

1 CASE NO. A-11-636515-C

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CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTRICT COURT

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CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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9 MARGARET G. SEASTRAND,

10 Plaintiff,

11 vs.

12 RAYMOND RIAD KHOURY, DOES 1  
13 through 10; and ROE ENTITIES  
11 through 20, inclusive,

14 Defendants.

15

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

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OF

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JURY TRIAL

19

A.M. SESSION

20

BEFORE THE HONORABLE JERRY A. WIESE, II

21

DEPARTMENT XXX

22

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013

23

24 REPORTED BY: KRISTY L. CLARK, RPR, NV CCR #708,  
25 CA CSR #13529

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I N D E X

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<u>JEFFREY D. GROSS, M.D.</u>	
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1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013;

2 9:09 A.M.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

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6

7 THE COURT: Bring them in. Ready to go.

8 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

9 (Whereupon jury entered the courtroom.)

10 THE COURT: Go ahead and be seated. Good  
11 morning, folks.

12 ALL JURORS: Good morning.

13 THE COURT: Welcome back. We're back on the  
14 record in Case No. 636515.

15 Parties stipulate to the presence of the  
16 jury?

17 MR. CLOWARD: Yes, Your Honor.

18 MR. JAFFE: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. It's Friday. We've  
20 got a long day. So we're going to get right into it.  
21 It's plaintiff's case still.

22 Mr. Cloward, who's your next witness?

23 MR. CLOWARD: Jeffrey Gross.

24 THE COURT: Doctor, if you come all the way  
25 up here.

1 THE WITNESS: Through here?  
2 THE COURT: Yep.  
3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
4 THE COURT: Bring you all the way up on the  
5 stand. If you come up and stand next to the chairs and  
6 put your stuff down.  
7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
8 THE COURT: Remain standing and raise your  
9 right hand, please.  
10 THE CLERK: You do solemnly swear the  
11 testimony you're about to give in this action shall be  
12 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,  
13 so help you God.  
14 THE WITNESS: I do.  
15 THE CLERK: Please state your full name and  
16 spell it for the record, please.  
17 THE WITNESS: Jeffrey David Gross, M.D.,  
18 J-e-f-f-r-e-y D-a-v-i-d G-r-o-s-s.  
19 THE CLERK: Thank you.  
20 THE COURT: You can be seated. Thank you.  
21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
22 MR. CLOWARD: Thanks, Dr. Gross. I'm glad  
23 you got the memo about the coordination of suits here.  
24  
25 /////

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. CLOWARD:

Q. Doctor, before we start, I'd like to ask that all of your opinions today be given upon the standard more likely than not, to a reasonable degree of medical probability. And if you can't do that, state otherwise. Okay?

A. I understand. Thank you.

Q. Dr. Gross, would you take a moment to just explain to the jurors -- introduce yourself, explain a little bit about yourself, what you do for a living, things of that nature.

A. Sure. I am a neurological surgeon with a fellowship in spinal biomechanics. I practice medicine most of the workday and probably sometimes into the work night. I treat patients with neck and back problems, including injuries and other causes of disk problems, nerve problems, spinal cord problems. As a neurosurgeon, I also treat some head injuries, but my main focus and the part I love is treating spines. I enjoy that the most. And my background, training, and experience are in the area of the spine.

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about the background of training, and I'm assuming you're a doctor?

1           A.    I'm a medical doctor.

2           Q.    Tell us a little bit, you know, where you  
3 went to school, things like that.

4           A.    Sure. I have an undergraduate degree in  
5 biochemistry from the University of California at  
6 Berkeley. I received my medical degree from the George  
7 Washington University School of Medicine in  
8 Washington DC.

9                   I then did seven years of training after  
10 medical school. The first year is called the  
11 internship, and I did that in the surgical specialties  
12 at the University of California at Irvine in Orange  
13 County, California. I did the next four years also at  
14 UC Irvine Medical Center in neurological surgery where  
15 we treated brain and spine problems. The sixth of  
16 seven years was at the University of New Mexico in  
17 Albuquerque, New Mexico. And there I did a fellowship,  
18 a specialized year in treating spinal problems,  
19 specializing in biomechanics, using physics and  
20 physical principles to understand forces on the spine  
21 and how to use that information to plan the best  
22 treatment of the spine, particularly surgeries. The  
23 seventh year, I stayed at the University of New Mexico,  
24 and I did what's called a chief residency in  
25 neurosurgery.

1           And then I've been in practice starting in  
2 1999 in Southern California, mainly Orange County. And  
3 I've been here practicing in the Las Vegas area for two  
4 and a quarter years in addition.

5           Q.    Okay. And, Dr. Gross, you are licensed to  
6 practice, you say, here in Nevada for two years? Do  
7 you have privileges here in Nevada as well?

8           A.    Yes. I'm licensed here and in California,  
9 and I have hospital privileges and do surgeries both  
10 here and in Southern California.

11          Q.    Could you explain. What is -- what does it  
12 mean to have privileges at a hospital?

13          A.    Well, every step in a doctor's career  
14 requires credentialing to make sure the doctor meets  
15 the standards. So a medical degree requires certain  
16 items. My board certification in neurological surgery  
17 requires a certain standard to be met, which I have.  
18 And then, when I apply to do surgeries at hospitals, I  
19 have to apply for privileges. So I have to submit  
20 applications, I have to submit my credentials, I have  
21 to fill out lots of papers, and usually a little fee.  
22 And they have to go through a due diligence process  
23 where they make sure I'm okay. So they check out my  
24 background and training, and then they grant  
25 privileges.



1 Q. And when you are granted privileges, is that  
2 for a very specific thing or, you know, once you get  
3 privileges at a hospital, can you go in and do anything  
4 you want there?

5 A. The privileges are specific. My privileges  
6 are typically for neurosurgery, to perform surgeries.

7 Q. Okay. So say, for instance, if someone had  
8 privileges to maybe do an injection, that doesn't mean  
9 that they could go in and do a complex spine surgery?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. We're usually limited to our field.

13 Q. Okay. Thank you.

14 Doctor, have you presented any lectures or  
15 anything like that regarding spine surgery?

16 A. I have.

17 Q. Okay. And have you published articles on  
18 spine surgery?

19 A. Yes. Quite a few.

20 Q. And have you published any chapters for  
21 medical textbooks?

22 A. Yes. I write chapters for textbooks, most  
23 recently is last year.

24 Q. Okay. Doctor, are you a member of any  
25 professional medical organizations?

1           A.    I am.

2           Q.    Can you tell the jurors just some of the main  
3 ones.

4           A.    I'm a member of the North American Spine  
5 Society. I'm a member of the American Association of  
6 Neurological Surgeons. I'm a member of the Congress of  
7 Neurological Surgeons. I'm a member of the California  
8 Association of Neurological Surgeons. Those are the  
9 main ones that pertain to my field.

10          Q.    Okay. Now, Doctor, you indicated that you  
11 also treat patients; is that true?

12          A.    True.

13          Q.    And in -- in the capacity that you're here  
14 for today, you were asked to give certain opinions as  
15 an expert witness, correct?

16          A.    Yes.

17          Q.    You also did examine Ms. Seastrand, though,  
18 is that --

19          A.    I did.

20          Q.    Okay. Can you tell us in your clinical  
21 practice, so when you're treating patients, what does  
22 that consist of? What do you do?

23          A.    Well, patients come to -- find me or are  
24 referred to me for usually consultation for some  
25 problem typically. No one really sees me for a

1 checkup. Usually these patients have problems with the  
2 neck or back or both or perhaps other issues relating  
3 to nerves or the neurosurgery umbrella.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. They come to see me. They fill out an intake  
6 form with some questions on it. They -- I take my own  
7 history. I sit in front of them and ask questions.  
8 Why are you here? What's wrong? What happened? And  
9 then that might make other questions depending on what  
10 the patient says. And we sort of sort things out. Ask  
11 them about their past, their past history, other  
12 medical issues, what have you.

13 Then I do a physical examination where I lay  
14 my hands on the patient, and we test the parts that are  
15 bothered. So if it's a neck condition, I test the neck  
16 and the head and the arms and the hands. If it's a low  
17 back condition, I'll check the back and the legs and  
18 what have you. And then if there are any films to be  
19 reviewed or tests to be reviewed, we would do it then.

20 And then given all that information, I put it  
21 together logically and come up with the best diagnoses  
22 that match or correlate to all the findings. Because  
23 the treatment recommendations I want to be proper and  
24 correct, rely on the proper diagnosis.

25 Q. Okay. A couple of things I wanted to follow

1 up on. Number 1, you said you do a physical  
2 examination.

3 What is the significance or importance, if  
4 any, of doing a physical examination, laying your hands  
5 on the patient?

6 A. Well, it's -- it's a chance for me to  
7 correlate what the patient says in the history or what  
8 other doctors may have said in the records. It's a  
9 chance for me to objectively look at motion and  
10 strength and correlate the symptoms.

11 Q. Okay. And, Doctor, you indicated that, you  
12 know, most people don't come to you for like a checkup.

13 Fair to say you're kind of further on down  
14 the road?

15 A. I'm further on down the road, perhaps near  
16 the end of the road.

17 Q. Sure. What are some -- some types of  
18 specialties that folks may have seen before they get  
19 actually to you?

20 A. Commonly people see a general medical doctor,  
21 maybe their primary medical doctor or perhaps an urgent  
22 care doctor. They may come through a chiropractic care  
23 and be referred by a chiropractor. Other common  
24 referral patterns come from pain management doctors who  
25 might be providing injections or medications, and

1 they're looking for perhaps a surgical opinion. And  
2 then sometimes I do second opinions for other surgeons  
3 who just want a fresh set of eyes on something.

4 Q. Okay. Now, it's correct that we asked you to  
5 address a couple of things in the evaluation of  
6 Ms. Seastrand.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. One of those was causation.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And another was the future care needs or kind  
11 of a life-care plan for future treatment that could be  
12 forecasted for Ms. Seastrand.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell the jurors just briefly, what is  
15 a life-care plan and what does it mean to forecast  
16 future medical needs?

17 A. Well, this is an opportunity for me to look  
18 at the recommendations for treatment that someone would  
19 require, even if it's far after in the future. I look  
20 up their life expectancy from tables provided by our  
21 government. These are statistical tables based on  
22 someone's age and sex and race. And then from that, we  
23 can project, knowing the current costs of medical care,  
24 what that future cost would be.

25 So, in essence, a life-care plan is just a

1 future estimate of the medical charges I expect someone  
2 to incur based upon their problems they're still  
3 having.

4 Q. Okay. And before I forget, I understand that  
5 based on the statistical data, Ms. Seastrand is  
6 expected to live for another 32 years; is that  
7 accurate?

8 A. Based upon my plan which was done in 2012, I  
9 believe, yes.

10 Q. Okay. Would that have changed?

11 A. Well, it's --

12 Q. I guess it would be one year forward. Okay.  
13 Gotcha.

14 A. Right.

15 Q. Gotcha there. Okay. Thirty-one years.

16 Doctor, do you have any training in the field  
17 of radiology?

18 A. Well, my neurosurgery training requires  
19 radiological training. So without being a formal  
20 radiologist, my field is incredibly based upon me being  
21 able to read MRIs and X rays and what have you. So  
22 ultimately, I would say yes.

23 Q. What would be the difference between, say,  
24 yourself versus a radiologist? I don't understand the  
25 distinction.

1           A.   Well, a radiologist is trained to review  
2 medical images and provide a report. As a surgeon, as  
3 a treating doctor, I not only know how to look at the  
4 films and interpret them, but I also apply the  
5 treatment based upon them, because certainly I wouldn't  
6 want to offer someone surgery if I couldn't understand  
7 the films myself. So I don't rely on radiologists as  
8 maybe some other doctors do. Very often I read my own  
9 films every time.

10               Plus, as a surgeon, I get to see the anatomy  
11 real and upclose in person. I get to touch the  
12 anatomy. I get to feel it. I know the texture of the  
13 tissues I see on an MRI. I know the moisture content  
14 based on what I see on an MRI. And every time I do  
15 surgery, having seen that patient's MRI beforehand, it  
16 improves and reeducates me as to what I'm seeing on  
17 those films. I get this ongoing and feedback of -- of  
18 seeing and feeling the tissue and then looking at the  
19 films and correlating that. Radiologists don't do  
20 surgeries, so they don't have that educational  
21 feedback.

22           Q.   Okay. I appreciate that.

23               Yesterday Dr. Muir talked about how when he  
24 actually did his surgery and he visually inspected  
25 Ms. Seastrand's cervical area, he said he took down the

1 ligament, and behind it, there was some fragments that  
2 were not on the MRI. I don't understand that.

3 Can you -- can you tell us that --

4 MR. JAFFE: Your Honor --

5 BY MR. CLOWARD:

6 Q. -- talk to us about that.

7 MR. JAFFE: Objection. Are we getting into  
8 expert testimony now?

9 MR. CLOWARD: Your Honor, at this time, I  
10 would like to have the court recognize Dr. Gross as an  
11 expert in the field of neurosurgery, specifically  
12 neurospine surgery and neuroradiology as a neurosurgeon  
13 with a fellowship in spinal -- in biomechanics.

14 MR. JAFFE: Your Honor, I have an objection  
15 to two of those areas. If I may approach.

16 THE COURT: Come on up for a minute.

17 (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
18 held at the bench.)

19 THE COURT: All right. Dr. Gross is going to  
20 be recognized as an expert in neurosurgery and  
21 neurological surgery of the spine.

22 MR. JAFFE: Your Honor, so for purposes of  
23 the record, my objection is sustained?

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 MR. JAFFE: Thank you, sir.



1 THE COURT: In part, I guess.

2 MR. JAFFE: Thank you.

3 BY MR. CLOWARD:

4 Q. Dr. Gross, when we -- when we talked about  
5 your -- your training, can you tell us about the  
6 training that you received in -- in the field of  
7 radiology.

8 A. Yes. Part of my neurosurgery residency  
9 required a three-month course or rotation through the  
10 neuroradiology department where all we did was read  
11 MRIs and X rays. The remainder of the six years and  
12 nine months of neurosurgery training dealt with  
13 treating patients. Every morning's rounds with  
14 professors would start at the MRI board to see what  
15 patients had MRIs or CAT scans or X rays the night  
16 before, because my field is imaging based in the modern  
17 era. So every day, as I have in practice, we look at  
18 films to see inside of people. So I have an imaging  
19 based training.

20 In addition, I went through a fellowship  
21 during my residency with Dr. William Bradley who is now  
22 the chairman of radiology at University of California  
23 San Diego Medical Center specializing in reading MRIs.

24 Q. Dr. Gross, let me ask you this question:  
25 When you're going in there doing the surgery and you're

1 being able to compare what's on the film versus what's  
2 actually going on in the actual patient, do  
3 radiologists come in and are they there with you?

4 A. Never.

5 Q. Okay. Let me just write that down.

6 Doctor, can you explain your role as an  
7 expert versus strictly a treating physician?

8 A. Sure. When I'm asked to be an expert, I'm  
9 usually not directly treating a patient. I'm asked to  
10 look at a case. I'm asked to review medical records.  
11 Sometimes examine the patient which would be the same  
12 type of history and examination that I would do with  
13 seeing a regular patient at my office.

14 What's different is I'm asked to give  
15 opinions such as opinions on causation and past  
16 treatment and future treatment as an expert that I'm  
17 not always asked to give when I'm just treating  
18 someone.

19 Q. Okay. And you did actually examine  
20 Ms. Seastrand.

21 A. I did.

22 Q. Was there a physician-patient relationship  
23 formed?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And, Doctor, when you review medical

1 records, are there sometimes inconsistencies?

2 A. Sometimes.

3 Q. During the course of opening and during the  
4 examination of Dr. Grover and Dr. Muir yesterday, there  
5 were some -- some medical records that were isolated,  
6 only one specific record over a period of 24 years, and  
7 the doctors were asked about those specific records.

8 Can you tell me, is that a fair approach?

9 MR. JAFFE: Objection. Argumentative, Your  
10 Honor.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 THE WITNESS: Well, I don't think it's fair,  
13 because I look at everything comprehensively. My job  
14 is to explain all the -- all of the facts, to give the  
15 best overall opinions in context. So if you take one  
16 or two elements out of context, that's an improper  
17 logic method to look at something.

18 BY MR. CLOWARD:

19 Q. So it's -- you're not getting a full picture  
20 if you're just cherrypicking one or two facts.

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Okay. Now, regarding the inconsistencies  
23 that are sometimes found in medical records, is that  
24 common or uncommon? Does that happen or not?

25 A. Well, when one has a great many records,

1 they're not all going to agree 100 percent. Some  
2 doctors focus on some elements than others. Patients  
3 also vary in their pain from day to day or problems as  
4 what's worse on a given day. Patients also see certain  
5 doctors for one problem and other doctors for others.  
6 So I would think that there's always variation in the  
7 medical record.

8 Q. Okay. One specific -- before I get to that,  
9 let me lay some foundation.

10 You have in fact reviewed the medical bills  
11 and records from before and after the March 13, 2009,  
12 automobile crash, correct?

13 A. I have.

14 Q. Okay. So it's fair to say you have reviewed  
15 the medical records from Primary Care Consultants,  
16 Dr. Knauff, I believe?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then also Dr. Lurie from Neck & Back  
19 Clinic; is that accurate?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Now, I'd like you to refer to those. It is  
22 in the binder or if you have them on your computer.

23 MR. CLOWARD: Mr. Jaffe, would you like to  
24 take a look at the witness's computer? He's going to  
25 be referencing electronic records.

1           MR. JAFFE: As long as I just know what's --  
2 what he's referencing, that's -- that's all I ask.

3           MR. CLOWARD: Okay.

4 BY MR. CLOWARD:

5           Q. Doctor, if you would please turn to, I  
6 believe it is Plaintiff's Exhibit 8, and then also 9.

7           A. (Witness complies.) Okay.

8           Q. It's my understanding that on the same day,  
9 Ms. Seastrand -- Ms. Seastrand saw a doctor from  
10 Primary Care Consultants and she also saw a doctor from  
11 Neck & Back; is that accurate?

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. And she in fact filled out a pain diagram for  
14 Dr. Knauff with Primary Care Consultants; is that  
15 correct?

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. Before we move on to that, can you explain to  
18 the jurors, what is a pain diagram anyway?

19          A. A pain diagram is a -- a outline or picture  
20 of the body that a patient can circle or indicate where  
21 problems are or pain is.

22          Q. Okay. Now, I'm going to --

23           MR. CLOWARD: At this time, Your Honor, we'd  
24 like to move all of the medical records and bills into  
25 evidence as contained in exhibits, so --

1 MR. JAFFE: Okay. I don't --

2 MR. CLOWARD: -- it would be 5, 6, 7, 8. I  
3 mean, basically all of the billing records.

4 MR. JAFFE: Okay. Well, the MountainView  
5 records have already been moved into evidence because  
6 that's my Exhibit B. Judge, I'm not sure it's -- you  
7 know, just by saying all the records, it's a little --

8 MR. CLOWARD: Can I read off the specific  
9 exhibits, Judge?

10 MR. JAFFE: We may have to only because I  
11 don't see, like, for example, Radiology Specialists.  
12 Is that including the films themselves as well and  
13 Nevada Imaging Center's bills and records? I don't  
14 know. Are you including films?

15 MR. CLOWARD: You had a chance to look at  
16 them. If I can read -- I can -- I'll just -- for the  
17 record, Your Honor at this time, we'd like to move  
18 Plaintiff's Exhibit 5, MountainView Hospital bills and  
19 records. That's Mr. Jaffe's as well.

20 MR. JAFFE: Okay. Hold on, Your Honor. I  
21 mean, we've already --

22 THE COURT: Come up here for a minute, guys.

23 (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
24 held at the bench.)

25 THE COURT: All right. So my understanding

1 is that there's a stipulation to admit Exhibits 5  
2 through 22?

3 MR. JAFFE: Right. And that includes the  
4 films from the various radiologic facilities.

5 MR. CLOWARD: And that's just subject to the  
6 Court's prior rulings on Social Security numbers,  
7 things of that nature.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. CLOWARD: Okay.

10 THE COURT: Exhibits 5 through 22 will be  
11 admitted.

12 (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 5 - 22  
13 were admitted into evidence.)

14 MR. CLOWARD: Okay. Judge, at this time, may  
15 I publish an exhibit to the -- to the witness?

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 BY MR. CLOWARD:

18 Q. So, again, the --

19 MR. CLOWARD: Do I need to -- can you switch  
20 me over?

21 THE BAILIFF: Television may have timed out.

22 BY MR. CLOWARD:

23 Q. Okay. So, Doctor, I see that the date of  
24 this record is March 20, 2009; is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. This would have been a document that  
2 Ms. Seastrand would have filled out herself.

3 A. Yes, it would have been.

4 Q. Okay. I see that the lumbar area is circled  
5 by her; is that correct?

6 A. Yes, it is.

7 Q. I also see that other areas are also circled  
8 by Ms. Seastrand.

9 A. Agreed.

10 Q. Okay. This is -- and this is the Primary  
11 Care Consultant record, true?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Now, when you get the -- when you get  
14 the record from Dr. Knauff, it doesn't look like he  
15 mentions the lumbar area in his -- in his assessment;  
16 is that correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Okay. So that's not transferred from the  
19 pain diagram to his evaluation, correct?

20 A. Apparently it was not, correct.

21 Q. Okay. Now, I would like to have you  
22 reference Dr. Lurie's -- Dr. Lurie's record. And I  
23 believe this was on the same day.

24 A. It was.

25 Q. Okay. And now it looks like he talked about



1 thoracic, lumbosacral, and cervical. So that would  
2 have been consistent with her pain diagram.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. So how do you explain -- I mean, you know,  
5 this would suggest that there's an inconsistency.

6 Does this -- how do you -- you know,  
7 Dr. Knauff puts one thing in his diagnosis, Dr. Lurie  
8 puts one thing in his diagnosis. Can you explain that  
9 for the jurors.

10 MR. JAFFE: Judge, this is an undisclosed  
11 opinion now. He's going into areas that he's not  
12 disclosed anything on. I'm going to object.

13 MR. CLOWARD: It's not an opinion. It's --  
14 an explanation of how --

15 MR. JAFFE: Judge --

16 MR. CLOWARD: -- the records.

17 THE COURT: Come on up for a minute, guys.

18 (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
19 held at the bench.)

20 THE COURT: Objection's overruled.

21 MR. CLOWARD: Thank you, Judge.

22 BY MR. CLOWARD:

23 Q. Dr. Gross, can you tell the jurors, what is  
24 inconsistencies -- you know, would that -- would that  
25 raise any red flags there, the difference between

1 Dr. Lurie's record and the record in Primary Care?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. Would it raise any red flags that  
4 Ms. Seastrand in the document that she actually filled  
5 out circled the back, but then Dr. Knauff didn't put  
6 that in his record?

7 A. I don't think it's a red flag. I think it  
8 speaks that Dr. Lurie was much more thorough than  
9 Dr. Knauff.

10 Q. So there are times when maybe a patient tells  
11 a doctor -- or are there times when a patient tells a  
12 doctor one thing but the doctor writes down another?

13 MR. JAFFE: Objection, Your Honor.  
14 Speculation. Overbroad.

15 THE COURT: Based on his experience, I'm  
16 going to allow him to testify. Overruled.

17 THE WITNESS: Sometimes.

18 BY MR. CLOWARD:

19 Q. Okay. Thank you.

20 Okay. Doctor, can you tell the jurors, can  
21 you tell us what you did, what things you did in this  
22 case to formulate the opinions that you have. I'm  
23 assuming you've made some opinions.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you tell the jurors what processes that

1 you go through to formulate those.

2 A. Well, in this case, I was given records to  
3 review first and I believe some films. Let me verify.  
4 Yes, I had records and films last July. So I reviewed  
5 all of those materials and rendered some initial  
6 opinions. And at that time I said I would like to  
7 examine Ms. Seastrand, and if I were to have to modify  
8 my opinions, since they were only based on the records  
9 and films at that time, I would.

10 Then subsequently, I had the opportunity to  
11 take my own history and examine Ms. Seastrand  
12 personally, and that was in August. So little over a  
13 month after I reviewed all the materials, I met with  
14 her and did my own doctor's evaluation. And I modified  
15 my opinions at that time.

16 Q. Okay. So you -- just let me see if I -- make  
17 sure I get this -- understand this. You review records  
18 first, correct, in this case?

19 A. In this case.

20 Q. Okay. And you write some opinions.

21 A. I did.

22 Q. You say, I reserve the right to change the  
23 opinions based on additional information.

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And then you actually see Ms. Seastrand.

1           A.    I did.

2           Q.    And did you actually change your opinions?

3           A.    I did.

4           Q.    Okay.  What was your initial opinion in your  
5 first report as to the future care needs that  
6 Ms. Seastrand would require?

7           A.    Well, the main thing I ended up changing was  
8 that when I reviewed the initial records and films, the  
9 records indicated she was still struggling with low  
10 back trouble after her low back fusion surgery.

11          Q.    Okay.

12          A.    And having looked at the CAT scans and seeing  
13 the fusion was not mature and the hardware was  
14 displaced, I felt she would need an additional surgery  
15 to repair that.

16          Q.    Okay.

17          A.    That was also in concert with the opinions of  
18 the treating doctors at the time that is in the  
19 records.

20          Q.    Okay.

21          A.    Then when I later saw her in August of 2012,  
22 given that the records I had initially ended in  
23 November of 2011, she came to me and reported that she  
24 had slowly made some improvements in her lower back.  
25 So I pulled away my opinion that she would need a

1 future low back surgery.

2 Q. Okay. What was the -- what was the first --  
3 what was the cost that -- for the first plan that you  
4 created?

5 A. The complete medical future life-care plan,  
6 the total cost estimate was \$606,325.02.

7 Q. Okay. And that was based on just your review  
8 of the records not your review of Ms. Seastrand.

9 A. The records and the films --

10 Q. Okay. Yes.

11 A. -- but not my examination and my own history  
12 of Ms. Seastrand.

13 Q. Okay. So 606 just based on the records?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And then you see Ms. Seastrand, and you  
16 actually reduce the number?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. Okay. What is -- what was the number reduced  
19 down to? We can get to the exact number in a moment.

20 A. Thank you. I have it. Just looking for it.

21 Q. Fair to say it was several hundred thousand  
22 dollars less?

23 A. Yeah, it was less than 300,000. I'm looking  
24 for the number.

25 Q. So I have a question: Margie told you that

1 she was doing well when she saw you?

2 A. She was improving.

3 Q. She was improving. Now, you're aware that  
4 Dr. Schifini has suggested that Margie has something  
5 called secondary gain.

6 A. I saw that.

7 Q. Whereby, you know, that would suggest or  
8 imply that, you know, she is exaggerating her symptoms  
9 for financial gain in this lawsuit.

10 A. That's his idea.

11 Q. Okay. And let me ask a question: Would you  
12 expect someone with this term financial -- "secondary  
13 gain," you know, this exaggeration, would you expect  
14 them to report to you that they were doing better or  
15 improving?

16 MR. JAFFE: Objection, Your Honor. This is I  
17 believe an undisclosed opinion now.

18 MR. CLOWARD: I don't think it is, Judge.

19 MR. JAFFE: Let me double check.

20 THE COURT: Come up, guys.

21 (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
22 held at the bench.)

23 THE COURT: Objection's overruled.

24 Doctor, the question is: Let me ask you a  
25 question: Would you expect someone with this term

1 "secondary gain," you know, this exaggeration, would  
2 you expect them to report to you that they were doing  
3 better or improving?

4 THE WITNESS: The answer's no.

5 BY MR. CLOWARD:

6 Q. Why not?

7 A. People who exhibit secondary gain tend to  
8 amplify, exaggerate pain. Those patients complain of  
9 more pain or worsened pain. Ms. -- Ms. Seastrand  
10 complained of improvement. So the improvement doesn't  
11 go along with any support for the -- the doctor's  
12 opinion on secondary gain being in play here.

13 Q. Okay. And, Doctor, can we talk about, you  
14 reviewed some medical records not only for -- not only  
15 for the treatment for the -- after the crash, but you  
16 also reviewed records that predated the automobile  
17 crash; is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In your review of the records from before the  
20 automobile crash, were there any records that suggested  
21 that Ms. Seastrand received treatment for the primary  
22 purpose, so her chief complaint is that she's going to  
23 the doctor for neck or low back pain or problems?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Now, I understand that -- or you're aware of

1 an automobile crash in 199 -- 1981.

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. You're also aware of a automobile crash in  
4 1985.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And it's my understanding she did have  
7 some treatment for those events.

8 A. She did.

9 Q. But we don't -- nobody has those records due  
10 to the time.

11 A. I haven't seen the records.

12 Q. Okay. But from 1985 to 2009, are you aware  
13 of any records that Ms. Seastrand treated for primary  
14 complaint, chief complaint of neck or low back?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, did you review a record  
17 from a physician by the name of Dr. Kermani?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. CLOWARD: We'd like to publish that to  
21 the jurors. And, Mr. Jaffe, this is your Exhibit J.

22 MR. JAFFE: Uh-huh.

23 MR. CLOWARD: We'd like to move at this time  
24 to have this entered into evidence.

25 MR. JAFFE: No objection, Your Honor.



1 THE COURT: Exhibit J will be admitted.

2 (Whereupon, Defendant's Exhibit J was  
3 admitted into evidence.)

4 BY MR. CLOWARD:

5 Q. Okay. Do you recognize this record, Doctor?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. And this is Dr. Kermani's record?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Can you tell us a little bit, just  
10 your review of this record. What is this -- what does  
11 this suggest that is going on during this visit back on  
12 October 27th, 2008?

13 A. Well, subjective complaints include the chest  
14 pain for a few days associated with numbness and  
15 tingling in both arms and some pain shooting down the  
16 left arm. She had some recent foot surgery and started  
17 exercising again, and doctor found it interesting that  
18 the exercise actually helped the chest pain. And then  
19 there's a discussion of quite a bit of stress from the  
20 job, recent business venture which is stressful. So  
21 the assessment was: Atypical chest pain, numbness,  
22 meaning the arms.

23 Q. Sure.

24 A. And the patient was given anti-inflammatory  
25 medications, which is abbreviated here as NSAID, small

1 "s." And then a chest x-ray, an EKG and cardiology  
2 physician were recommended to evaluated the heart, to  
3 make sure this wasn't a heart issue or was. And then  
4 regarding the anxiety, a little bit of medication was  
5 given to help with the anxiety and stress. And then it  
6 looks like there's some discussion of female areas and  
7 thyroid.

8 Q. Okay. Doctor, can you tell me in this  
9 objective portion, was there any -- any part in there  
10 where you could see that Ms. Seastrand complained of  
11 neck or low back pain?

12 A. I don't see any reference to the neck or back  
13 in the complaints.

14 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, one thing that Mr. Jaffe  
15 pointed out in opening statement was that you did not  
16 receive this record until your -- I believe your third  
17 supplement; is that correct? You provided an initial  
18 report and then a couple supplements.

19 A. I did.

20 Q. So you had already formed your opinions prior  
21 to receiving this medical record.

22 MR. JAFFE: Objection. Leading.

23 MR. CLOWARD: Had you --

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 MR. CLOWARD: Sorry, Judge.

1 BY MR. CLOWARD:

2 Q. Had you formed your opinions prior to  
3 receiving this medical record?

4 A. Well, I provided initial opinions, and --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- when new information comes, they are  
7 updated if updating is required. Every -- with each  
8 new piece of information.

9 Q. Okay. When you received this medical record,  
10 did that alter or change your opinions that you had  
11 rendered?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. Why wouldn't -- because, you know, it  
14 does -- right here it says, We will obtain C-spine  
15 X rays. So I mean, shouldn't that be very significant  
16 that we should -- you know, that should -- why wouldn't  
17 that change your opinion?

18 A. Well, Dr. Kermani is just making -- trying to  
19 find out what's causing some of the symptoms. He's  
20 being thorough and dutiful given there are arm  
21 symptoms. But there's no evidence of a neck problem  
22 there.

23 Q. Doctor, can you explain to the jurors the  
24 difference between a primary diagnosis and a  
25 differential diagnose -- or differential diagnosis?

1           A.    Yes.  A primary diagnosis is the main  
2 problem, the top diagnosis, the reason someone is being  
3 seen.  A differential diagnosis is a list of  
4 possibilities.  That means the doctor's not sure  
5 exactly with certainty what the problem is, so we make  
6 a list of possibilities, and then we narrow down that  
7 list by getting tests.

8           Q.    Okay.  So it's fair to say that a chief or  
9 primary complaint or primary diagnosis is what is more  
10 probable, but a differential diagnosis, secondary  
11 diagnosis tertiary or third diagnosis, those are just  
12 possibilities?

13               MR. JAFFE:  Objection.  Leading, Your Honor.

14               THE COURT:  Sustained.

15 BY MR. CLOWARD:

16           Q.    Doctor, can you explain the probability  
17 versus possibility a little more.

18           A.    Yes.  With medical probability, that means  
19 more likely than not in regards to diagnosis, the  
20 stated primary diagnosis is the main problem.  But  
21 doctors try to be thoughtful and include the  
22 possibilities that could also exist even if they're  
23 less common.  And that's where the differential  
24 diagnosis.  Differential diagnosis is the list of  
25 additional possibilities.

1 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, can you also explain  
2 is -- is that the same -- is that the same concept as  
3 chief complaint versus incidental finding?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And would that be -- would an example of that  
6 be, say, you know, a patient had a knee problem, and  
7 they go to the orthoped and the orthoped points out  
8 they have a mole on their face and says, hey, you might  
9 want to -- you might want to get the mole checked out?

10 MR. JAFFE: Objection. Leading, Your Honor.

11 MR. CLOWARD: I'm asking if that example is  
12 similar.

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. The knee would be the  
15 primary, chief complaint and primary diagnosis. And  
16 the mole would be an incidental finding and something  
17 to be dealt with by someone else later.

18 BY MR. CLOWARD:

19 Q. Okay. The mole wouldn't necessarily be a  
20 diagnosis. That would just be something that's put  
21 into the record, right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So there's a subtle difference between  
24 primary diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and then  
25 primary diagnosis and just an incidental finding.

1           A.    Correct.

2           Q.    Okay.  Now, so the primary -- what was the  
3 primary complaint, one more time, on this visit?

4           A.    Atypical chest pain -- well, the complaint  
5 was chest pain.  The doctor refers to it as atypical  
6 because it wasn't worse with exertion.  It was better  
7 with exercise.

8           Q.    Okay.  Now, did -- can you tell the jurors --  
9 can you tell us, did -- did Dr. Kermani order any  
10 testing or anything at that time?

11          A.    Yes.  He ordered various tests in addition to  
12 the couple different medications, tests for the heart  
13 and chest, and a neck X ray.

14          Q.    Okay.  Now, I'm going to show Mr. Jaffe's  
15 J0008.  Okay.  It appears as though --

16                Well, Doctor, what is this record here?  What  
17 would this suggest that's going on here?

18          A.    This is the -- the middle of the page is the  
19 physical examination.  The top of the page is just some  
20 basic intake information and the reason for the visit.

21          Q.    When you say "physical examination," is  
22 that -- is that like where the doctor puts his hands on  
23 the patient?

24          A.    Yes.

25          Q.    Okay.  What was the finding for the neck?

1           A.    The neck has a checkmark under normal.

2           Q.    That's that right there?

3           A.    Yes.

4           Q.    Okay.  What -- what further testing did  
5 Dr. Kermani order other than the cervical X ray which  
6 we will talk about in a minute?  What other things did  
7 he order?

8           A.    Well, there was some heart testing, I  
9 believe, some blood tests.  The heart test is called a  
10 stress test.

11          Q.    What is that?

12          A.    Well, standard stress test is a patient's  
13 hooked up to an EKG, and they're usually asked to go on  
14 a treadmill.  And during their exercise, we're looking  
15 at the EKG tracings to see if when stressing out the  
16 heart it might show some signs of difficulty.  And also  
17 they test vital signs like blood pressure at the same  
18 time.

19          Q.    Okay.  Do you know the date of when that test  
20 was performed?

21          A.    Yes.

22          Q.    What was the date of that, Doctor?

23          A.    December 15th, 2008.

24          Q.    Okay.  What was the result?

25          A.    The stress test was positive for exercise

1 induced myocardial ischemia, meaning it was abnormal,  
2 and that when Ms. Seastrand exercised, her heart wasn't  
3 getting enough blood flow to the heart muscle.

4 Q. Okay. Now, so the initial visit with  
5 Dr. Kermani was October 27th, 2008, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. That stress test was on December 15, 2008,  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Between that window of time that --  
11 you know, that window of time, other than the single  
12 cervical X ray, was there any other testing that was  
13 directed to the neck or the low back?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. So Dr. Kermani didn't refer  
16 Ms. Seastrand to a physical therapist.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Dr. Kermani didn't refer Ms. Seastrand for an  
19 MRI of the neck.

20 A. He did not.

21 Q. Dr. Kermani didn't refer Ms. Seastrand for  
22 chiropractic care.

23 A. He did not.

24 Q. Dr. Kermani did not refer Ms. Seastrand to an  
25 orthopedic surgeon.



1           A.    He did not.

2           Q.    A neurospine surgeon.

3           A.    He did not.

4           Q.    Okay. Other than that one cervical X ray,  
5 that was the only -- the only thing related to the  
6 neck?

7           A.    Correct.

8           Q.    And there was nothing related to the lumbar?

9           A.    Correct.

10          Q.    If a patient presents with chest pain and  
11 numbness and tingling in the arms, why would a doctor  
12 even consider a cervical X ray, or why would -- or why  
13 would -- I think you said something about being  
14 careful?

15          A.    Well, in the differential diagnosis, meaning  
16 the possibilities, arm tingling and numbness and pain  
17 even can arise of the neck. It can come from the neck.  
18 So an X ray would be a reasonable thing to rule out a  
19 neck problem.

20          Q.    Okay. And, Doctor, can you explain to the  
21 jurors what the findings of that X ray were?

22          A.    Yes. My recollection is it was normal. And  
23 may I take a quick look at my notes?

24          Q.    Yes, please do.

25          A.    There was some age-related change to the

1 spine to a mild degree at C5-6, which is one of the  
2 segments of the neck. And a mild rightward flexion of  
3 the spine, meaning the posture was slightly to the  
4 right, that the radiologist thought that was compatible  
5 with muscle spasm.

6 Q. Okay. Doctor, let me ask a question: So  
7 based on those findings of the X ray -- well, first  
8 off, are those findings abnormal for someone who at the  
9 time would have been Ms. Seastrand's age and her  
10 gender?

11 A. No, not at all.

12 Q. So let me ask a question: More probable that  
13 those findings were -- that the numbness and tingling  
14 was coming from the neck or more probable that it was  
15 from the heart event for which she had a positive  
16 stress test?

17 MR. JAFFE: Objection -- objection, Your  
18 Honor. Two areas. Number 1, this is an undisclosed  
19 opinion. Number 2, it's getting into an area beyond  
20 his expertise.

21 MR. CLOWARD: Judge, may we approach.

22 (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
23 held at the bench.)

24 THE COURT: All right. The objection's  
25 overruled. I'm going to reask the question. So it

1 says: Let me ask a question: Is it more probable  
2 those findings were -- of the numbness and tingling  
3 were coming from the neck or more probable it was from  
4 the heart event for which she had a positive stress  
5 test?

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you. It is more probable  
7 that the arm symptoms are unrelated to the neck and  
8 more likely related to the heart or anxiety or both.

9 MR. CLOWARD: Thank you.

10 THE COURT: All right. Folks, we're going to  
11 take a quick break. It's about 10:30. We'll give you  
12 a little break this morning.

13 JUROR: Yes. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: During our break, you're  
15 instructed not to talk with each other or with anyone  
16 else, about any subject or issue connected with this  
17 trial. You are not to read, watch, or listen to any  
18 report of or commentary on the trial by any person  
19 connected with this case or by any medium of  
20 information, including, without limitation, newspapers,  
21 television, the Internet, or radio. You are not to  
22 conduct any research on your own, which means you  
23 cannot talk with others, Tweet others, text others,  
24 Google issues, or conduct any other kind of book or  
25 computer research with regard to any issue, party,

1 witness, or attorney, involved in this case. You're  
2 not to form or express any opinion on any subject  
3 connected with this trial until the case is finally  
4 submitted to you.

5 Take about 15 minutes.

6 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

7 (Whereupon jury exited the courtroom.)

8 THE COURT: I'm going to excuse you too,  
9 Doctor.

10 All right. We're outside the presence of the  
11 jury. Mr. Jaffe, go ahead.

12 MR. JAFFE: Your Honor, at this time, I would  
13 like to make a record regarding the three issues that  
14 have been discussed at sidebar this morning. Most  
15 prominently, the most recent one where Dr. Gross just  
16 before this break was allowed to express an opinion as  
17 to the cause of the plaintiff's symptoms and treatment  
18 in October through December 2008. My opinion is  
19 twofold: No. 1, it is an undisclosed opinion; No. 2,  
20 it goes into areas beyond his expertise.

21 With respect to the expertise issue, he just  
22 testified that it related to the heart, and he's not  
23 here as a cardiologist. He has not been offered as a  
24 cardiologist. He is not testifying as a cardiologist.  
25 He's not an expert in cardiology. He's not trained as

1 a cardiologist. He has no background or experience in  
2 cardiology. And I believe it's entirely inappropriate  
3 for him to give what was now undeniably a cardiologic  
4 opinion.

5           Second, he just was allowed to testify  
6 regarding the causation for treatment in late 2008 that  
7 has never been disclosed. And, Your Honor, I would  
8 like leave to make court -- as Court exhibits all three  
9 of Dr. Gross's records -- or reports rather from  
10 August 7, 2012; August 28th, 2012; and the third from  
11 September 29, 2012.

12           THE COURT: You can make them Court exhibits.  
13 That's fine.

14           MR. JAFFE: I'm going to have clean copies  
15 brought in, because the only copy I've got is one that  
16 I've got marked up.

17           In his third report, the -- the  
18 September 2012 report, that is the first time he saw  
19 these October and December 2008 records. He had  
20 already rendered a causation opinion regarding this  
21 accident. But at no time did he ever render a  
22 causation opinion, even in that third report, regarding  
23 the need for the plaintiff to have been seen for that  
24 treatment to exclude it as an issue related to the 2009  
25 motor vehicle accident.

1 All he said in that report by way of his  
2 opinions was, Discussion. I review -- in review of  
3 these additional records, I have identified areas of  
4 disagreement with defense participants. I have  
5 provided the reasons and basis for my disagreement and  
6 my opinions being supported by the medical facts,  
7 medical knowledge, and applied clinical logic. My  
8 opinions are given within a reasonable degree of  
9 medical probability.

10 In that report, he does not discuss the  
11 causation for why the plaintiff was seen in late 2008.  
12 It is different for him to defend his opinion than to  
13 go beyond that and give an affirmative opinion in a  
14 completely new medical area, that is, that late 2008  
15 treatment.

16 My experts did address it in their reports.  
17 My experts did put it in their opinions. Dr. Gross did  
18 not. And he was now allowed to give a completely new  
19 opinion simply because Mr. Cloward saw that I'm making  
20 a point of this in my opening, and he's got no expert  
21 who's discussed it. His experts have never seen this  
22 report or these records other than Dr. Gross having  
23 seen it in time for his third report, and now he was  
24 allowed to give a new opinion. I believe that was  
25 entirely improper.

1           The second objection I have is that he was  
2 allowed to offer opinions regarding secondary gain  
3 against Dr. Schifini. As the record will show and the  
4 reports will show, the only time he addressed  
5 Dr. Schifini was in his third report. There was  
6 nothing in there disputing Dr. Schifini's opinion  
7 regarding secondary gain.

8           The third is he was allowed to offer  
9 comparisons of records to offer explanations for  
10 discrepancies between un -- between providers' records.  
11 Again, that's also an undisclosed opinion, and that is  
12 directly in response to what was put in our opening  
13 that counsel had not obviously previously anticipated  
14 to have obtained in a report.

15           They've had the opportunity to depose all my  
16 doctors and all of my experts, and they took that  
17 opportunity. It was done months and months and months  
18 ago. They never sought to amend and supplement with  
19 those additional opinions, and I believe it was  
20 improper to allow Dr. Gross to testify on each of those  
21 three areas, sir.

22           THE COURT: Great. Want to make a record?

23           MR. CLOWARD: Just that, No. 1, the -- not a  
24 single opinion that Dr. Gross has rendered has changed  
25 from his initial report, his first supplement, his

1 second supplement, or his third supplement. The  
2 defense points out that somehow Dr. Gross is making a  
3 cardiological opinion. However, the reverse analysis  
4 for his experts would be the exact same. They ruled  
5 out that this had anything to do with the neck or with  
6 the heart and say that it dealt with her neck.

7 In fact, Mr. Jaffe, in opening statement,  
8 represented to the jurors -- which was inaccurate,  
9 represented to the jurors that this heart issue turned  
10 out to be a neck issue. There's no evidence of that.  
11 None.

12 The fact that Dr. Gross reviewed this record,  
13 he says that his opinions -- it's unchanged. He was  
14 offered for causation. He reviewed the record. It  
15 didn't change his opinions. So it's not a new opinion.  
16 It's not an unfair surprise.

17 What were the other two things? What were  
18 the other two issues, Mr. Jaffe?

19 THE COURT: Discussion regarding discrepancy  
20 in the records and Dr. Schifini's secondary gain issue.

21 MR. CLOWARD: Yeah. Dr. Schifini's report  
22 was referenced in Dr. Gross's third supplement. As a  
23 rendered -- as a -- an expert who is rendering a --  
24 a -- an opinion on causation, Dr. Gross himself would  
25 have to consider secondary gain, so we -- I don't feel



1 like the -- like the testimony that he gave was  
2 inappropriate or was unfair to Mr. Jaffe because he  
3 referenced Dr. Schifini's report. And No. 2, he has  
4 his own individual basis, his own individual opinion.  
5 And my specific question was, Dr. Gross, would it be  
6 unexpected for you to see a patient do X, Y, Z, what  
7 Ms. Seastrand did. I didn't say what are your  
8 criticisms of Dr. Schifini when it comes to this issue.  
9 I said based on your review, would that raise any red  
10 flags.

11               Nothing further, Judge.

12               MR. JAFFE: In response, sir, first off, on  
13 the Dr. Schifini issue, the problem is counsel asked a  
14 question immediately leading up to it directing him to  
15 Dr. Schifini and referencing Dr. Schifini's report and  
16 opinions. And simply because he looked at  
17 Dr. Schifini's report doesn't necessarily mean that  
18 he's got carte blanche to say anything and everything  
19 that he wants about it. And there's an obligation to  
20 still disclose the opinions.

21               But what I indicated at sidebar is that in  
22 his third report, Dr. Gross spent three full pages  
23 talking about Dr. Schifini's report and still didn't  
24 raise an issue criticizing Dr. Schifini's secondary  
25 gain opinion. So, Your Honor, I think that that's the

1 problem there.

2           With respect to Dr. Gross on this most recent  
3 issue, talking about the cardiology, I did reference  
4 that in my opening because my doctors have talked about  
5 that. It doesn't mean that he gets now the opportunity  
6 to raise new opinions that have never been disclosed  
7 simply because he wants to rebut them. My opinion --  
8 or my statements were based upon opinions given by my  
9 doctors a year ago. They were disclosed. They were  
10 known. He could have rebutted them. He could have  
11 done something about it, but he chose not to. It  
12 doesn't mean that now, in the middle of trial, he gets  
13 to ambush me with a new opinion that has not previously  
14 been disclosed because that's exactly what happened.

15           And while it -- to couch it as saying it goes  
16 to his causation opinion, that's not true. He gave a  
17 causation opinion on the 2009 accident and the  
18 treatment needed by it. He never wrote an opinion  
19 excluding 2008 much less going beyond that to say what  
20 2008 did actually represent or what was the cause of  
21 the 2008 symptoms and conditions. And that's where it  
22 crossed the line by going into those new causation  
23 opinions, going beyond what was disclosed and allowing  
24 Dr. Gross to get up there and blather on about anything  
25 and everything that he wants simply under the guise of,

1 well, he's given a causation opinion before. It's a  
2 different causation opinion on a different area on a  
3 different topic and on different treatment.

4 THE COURT: All right. Here's the deal,  
5 guys: As far as the discussion regarding the  
6 discrepancies in the records and with regard to  
7 Dr. Gross's discussion regarding the -- the 2008  
8 records, I think that those are causation opinions. If  
9 the doctor talked about causation in his report, he's  
10 been identified as a causation expert, the statute --  
11 or the rules and the notes to the rules talk about the  
12 fact that even a treating physician can come in and say  
13 something at trial to defend their opinions that hasn't  
14 even been disclosed before. I think that has to apply  
15 to experts as well, if it's to defend his opinions.  
16 And then, I think that's what he was doing. I don't  
17 think it changed his opinions that -- that previously  
18 have been disclosed. I think it's related to the  
19 original causation opinion that he authored, and that's  
20 why I overruled the objection.

21 Now, with regard to Dr. Schifini and the  
22 testimony with regard to Dr. Schifini's opinion  
23 regarding secondary gain, if you recall, when you came  
24 up to the bench, I allowed the question regarding  
25 secondary gain because in reviewing the specific

1 question that was asked, yes, he had previously  
2 addressed Dr. Schifini's report. But the question that  
3 was asked about Dr. Gross's secondary gain opinion did  
4 not specifically reference Dr. Schifini's report and  
5 didn't ask him to comment on Dr. Schifini's report or  
6 any criticisms with him.

7           Now, that being said, when Dr. Gross answered  
8 the question, he did specifically criticize  
9 Dr. Schifini's opinion regarding secondary gain, and I  
10 expected an objection and a motion to strike. But I  
11 didn't hear it at that point.

12           MR. JAFFE: Well, because at this point, Your  
13 Honor, I mean, quite honestly, I thought it was already  
14 consistent with exactly what Mr. Cloward had already  
15 asked him. You can't unring the bell. I expected that  
16 was coming and, quite frankly, I mean, at that point,  
17 why -- why highlight it even more at that point? I had  
18 already raised my objection. I expected that's where  
19 he was going because he did not give an opinion in any  
20 of his reports specifically addressing secondary gain.

21           Your Honor will see in the third report, it  
22 says nothing whatsoever other than listing out a whole  
23 bunch more records that he's looked at, commenting upon  
24 individually the expert depositions -- or rather  
25 reports.

1           THE COURT: I get it. You don't have to  
2 argue anymore.

3           MR. JAFFE: No. I apologize, sir. I wasn't  
4 intending to do that.

5           THE COURT: Do me a favor, guys. When you  
6 come up for a -- bar conferences, keep them quick,  
7 don't interrupt each other, talk to me not each other.

8           MR. CLOWARD: Okay.

9           THE COURT: I think that will make it go a  
10 little bit faster throughout the trial.

11          MR. JAFFE: That's what I'm trying to do,  
12 sir.

13          THE COURT: Thanks, guys. Anything else?

14          MR. JAFFE: Well, the only thing is -- I  
15 mean, obviously, Your Honor, yesterday we provided you  
16 with our brief for the biomechanical issue.

17          THE COURT: I'm going to allow both  
18 biomechanical experts to testify. I think it goes to a  
19 weight not admissibility.

20          MR. JAFFE: Thank you, sir.

21          THE COURT: I think both of the biomechanical  
22 experts offered their testimonies -- if you look back  
23 at the Chote and the Levine cases, they talk about the  
24 fact that biomechanical experts can't offer speed  
25 testimony and things like that based solely upon their

1 review of photographs. In looking at the reports of  
2 both experts, they reviewed on -- they reviewed  
3 substantially more evidence than the experts did in the  
4 Chote and the Levine cases. I think that based on the  
5 Hallmark challenge, that both of the experts I think  
6 are qualified in their areas, both of them would  
7 provide assistance to the jury, and both of them I  
8 think have -- have limited their opinions to their  
9 areas of expertise.

10 So I'm going to allow both to testify. You  
11 can cross-examine them, and you can challenge each  
12 other's expert, but I think it goes to weight not  
13 admissibility.

14 MR. JAFFE: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. CLOWARD: Fair enough, Judge.

16 THE COURT: Anything else?

17 MR. JAFFE: That's it.

18 THE COURT: All right. Let's take a break  
19 for a minute. Off the record. I gave the jury  
20 15 minutes, the 15 minutes is up. So you guys go real  
21 quick and use the restroom so we can get back.

22 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

23 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

24 (Whereupon jury entered the courtroom.)

25 THE COURT: Go ahead and be seated. Welcome

1 back, folks. Sorry for the delay. Back on the record  
2 in Case 636515.

3 Parties stipulate to the presence of the  
4 jury?

5 MR. JAFFE: Yes, sir.

6 MR. CLOWARD: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Cloward.

8 Just be reminded, Doctor, you're still under  
9 oath.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 BY MR. CLOWARD:

12 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, after the -- the  
13 December 15th, 2008, record where Ms. Seastrand  
14 received the stress test, were there any other  
15 treatments that you're aware of for that heart event?

16 Let me ask it -- I'll withdraw that question.  
17 Let me ask you a different question.

18 From October 27th, 2008, until the time of  
19 the accident, March 13th, 2009, other than that single  
20 X ray, were there any other records for Ms. Seastrand's  
21 neck or lumbar spine?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. Can you tell the jurors, what did  
24 Margie tell you about the -- the crash?

25 A. Sure. I'll read from my initial report where

1 I met with her, which was my second document dated  
2 8/28/12. She told me that she was stopped as the  
3 driver of a 2002 Honda Odyssey minivan, wearing her  
4 seat belt, at a red light on a surface street. She was  
5 rear ended by an SUV without warning. She did not hear  
6 a screech. She thinks she was looking left at the  
7 time. There was no secondary impact, meaning her  
8 vehicle wasn't pushed into another vehicle.

9 Q. Okay. Now, did -- did she tell you anything  
10 about a history of prior crashes?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what was that?

13 A. From the same document, I documented that she  
14 had an accident at age 5 or 6 without injury. She had  
15 another traffic collision without injury at age 16.  
16 She was in a rollover accident in college in 1981. She  
17 had neck pain and right knee pain. She was seen at a  
18 hospital. She was treated by a naturalist and her pain  
19 resolved within a few weeks.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And lastly, in 1985 -- not lastly, but in  
22 1985, she was in another accident and had some neck  
23 pain. She had some physical therapy, and her pain  
24 resolved. And then she had -- she was in another  
25 accident without injury when her son was driving about



1 eight years prior to our visit --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- which would be about 2004.

4 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, are there certain things  
5 that make people more susceptible to injury?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you tell us a little bit, what are things  
8 that make folks more susceptible to injury?

9 A. Well, as it pertains to the spine --

10 Q. Yeah, that's what I mean. Sorry. Thank you.

11 A. Sure. Well, first, the most common thing  
12 would be age-related change.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. If someone had bone spurs and age-related  
15 changes that are quite common, that could narrow the  
16 spinal canal and narrow the area where the nerves  
17 travel making it more easy to get injured.

18 Second, people can be born with a narrower  
19 spinal canal where the nerves and spinal cord travel.  
20 They are more susceptible to injury.

21 Third and final would be someone who has had  
22 prior surgery and/or a prior weakening of the spine  
23 from a surgery or some type of approach. That would  
24 render someone more susceptible to injury.

25 Q. Okay. And being more susceptible means it's

1 more likely that in an event they would sustain injury  
2 than someone who didn't have those additional issues?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Would it be fair, like an example of that  
5 would be, say, if I were to have a tackle football game  
6 with, you know, my grandfather who's 85 years old, I am  
7 probably not going to be injured as quickly as he  
8 would?

9 A. True.

10 Q. Okay. Similarly, if I have a tackle football  
11 game with my 15-year-old nephew --

12 MR. JAFFE: Objection. This is leading, Your  
13 Honor.

14 MR. CLOWARD: It's an example to help.

15 MR. JAFFE: I think the doctor's supposed to  
16 be testifying not counsel.

17 THE COURT: I don't know if it's leading yet  
18 because he hasn't asked a question yet.

19 MR. CLOWARD: What was the last part?

20 THE COURT: You started talking about your  
21 15-year-old nephew.

22 BY MR. CLOWARD:

23 Q. Okay. In the latter scenario, I would likely  
24 be more likely -- I would be more likely to sustain an  
25 injury than the 15 year old.

1           A.    Correct.

2           Q.    Okay. Doctor, can you tell us, did Margie,  
3 in particular, have things that would make her more  
4 likely to be injured?

5           A.    Yes.

6           Q.    Okay. And those things are the age you  
7 talked about?

8           A.    Well, the age-related changes, specifically  
9 at C5-6 in her neck.

10          Q.    Okay. And then the degeneration and --

11          A.    That is the age-related degeneration. It's  
12 one and the same.

13          Q.    Okay. So is it fair to say somebody without  
14 those would maybe not have had the same response?

15          A.    Well, someone without those changes in her  
16 anatomy before an injury would be less likely to be  
17 injured.

18          Q.    Okay. Maybe like a --

19               MR. JAFFE: Your Honor, I'm sorry. I have to  
20 approach again.

21               THE COURT: Come on up.

22                       (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
23 held at the bench.)

24               THE COURT: All right. The objection's  
25 sustained.

1           Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to instruct  
2 you not to -- not to consider any of the testimony with  
3 regard to the more susceptible than not to injury, that  
4 line of questioning.

5           MR. JAFFE: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 BY MR. CLOWARD:

7           Q. Doctor, let me ask a question: On a more  
8 likely than not basis, if this MVA had never happened,  
9 even with her prior history of degeneration, would  
10 Margie have needed to have this surgery?

11           MR. JAFFE: Hold on. Your Honor, I'm going  
12 to object to foundation.

13           THE COURT: It's overruled.

14           MR. JAFFE: Thank you.

15           THE COURT: That's an easy one.

16           MR. JAFFE: Okay.

17           THE WITNESS: Absent the injury, she would  
18 have most probably not required any type of neck or  
19 back surgery.

20 BY MR. CLOWARD:

21           Q. Okay. So let's talk about the crash itself  
22 and the course of treatment that she received after the  
23 crash.

24           First off, Doctor, in your experience, you do  
25 treat patients who are injured, correct?

1           A.    I do.

2           Q.    Okay. In order for someone to have a  
3 significant injury, do you need to have significant  
4 property damage?

5           MR. JAFFE: Objection. This goes into  
6 biomechanics, Your Honor. It's outside the scope of  
7 his expertise and outside -- this is an undisclosed  
8 opinion with regard to property damage.

9           MR. CLOWARD: It's a basic --

10          MR. JAFFE: And causal relationship.

11          THE COURT: It's overruled.

12          THE WITNESS: Patient injuries do not require  
13 a match to vehicular injuries. I treat the patients.

14 BY MR. CLOWARD:

15          Q.    Okay. Have you ever once in your entire  
16 career when a patient came to see you, have you ever  
17 once asked them to go out and inspect the vehicle?

18          A.    I have never.

19          Q.    So after the accident happens, what is your  
20 understanding of what happened next?

21          A.    Ms. Seastrand went to MountainView Hospital.

22          Q.    And can you tell the -- can you tell us how  
23 she arrived at MountainView? Was it by ambulance or by  
24 her personal car?

25          A.    Taking a look to confirm. She was placed on

1 a backboard with cervical precautions and taken by  
2 ambulance, according to emergency medical service  
3 report, and treated in the emergency room at  
4 MountainView.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. JAFFE: What's the exhibit on this?

7 MR. CLOWARD: It's Exhibit 4.

8 MR. JAFFE: I don't think that's one of the  
9 ones you --

10 MR. CLOWARD: Move into evidence Exhibit 4,  
11 Judge.

12 MR. JAFFE: No objection, sir.

13 THE COURT: Exhibit 4 will be admitted.

14 (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 4 was  
15 admitted into evidence.)

16 BY MR. CLOWARD:

17 Q. Okay. Doctor, do you recognize this  
18 document?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And what would this document be?

21 A. Would you mind going -- showing the top of  
22 the document, please.

23 Q. Sure. Let me show you the first page.

24 A. Thank you. That is the Las Vegas Fire and  
25 Rescue Emergency Medical Service Report.

1 Q. Okay. Can you tell -- can you tell us, what  
2 were the findings from the paramedics there?

3 A. Well, they said this is a 47-year-old female.  
4 She sustained a trauma secondary to an MVA, for motor  
5 vehicle accident. The patient states she was  
6 restrained driver, restrained meaning the seat belt was  
7 worn, of a vehicle struck in the rear by an SUV  
8 traveling approximately 10 miles per hour. Patient  
9 complains of pain to neck, right shoulder, back pelvis.  
10 Patient denies loss of consciousness or loss of  
11 sensation/function to all extremities.

12 Q. Okay. Doctor, can you explain to us what the  
13 SOAP of the medical record mean?

14 A. Yes. This is a typical medical record format  
15 called the SOAP format, as S-O-A-P spelled. S stands  
16 for subjective, meaning what the patient starts with or  
17 what the details are from the patient. O is for  
18 objective, which is usually the physical exam. In a  
19 doctor's office, that would also include test results.  
20 A is for assessment, meaning the diagnosis or the main  
21 problem. And P is for plan, meaning what are we going  
22 to do about it?

23 Q. Okay. So subjective is what the patient  
24 tells the provider, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And the objective is what the provider notes  
2 for themselves.

3 A. Well, based on findings and examinations,  
4 yes.

5 Q. Okay. Can you tell the jurors what the  
6 examinations or findings were for this emergency  
7 medical technician, or the EMT, the paramedic.

8 A. The objective findings under O?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. It says, Patient is awake, alert, oriented  
11 times four. That means they know where they are, who  
12 they are, what's going on. It says skin. I'm not sure  
13 what the letters are after that. And then HEENT stands  
14 for head, eyes, ears, nose, and throat are  
15 unremarkable. Then it says, PEERL, which stands for  
16 pupils of the eyes are equal. They're reactive to  
17 light. Then it says CX equals C/G bilateral.

18 Q. What does that mean, Doctor? What does CX  
19 mean?

20 A. I'm not certain.

21 Q. What about the next line, Doctor?

22 A. Neck equals pain upon palpation, meaning they  
23 were feeling her neck. No deformities noted.  
24 Deformity would be something you would be looking for  
25 in a fracture or dislocation.



1 Q. Okay. Doctor, what else -- what other  
2 findings significant -- or what other findings for the  
3 neck and the back were there on this record, if any?

4 A. It says, Back equals pain upon palp, which is  
5 palpation to spine. Again, no deformities noted. Pain  
6 to right shoulder consistent to seat belt.

7 Q. What does that mean?

8 A. That means the area of the shoulder pain  
9 would be perhaps in relationship to the positioning of  
10 the seat belt.

11 Q. Okay. And one other thing, Doctor, the vital  
12 signs, the pulse was 86. Is that high or low or  
13 normal?

14 A. It might be normal or a slightly high.

15 Q. Okay. Now, is your -- your understanding is  
16 she then presented to MountainView Hospital?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you -- and you've reviewed those records.

19 A. I have.

20 Q. Okay. Can you just briefly tell the jurors  
21 what happened at MountainView without -- I won't go  
22 through records in great detail, but what -- what  
23 treatment did she receive there?

24 A. Well, it looks like she was evaluated by the  
25 emergency room doctor, Dr. Ferdozian. He took a

1 history and examined her and gave her some morphine  
2 which is a intravenous pain medicine, and some Zofran  
3 to help with nausea. He arranged for a CT scan of the  
4 head and X rays of the cervical spine, meaning the  
5 neck.

6 Q. Okay. What is morphine used for?

7 A. Pain.

8 Q. Is that a medication that's given out  
9 regularly? If -- for -- you know, for just -- if  
10 anybody presents to the ER, do they give anybody  
11 morphine?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Why not?

14 A. Because some people go to the emergency room  
15 just looking for morphine.

16 Q. Okay. What other treatment while she was  
17 there was provided?

18 A. Well, it looks like she received some  
19 prescriptions for -- for medications when she left.  
20 And she was given instructions not to work for three  
21 days, and to follow up with Dr. Ashman.

22 Q. Who kind of a doctor was Dr. Ashman?

23 A. I'm sorry, I don't know what kind.

24 Q. Okay. All right. After she's -- was she  
25 discharged, I'm assuming?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Was she discharged with any  
3 medications?

4 A. Yes, two.

5 Q. Okay. Do you know where she went next after  
6 she was discharged?

7 A. You mean right away or her next medical  
8 visit?

9 Q. Next medical visit.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is that the Neck & Back Clinic as well as  
12 Primary Care?

13 A. Correct. Seven days later.

14 Q. Okay. Now, she gave a history to Dr. Lurie,  
15 correct?

16 A. She did.

17 Q. Do you remember -- or can you tell the  
18 jurors, what was the history that she gave of what her  
19 neck and back complaints or pain was before the car  
20 crash?

21 A. Dr. Lurie said in his report of 3/20/09, The  
22 patient stated that prior to the motor vehicle  
23 collision, she -- she was not experiencing intermittent  
24 neck pain. But then he describes the previous  
25 intermittent neck pain was approximately 3 out of 10

1 and two to three times a month. So I think she -- I  
2 think he misspoke. I think she was experiencing that  
3 intermittent neck pain.

4 Q. Okay. So neck pain is -- is how many -- how  
5 many times a month again?

6 A. Two to three times per month when present.

7 Q. Okay. Two to three times, month. Is there a  
8 rating?

9 A. Three out of 10. Approximately.

10 Q. Three out of 10. Okay. What about the back,  
11 if anything?

12 A. He says that she was not experiencing any  
13 lower back pain, but then he says, She rated the  
14 previous intermittent lower back pain as approximately  
15 4 out of 10 one to two times per month.

16 Q. Okay. So one to two times per month, pain 4  
17 out of 10.

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. Now, what -- how does she describe the  
20 pain upon that initial presentation, and there was a  
21 change or not?

22 A. Well, in regards to the neck, she describes  
23 the pain as not only in the neck but radiating into  
24 both shoulders and the upper extremities at 8 out of  
25 10.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. She also describes headaches, and I group  
3 that with the neck, at 7 out of 10.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. She also describes numbness and tingling in  
6 both hands. She describes frequent mid back pain rated  
7 at 8 out of 10. And then she describes lower back pain  
8 radiating to the buttocks and both legs and knees with  
9 numbness and tingling in the legs, rated 8 out of 10.  
10 She also notes bilateral shoulder pain at 7 out of 10.

11 Q. Okay. So would it be fair to say -- I've got  
12 a diagram here. This is kind of her baseline or her  
13 playing field before the crash.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And then here's the -- the -- the crash  
16 3/13/09.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then here's the immediate playing field  
19 or baseline after.

20 A. One week after.

21 Q. Okay. So there's a change -- is there a  
22 change in her symptoms?

23 A. Clearly, yes.

24 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, did you have a chance to  
25 review the MRIs in this case?

1           A.    I did.

2           Q.    And you have the -- the MRIs there with you.

3           A.    I have them on disc, yes.

4           Q.    Okay.

5           MR. CLOWARD: Judge, and -- Mr. Jaffe would

6 like to have Dr. Gross put those into his computer and

7 show the jurors. Any objection?

8           MR. JAFFE: I want to did you say?

9           MR. CLOWARD: Was there any objection?

10          MR. JAFFE: Oh, no. Those are the MRIs. No,

11 those are fine.

12          THE COURT: What do you want to do? You want

13 to put them in their computer?

14          MR. CLOWARD: In Dr. Gross's computer.

15          MR. JAFFE: But -- okay. So is he putting it

16 up on the screen, then?

17          MR. CLOWARD: Yes.

18          MR. JAFFE: Okay.

19          MR. CLOWARD: Is there a plug up there for

20 him to plug his computer in?

21          THE COURT: I don't know. I've never done

22 that.

23          MR. CLOWARD: Okay. Maybe you could bring

24 the -- thanks. Maybe you could bring that down, and

25 we'll plug it into mine. I know there's on mine.

1 THE WITNESS: Okay. If I could be allowed.

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 THE WITNESS: I've got power. May I step  
4 down?

5 THE COURT: You may.

6 MR. CLOWARD: Okay. Can you switch us over?  
7 Court's indulgence. We apologize.

8 THE WITNESS: All right. I'm ready.

9 MR. CLOWARD: Okay.

10 BY MR. CLOWARD:

11 Q. So can you just show us what the MRIs --  
12 whether there was any significance or just walk us  
13 through what the MRI findings were?

14 A. Sure. For identification, this is the  
15 April 3rd, 2009, MRI of the neck and MRI of the low  
16 back. You can see in the upper right-hand corner the  
17 images. It says Margaret Seastrand. So we know it's  
18 the right person. I'll start with the neck study. And  
19 now if it can work at the same time. Okay.

20 On the right of the screen is a side view of  
21 the neck for orientation. Looking across the left, as  
22 the jury's looking through my neck and chin and face,  
23 one can see the profile showing the chin here, the  
24 front of the throat, and upper sternum. And this white  
25 line is the upper back and back of the head. Now, the

1 head would go up and -- on top of that computer screen,  
2 but they zoomed in on the neck so they don't show you  
3 the head. You can see the bottom of the brain where  
4 I'm indicating. And stemming down from the brain is  
5 the gray spinal cord that travels down a canal in the  
6 neck that normally houses and protects the spinal cord.  
7 Right in front of the spinal cord are these gray  
8 rectangles and those are the vertebral bones in the  
9 neck. In between the vertebral bones are the disks,  
10 the cushions.

11 Now, the first thing I look at is the posture  
12 of the neck, and it's very straight. And normally  
13 there should be a nice C-shape curve, and that curve is  
14 lost here. And that's sometimes a clue that there's a  
15 problem underneath or some muscle spasm.

16 Q. Why would muscle spasm or what would the  
17 correlation there be? Explain that.

18 A. If someone has, for example a disk problem,  
19 which I might show you in a minute, then the body's  
20 response is to say, ow, that hurts. Let me tighten up  
21 my muscles and protect myself from moving too much  
22 against that disk problem. So it's the body's  
23 response. So it's a clue. Muscle spasm isn't a  
24 disease, it's a -- something that stems from a problem.  
25 It's a secondary or indirect issue.



1 Q. Okay.

2 A. On the left screen are the cross section  
3 pictures. This is if we were to chop someone with a  
4 guillotine at different places in the neck and look up  
5 the head that fell in the basket. In fact, if you see  
6 on the right side, there's an orange dotted line that  
7 crosses through the spine. That indicates where the  
8 guillotine slice is taken.

9 Q. This right here, Doctor?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So this image right here is a view of what  
12 would be going on there.

13 A. Exactly.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And to improve our education here, I will  
16 zoom in on the cross section. Okay? I'll do a little  
17 zooming here on the side view. So these are the two  
18 views I use commonly in my office when I evaluate  
19 films. And if you look closer on the right of the  
20 screen, you can see the disk. And the normal disk --  
21 for example, this disk where my arrow is, is normal  
22 appearing. The front of the disk lines up with the  
23 front of the bones above and below the disk. And the  
24 back of the disk lines up with the bones -- sorry, the  
25 front of the disk lines up with the front of the bones

1 in front, and the back of the disk lines up with the  
2 back of the bones in the back. There's no material  
3 coming out of the disk I'm showing you as an example.  
4 And that -- and that disk is -- looks normal to me.

5 Now, that's different than the one that I  
6 just moved my arrow to, which is called the Cervical  
7 5-6 disk.

8 Q. And, Doctor, how do you know looking on that  
9 image which one is, you know, 5-6 or 4-5? How do you  
10 know -- I don't understand that.

11 A. Well, we count down from the top.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. The top vertebra is where my arrow is right  
14 now.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And this is a ring vertebra. Sits on this  
17 peg vertebra which is the second one. This next one is  
18 the Cervical 3, Cervical 4, Cervical 5. The disk here  
19 is the disk between Cervical 5 and 6. It's therefore  
20 called the C5-6 disk or 5 to 6.

21 Q. So the disk in between the C5 vertebrae and  
22 the C6 vertebrae.

23 A. That's the one we're looking at because the  
24 material is slipping backwards out of its normal place,  
25 towards the area where the spinal cord and nerves sit,

1 and it also has this white color right in front of and  
2 behind -- sorry, above and below the disk rather. And  
3 that means there's some swelling or reaction in the --  
4 in the bone itself surrounding the disk.

5 Q. Can you come over and talk to us a little bit  
6 more about that.

7 A. Sure. Where my arrow is pointed here, this  
8 white signal in the corner of the vertebral bone  
9 Cervical 5 and the top area in the vertebral bone  
10 Cervical 6 have some changes. Those changes are  
11 bright, intense on this film. They're white indicating  
12 some fluid has seeped into the bone marrow. They call  
13 that edema or inflammation.

14 A famous Dr. Modic out of the Cleveland  
15 Clinic described these as reactionary changes to the  
16 edge of the bone. When the disk isn't doing its  
17 property -- it's cushioning property properly, then the  
18 bone starts to feel it.

19 Q. Okay. Thank you.

20 Now, do those generally take a long time to  
21 develop --

22 A. We couldn't tell by the MRI. They can be new  
23 or long-standing.

24 Q. Okay. So unless there -- unless you have  
25 like an MRI from the day before an event and the day

1 after the event, it's difficult, if not impossible, to  
2 date those changes.

3 A. True. The MRI by itself doesn't tell us any  
4 dates.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. We have to correlate that clinically.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. So the -- I draw -- I am moving the orange  
9 line through that disk of interest, which is  
10 Cervical 5-6. And the slice isn't taken exactly in the  
11 middle of the disk, but one can see there -- can I go  
12 back?

13 Q. Yes, please do.

14 A. There is -- on the cross section, the spinal  
15 cord is the gray structure here and here. The disk is  
16 this structure, and there's a piece of the disk that is  
17 coming into this pathway on the patient's left. And  
18 I'm pointing to L for left, which is interestingly on  
19 the right side of that picture. That's how we read  
20 them. This is a narrowing of the canal to the left  
21 side where the nerve travels.

22 Q. Okay. Let me keep you over here for one  
23 moment, Doctor.

24 A. Sorry.

25 Q. Would that finding cause pain?

1           A.    It could.

2           Q.    Okay.  And could that finding cause no pain?

3           A.    It could.

4           Q.    Okay.  Doctor, is there anything significant  
5 about this thing right here, this little area right  
6 here?

7           A.    Yes.  The significant findings are the black  
8 disk material is emanating outward in comparison to the  
9 surrounding disks.  In fact, the one below has a small  
10 curvature.  In addition, there's the changes in the  
11 bone that I mentioned.  And there's sort of an angle  
12 there.  There's a little bit of a kink.  All these are  
13 clues as to the source of something interesting in the  
14 neck, which is then used to go to the doctor to  
15 correlate to the patient's symptoms.

16          Q.    Okay.  Let me ask a question, Doctor:  Can  
17 these findings cause pain?

18          A.    They can.

19          Q.    Can these findings not cause pain?

20          A.    Possibly.

21          Q.    I mean, someone could have these findings and  
22 have no pain whatsoever.

23          A.    True.

24          Q.    Okay.  So talk to us a little bit more about  
25 clinical correlation before we -- we move on.

1           A.   Doctors don't treat MRIs. We treat patients.  
2 Patients have symptoms. We use the MRI to explain the  
3 symptoms. If a patient has neck pain and headaches and  
4 pain into the shoulder blades and down the arm, and I  
5 see this on an MRI, I can say, ha, those match. I just  
6 clinically correlated the findings on the MRI. I can't  
7 just look at the MRI in a vacuum and say it doesn't  
8 matter what the patient says or complains of, because  
9 that's not clinical medicine. That's just radiology.  
10 We treat patients.

11           Q.   Okay. So, Doctor, you cannot look at this --  
12 at these images alone and determine whether someone --

13                   MR. JAFFE: Objection. Leading, Your Honor.

14 BY MR. CLOWARD:

15           Q.   Doctor --

16                   MR. JAFFE: Asked and answered.

17                   MR. CLOWARD: I'll rephrase. I'll rephrase.

18 BY MR. CLOWARD:

19           Q.   Doctor, can you tell from looking at these  
20 images alone whether a patient has pain?

21           A.   No.

22           Q.   Okay. You need to evaluate the patient?

23           A.   It's mandatory.

24           Q.   Okay. Continue on. These are the cervical  
25 findings. Is there anything else that is worth noting?

1           A.    I think I showed the salient features to the  
2 jury for the neck.

3           Q.    Okay. Now, if you will --

4           A.    The same two pictures are now shown for the  
5 lower back, a side view on the right and cross sections  
6 on the left.

7           Q.    Okay.

8           A.    So now one can see on the right screen the  
9 skin on the back and upper buttock, the belly button is  
10 here, the guts are in here, the vertebral bones are  
11 here, the rectangles, and in between are the disks.  
12 Now, you can see better in the low back that a normal  
13 disk has a moist white color, as I'm showing --

14          Q.    Okay.

15          A.    -- but --

16          Q.    That's with the little arrow there?

17          A.    Yes.

18          Q.    Do you mind walking over --

19          A.    I'm so sorry.

20          Q.    -- showing us those.

21          A.    A healthy disk should be moist. Think of a  
22 sponge at the sink. A wet sponge is moist. If the  
23 sponge has dried out like they tend to do here in  
24 Nevada if you don't use it, they're dry and hard. So  
25 the darker disks in the lower area are drier and not as

1 moist. The last two. This upper one is named L4 to L5  
2 because this bone is L4 and this is the last bone, L5.  
3 And then the last disk is called the L5 to S1 because S  
4 is the sacrum or the upper tailbone. So the L4 to 5  
5 and the L5 to S1 disks are a little bit darker.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Show you a cross section on the left from L4  
8 to 5. It shows -- may I?

9 Q. Yes, please.

10 A. It shows the disk is a little darker than I  
11 would expect. The nerve canal and the nerve branches  
12 have a little less room to leave the spine. There's a  
13 little bit of inflammatory fluid, this white line in  
14 the joints of the back of the spine called the facet  
15 joints.

16 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, let me ask a question:  
17 Can a patient have those findings and not experience  
18 pain?

19 A. They can.

20 Q. Okay. And can those findings also cause  
21 pain?

22 A. They can be correlated with pain and be the  
23 source of pain.

24 Q. So you would need to, again, evaluate the  
25 patient after looking at the MRI?



1           A.    Well, we usually evaluate the patient first  
2 and order the MRI based upon suspicions or findings and  
3 then correlate them afterwards.

4           Q.    Okay. That makes sense. Anything else you  
5 would like to point out?

6           A.    I think I've shown the jury, just as I would  
7 show to a patient like Ms. Seastrand, what I see on the  
8 MRI.

9           Q.    Okay. Thank you, Doctor.

10          A.    Sure. May I have my computer back?

11          Q.    Oh, yes. Sorry. Thank you.

12          A.    Thank you.

13          Q.    Okay. Doctor, generally speaking, will an  
14 MRI -- I think you said that regarding the date, is  
15 there any way to look at those images and pinpoint when  
16 those things took place?

17          A.    Not just based on the images.

18          Q.    Okay. And that's if it's a discogenic or a  
19 disk issue. What about if there's actually a broken  
20 bone?

21          A.    Well, a broken bone, you can sometimes see if  
22 it's an acute finding, meaning it's new, it's cracked,  
23 that might be something you would say, well, this looks  
24 new, particularly if there was an event with pain right  
25 away.

1 Q. Okay. And can you also see blood on an MRI  
2 image if there's a significant enough acute event?

3 A. Did you say blood?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Yes, we would be able to see bleeding if it's  
6 in the wrong place. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. So other than those two instances, can  
8 you -- that could be clinically correlated as being  
9 acute, are there other instances that you can determine  
10 when it's -- when the actual date was looking at just  
11 the image alone?

12 A. The only other item in the spine is if an MRI  
13 is done with a special sequence within 72 hours of an  
14 injury, it can show some edema or fluid inflammation in  
15 the ligaments. But very rarely do we get MRIs within  
16 72 hours.

17 Q. Okay. So taking solely just the MRI with  
18 nothing else, is that -- is it accurate to look at an  
19 MRI to determine when an acute event took place?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Is that even -- is that -- is that fair to do  
22 or is it possible to do?

23 MR. JAFFE: Objection, Your Honor.  
24 Argumentative as to the term "fair."

25 MR. CLOWARD: I'll withdraw.

1 BY MR. CLOWARD:

2 Q. Is that -- is that possible to do, Doctor?

3 A. Well, it's really not possible by itself.

4 It's out of context and cannot tell us the date of a  
5 neck or back condition like I showed you here.

6 Q. Okay. So it's just taking one piece of -- or  
7 one piece of the information alone.

8 A. Right. It's one element of one part of the  
9 SOAP structure. It's one piece of the O, the  
10 objective. It's not even the entire O, so it's only a  
11 fraction.

12 Q. Okay. Now, Doctor, I have a spine model  
13 here. Did you make any opinions as to the injuries  
14 that Ms. Seastrand sustained as a result of the  
15 automobile crash of March 13, 2009?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. And what were those?

18 A. The first item is discogenic cervical pain  
19 with discogenic headaches and right upper extremity  
20 radiculopathy improved after C5-6 anterior cervical  
21 disk infusion surgery. There is some mild residual  
22 symptoms.

23 So I told you more than just the injury. I  
24 told you my evaluation after I had seen her for the  
25 neck.

1 Q. For the neck.

2 Now, can you tell us any diagnosis or  
3 evaluation that you made, any opinions you made  
4 regarding the lumbar spine?

5 A. Yes. She has been diagnosed with low back  
6 pain related to disk problems at L4-5 and L5-S1, as  
7 proven by diskography, improved eventually after L4 to  
8 S1 anterior fusion surgery. She also had improvement  
9 in the right leg symptoms with some residual numbness  
10 and tingling down the right leg.

11 Q. Okay. And it's your opinion that those  
12 were -- those injuries were caused by the motor vehicle  
13 crash?

14 A. Yes, from 2009.

15 Q. Okay. And those opinions are more likely  
16 than not to a reasonable degree of medical certainty or  
17 probability?

18 A. Yes, they are.

19 Q. Now, Doctor, you talked about the diskogram.  
20 I think you said as diagnosed by diskogram?

21 A. As confirmed or proven by diskogram.

22 Q. Can you tell us a little bit --

23 MR. JAFFE: Your Honor, may we approach?

24 THE COURT: Sure.

25 /////

1                   (Whereupon a brief discussion was  
2                   held at the bench.)

3                   MR. CLOWARD: The objection is overruled?

4                   THE COURT: There's no objection.

5                   MR. JAFFE: There was no objection.

6 BY MR. CLOWARD:

7                   Q. Doctor, can you tell us, what is the  
8 diskogram procedure and what does that do?

9                   A. A diskogram is a diagnostic test. In fact,  
10 it's called a provocative diagnostic test. It  
11 practically assesses the ability of a disk to be  
12 structurally and functionally competent or not.

13                  Q. I don't understand that. Can you explain  
14 that?

15                  A. Sure. I showed the jury earlier on the MRI  
16 that there were clues that two of those lower disks  
17 didn't look right.

18                  Q. Okay.

19                  A. We also know the patient has low back pain.

20                  Q. Okay.

21                  A. In an effort to figure out exactly where that  
22 pain is coming from, there is a test called diskography  
23 by which a pain specialist places needles into a number  
24 of neighboring disks and puts a little bit of fluid  
25 under growing pressure in the disk.

1           Now, a normal disk should not be able to  
2 tolerate much fluid and the patient should feel some  
3 pressure. A disk whose internal structures have been  
4 upset or deranged will not feel that pressure  
5 immediately and will require more fluid. And that  
6 fluid will eventually potentially duplicate someone's  
7 pain on a bad day.

8           Q.    Okay.

9           A.    That's the provocative component of the test.  
10 It's also important that the test includes a normal  
11 disk to compare to. That is called a negative control.

12          Q.    Was there a negative control in  
13 Ms. Seastrand's case?

14          A.    Yes.

15          Q.    What level, if any, was that?

16          A.    The negative control in this case was L3 to  
17 4, which is the disk above the two dark ones.

18          Q.    Okay. And, Doctor, can you explain a little  
19 bit -- I have this diagram down here, if you could just  
20 come down.

21                THE WITNESS: May I?

22                THE COURT: You may.

23 BY MR. CLOWARD:

24          Q.    Can you explain the differences in the type  
25 of -- the type of problem, disk problem in the neck

1 versus the lumbar, the lumbar spine?

2       A.    Sure.  These -- these particular images  
3 appear more lumbar anatomically.  But if you can use  
4 the upper image that I'm demonstrating here, the two  
5 components of the disk are shown.  The inner nucleus,  
6 which is a very soft tissue, is what we like to see  
7 hydrated because that is the main source of cushioning  
8 power.  That's the stuffing in the cushion.  Or some  
9 people like to call it the jelly in the jelly doughnut  
10 because it stays in the center.

11           The tougher fibrous cartilaginous rings that  
12 run around the disk are called the annulus.  And those  
13 annular fibers generally contain that softer nuclear  
14 material, although both tissues are soft, contain it so  
15 that when someone bears weight or bends and the nucleus  
16 is being pushed in different directions, the fibers of  
17 the annulus contain it.

18           But in a deranged disk, particularly in a  
19 case of a trauma, there are tears in those fibers in  
20 the annulus because there is too much force on the  
21 nucleus.  And those tears don't repair.  And then when  
22 the nucleus is being stressed by movement or weight  
23 bearing or lifting or diskogram --

24       Q.    Sure.

25       A.    -- the nucleus pieces are pushed through

1 these tears in the annular fibers and can make the disk  
2 herniate. Some people call that a slipped disk or a  
3 disk protrusion. And those protrusions can leak  
4 enzymes and sometimes touch a nerve. Doesn't require  
5 touching, but the nerves can then be upset. And that's  
6 how people get leg pain from a back condition and arm  
7 pain or tingling from a neck condition.

8 Q. Okay. And that would be if there's actually  
9 a compression of this nerve, correct?

10 A. No. You don't require compression because  
11 the fluids that keep the disk nucleus moist, even if  
12 they leak or irritate through the tears, the nerve is  
13 upset and inflamed, it does not require physical  
14 compression or impingement or squishing of the nerve.

15 Q. Okay. So that would be like a chemical  
16 irritation?

17 A. That's a biochemical irritation.

18 Q. Okay. And this would be a picture of what?  
19 Like, is this the nerve root coming in?

20 A. This is the nerve leaving the -- leaving the  
21 spine, and little fibers from the nerve not only go  
22 down the leg but give sensation to the outer area of  
23 the disk. And that's why people can have pain in the  
24 disk or in their back from tears in the disk.

25 Q. Okay. So irritation of these nerve fibers



1 that enervate the annular fibers can also be painful?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you, Doctor.

4 So after Ms. Seastrand is referred -- well,  
5 what was -- what was her course of therapy with the  
6 chiropractor and the Primary Care Consultants? What  
7 did that consist of, and how long did that take?

8 A. Well, she treated with therapy over a course.  
9 It looks like many months. I see treatment into the --  
10 July of 2009.

11 Q. Okay. So she treats from approximately March  
12 of 2009 until about July 2009 at the chiropractor?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And what does it mean to fail  
15 conservative therapy?

16 A. Well, that usually means that therapy such as  
17 chiropractic care or physical therapy was not enough to  
18 fully help someone recover from their injuries. So it  
19 failed.

20 Q. Does that mean that the patient did anything  
21 wrong?

22 A. No.

23 Q. That just means that the therapy -- that  
24 specific type of therapy cannot help; is that fair?

25 A. Ultimately, the therapy did not provide

1 long-term help.

2 Q. Okay. And in your opinion, did Ms. Seastrand  
3 fail the conservative therapy that was offered to her  
4 by the Neck & Back Clinic?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And based on that, where did she next  
7 go? Was that to Dr. Belsky?

8 A. Dr. Belsky for pain management.

9 Q. Okay. Why would an individual go from  
10 chiropractic or physical therapy to pain management?

11 A. For continued --

12 MR. JAFFE: Objection. Speculation. Are we  
13 talking about this plaintiff or generally?

14 MR. CLOWARD: Generally speaking.

15 THE COURT: I think he asked a general  
16 question. I'm going to allow it. Overruled.

17 THE WITNESS: For continued pain symptoms.  
18 When therapy is not adequate to help someone recover  
19 adequately, pain management is the typical next step to  
20 see if we can get pain reduction.

21 BY MR. CLOWARD:

22 Q. Okay. And what do pain management providers  
23 generally do for people?

24 A. Well, they can provide pain medicine, and  
25 they can provide pain injections.

1           Q.   Is pain medicine a -- a -- are there -- are  
2 there any problems with having someone on pain medicine  
3 for a long period of time for treatment of pain?

4           A.   There can be.

5           Q.   And what are the problems that could occur?

6           A.   Well, the two main problems with pain  
7 medicine is, one, side effects --

8           Q.   Okay.

9           A.   -- particularly constipation, nausea, usually  
10 involving the gastrointestinal tract. Second is  
11 tolerance or dependence, meaning the medications become  
12 less useful because the cells and the receptors adapt  
13 to them and then patients need more, or they can even  
14 become addicted.

15          Q.   So addiction is also a side effect of the use  
16 of pain medication.

17          A.   It can be.

18          Q.   Okay. Now, let's talk about the -- the  
19 injections. What are injections and how are they used  
20 to treat pain?

21          A.   There are different types of injections, but  
22 the deeper ones, to the spine specifically, include  
23 epidural injections which help deal with generally  
24 nerve pain into the extremities and some of the  
25 disk-based pain such as what we just demonstrated on

1 your diagram.

2 The other type of injection would be a facet  
3 joint injection. You might recall earlier, I showed  
4 the jury on the lumbar MRI there was an inflammation in  
5 the facet joint in the low back.

6 MR. JAFFE: Judge, objection. Cumulative.

7 THE COURT: I'll let him go for a minute.

8 BY MR. CLOWARD:

9 Q. And what does the facet injection do?

10 A. Well, could do two things. One, if there is  
11 pain emanating from the facet joint and the injection  
12 helps, then it was therapeutic. It was beneficial.

13 Secondly, if there's facet joint fluid and  
14 the injection only in the facet joint helps, then it's  
15 also diagnostic. Meaning we can say, ah-ha, we numbed  
16 up that facet joint, the pain got better; therefore,  
17 that facet joint is most probably a source of the pain.

18 Q. Okay. Doctor, can I have you come down  
19 briefly and -- and then after this question, I think we  
20 would need to break for lunch. I have a diagram here  
21 or an illustration --

22 MR. CLOWARD: Mr. Jaffe.

23 MR. JAFFE: Okay.

24 BY MR. CLOWARD:

25 Q. -- of the injections that would have been

1 performed by Dr. Belsky. Can you explain, I guess,  
2 where the facet is, where the -- you know, the  
3 difference between I think you said there were two  
4 injections.

5 A. Correct. The larger view is looking at the  
6 back of the patient, and there's some transparency  
7 through the skin and muscles, and you can see the bony  
8 spine. And the curved areas on either side of the  
9 spine are called the facet joints of the spine that I  
10 might also show on the model at the same time if that  
11 would be useful.

12 I think your model has scoliosis. But in the  
13 lower spine or the lumbar spine, the disks are in the  
14 front between the bones, as I showed you on the MRI.  
15 In fact, this would be the orientation of the MRI side  
16 view. But in the back of the spine, the bones touch  
17 each other on the right and on the left. And those are  
18 called the facet joints, and they -- they have some  
19 restrictive properties and they help movement and  
20 restrict movement in different areas of the spine.

21 Q. Do those go -- that's just -- that just in  
22 the lumbar or does that go all the way?

23 A. They go all the way up.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. So each -- each bone, each vertebral bone

1 interacts with its neighbor below it through the disk  
2 in the front and the two facet joints in the back.  
3 Three contact points.

4 Q. Okay. Thank you.

5 Now, would this -- this type of injection  
6 where you're doing a -- you know, a two-level -- I  
7 think you said a transforaminal injection and then also  
8 the facet injection, would that ever have the effect of  
9 numbing the patient from the waist down?

10 MR. JAFFE: Objection, Your Honor. This is  
11 cumulative. It was all discussed yesterday.

12 MR. CLOWARD: We'll move on.

13 MR. JAFFE: Thank you.

14 MR. CLOWARD: If we can --

15 THE COURT: Take our lunch break now?

16 MR. CLOWARD: Yeah, sure.

17 THE COURT: Let's go ahead and take our  
18 lunch, folks.

19 During our break, you're instructed not to  
20 talk with each other or with anyone else, about any  
21 subject or issue connected with this trial. You are  
22 not to read, watch, or listen to any report of or  
23 commentary on the trial by any person connected with  
24 this case or by any medium of information, including,  
25 without limitation, newspapers, television, the

1 Internet, or radio. You are not to conduct any  
2 research on your own, which means you cannot talk with  
3 others, Tweet others, text others, Google issues, or  
4 conduct any other kind of book or computer research  
5 with regard to any issue, party, witness, or attorney,  
6 involved in this case. You're not to form or express  
7 any opinion on any subject connected with this trial  
8 until the case is finally submitted to you.

9 See you back at 1:00 o'clock.

10 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

11 (Whereupon jury exited the courtroom.)

12 THE COURT: We're outside the presence. Do  
13 you need to make a record on something?

14 MR. JAFFE: No. We've got the reports  
15 from -- that we want to lodge, place as Court exhibits  
16 that were referenced last time we --

17 THE COURT: Okay. You just want to make  
18 those court exhibits.

19 MR. JAFFE: Sir, yes.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else outside the  
21 presence?

22 MR. CLOWARD: No, Judge. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Thanks, guys. Off the record.

24 (Thereupon, the proceedings

25 adjourned at 11:58 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEVADA )

) ss:

COUNTY OF CLARK )

I, Kristy L. Clark, a duly commissioned

Notary Public, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby

certify: That I reported the proceedings commencing on

Friday, July 19, 2013, at 9:09 o'clock a.m.

That I thereafter transcribed my said

shorthand notes into typewriting and that the

typewritten transcript is a complete, true and accurate

transcription of my said shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative or

employee of counsel of any of the parties, nor a

relative or employee of the parties involved in said

action, nor a person financially interested in the

action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my

office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this

23rd day of July, 2013.

*Kristy Clark*  
KRISTY L. CLARK, CCR #708



Q

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9 *Attorneys for Defendant*  
*Raymond R. Khoury*

10 **DISTRICT COURT**  
11 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

12 MARGARET G. SEASTRAND,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 RAYMOND RIAD KHOURY; DOES 1  
16 through 10; and ROE ENTITIES 11 through  
20, inclusive,

17 Defendants.

CASE NO. A-11-636515-C  
DEPT NO. XXX

**STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING  
JURY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Firm Trial Date: July 15, 2013

18  
19 Plaintiff MARGARET G. SEASTRAND, by and through her attorneys RICHARD A. HARRIS,  
20 ESQ. and ALISON BRASIER, ESQ., of the RICHARD HARRIS LAW FIRM, and Defendant RAYMOND  
21 RIAD KHOURY, by and through his counsel of record STEVEN T. JAFFE, ESQ. and JACOB S. SMITH,  
22 ESQ., of the law firm of HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON, LLP, hereby submit the instant Stipulation and Order  
23 Regarding Jury Questionnaire. Plaintiff and Defendant, and their respective attorneys (hereinafter parties  
24 and counsel shall be collectively referred to as the "Parties") stipulate as follows:

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED that a Jury Questionnaire, attached hereto as  
2 Exhibit "A", previously agreed upon by the parties and approved by this Court, will be provided to  
3 potential jurors in the above-referenced matter.

4 DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of June, 2013.

5 RICHARD HARRIS LAW FIRM

6  
7 By \_\_\_\_\_  
8 RICHARD A. HARRIS, ESQ.  
9 Nevada Bar No. 000505  
10 ALISON BRASIER, ESQ.  
11 Nevada Bar No. 010522  
12 801 South Fourth Street  
13 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
14 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
15 Margaret G. Seastrand

DATED this 24 day of June, 2013.

HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON, LLP

By \_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN T. JAFFE, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 007035  
JACOB S. SMITH, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 010231  
7425 Peak Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128  
Attorneys for Defendant  
Raymond R. Khoury

16  
17  
18 ORDER

19 Upon stipulation of the parties, by and through their respective counsel of record:

20 IT IS SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_ day of June, 2013.

21  
22  
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

24 Respectfully Submitted By:

25 HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON, LLP

26 By \_\_\_\_\_  
27 STEVEN T. JAFFE, ESQ.  
28 Nevada Bar No. 007035  
JACOB S. SMITH, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 010231  
7425 Peak Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128  
Attorneys for Defendant  
Raymond R. Khoury

1 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED that a Jury Questionnaire, attached hereto as  
2 Exhibit "A", previously agreed upon by the parties and approved by this Court, will be provided to  
3 potential jurors in the above-referenced matter.

4 DATED this 24 day of June, 2013.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of June, 2013.

5 RICHARD HARRIS LAW FIRM

HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON, LLP

6  
7 By



RICHARD A. HARRIS, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 000505  
ALISON BRASIER, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 010522  
801 South Fourth Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Margaret G. Seastrand*

By

STEVEN T. JAFFE, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 007035  
JACOB S. SMITH, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 010231  
7425 Peak Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128  
*Attorneys for Defendant  
Raymond R. Khoury*

12  
13 ORDER

14 Upon stipulation of the parties, by and through their respective counsel of record:

15 IT IS SO ORDERED this 25 day of June, 2013.

16  
17  
18   
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

19 Respectfully Submitted By:

20 HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON, LLP

21  
22 By

STEVEN T. JAFFE, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 007035  
JACOB S. SMITH, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 010231  
7425 Peak Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89128  
*Attorneys for Defendant  
Raymond R. Khoury*

# EXHIBIT "A"

## JURY QUESTIONNAIRE

I do solemnly swear or affirm, that I will well and truly answer each and every question set forth below.

1. Your Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge No. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your age: (Circle one)

(less than 20)	36-45
20-25	46-55
26-35	56-65
	>65 (more than 65)

3. What is your sex? Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your marital status?

Single (never married)	Divorced for _____ years
Engaged	Widowed for _____ years
Married for _____ years	Living with partner for _____ years
Separated for _____ years	

5. What is the last level of education completed? (Circle one) Answer under (a) for self and under (b) for spouse.

a) Self	b) Spouse
Less than high school	Less than high school
High school grad	High school grad
Business/tech school/some college	Business/tech school/some college
Community or 2-yr college grad (AA)	Community or 2-yr college grad(AA)
4-year college grad	4-year college grad
Postgraduate work or degree	Postgraduate work or degree

If more than high school, please fill in below for yourself only:

School	Degree Major Area of Study	Dates
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6. Have you received special training or schooling in the following areas? Check all areas that apply.

_____ Medical	_____ Traffic Safety
_____ Accident Investigation	_____ Engineering (includes all mechanical civil, structural or other)

Please describe any of the above areas that are checked.

7. Has any member of your immediate family or close friends ever worked or have any training in any of the occupations or fields listed under item number 6?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If Yes, please describe.

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8. Please circle all categories that apply to your current job status:

Employed full time	Retired
Temporarily laid off	Full time homemaker
Employed part time	Disabled
Unemployed	Student

IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED: List your current job and employer and briefly describe your job duties:

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Length of employment? \_\_\_\_\_

IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED: List your most recent job and employer and briefly describe those job duties:

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When was this? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What industry do you, or if retired did you, mostly work in? (Circle one)

Agriculture/mining	Wholesale/retail trade
Construction	Finance/insurance/real estate
Manufacturing	Business/repair services
Transportation	Entertainment & tourism
Communications/utilities	Health care
Educational services	Professional services
Public administration	(other than health care & education)
	Other: _____

10. Have you ever had any management or supervisory responsibilities in current or in previous jobs?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

IF YES, how many people do (did) you supervise? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your responsibilities:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had the authority to hire/fire others? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Is (was) your job considered to be a position of: (Circle)

Senior management  
Middle management  
Lower management

Supervisor/Foreperson  
Non-supervisory

11. Have you or has anyone close to you ever been self-employed or owned a business?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No IF YES, who? (Circle One)

Myself \_\_\_\_\_ Someone close to me \_\_\_\_\_ Both myself and someone close to me \_\_\_\_\_

a. Please describe the business:

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Is the business still operating? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
If No, why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Was this experience: (Circle one)

Positive

Negative

Mixed

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Have you, any family members, or close friends ever worked for an insurance company or in the field of insurance or claims? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

If YES, who was the person, what company was it, and what was the person(s) job?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Have you, any family member, or close friends ever worked for a hospital, clinic, doctors office, or any job in the healthcare field? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO



If YES, who was that person, where did (s)he work, and what was the persons job?

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14. Please describe the employer, occupation, and education of each of the following people (if retired, unemployed, or deceased, include last employer):

	Employer	Occupation	Education
a. Your adult children			
b. Your mother			
c. Your stepmother			
d. Your father			
e. Your stepfather			

15. Have you or anyone in your family ever been a member of a labor union? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, which best describes:

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. You:                      | b. Your Family Member:       |
| A current labor union member | A current labor union member |
| A former labor union member  | A former labor union member  |
| Never was a member           | Never was a member           |
- c. Please list any service on union committees and appointed and/or elected positions (include unsuccessful attempts at seeking a union office):
- 
- 
- 

16. Please circle the approximate household income for last year (include spouses income) before taxes?

Under \$20,000	\$60,000-\$74,999
\$20,000-\$29,000	\$75,000-\$99,999
\$30,000-\$44,000	\$100,000-\$149,000
\$45,000-\$59,999	\$150,000 and over

17. In what part of Clark County do you live? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you lived in that location? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you lived in Clark County? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Circle the living situation that applies to you currently:

Live and Own House.  
Live and Own Condominium.  
Live and Own Townhouse.  
Rent Apartment.  
Rent House.  
Rent Condominium.  
Rent Townhouse.  
Live with parents or relative  
Other (Please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

19. If you have ever been a juror before, please state for each case:

Year	Civil or Criminal	Submitted to Jury	Did You Reach a Verdict?
_____	_____	Y____ N____	Y____ N____
_____	_____	Y____ N____	Y____ N____
_____	_____	Y____ N____	Y____ N____

If civil, what was the nature of the case? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you pleased with the outcome? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

20. Were you ever the foreperson or the presiding juror of the jury? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

21. Did you find your experience as a juror to be:

Positive \_\_\_\_\_  
Negative \_\_\_\_\_

If NEGATIVE, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Are you taking any medication regularly that might make it difficult for you to pay attention or concentrate for long periods? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If YES, please specify the medication, the purpose for which you are taking it, and describe its effects upon your ability to concentrate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. Do you have any difficulty with your hearing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If YES, please specify the nature of that difficulty and how it might affect your performance as a juror:

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24. Do you have any problem with your vision? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please specify the nature of that difficulty and how it might affect your performance as a juror:

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25. Do you have any language or communication problems that might affect your performance as a juror?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please explain:

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26. Do you have any religious or philosophical beliefs that would make it difficult for you to be a juror?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please describe:

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27. If the trial is expected to last two weeks (July 15 – 25, 2013, excluding weekends), would serving on the jury create any hardship for you?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please describe:

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28. Have you or any family member or close friend ever been involved in a civil litigation or dispute, (i.e. claims for injuries due to an accident, landlord/tenant disputes, disputes regarding the ownership of property, etc.) either as a party or as a witness? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please explain (what happened, when did it happen):

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29. Please identify your major source of business and financial news:

Newspapers:

TV/radio stations:

Magazines:

30. How often do you follow business and financial news?

Daily  
Several times a month

Several times a week  
Almost never

31. What local T.V. news channel do you watch?

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Cable Channel 3 (NBC)  | 5. Cable Channel 21 (Fox News Channel) |
| 2. Cable Channel 5 (FOX)  | 6. Cable Channel 20 (CNN)              |
| 3. Cable Channel 8 (CBS)  | 7. Cable Channel 40 (MSNBC)            |
| 4. Cable Channel 13 (ABC) | 8. None of the above                   |

32. The following is a list of the parties in this case. If you know or have heard of any of the following parties, please check the appropriate box(es):

Party	Know	Heard Of	Worked For
Margaret Seastrand			
Raymond Riad Khoury			

33. The following is a list of the attorneys and law firms in this case. If you have hired, know, have heard of, or worked for any of the following attorneys or law firms, please check the appropriate box(es):

Name	Have hired	Know	Heard of	Worked for
Richard Harris				
Benjamin Cloward				
Alison Brasier				
Richard Harris Law Firm				
Steve Jaffe				
Jacob Smith				
Hall, Jaffe & Clayton				

34. Have you been exposed to any information, through the media (print, radio, T.V., etc.), word of mouth or any other source about any of the lawyers or law firms involved in this case?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If YES, which lawyers or law firms, how were you exposed to this information, and generally what information were you provided?

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35. The following is a list of the potential witnesses in this case. If you know, have heard of, or have worked for any of the following individuals or entities, please check the appropriate box(es):

Name	Have hired	Know	Heard of	Worked for
Dr. Yevgeniy Khavkin				
Dr. Marjorie Belsky				
Dr. Mario Tarquino				
Dr. William Muir				
Dr. Russell Shah				
Dr. Leo Langlois				
Dr. Eddy Luh				
Matt Smith Physical Therapy				
Matthew Olmstead, D.C.				
Benjamin Laurie, D.C.				
Dr. William Orrison				
Dr. Sonny Patidar				
Dr. Benjamin Kermani				
Dr. Luis Diaz				
Dr. Lisa Underwood				
Dr. Terry Leavitt				
Dr. Mark Ferdowsian				
Dr. Jaswinder Grover				
Dr. Jeffrey Gross				
Dr. Arthur Croft				
Terrence Dinneen				
Dr. Joseph Schifini				
Dr. Staci Schonbrun				
Dr. John Siegler				
Dr. Harry Smith				
Dr. J. Pablo Villablanca				

36. Have you been exposed to any information, through the media (print, radio, T.V., etc.), word of mouth or any other source about any of the witnesses involved in this case?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If YES, which witnesses, how were you exposed to this information, and generally what information were you provided?

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37. Do you believe your relationship with any attorney, medical provider, or any other person would affect your ability to be fair and impartial to both sides of an accident case? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If YES, please explain:

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38. Which of the following best describes you? (Please circle all that apply.)

Analytical	Careful	Compassionate	Compulsive	Creative	Emotional
Generous	Impulsive	Judgmental	Logical	Naive	Old-fashioned
Open-minded	Opinionated	Outspoken	Practical	Private	Pro-Company
Pro-worker	Sensitive	Skeptical	Smart	Strict	Successful
Technical	Thoughtful	Trusting	Other:	_____	

Circle only one answer for the following questions:

39. Are you  
A) easy to get to know, or  
B) hard to get to know?
40. Would people consider you more  
A) talkative, or  
B) reserved?
41. When you are with a group of people, would you rather  
A) join in the talk of the group, or  
B) talk one-on-one with people you know well?

42. I decide my priorities and take firm action to achieve them  
A) True  
B) False
43. I wait for events to take their course before deciding what to do.  
A) True  
B) False
44. I see to it that things come out the way I want them to.  
A) True  
B) False
45. I do a lot for others, but little is done for me.  
A) True  
B) False
46. I can persuade almost anyone to switch to my side of an argument.  
A) True  
B) False
47. I do not hesitate to direct people what I think is best for them.  
A) True  
B) False
48. I believe in complaining if I receive bad service in a restaurant  
A) True  
B) False
49. If I notice that another persons line of reasoning is wrong, I usually  
A) point it out  
B) let it pass
50. When people do something that bothers me, I usually  
A) mention it to them.  
B) let it go.
51. If we were lost in a city and my friends did not agree with me on the best way to go, I would  
A) let them know that I thought my way was best  
B) make no fuss and follow them
52. Would you describe yourself as being a leader:  
A) rarely  
B) occasionally  
C) regularly

53. Would you rather be thought of as a  
A) practical person, or  
B) an ingenious person?
54. When tackling a project, does it appeal to you more to  
A) do it in the accepted way, or  
B) invent a way of your own?
55. Are you more drawn to  
A) facts, or  
B) theories?
56. Would you rather be considered a  
A) determined person, or  
B) a devoted person?
57. Is it a higher compliment to be called  
A) a person of feeling, or  
B) a consistently reasonable person?
58. Do you consider yourself more of a  
A) thinking, or  
B) feeling person?
59. Does following a schedule  
A) make you feel constrained, or  
B) appeal to you?
60. When you go somewhere for the day, would you rather  
A) just go, or  
B) plan what you will do and when?
61. Do you:  
A) prefer to do things at the last minute, or  
B) find that hard on the nerves?
62. Friends and family turn to me for warmth and support.  
A) True  
B) False
63. I dislike depending on anyone in my work.  
A) True  
B) False



64. I prefer to make decisions on my own, with little or no advice from others.  
A) True  
B) False
65. If you or a loved one were injured by the negligence of another would you consider filing a lawsuit?  
A) Yes  
B) No
66. Do you have any beliefs that would prevent you from awarding a multi-million dollar verdict if the evidence supported it? YES NO
67. Do you have any beliefs that would prevent you from awarding a multi-million dollar pain and suffering verdict if the evidence supported it? YES NO
68. Do you believe there should be limits placed on how much money a jury should be allowed to award a person for pain and suffering? YES NO
69. Do you have any beliefs that, if a Plaintiff asks for a multi-million dollar award, you could not award damages below a million dollars, even if the evidence supports a verdict below that amount?  
YES NO
70. Do you have any beliefs that would prevent you from awarding less than a million dollars to a Plaintiff if the evidence supports a verdict below that amount? YES NO
71. Do you have any beliefs that would prevent you from awarding a Plaintiff no money (\$0) if the evidence supports such a verdict, despite the Plaintiff asking for more than a million dollars?  
YES NO
72. Is there anything else that you feel is important for the parties to know about you?

**I understand the importance of providing true, accurate and complete responses to the questions set forth above to ensure that a fair and impartial jury will be selected. I affirm that the selected answers to the questions set forth above are true and accurate to the best of my ability**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

RAYMOND RIAD KHOURY,

Appellant,

vs.

MARGARET SEASTRAND,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case No. 64702

Supreme Court Case No. 65007  
Electronically Filed  
Nov 13 2014 08:14 a.m.

Supreme Court Case No. 65172  
Tracie K. Lindeman  
Clerk of Supreme Court

**APPEAL**

from the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County

The HONORABLE JERRY WEISE, District Court Judge

District Court Case No. A-11-636515-C

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**APPELLANT'S APPENDIX**

**VOLUME XI**

---

STEVEN T. JAFFE, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 007035

JACOB S. SMITH, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 010231

HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON, LLP

7425 Peak Drive

Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

*Attorneys for Appellant Raymond Riad Khoury*

**VOLUME XI**

Exhibit 33	Exhibit “Q” to Defendant’s Trial Brief [For brevity, all exhibits to Defendant’s Trial Brief redacted except Exhibit “Q”]	JA 2090-2106
Exhibit 34	July 19, 2013, Reporter’s Transcript of Jury Trial, (Day 5, am)	JA 2107-2202