
19/2 19/4 24/11 25/2		LLP [3] 1/18 2/2 2/6
his [7] 8/10 10/10 10/12 13/16 13/20 22/7 24/4	it [63] it's [25] 3/18 4/14 5/17 6/5 7/3 12/13	localities [1] 20/8 look [9] 8/24 10/4 10/21 12/15 14/18
hold [1] 18/15	13/25 15/1 15/2 18/11 19/7 19/18 20/3	14/19 15/25 20/20 25/6
holding [1] 17/16		looked [7] 10/6 17/17 24/17 24/18 24/18
home [1] 21/7	26/18 27/11 27/13 27/14 27/15	25/8 26/13
homeowner [2] 21/9 26/4	item [1] 18/10	looking [1] 15/15
homeowners [1] 17/12 homes [8] 17/6 17/7 17/9 20/11 20/12	its [2] 5/4 6/11	looks [1] 10/6 loses [1] 15/16
26/6 26/7 27/7	J	loss [2] 4/1 6/12
Honor [48]	Jake [2] 26/13 27/25	lot [5] 11/13 14/16 16/3 16/16 19/21
Honor's [1] 20/5	Jerry [2] 21/15 23/21	LOUISIANA [7] 1/2 1/7 1/23 2/11 2/13
HONORABLE [1] 1/11 hours [1] 18/23	job [3] 6/23 11/25 23/5 joined [1] 12/21	17/12 28/17 low [1] 16/1
house [4] 15/16 15/17 15/18 15/21	judge [8] 1/12 12/14 16/3 16/24 17/1	
houses [2] 19/1 20/3	25/10 25/17 27/3	Μ
how [6] 7/18 10/25 17/5 18/25 22/8	Judge Higginbotham [1] 16/24	made [5] 12/12 14/9 19/3 20/16 23/8
24/11	judgment [1] 17/24	make [8] 5/5 6/23 8/17 12/2 12/20 16/8
HULL [1] 2/3 Hurricane [1] 14/17	June [16] 3/10 5/11 5/15 7/7 7/7 9/3 10/16 11/4 11/9 16/6 16/7 16/11 18/15	20/21 26/17 makes [1] 6/25
	18/16 21/12 22/15	making [1] 19/9
1	June 9 [16] 3/10 5/11 5/15 7/7 7/7 9/3	MANUFACTURED [1] 1/5
	10/16 11/4 11/9 16/6 16/7 16/11 18/15	many [3] 10/25 13/25 15/25
l'm [10] 3/22 6/24 9/8 11/12 19/17 21/9 23/23 26/24 27/16 27/17	18/16 21/12 22/15	material [5] 24/7 24/15 25/2 25/8 27/1
identified [1] 23/7	just [27] 3/18 7/15 8/3 8/11 8/12 8/25 9/14 9/16 11/19 11/21 12/2 12/10 15/17	materials [2] 8/13 26/21 math [6] 19/19 20/10 20/11 20/13 20/25
identifies [1] 23/25	15/21 15/23 20/25 21/8 21/17 21/19	21/6
identify [4] 6/5 23/2 25/3 27/7	21/20 21/23 23/24 24/18 25/21 26/17	matter [2] 20/25 28/19
if [22] 9/9 9/10 11/8 11/13 14/18 14/25	27/4 27/13	matters [1] 8/5
15/6 15/25 16/9 16/10 20/10 20/11 21/7 24/18 25/12 25/13 25/15 25/18 26/25	К	may [12] 1/8 3/2 3/5 7/2 8/25 12/20 15/20 23/21 25/18 27/4 27/15 28/9
27/4 27/14 27/15	Katrina [2] 14/17 15/4	maybe [1] 25/5
ignoring [1] 17/11	keep [3] 18/20 19/17 25/3	MD [1] 1/5
Illinois [1] 2/7		me [6] 10/4 10/5 10/7 12/1 16/18 24/16
impediment [1] 8/22 important [1] 3/18	Kenny's [1] 13/2 kept [1] 11/17	mean [2] 10/9 21/7 meantime [1] 11/7
in [95]	KERRY [2] 2/10 25/20	mechanical [1] 2/17
inappropriate [1] 21/2	kind [3] 14/15 19/13 26/5	member [2] 17/18 23/25
include [2] 25/24 26/2		members [5] 4/23 6/12 13/6 15/9 23/2
included [1] 13/6 incur [1] 12/14	26/2 26/7 26/12 26/15 26/20 28/10 Knauf's [1] 24/6	mentioned [2] 13/14 13/18
incurred [1] 27/1	Knauf/PSC [1] 28/10	methodology [2] 4/4 9/22 Meunier [2] 1/21 23/21
indicated [1] 13/11	know [11] 5/19 8/12 8/13 10/13 10/17	MICHAEL [3] 2/3 3/6 10/3
individual [4] 15/10 16/1 17/23 18/6	18/12 20/15 20/23 22/23 26/17 27/13	middle [2] 19/23 19/25
individualized [3] 6/19 6/22 9/17 information [11] 9/23 11/1 11/8 11/21	knowing [3] 8/18 21/3 21/5 knows [1] 10/11	miles [1] 13/23
19/4 19/13 19/16 21/14 23/12 23/13		MILLER [3] 2/10 25/20 28/10 Miller's [1] 27/5
24/23	L	million [5] 6/10 6/13 8/8 8/8 9/11
informed [1] 22/1	lack [1] 14/13	minimum [1] 7/17
Inglis [18] 3/16 8/1 9/20 10/7 10/12	last [8] 3/7 3/13 3/14 3/20 5/4 12/11	minute [2] 13/18 28/8
10/20 13/14 15/13 18/17 18/22 19/3 19/24 20/16 20/19 20/23 21/2 21/3	13/4 16/22 later [1] 27/11	mix [1] 13/6 mixed [1] 26/6
19/24 20/16 20/19 20/23 21/2 21/3	law [5] 4/23 5/1 7/22 11/7 21/22	mixed [1] 26/6 modify [4] 3/9 3/11 7/6 11/4
Inglis' [3] 6/3 15/25 19/17	lawyer [2] 10/2 28/4	Monday [1] 3/9
injury [1] 19/7	lawyers [4] 11/16 11/16 11/17 20/19	money [2] 6/6 21/8
inquiries [1] 9/17	legal [4] 7/8 14/12 16/4 16/7	months [2] 11/14 11/23
inspection [3] 25/24 26/11 27/7 inspections [1] 27/5	less [1] 9/5 let [2] 12/1 21/14	more [11] 4/6 5/3 5/11 6/10 6/25 8/3 8/8 9/6 9/13 11/13 23/6
inspectors [1] 26/11	let's [5] 7/7 22/16 22/17 25/6 27/18	morning [2] 3/5 18/19
Instead [1] 10/23	letter [3] 10/5 13/17 22/7	Moss [3] 26/1 26/2 26/3
insulation [1] 15/19	Levin [4] 1/15 1/15 16/14 21/10	motion [19] 3/3 3/9 3/11 3/11 3/20 3/22
insurance [3] 14/23 15/2 15/5 insurer [1] 14/24	LIABILITY [1] 1/6 like [2] 16/19 26/13	4/10 5/3 5/6 5/6 8/15 12/21 16/19 22/19 22/19 22/22 23/17 28/4 28/7
intend [1] 5/11	limbo [1] 5/25	motions [1] 3/9
interest [3] 4/21 7/20 7/20	list [1] 10/11	move [1] 16/9
intervention [2] 5/18 5/21	listening [1] 11/13	moved [1] 17/23
into [5] 10/9 12/10 17/9 21/12 22/10	litigants [1] 15/10	moving [1] 13/10

Μ	opposite [1] 7/16	position [3] 4/14 12/7 12/16
Mr [1] 21/10 - md-02047-EEF-J(opposition [5], 5/2 6/15 14/12 24/6 25/216 opt [5] 4/8 6/11 18/4 18/5 18/6	r_{0} stponing 11 7/25 of 36
Mr [1] 21/10 Mr. [34]	opt [5] 4/8 6/11 18/4 18/5 18/6 opt-out [3] 6/11 18/4 18/5	Poydras [2] 1/22 2/13
Mr. Grossman [1] 22/8	opted [2] 18/6 18/7	practical [1] 8/22
Mr. Grossman's [1] 22/11	or [17] 5/16 11/14 11/23 12/14 17/6	precise [3] 4/5 6/4 25/4
Mr. Inglis [14] 3/16 8/1 9/20 13/14 15/13	17/18 17/19 18/24 18/24 19/8 23/6 23/8	precisely [1] 7/4
18/17 18/22 19/3 20/16 20/19 20/23	25/24 26/6 26/23 27/11 27/12	prepare [1] 11/10
21/2 21/3 21/13	ORAL [1] 1/11	prepared [2] 18/16 25/25
Mr. Inglis' [3] 6/3 15/25 19/17 Mr. Kenny [3] 13/11 13/14 13/18	order [2] 3/10 3/12 Orleans [5] 1/7 1/23 2/11 2/13 12/11	prepares [1] 26/2 present [2] 5/11 6/12
Mr. Kenny's [1] 13/2	other [10] 3/12 6/16 12/1 12/23 13/17	presentation [1] 9/11
Mr. Miller [1] 28/10	15/16 17/12 17/23 20/12 26/10	presented [3] 5/15 6/8 17/21
Mr. Miller's [1] 27/5	others [1] 18/5	presenting [1] 12/1
Mr. Woody [7] 21/13 22/6 24/2 24/21	ought [6] 7/7 24/24 26/25 27/10 27/12	preserved [2] 18/11 18/11
25/1 25/6 27/21	27/23	presumably [1] 4/10
Mr. Woody's [1] 24/11 Mr. Wright [1] 4/4	our [14] 4/14 4/15 4/22 5/17 6/15 8/24 8/25 11/16 12/7 12/14 14/11 18/17	previous [1] 26/21 primarily [1] 15/1
Ms. [4] 3/12 8/15 8/21 23/24	20/21 22/10	principle [1] 15/6
Ms. Eikhoff [4] 3/12 8/15 8/21 23/24	out [36]	problem [7] 5/18 6/24 7/5 11/12 15/14
much [5] 13/1 14/17 16/13 22/16 28/11	outrageous [1] 17/14	15/24 28/10
Murphy [1] 5/22	over [1] 18/22	problems [6] 5/21 9/10 13/2 13/12 14/1
must [1] 6/18 my [6] 12/18 16/2 18/20 22/11 25/21	owe [7] 4/15 4/16 4/23 4/23 4/24 5/8	14/8
my [6] 12/18 16/3 18/20 23/11 25/21 28/18	10/23	proceed [3] 7/18 9/15 16/5 proceeding [2] 7/8 21/24
	owed [3] 6/6 6/17 21/8 own [2] 14/24 21/9	proceeding [2] 7/8 21/24 proceedings [5] 2/17 3/1 9/13 17/6
N	owners [1] 3/23	28/19
named [1] 10/3	Р	process [7] 5/13 7/22 7/22 16/22 17/19
neatly [1] 18/11 necessarily [1] 24/8	page [1] 10/5	17/20 18/2 produce [3] 19/12 23/1 24/8
need [12] 4/24 5/19 6/21 7/17 8/3 8/16	page [1] 10/5 paid [4] 4/18 4/19 4/20 25/25	produce [3] 19/12 23/1 24/8 produced [1] 11/2
8/23 8/25 10/24 14/7 16/9 25/7	paper [1] 6/15	PRODUCTS [1] 1/5
needs [2] 7/10 7/12	papers [1] 5/2	profile [1] 23/24
never [4] 10/13 15/11 15/13 19/11	paragraph [1] 10/5	program [1] 26/12
new [11] 1/7 1/19 1/19 1/23 2/11 2/13	parameters [1] 7/21	proof [1] 16/5
3/15 7/11 7/13 8/7 12/11 New Orleans [1] 12/11	part [6] 13/8 13/11 14/2 15/24 20/24 26/12	proper [2] 11/6 18/1
next [3] 22/19 24/2 24/11	participate [1] 11/19	properly [1] 8/3 properties [10] 9/21 10/1 10/21 10/25
no [14] 8/18 8/19 8/22 9/7 12/15 12/18	participating [2] 4/20 4/22	13/4 13/9 14/22 21/5 23/5 23/8
13/19 14/20 17/2 17/3 20/25 21/1 22/6	particularly [1] 26/1	property [7] 3/23 3/25 9/22 10/19 19/8
27/10	parties [1] 14/5	23/3 24/1
nobody [3] 5/20 10/11 19/15	party [1] 16/20	proprietary [2] 24/9 26/21
Northeast [1] 13/23 nose [1] 11/21	past [1] 3/9 pay [5] 9/6 27/12 27/12 27/17 27/18	propriety [1] 7/8
not [42]	pays [2] 26/3 26/15	protecting [1] 17/2 provided [3] 19/4 19/16 24/12
noted [1] 5/22	PC [1] 2/9	provision [1] 6/11
nothing [1] 24/9	Peachtree [1] 2/4	provisions [1] 14/24
notice [18] 4/3 4/3 4/7 5/4 5/13 5/24 6/8	Pennsylvania [2] 1/16 16/25	PSC [4] 1/15 1/18 1/21 28/10
6/11 7/11 7/15 13/3 13/5 13/7 14/8 16/8	people [14] 4/7 5/9 5/10 5/12 5/14 5/25	pull [1] 7/14
16/9 21/23 21/25 noticed [2] 18/4 24/4	6/9 6/19 7/14 8/9 9/20 10/16 15/10 17/9 per [1] 13/20	pulled [1] 6/10
Notwithstanding [1] 11/20	period [1] 4/8	pulling [4] 6/13 8/13 9/10 9/11 punishment [1] 21/20
now [29]	person [2] 15/16 19/22	purpose [1] 4/13
number [7] 8/7 9/2 9/2 13/7 20/7 20/7	personal [1] 19/7	purposes [1] 26/9
21/6 numbers [2] 11/11 15/8 18/25	persons [1] 13/7	put [4] 7/4 15/19 20/12 25/20
numbers [3] 11/11 15/8 18/25	phase [1] 17/24 Philadelphia [1] 1/16	Q
0	phone [1] 28/5	quarters [1] 14/21
oath [1] 24/3	place [3] 14/20 15/16 22/23	question [1] 27/11
off [1] 7/23	plain [1] 20/2	questioned [4] 18/24 18/25 19/2 19/15
Official [3] 2/12 28/15 28/23	plaintiff [2] 23/24 23/25	questions [2] 16/17 18/23
Oil [1] 5/22 Okay [4] 3/3 7/24 12/22 21/18	plaintiffs [10] 3/14 3/20 4/21 5/5 10/2	quickly [4] 15/18 27/23 27/25 28/9
on [64]	13/23 15/10 15/11 18/20 23/22 plaintiffs' [6] 4/19 7/20 13/15 14/10	guit [3] 11/14 11/15 11/16
one [19] 3/9 3/10 4/13 5/18 5/21 8/6 9/8	16/14 23/17	R
12/2 12/19 12/22 13/23 18/4 18/5 19/22	plane [1] 12/11	rails [1] 7/23
19/22 22/7 22/8 27/14 27/14	please [2] 3/5 23/21	raise [1] 9/9
one-way [2] 5/18 5/21	plenty [1] 16/11	raised [1] 20/18
only [4] 6/1 18/5 19/5 26/8 opinion [1] 25/8	point [4] 3/4 7/19 14/20 16/3	raises [4] 5/13 5/18 8/2 9/14
opportunity [6] 4/8 11/10 11/18 17/14	pointed [1] 4/17 points [3] 8/2 21/10 27/5	ran [1] 12/12 RE [1] 1/5
18/21 27/16	policy [1] 14/24	read [1] 20/15
opposed [1] 6/1	poor [1] 17/8	readily [1] 8/21

D	Robert [1] 3/21	software [1] 2/17
R	RSMeens [1] 20/5 rubric [1] 11/5 rubric [1] 11/5	
ready [2] 11/2 23/1	rubric [1] 11/5	12/20 13/2 13/12 14/1 14/7 14/12 17/12
real [1] 21/19	ruled [1] 11/15	19/18 20/18 25/23 26/1
really [9] 6/5 14/23 16/4 17/2 19/18 20/14 21/3 21/9 21/11	rules [1] 12/17 run [1] 4/8	somehow [1] 13/24 something [4] 15/20 20/16 22/17 25/15
reason [5] 3/16 7/6 10/17 13/11 14/2		sometimes [1] 26/19
reasonable [3] 4/15 4/24 10/7	S	sorted [1] 16/5
reasons [3] 11/3 26/21 27/6	said [17] 4/14 5/23 7/15 10/3 10/12	sought [1] 3/22
recall [1] 3/17	11/15 12/16 12/18 17/1 17/24 19/15	sound [1] 13/21
received [3] 4/7 5/4 13/7	20/22 21/3 22/5 22/6 22/13 23/24	sounds [1] 16/18
receptive [1] 11/13	same [1] 15/6	South [1] 2/7
reconsidered [1] 11/23 record [2] 8/19 28/19	sample [3] 13/24 22/9 22/11 sampling [1] 20/19	spans [1] 13/25 speaks [1] 22/12
recorded [1] 2/17	Sandia [1] 19/22	specific [1] 7/3
red [4] 18/4 20/15 21/2 21/6	saw [1] 16/22	specifically [2] 3/14 13/4
referenced [1] 23/6	say [9] 5/9 6/17 11/22 14/24 18/23	spreadsheet [6] 8/6 8/9 8/10 8/11 19/3
refined [2] 20/6 20/7	21/13 24/21 27/17 27/18	23/16
regard [6] 5/8 6/16 6/19 9/19 18/17	saying [4] 8/4 9/15 16/5 16/6	spreadsheets [1] 15/25
21/23 regarding [1] 28/10	says [6] 9/20 9/25 10/6 10/7 10/13 16/21 schedule [2] 11/4 26/12	square [4] 13/20 22/8 24/1 26/3
reimbursement [1] 26/22	scheduled [1] 27/21	St [1] 2/10
relates [2] 1/8 22/7	scheduling [2] 3/10 3/12	stage [1] 16/10
relevant [1] 27/9	science [1] 20/1	stand [1] 22/5
reliability [1] 19/16	scientists [2] 19/21 19/22	standard [1] 19/14
reliable [1] 6/5	scope [5] 19/19 19/25 20/2 26/2 26/5	started [2] 5/8 23/10
relied [6] 19/4 24/15 24/21 24/23 25/14 25/15	second [4] 6/7 7/25 9/19 25/18 Section [1] 1/6	state [1] 8/19 stated [1] 26/21
relief [1] 17/25	Section [1] 1/15	stated [1] 26/21 states [5] 1/1 1/12 13/25 17/13 28/16
rely [2] 15/7 20/17	see [4] 11/11 11/14 24/22 26/25	statistical [5] 13/19 14/13 21/1 22/6
relying [2] 8/6 8/9	Seeger [4] 1/18 1/18 18/18 18/19	22/13
remains [1] 14/21	seeing [1] 14/2	statistically [1] 13/21
remarks [2] 13/2 22/5	seek [2] 6/9 26/22	statistician [7] 9/24 10/11 13/15 20/14
remediated [16] 3/25 7/9 8/7 10/19 10/21 10/25 11/6 13/4 13/6 14/25 17/6	seeking [1] 3/24 seems [1] 24/16	20/17 20/20 20/23 statistics [2] 10/10 20/17
17/7 21/5 21/7 23/4 23/5	seen [2] 16/20 24/6	Steering [1] 16/14
remediating [1] 21/8	send [1] 4/2	stenography [1] 2/17
remediation [9] 14/18 14/21 15/13 15/15		stick [1] 15/22
16/2 17/8 17/22 23/7 26/12	sensitive [1] 26/25	still [2] 17/16 21/8
removed [1] 13/5	sent [1] 12/11	stood [1] 12/6
renotice [1] 14/9 renoticing [1] 18/3	series [2] 9/17 9/17 serious [2] 5/13 5/18	straight [3] 20/10 20/11 20/13 straightforward [1] 20/13
repair [1] 26/2	serve [2] 21/11 21/16	strategy [1] 4/15
repeat [1] 21/23	set [3] 3/19 20/3 22/22	Street [5] 1/16 1/19 1/22 2/4 2/13
reply [1] 3/14	sets [1] 26/10	stripped [1] 6/20
report [1] 23/18	setting [1] 14/15	stripping [1] 5/10
Reporter [3] 2/12 28/16 28/23	settlement [1] 28/7 seven [2] 4/21 18/23	strong [1] 10/17
reports [7] 9/1 14/13 25/24 26/11 26/15 26/16 27/7	share [2] 7/19 7/20	structure [1] 18/1 structured [1] 17/5
representations [1] 22/25	she [4] 24/14 24/15 24/16 24/22	studs [1] 20/4
representative [4] 13/24 20/18 22/9	sheet [1] 8/17	studying [1] 20/1
22/11	sheets [4] 24/13 24/19 25/11 25/14	subject [4] 8/14 15/11 22/22 27/8
request [2] 23/11 24/7	shift [1] 14/2	submitted [3] 3/14 8/2 26/13
required [1] 14/9 reserve [1] 25/21	should [7] 11/11 16/4 16/6 16/7 21/20 22/14 24/10	subsequent [1] 9/13 subset [1] 10/18
reserving [1] 9/12	side [3] 12/1 12/22 12/23	substantial [1] 10/18
resolved [1] 5/19	sift [1] 26/19	sudden [1] 24/21
respect [2] 8/4 13/3	signed [1] 26/4	sued [1] 17/18
respond [2] 27/4 27/16	silence [1] 22/12	sufficient [1] 16/8
responded [1] 16/17	simple [2] 19/18 19/18	Suite [4] 1/16 1/22 2/7 2/10
response [3] 21/18 22/3 23/20 result [1] 8/12	simply [2] 13/22 20/4 since [4] 4/12 19/23 19/24 24/17	summary [5] 8/9 8/17 19/10 23/16 24/5 summed [1] 21/10
retained [1] 25/25	sir [1] 28/2	superiority [1] 9/14
rethink [1] 11/18	situation [3] 15/22 19/11 27/19	supplement [1] 16/9
reviewed [1] 23/13	six [1] 18/13	supplemental [7] 4/3 5/24 6/8 6/11 9/1
RICHARD [1] 2/6	size [1] 23/3	13/5 13/7 Suppose [1] 25/4
Rick [1] 12/24 right [8] 8/18 8/22 10/7 15/4 20/21 20/22	slap [1] 15/20 Slev [1] 16/23	suppose [1] 25/4 supposedly [2] 8/12 10/10
21/21 25/12	small [1] 13/22	sure [5] 12/4 16/8 20/21 23/23 26/17
rights [2] 9/12 25/22	so [23] 5/10 6/1 8/16 9/5 9/6 9/16 9/23	Τ
rigor [2] 14/13 22/13	10/7 12/14 13/6 14/1 15/17 20/10 21/2	
ripping [1] 20/3	21/9 22/11 24/6 24/10 24/22 25/7 26/6	table [1] 3/19
rise [1] 28/12	26/17 27/21	Taishan [9] 2/2 3/6 4/13 14/11 22/21

wandering [1] 10/9 14/6 16/7 25/2 25/5 26/23 27/2 Т time-out [1] 7/18 nt 19097 Filed 06 (1991 [19] 3/17 7/29 9/2 9/5 11/19 11/23 timeline [1] 26/18 19097 Filed 06 (14/4 17/2 17/3 18/5 18/13 18/15 20/11 Taishan... [4] 24/9 26/8 26/8 26/23 Taishan's [2] 3/8 7/19 timeout [1] 7/11 23/13 23/15 24/20 25/9 25/21 26/17 today [1] 21/15 told [4] 5/14 6/10 12/13 21/25 take [13] 3/18 10/4 11/19 15/19 16/5 wanted [2] 11/17 11/18 16/7 20/20 22/4 24/20 25/2 25/5 27/1 wants [1] 24/15 28/7 Toni [4] 2/12 28/15 28/22 28/22 Warshauer [2] 1/21 1/22 taken [1] 14/6 too [1] 27/13 was [24] 4/9 8/10 8/12 11/21 13/4 13/17 talk [1] 21/16 took [1] 18/22 13/19 13/20 13/24 14/17 16/18 16/19 talked [3] 10/13 25/1 28/6 tort [1] 15/15 16/22 17/25 20/5 20/23 20/24 21/25 tortfeasor [2] 15/2 15/22 talking [1] 27/13 23/6 23/7 26/7 26/7 26/8 27/7 target [1] 13/10 towards [1] 10/16 wasn't [1] 20/24 Taylor [1] 12/5 transcript [1] 28/18 Water [1] 1/19 techniques [2] 9/23 9/25 transcription [1] 2/17 way [7] 5/18 5/21 8/18 8/19 8/20 9/15 tell [1] 10/4 treatment [2] 3/25 5/15 21/24 terms [1] 27/21 tremendous [1] 14/6 ways [1] 16/2 test [1] 8/20 tremendously [1] 14/5 we [116] testified [1] 20/2 week [3] 3/8 3/13 5/4 trial [2] 17/24 24/10 testify [1] 21/14 tried [1] 4/12 Weiss [1] 1/18 well [14] 6/23 9/20 10/13 10/24 11/22 trimmed [1] 23/12 testimony [1] 21/3 true [1] 28/17 12/13 15/24 18/12 21/12 21/17 24/21 testing [1] 8/19 than [8] 4/6 5/3 5/11 6/10 8/8 13/17 15/4 truncated [1] 26/18 24/25 25/6 27/23 trundling [1] 10/16 trusted [1] 19/14 21/25 went [2] 13/5 22/1 were [13] 3/8 3/24 4/7 5/5 6/9 6/12 9/10 Thank [8] 16/11 16/13 22/15 22/16 25/17 27/3 28/3 28/11 try [1] 10/20 13/8 15/5 15/12 16/2 22/25 23/5 that [146] trying [4] 6/24 9/8 14/3 14/4 weren't [1] 12/16 that's [22] 10/7 14/1 14/25 15/21 15/23 Tuesday [3] 24/3 24/11 27/21 West [1] 2/4 16/10 17/3 17/22 18/1 19/20 19/23 Turner [1] 5/22 what [33] turns [1] 9/17 Tusa [4] 2/12 28/15 28/22 28/22 22/14 23/3 23/13 24/19 24/25 25/9 what's [3] 4/24 7/6 23/20 25/10 25/14 25/15 26/24 27/14 Whatever [1] 21/6 when [7] 10/16 11/12 11/14 15/7 15/15 their [23] 3/15 5/5 5/6 5/14 5/16 9/12 twice [1] 18/4 9/21 10/19 11/16 11/17 11/21 14/22 two [5] 3/8 6/17 10/5 10/5 16/22 23/10 24/5 14/24 15/16 15/17 15/18 15/21 17/9 two-page [1] 10/5 where [12] 5/23 8/2 9/21 10/19 14/18 17/13 21/9 21/15 21/16 23/17 two-paragraph [1] 10/5 14/25 16/21 17/1 19/11 22/23 24/2 26/7 them [22] 4/24 5/20 6/18 8/25 10/23 type [1] 23/3 whether [12] 6/4 7/13 7/14 8/17 9/15 11/15 11/17 11/18 15/12 15/13 15/22 10/20 11/5 13/20 19/7 23/4 23/8 27/11 U 17/20 19/3 21/14 24/7 24/20 25/11 which [18] 4/3 4/9 4/23 9/13 10/21 10/22 ultimately [2] 5/18 8/7 25/14 25/15 26/20 27/23 27/25 18/22 19/3 20/5 23/5 23/25 23/25 24/1 then [14] 6/19 10/15 11/9 12/22 15/22 Umbriac [1] 16/23 24/8 24/9 24/22 25/2 25/11 16/9 16/25 20/6 24/21 26/4 26/4 26/8 under [5] 4/23 8/19 9/21 11/6 24/3 who [20] 4/7 4/15 4/22 5/8 5/19 5/25 6/5 26/19 27/19 underlying [1] 8/14 10/11 10/12 10/13 12/19 13/7 13/8 theory [1] 14/10 understand [6] 12/7 12/18 23/10 23/19 13/14 15/10 16/20 20/23 21/13 23/2 there [21] 5/9 6/3 7/10 8/20 8/20 9/20 24/14 25/16 24/410/18 12/15 13/12 13/17 13/19 14/7 understanding [1] 28/18 whole [4] 4/22 10/15 11/5 23/9 14/13 14/15 15/5 15/7 16/3 16/11 17/25 understood [1] 23/23 whose [2] 23/7 27/7 why [3] 18/12 22/11 22/14 20/10 26/13 unfolding [1] 11/21 UNITED [3] 1/1 1/12 28/16 unknown [1] 22/8 there's [7] 8/18 8/22 9/19 12/15 14/1 will [17] 3/11 3/12 3/17 6/4 8/15 8/21 20/25 21/1 12/23 13/18 16/11 16/15 18/18 18/20 these [16] 4/23 10/25 15/9 15/10 17/8 unopposed [1] 4/10 24/3 25/4 27/1 27/15 27/19 21/10 21/12 22/15 23/2 23/8 26/6 26/6 unremediated [1] 13/9 winning [1] 9/4 26/7 26/9 27/8 27/22 until [2] 17/25 22/24 wish [1] 12/15 they [96] up [9] 4/6 9/16 14/6 15/20 21/10 22/24 within [3] 7/21 10/18 13/23 thing [4] 10/16 26/6 27/14 27/15 24/5 24/11 27/2 Without [1] 22/12 upon [4] 19/4 19/21 20/17 24/15 withstood [1] 18/9 things [1] 26/18 think [23] 3/18 5/12 7/5 7/7 7/10 7/11 us [5] 2/6 8/22 8/23 17/2 27/21 witness [2] 3/16 10/11 use [4] 4/1 6/12 14/14 26/9 7/17 7/22 10/4 11/1 14/8 16/4 18/1 18/1 witnesses [1] 21/12 21/10 21/11 21/16 22/12 22/14 24/6 used [1] 20/8 won't [1] 27/12 24/10 26/12 27/10 <u>using [1] 2/17</u> wonderful [1] 11/25 Woody [8] 21/13 22/6 24/2 24/21 25/1 third [3] 5/12 16/25 17/1 V Third Circuit [1] 17/1 25/6 26/13 27/21 this [47] vaguely [1] 9/12 Woody's [1] 24/11 thorough [1] 23/6 verified [1] 9/22 word [1] 13/5 very [15] 13/1 14/14 16/1 16/13 16/15 words [1] 6/16 those [29] 19/3 19/23 20/2 20/13 20/16 22/16 27/8 though [5] 6/24 7/11 7/15 16/3 22/10 work [6] 19/19 19/21 20/21 21/1 26/5 thousands [1] 13/25 27/9 28/9 28/11 26/5view [2] 7/19 14/9 three [6] 3/24 4/4 4/5 5/4 6/17 14/21 would [13] 8/14 9/9 10/22 11/3 11/13 three-quarters [1] 14/21 Virginia [2] 13/23 17/12 16/17 17/25 21/11 21/16 26/6 26/7 volumes [1] 22/12 threshold [5] 14/7 14/12 16/4 16/7 22/15 26/10 26/22 through [5] 14/4 19/9 25/2 26/19 26/23 wrath [1] 12/14 W throughout [1] 19/6 wrestle [1] 7/12 Wacker [1] 2/7 thrown [1] 5/20 Wright [3] 3/21 4/4 19/24 wall [1] 15/20 thumbed [1] 11/21 write [1] 22/17 Walnut [1] 1/16 time [12] 4/10 4/12 7/18 8/3 8/25 12/5

Y		+ 10007			
year [1] 13/4 years [2] 16/21 18/13	w Documer	11 19097	08/15	Page 36 of 36	
Yes [6] 22/4 22/20 25/19 27/20 28/2 28/11 yesterday [5] 10/12 13/17 16/18 18/22					
25/21 yet [2] 3/15 28/6					
York [2] 1/19 1/19 you [65]					
You're [1] 12/9 young [1] 12/11					
your [62] Your Honor [43] Your Honor's [1] 20/5					
Z					
ZIP [1] 20/8					