#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

BRUCE G. FAGEL, A LAW

CORPORATION aka LAW OFFICES OF BRUCE G. FAGEL & ASSOCIATES, A

California Corporation;

Petitioners,

V.

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, in and for the County of Clark, State of Nevada, and THE HONORABLE JERRY A. WIESE II, District Judge; Respondents,

And

DARIA HARPER, an individual; and DANIEL WININGER, and individual; Real Parties in Interest.

Case No.

Electronically Filed Aug 24 2021 10:25 a.m. Elizabeth A. Brown

Clerk of Supreme Court

District Court No. A-20-814541-C Dept. No. 30

# PETITION FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION From the Fighth Judicial District Court

From the Eighth Judicial District Court The Honorable Jerry A. Wiese II, District Judge

## PETITIONER'S APPENDIX VOLUME 2 OF 3

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# PETITIONER'S APPENDIX

Exhibit	Bates Nos
Amended Complaint and Summons, Proof of Service, IAFD	PA00001-39, Vol. I
Motion to Dismiss and Notice of Hearing	PA00040-109, Vol. I
Notice of Entry of Order	PA00565-582, Vol. III
Opposition to Motion to Dismiss	PA00110, Vol. I – PA00534, Vol. III
Order	PA00551-564, Vol. III
Reply to Opposition	PA00535-550, Vol. III

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am an employee of Hall Jaffe & Clayton, and that on August 23, 2021, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Petitioner's Appendix for Writ of Prohibition** by way of electronic service via the Court's e-service program.

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## **SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL ONLY**

The Honorable Jerry A. Wiese, II Department 30 Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 14A 200 Lewis Ave Las Vegas, NV 89155 Respondent

#### Service by E-service

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/s/ Lisa Rico

Employee of HALL JAFFE & CLAYTON

- 1 Q. I want to bring up Exhibit 5, which is a
- 2 letter dated June 17, 2016.
- 3 (Exhibit 5 marked.)
- 4 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 5 Q. Do you see the document?
- 6 A. I do. What's the date again, John? Let
- 7 me see.
- 8 Q. June 17, 2016.
- 9 A. Okay, right.
- 10 Q. And in this letter -- let me make it
- 11 bigger.
- 12 In this letter -- is this a variation of
- 13 a standard first letter to clients that your office
- 14 sends?
- 15 A. It looks like it.
- 16 Q. Now, in this letter it says, on the
- 17 second page, "We have also associated another law
- 18 firm into the case in order to allow us to represent
- 19 your interests in Nevada and Arizona. This was
- 20 necessary because Nevada courts require an attorney
- 21 with a Nevada bar license file a complaint and be
- 22 part of the case. In light of that requirement, we
- 23 associated with Bruce Fagel and Thomas Alch of the
- 24 Law Offices of Bruce Fagel."
- Was that a true statement?

- 1 A. Yes, with respect to Nevada. We
- 2 didn't -- we didn't represent -- we did not
- 3 associate anybody with respect to anything in
- 4 Arizona.
- 5 Q. Why did you write "We have also
- 6 associated another firm into the case in order to
- 7 allow us to represent your interests in Nevada and
- 8 Arizona"?
- 9 A. That -- the Arizona part's just a
- 10 mistake. We were at that point examining whether or
- 11 not there was any -- any legitimate case in Arizona,
- 12 but that -- that statement including Arizona was
- 13 just -- just wrong.
- 14 Q. Was -- was it your understanding that
- 15 Tom Alch was also admitted to practice in Arizona?
- 16 A. I don't know. I mean, I have no idea.
- 17 If he was, then that statement's not incorrect, but
- 18 I don't know.
- The way I'm reading that right now, that
- 20 statement is just -- is not correct.
- 21 Q. Now, there was discovery, written
- 22 discovery, in the case, where the defendants
- 23 propounded written interrogatories, special
- 24 interrogatories, to the plaintiffs. You're aware of
- 25 that, aren't you?

- 1 A. Sure, yeah.
- 2 Q. I'm going to bring up Exhibit 6.
- 3 (Exhibit 6 marked.)
- 4 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 5 Q. Exhibit 6 -- is Exhibit 6 on the screen?
- 6 A. Yeah, I have it.
- 7 Q. All right. And so this is Daria
- 8 Harper's response to special interrogatories from
- 9 Jeffrey Davidson?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. And do you see up at the top it has a
- 12 Las Vegas address for Thomas S. Alch?
- 13 A. I do.
- 14 Q. And do you see under that it has the
- 15 Beverly Hills address of Bruce Fagel?
- 16 A. I don't know if that's Bruce's address,
- 17 but I'll take your word for it.
- 18 Q. Now, my question is, with regard to this
- 19 document, would you have reviewed the responses --
- 20 let me just, you know, scroll through it -- before
- 21 the document was served on the defendants?
- A. Would I have by custom and practice?
- 23 No.
- Q. Okay. Well, let's do this two ways.
- 25 First, do you have any recollection of

- 1 having done so, and if you don't, then you can tell
- 2 me what you usually do in similar cases.
- 3 So let's start with the first. Do you
- 4 have any recollection of being involved in approving
- 5 this document before it was served?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Do you see that it has the signature of
- 8 Thomas S. Alch on page 16?
- 9 A. I do.
- 10 Q. And then there's an "S/" under that
- 11 where the names are Kenneth Marshall Silberberg and
- 12 William Stephens Collins. Do you see that?
- 13 A. I do.
- 14 Q. Is this a document that Will Collins
- 15 would have had some responsibility of putting
- 16 together and filing, or serving?
- 17 A. Yeah. Here in this office at this
- 18 point, my paralegal, Ellie (phonetic), put together
- 19 most of the responses, interacted with the clients
- 20 to get information, and then when the document was
- 21 prepared like this, normally one of the lawyers --
- 22 like Will -- (audio disruption) would have reviewed
- 23 it.
- 24 Q. Okay. I just lost your vocal feed.
- Did you say that normally, after the

- 1 paralegal put together the answers, one of the other
- 2 lawyers in the office would read through it and
- 3 approve it?
- 4 A. Yes. That's basically how it worked.
- 5 And works.
- 6 Q. And you would not have gone through to
- 7 read the document before it was served; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 MR. BLUMBERG: Let me bring up
- 11 Exhibit 7.
- 12 (Exhibit 7 marked.)
- 13 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 14 Q. Exhibit 7 is a similar document except
- 15 it is interrogatory -- responses to interrogatories
- 16 from defendant Jussa, and, again, it is signed on
- 17 page 14.
- 18 A. Hey, John, I don't have the document.
- 19 Q. Oh, thank you very much. It's a
- 20 multistep process I have to go through, and every
- 21 once in a while I don't take that last step. So...
- A. You're doing a lot better than I could
- do, I'll tell you that. I wouldn't even try it.
- 24 Q. It's sort of -- it's sort of like
- 25 spinning plates on the Ed Sullivan Show.

- 1 A. You know, the sad thing is you and I are
- 2 old enough to remember.
- 3 Q. Okay. All right. Is the document up?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. All right. So the first page of
- 6 Exhibit 7 shows Daria Harper's response to
- 7 interrogatories from defendant Jussa. And page 14
- 8 is a signature page. It has the signature of Thomas
- 9 S. Alch and then an "S/."
- 10 Would your answer be similar to the
- 11 previous exhibit, that you would not -- that Will
- 12 Collins would have had ultimate responsibility to
- 13 check the accuracy of the responses before it was
- 14 served?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Are you aware of any responsibility that
- 17 Tom Alch had with regard to reviewing the
- 18 interrogatory responses?
- 19 A. I mean, if we sent them to him, he, I
- 20 assume, would look at them. Maybe not. I don't
- 21 know. You'd have to ask Tom.
- I mean, it might be the ultimate
- 23 responsibility to get these things out was my
- office, not Tom's, but you'd have to ask him.
- 25 Q. And do you know why it is that he signed

- 1 both responses to interrogatories?
- 2 A. Maybe that we weren't pro hac vice yet.
- 3 I don't know.
- 4 Q. Let me bring the document back up again.
- 5 The date this document was signed was
- 6 May 12, 2017. And was it your recollection that by
- 7 that date you were pro hac vice?
- 8 A. Yeah, I'm sure we were.
- 9 Q. Okay. Changing the subject now.
- 10 You were aware in the year 2016 that
- 11 CopperPoint Insurance Company was claiming a right
- 12 under Arizona law to a lien on the proceeds of any
- 13 recovery in the Nevada medical malpractice case; is
- 14 that correct?
- 15 A. I don't agree with your word "plan."
- 16 Can you rephrase it for me?
- 17 Q. Sure. I wasn't aware I used the word
- 18 "plan."
- Were you aware in the year 2016 that
- 20 CopperPoint was claiming a right to a lien on the
- 21 proceeds of recovery in the Nevada medical
- 22 malpractice case?
- A. No. I knew that they were claiming they
- 24 might have a claim, but they never filed and never
- 25 notified us that they were ever going to file a lien

- 1 in Nevada.
- Q. Do you know what the law is in Nevada
- 3 with regard to the necessity of filing a lien?
- 4 A. Specifically, no, but I do know, because
- 5 we had these discussions, that in Nevada, in
- 6 specific, medical malpractice cases, the statute is
- 7 identical to that in California that workers' comp
- 8 does not have any lien rights, and, as a result,
- 9 they never did file a lien, never obtained any
- 10 relief for any lien monies in the Nevada case, and
- 11 never notified the courts or any of the defendants
- 12 or me that they were going to file a lien. Because
- 13 they had no statutory right to do so in Nevada.
- 14 Q. Were you aware or did you research
- 15 Arizona law with regard to the lien rights of an
- 16 Arizona workers' compensation carrier?
- 17 A. I did not, because we were in the
- 18 process of getting Daria -- we were hoping that
- 19 Daria would have counsel, workers' comp counsel, in
- 20 Arizona, in which she did have on at least two
- 21 occasions a lawyer to deal with those issues if they
- were pertinent, which they were not, in my view.
- Q. Would it be correct that you did not do
- 24 research of Arizona law with regard to the lien
- 25 rights of an Arizona workers' compensation insurance

- 1 company?
- 2 A. I did not.
- 3 (Exhibit 8 marked.)
- 4 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 5 Q. I want to bring up a couple of letters.
- 6 One is Exhibit 8.
- 7 A. I don't have it, John.
- 8 Q. You have to give me about 30 seconds
- 9 from the time I say I'm bringing it up.
- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. Because I've got to click a lot of
- 12 different buttons here.
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 Q. All right. Do you see the document?
- 15 A. Yes, I do.
- 16 Q. All right. This is on the letterhead of
- 17 Law Offices of Marshall Silberberg, dated
- 18 October 21, 2016. And this was a letter that you
- 19 wrote to an attorney for CopperPoint and to a claims
- 20 adjuster for CopperPoint, a two-page letter.
- 21 Do you recall this letter?
- A. No, but I can see it.
- 23 Q. Can you take just a second and review it
- 24 to refresh your recollection. I'm not going to be
- asking you a lot of detailed questions about it.

- 1 I'm going to be asking you in general if you sent
- 2 this letter trying to spur action by CopperPoint in
- 3 providing medical services.
- 4 A. Sure. Okay. John, can you go to
- 5 page 2? Thank you. Thank you.
- 6 Okay. I need to see a little bit more
- 7 of page 2. Okay. Perfect.
- 8 Thanks. I'm done. I'm good.
- 9 Q. All right. So would it be a correct
- 10 characterization that you were making a demand on
- 11 CopperPoint to provide certain medical services that
- 12 may not have been provided at that point?
- 13 A. Yeah. Yeah. I think the tenor of the
- 14 letter was they were trying to -- they were just
- 15 withholding things. So I tried to, you know,
- 16 advocate for Daria to get them to provide some care
- 17 for her.
- 18 Q. Is there a reason you cc'd Thomas Alch?
- 19 A. No. I mean, I have no idea why my
- 20 secretary -- my legal assistant cc's. Other than to
- 21 keep them in the loop, I guess.
- Q. All right. And now let me bring up
- 23 Exhibit 9.
- 24 (Exhibit 9 marked.)
- 25 ///

- 1 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 2 Q. Exhibit 9 is another letter to the
- 3 CopperPoint attorney and claims adjuster. It's
- 4 dated January 27th, and it again is a two-page
- 5 letter.
- 6 Can you take a moment and see if this is
- 7 another letter similar to the first one where you
- 8 were trying to spur action for CopperPoint to
- 9 provide medical services.
- 10 A. It appears it is, yes.
- 11 Q. And there is a cc at the bottom to Greg
- 12 Bentley. Do you know why that -- why he was cc'd?
- 13 A. I think in the letter I'm threatening
- 14 some bad faith, and -- you know, it kind of appears
- 15 that way. And Greg is a -- used to be with
- 16 Shernoff's firm and is a bad-faith lawyer.
- 17 Q. Do you have a recollection that
- 18 CopperPoint periodically sent you letters asking --
- 19 let me start over again.
- 20 Would it be a correct statement that
- 21 CopperPoint periodically sent you letters asking for
- the status of the Nevada medical malpractice case?
- A. I believe that's correct.
- 24 (Exhibit 10 marked.)
- 25 ///

- 1 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 2 Q. I'm going to bring up as Exhibit 10,
- 3 this is a letter -- it's actually an e-mail, and
- 4 it's dated March 1, 2018, from Pam Fudge of
- 5 CopperPoint to Janette Dockstader.
- 6 Janette Dockstader is an employee of
- 7 yours?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And what is her position, or what was
- 10 her position at the time?
- 11 A. Same. She's my legal assistant. We
- 12 used to call them secretaries. We can't do that
- 13 anymore. So she's now my -- she's my legal
- 14 assistant.
- 15 Q. And in this March 1, 2018, e-mail, Pam
- 16 Fudge asks "Will you kindly provide me an update on
- 17 Ms. Harper's case?"
- 18 And then Will Collins sends an e-mail
- 19 back on March 5th that says, "Pam, can you give us
- an estimate of what has been spent to date for
- 21 Ms. Harper's case. We have a trial date in
- 22 September."
- Do you recall ever seeing this e-mail?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. And when I say "this e-mail," I mean

- 1 either the one from Pam Fudge or the one in response
- 2 from Will Collins.
- 3 A. I did not see these.
- 4 Q. Did you -- did you know about it,
- 5 whether or not you actually saw it?
- 6 A. I don't recall knowing about it. I'm
- 7 not saying I didn't. I just don't -- you know, it's
- 8 March 2018.
- 9 MR. BLUMBERG: Okay. I'm going to bring
- 10 up as Exhibit 11.
- 11 (Exhibit 11 marked.)
- 12 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 13 Q. Exhibit 11 -- I'll put it on the screen
- 14 in a second. This is a document out of your file.
- 15 It's a memorandum from Will Collins, "File/MS."
- 16 "MS" would be you, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. And this memorandum is five
- 19 pages, the first page being the memorandum itself
- and then the other pages being citation to Arizona
- 21 law and Nevada law pertaining to workers'
- 22 compensation liens.
- Do you recall seeing this memorandum?
- 24 A. No, I don't. Unfortunately, there is
- 25 a -- it looks like a Post-It up in the right-hand

- 1 corner. You know, it probably crossed my desk.
- 2 Normally, John, what I do when I review
- a document, I put a checkmark in the lower
- 4 right-hand corner -- or in the upper right-hand
- 5 corner -- the lower right-hand corner. Let me get
- 6 this straight. And I don't see that. But if it has
- 7 my initials on it, I'm not saying I didn't see it.
- 8 I just don't have a recollection. And I don't see
- 9 my normal little mark. However, there are times I
- 10 don't do those marks, so...
- 11 Q. Do you know whose handwriting the word
- 12 "Important" is in?
- 13 A. No. Kind of looks like Janette's,
- 14 but...
- 15 Q. Do you know whose handwriting the name
- 16 "Harper" is in next to "Collateral Source Case"?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Do you recall -- well, have you seen
- 19 this document -- do you have a recollection of ever
- 20 seeing this document before today?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Were you present during the deposition
- 23 of Will Collins that I took a few days ago?
- 24 A. I was here when it started and then I
- 25 came in a couple of times, but I had a conference

- 1 call, and then I had a mediation brief due today, so
- 2 I was working with Susan on that. So I was in and
- 3 out, mostly out, and I don't recall -- I don't
- 4 recall any questions to Will on this document, so...
- 5 If you want to refresh my recollection
- 6 on what he said, I'll be happy to discuss it with
- 7 you.
- 8 Q. Let me ask this question.
- 9 A. Sure.
- 10 Q. Is it correct that you have no
- 11 recollection of ever seeing this document, up to and
- 12 including today, before I put it on the screen?
- 13 A. True.
- 14 Q. You have no such recollection; is that
- 15 correct?
- 16 A. That's correct, John, yeah.
- 17 Q. Do you recall having a conversation with
- 18 Will Collins around March 6, 2018, where he
- 19 expressed to you his concern that there may -- that
- 20 CopperPoint may have a lien on the case?
- 21 A. I recall conversations. I don't know if
- 22 it was in March of 2018. There were discussions
- that we had about the CopperPoint potential claim,
- 24 and I expressed to him why I felt that CopperPoint,
- 25 in my view, did not have -- not only did not have a

- 1 lien in Nevada, but my view to him as to why I
- 2 didn't think they even had a proper claim in
- 3 Arizona.
- 4 Q. Well, let's get to that right now.
- 5 What is it that you told Will Collins with regard to
- 6 your opinion that there was no lien in Nevada or
- 7 Arizona?
- 8 A. One has to look at the history of
- 9 Daria's fall. Daria -- first of all, in Nevada
- 10 there's a specific statute that precludes it.
- 11 However, let's just put that aside.
- Daria fell in August of 2014 at her
- 13 employment at the -- I think it was a trailer park.
- 14 And this initially -- thank you. Initially, the --
- 15 there was really -- she didn't feel there was any
- 16 connection. But there was some imaging done, and
- 17 there was a -- evidence that she had a injury to her
- 18 meniscus. In November of 2014, she underwent a
- 19 procedure, an arthroscopy, to just clean out that
- 20 area. That's November of 2014.
- 21 During the course of that procedure, the
- 22 orthopedic surgeon found that she had a Grade
- 23 3/Grade 4 chondromalacia, which is osteoarthritis.
- 24 She was at that point bone on bone, which can only
- 25 be secondary to years and years and years of Daria

- 1 being morbidly obese.
- 2 So she continued to -- and obviously
- 3 with bone on bone and having that degree of
- 4 osteoarthritic changes, which were chronic and took
- 5 years to develop, in May of 2015 the same orthopedic
- 6 surgeon did -- did a procedure which is known as a
- 7 UKA, which is a unicompartmental knee arthroplasty,
- 8 where he actually removed part of her joint because
- 9 of the severe nature of her osteoarthritis.
- That had nothing at all to do with
- 11 her -- with her fall. Nothing. Zero. That had to
- do with the fact that she, unfortunately -- and I'm
- 13 not saying this in a mean fashion -- she was a
- 14 morbidly obese woman with a body mass index of over
- 15 43. Anything over 30 is obese.
- So she had years and years of
- 17 trauma to that knee as a result of her obesity. And
- 18 his surgery in May had nothing to do with her fall
- 19 at all. That had to do with obviously they put
- 20 instrumentation in.
- 21 Secondly along those lines is that
- 22 following that surgical procedure she was seen in
- 23 two or three post-op visits. She was doing fine.
- 24 She was walking. She was going to physical therapy.
- 25 There was no evidence of infection at all. So that

- 1 surgery was uneventful.
- 2 And as a result of that, you know, we
- 3 know on -- in June, starting around June 5th or so,
- 4 she started having symptoms of weakness, which
- 5 mandated -- which she ended up with a spinal
- 6 epidural abscess.
- 7 One of the risk factors -- when you
- 8 review the literature, one of the predictive risk
- 9 factors for spinal epidural abscess is morbid
- 10 obesity. So she develops a spinal epidural abscess,
- 11 again, most likely, predictive risk factor of her
- 12 obesity.
- So there was no connection to her fall,
- 14 which -- which was why I felt she had no -- they
- 15 didn't even have a legitimate claim in Arizona. And
- 16 I put that in a letter to her in April of 2017, that
- 17 I didn't think that CopperPoint had even a
- 18 legitimate claim in Arizona.
- 19 So there was no connection to her fall
- 20 which occurred in August 2014, and she had -- she
- 21 had a clean-out procedure in November of 2014, at
- which point they found that she had all these
- 23 arthritic changes, chronic, which necessitated and
- 24 instrumented a procedure in May of 2015. Just not
- 25 connected to her industrial accident at all.

- 1 So -- and, you know, but they were
- 2 making these claims, and we tried to get her to have
- 3 lawyers that could deal with those issues in
- 4 Arizona, because we're not workers' comp lawyers and
- 5 we have no responsibility with respect to her
- 6 workers' comp claims.
- 7 But her workers' comp and CopperPoint,
- 8 their payment, this money, had nothing to do with
- 9 her fall. She did not get an infection from the
- 10 surgery that was done in May. And so -- and she got
- 11 an abscess. She got an abscess as a result, most
- 12 likely, she might have had some sort of small
- 13 urinary tract infection, but obesity is a big-time
- 14 predictor risk factor.
- So based on that -- and those are just
- 16 the facts, those are just the medical facts of her
- 17 case -- I told Will and I'm telling you, there was
- 18 no -- there was no lien rights, there was no claim
- 19 rights, because it wasn't connected to any fall or
- 20 industrial injury.
- 21 Q. Did any doctor ever tell you what you
- 22 have just related with regard to the fact that there
- 23 was no connection between the industrial injury and
- 24 the spinal abscess?
- 25 A. Yes, they did. Duncan McBride, who is

- 1 the chief of neurosurgery at Harbor UCLA, has seen a
- 2 lot of epidural abscesses because he deals,
- 3 obviously, down at Harbor UCLA -- John, as you know,
- 4 it's -- we both have dealt with that facility.
- 5 There's a lot of drug addicts that come in and out
- 6 of there.
- 7 He told me very clearly that the --
- 8 well, with respect to our -- that issue, once she
- 9 hit the floor at her home and started having
- 10 weakness, her -- her -- her abscess and her
- 11 neurological deficits were fixed.
- 12 But with respect to the relationship
- 13 between the surgery, I spoke and consulted again
- 14 with Mike Ritter, who -- and I met him. I remember
- 15 specifically meeting with Dr. Ritter at his office
- 16 at Mission Hospital. And I spoke with John Morris,
- 17 an orthopedic surgeon, who said that normally, with
- 18 respect to post-op, when you do this UKA, this
- 19 unicompartmental knee arthroplasty, those -- if you
- 20 get a post-op infection from the placement of
- 21 these -- of these instruments, the partial knee,
- these infections normally pop up and manifest within
- 23 36 hours from the surgery. She did not. Her
- 24 post-op visit showed no infection, that her
- 25 range of motion was good. She went to physical

- 1 therapy, I believe it was June 3rd, and she was
- 2 getting along fine. And subsequently, even when she
- 3 got to Havasu Regional, that knee was fine. There
- 4 was no redness, no heat, no nothing.
- 5 And the proof is if she had a post-op
- 6 wound infection, they would have been mandated to
- 7 remove those instruments, the partial knee
- 8 replacement. They never did because there was never
- 9 any infection.
- 10 So from an orthopedic standpoint -- and
- 11 that's why we were looking into that case in
- 12 Arizona, and we were -- we were trying to establish
- 13 whether or not we could prove a case in Arizona. We
- 14 could not. I mean, we were told there is no
- 15 lawsuit.
- And therefore, we -- and I spoke to
- 17 Daria and Daniel about that and sent them that
- 18 April 2017 letter, which they signed.
- So yeah, we were told -- when we were
- 20 trying to explore whether or not there was any --
- 21 any viable litigation that we could pursue in
- 22 Arizona, we were told, "You got no case, dude," so
- 23 we didn't do it.
- 24 Q. You mentioned Duncan McBride. I didn't
- 25 see that he was one of the designated experts in the

- 1 case. Is that correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. And I didn't see any bill that was paid
- 4 to Dr. McBride in the case; is that correct?
- 5 A. Probably, yeah, that's probably true. I
- 6 mean, when I spoke with Duncan, it was -- I think I
- 7 was speaking to him on another case and we,
- 8 curbside, and I asked him questions, very specific
- 9 questions, quite frankly, about spinal epidural
- 10 abscesses and neuro deficits, and he gave me some
- 11 very cogent and important information.
- MR. BLUMBERG: We've been going about an
- 13 hour. Why don't we take a break.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Thanks. I need it.
- 15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off the record
- 16 at 11:45 a.m.
- 17 (A recess was taken.)
- 18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
- 19 record at 12:00 p.m.
- 20 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 21 Q. All right. Let me go back and just
- 22 recap a few things.
- First, in March of 2018, you were aware
- 24 that CopperPoint was claiming a lien on the proceeds
- 25 of the Nevada medical malpractice case, weren't you?

- 1 A. No. They never filed a lien on the
- 2 proceeds of the Nevada malpractice case.
- 3 Q. That wasn't my question. My question
- 4 was whether you had an awareness that CopperPoint
- 5 was claiming a right to a lien.
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So is it your testimony that you believe
- 10 CopperPoint was not claiming a right to a lien?
- 11 A. It is my position that CopperPoint knew
- 12 that they had no statutory rights to a lien in
- 13 Nevada, and, therefore, they never filed one.
- 14 Q. That wasn't my question. My question
- 15 was whether you were aware that CopperPoint was
- 16 claiming a lien on the proceeds of the Nevada case.
- 17 A. They never formally claimed a lien in
- 18 the Nevada case, Mr. Blumberg.
- 19 Q. Did they -- did they, by words, deeds or
- writing, ever convey to you that they believed that
- 21 they had a right to a lien on the proceeds of the
- 22 Daria Harper Nevada medical malpractice case?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Your answer is "no"?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. As I understand your testimony regarding
- 2 the knee surgery, the industrial injury and the
- 3 spinal abscess, was it your opinion that there was
- 4 no connection between any industrial injury and the
- 5 spinal abscess?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. And was it your opinion that there was
- 8 no connection between any payment made by
- 9 CopperPoint and the allegations that you made in the
- 10 Nevada medical malpractice case?
- 11 A. Could you repeat that, please? I didn't
- 12 follow the first part.
- 13 Q. Sure.
- MR. BLUMBERG: Madam Court Reporter, can
- 15 you please repeat my question.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 17 (The record is read by the reporter.)
- MR. KJAR: Object to that question to be
- 19 ambiguous in the way it's phrased, John.
- Can you maybe -- when you say "any
- 21 payment made by CopperPoint in the malpractice
- 22 case" -- I mean, if the witness understands it, he
- 23 can answer.
- 24 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 25 Q. Did you understand the question,

- 1 Mr. Silberberg?
- 2 A. Let me see if I can answer it and then
- 3 my answer may tell you whether I understood it or
- 4 not.
- 5 It's my understanding that if an
- 6 insurance carrier is making payments as part of
- 7 benefits or they're paying medical costs and they're
- 8 only making those payments because of the result of
- 9 the negligence of a third party, then they might
- 10 have a claim.
- 11 In this situation, there was no
- 12 connection, in my view, with the spinal epidural
- 13 abscess and any fall that occurred way back in
- 14 August 2014.
- 15 In addition, based upon my conversation
- 16 with two neurosurgeons as we were getting close to
- 17 mediation, Daria Harper was paralyzed, quadriplegic,
- 18 when she entered Havasu Regional Medical Center, and
- 19 that was never going to change. She was never going
- 20 to walk again and never have the normal activities
- 21 of daily living again. Therefore, I didn't think
- they had any legitimate claim.
- 23 So...
- 24 Q. Let me ask the question this way.
- 25 A. All right.

- 1 Q. It was your opinion that no payment that
- 2 was made by CopperPoint to or for the benefit of
- 3 Daria Harper had anything to do with the spinal
- 4 abscess and the failure to treat it. Is that a
- 5 correct statement of your opinion?
- 6 A. Yeah, that's a fair statement of my
- 7 opinion.
- 8 Q. You made reference to an April 2017
- 9 document. Let me just put the document up and have
- 10 you identify it.
- 11 Is this the document -- April 5, 2017,
- 12 to Daria Harper -- that you were referring to that
- 13 they signed?
- 14 A. I think so, yeah.
- 15 MR. BLUMBERG: Madam Court Reporter,
- 16 what was the last exhibit that I referenced? Was it
- 17 Exhibit 11?
- 18 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.
- MR. BLUMBERG: Thank you.
- 20 (Exhibit 12 marked.)
- 21 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 22 Q. All right. I'm going to bring up as
- 23 Exhibit 12 an e-mail from Will Collins dated
- 24 March 9, 2018, to Janette Dockstader. And the
- 25 e-mail starts at the bottom. It's an e-mail from

- 1 Pam Fudge to Will Collins and says, "Will, I have
- 2 attached all current lien amounts paid to date."
- 3 And the total of the three is \$2,768,656.65.
- 4 Do you ever see this e-mail to Will
- 5 Collins from Pam Fudge?
- 6 A. Can you scroll down a little bit, John.
- 7 Q. There's a squiggle down there at the
- 8 bottom. Is that your initial?
- 9 A. No, but that's -- no. But that could be
- 10 something I put on there. Whether -- I don't know
- 11 if I saw it or not. I probably did. That squiggle
- 12 might be my squiggle. I mean, I give different
- 13 squiggles, you know.
- 14 Q. Okay. And then going up, it says --
- 15 this is from Will Collins to Janette -- "Please save
- 16 the liens to the system and print the e-mail for
- 17 Marshall to review."
- 18 A. Right.
- 19 Q. Okay. So would that be consistent with
- 20 your having seen the e-mail from Pam Fudge?
- 21 A. Sure.
- 22 Q. "Yes"?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. For some reason, sometimes the
- 25 microphone's not picking you up and I see your mouth

- 1 forming the words. And so when I ask again, it's
- 2 because I didn't think that it picked up.
- A. Okay. That's fine.
- 4 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to pull up
- 5 Exhibit 13 right now.
- 6 (Exhibit 13 marked.)
- 7 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 8 Q. Exhibit 13 is a letter dated
- 9 June 22, 2018. It is addressed to Law Offices of
- 10 Marshall Silberberg. And this is a letter from the
- 11 files of CopperPoint, not from your files.
- Do you recall ever seeing this letter?
- 13 A. Can I just look at it real quick, John?
- 14 Q. Sure. Let me see if I can put the whole
- 15 thing on one screen. (Indicating.)
- 16 A. Okay. I don't -- I don't recall if I
- 17 saw that or not. I might have.
- 18 Q. I reviewed the files you produced. I
- 19 didn't see any response to that letter. Do you
- 20 recall ever sending a response?
- 21 A. I do not.
- MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to put up
- 23 Exhibit 14.
- 24 (Exhibit 14 marked.)
- 25 ///

- 1 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 2 Q. Exhibit 14 is an e-mail from Pam Fudge
- 3 to Will Collins, and it is dated July 18, 2018, and
- 4 it is asking for a status on the case.
- 5 Do you recall ever seeing this e-mail or
- 6 being told about this e-mail?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. I'm not sure we have an answer.
- 9 A. I said "no," John.
- 10 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 11 Do you recall the first time that you
- 12 either had a conversation with a CopperPoint
- 13 representative or wrote a letter or an e-mail to
- 14 CopperPoint stating that it had no lien?
- 15 A. No, I don't.
- 16 Q. Do you recall ever writing such a letter
- 17 or having such a conversation?
- 18 A. I do not.
- 19 Q. Was there a reason why you never told
- anyone from CopperPoint that you believed that they
- 21 had no lien?
- A. Because they never made a claim on the
- 23 Nevada lawsuit.
- Q. Did you ever read the Nevada statute
- 25 governing liens in medical malpractice cases?

- 1 A. Yeah. Yes.
- 2 Q. Would that be NRS 42.021?
- 3 A. I think so.
- 4 Q. Do you recall the first time you read
- 5 that statute?
- 6 A. I don't -- do I recall when I first read
- 7 it? No.
- 8 Q. Do you remember the year you read it?
- 9 A. It would have been at or near the time
- 10 that the lawsuit was filed.
- 11 (Exhibit 15 marked.)
- 12 Q. I'm going to bring up as Exhibit 15 an
- 13 e-mail from Thomas Alch -- actually, it is a
- 14 forwarding by Janette Dockstader of a previous
- 15 e-mail from Thomas Alch to you and others dated
- 16 September 30, 2016, and it has the text of
- 17 NRS 42.021.
- Would you have read this statute about
- 19 the date that Thomas Alch sent this e-mail to you?
- 20 A. Sure.
- 21 Q. "Yes"?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Do you remember having any discussions
- 24 with Thomas Alch on the subject of whether a medical
- 25 malpractice settlement barred any lien recovery by a

- 1 workers' compensation company?
- 2 A. I don't have a specific recollection of
- 3 talking with Tom on that. I mean, I have a vague
- 4 recollection. I have a vague recollection, John,
- 5 that I inquired, and Tom was of the view that the
- 6 statute precluded, as does California's, lien rights
- 7 from a workers' comp carrier, but that's a really
- 8 vague -- vague recollection.
- 9 Q. Did you arrive at an understanding of
- 10 Nevada law with regard to whether a settlement of a
- 11 medical malpractice lien would bar a workers'
- 12 compensation insurance company from claiming a lien?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And what was the basis of that
- 15 understanding?
- 16 A. The statute.
- 17 Q. Did you have any discussions with any
- 18 Nevada lawyer, other than Tom Alch, on the subject
- 19 of whether a medical malpractice settlement barred
- 20 any lien recovery by a workers' compensation
- 21 insurance company?
- 22 A. Yeah, Judge Bell. I believe that I --
- again, this is really vague. I think I might have
- 24 had some discussions with John Cotton, a lawyer for
- 25 one of the defendants.

- 1 But I clearly had a discussion during
- 2 the mediation with the mediator, who was a
- 3 retired -- I don't know what they're called, circuit
- 4 court judge, superior court judge -- Judge Bell.
- 5 Q. And are you saying also that Attorney
- 6 Cotton told you that it was his opinion that a
- 7 settlement in a medical malpractice case barred
- 8 lien claims by a workers' compensation insurance
- 9 company?
- 10 A. Yes. As a matter of fact, in one of my
- 11 discussions I actually floated the idea that they go
- 12 ahead and assume negotiations, if they wanted to, of
- 13 the lien, and I was told to park that idea.
- 14 Q. Who told you that?
- 15 A. Judge Bell. During the mediation.
- 16 Q. Was that because of Judge Bell having an
- 17 understanding that there was no lien obligation, or
- 18 because Judge Bell told you that the defendants
- 19 weren't going to do that?
- A. Both. Both. Because there was no lien
- 21 rights in the medical mal case.
- Q. Were you aware of any appellate court
- 23 decision in Nevada saying that there were no lien
- 24 rights that a workers' compensation insurance
- 25 company had if there was a medical malpractice

- 1 settlement?
- 2 A. Was I aware of any appellate court --
- 3 no. No. I mean, a statute's a statute.
- 4 I mean, there was that case -- and I'm
- 5 going to butcher the name -- McCrasky (phonetic),
- 6 McCromski (phonetic), something -- that loosely
- 7 indicated that the statute -- I think that case
- 8 dealt with collateral source benefits, but the
- 9 statute was the statute. It was a proper statute.
- But again, don't quiz me on everything
- 11 that case stood for because I don't recall.
- 12 Something to do with preemption of workers' comp and
- 13 federal law and stuff, but that's all I'm -- that's
- 14 all I'm good for on that.
- MR. BLUMBERG: In the files that were
- 16 produced from your office, there was an article from
- 17 an Arizona Attorney magazine. I'm going to mark it
- 18 as Exhibit 16 and put it up.
- 19 (Exhibit 16 marked.)
- 20 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 21 Q. All right. On the screen is the first
- 22 page of the article. Do you recall ever seeing this
- 23 article?
- 24 A. Never.
- Q. Do you know how it got into your file?

- 1 A. No. Do you want to enlighten me?
- 2 Q. Did you ever discuss it with
- 3 Will Collins?
- 4 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 5 Q. Did you ever discuss with Will Collins
- 6 the effect of settling a -- a claim of an Arizona
- 7 workers' compensation insurance company, settling
- 8 the case -- strike that.
- 9 Did you ever discuss with Will Collins
- 10 or anyone else the effect of settling around an
- 11 Arizona workers' compensation insurance company and
- 12 the effect it might have on the claimant?
- 13 A. Did I ever have that discussion? Yeah,
- 14 probably.
- 15 Q. Do you recall anything about the
- 16 discussion?
- 17 A. No, other than what we've already talked
- 18 about with respect to the validity of the statute
- 19 and my feelings about there was no -- the statute
- 20 precluded it. And if you even go further, that
- 21 there was no -- there was no connection between
- 22 CopperPoint's payments and our case.
- 23 Q. You mentioned "validity of the statute."
- 24 What statute are you referring to?
- A. The statute dealing with the no lien

- 1 rights by workers' comp and other carriers in med
- 2 mal cases.
- 3 Q. That's the Nevada statute you're talking
- 4 about, when you talk about the "validity of the
- 5 statute"?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Had you ever read the Arizona statute
- 8 pertaining to workers' compensation lien rights?
- 9 A. I don't think so. I didn't -- no. No.
- 10 Q. Did you ever talk to Tom Alch about any
- 11 Arizona legal issues?
- 12 A. Not that I recall.
- 13 Q. At some point in the case, you had to
- 14 determine whether there were any Medicare or
- 15 Medicaid liens?
- 16 A. Yeah, I assume so.
- 17 Q. Did you consider that identifying and
- 18 negotiating any such lien claims was part of your
- 19 firm's responsibility in representing Daniel and
- 20 Daria?
- 21 A. If she had had a Medicaid lien, which
- 22 I don't believe she did, yeah, we would have --
- 23 either we would have done it or we would have used
- 24 one of the services that we use to negotiate those
- 25 liens.

- 1 Q. Okay. Going now to the expert reports
- 2 that had to be filed in the case -- I'm not talking
- 3 about the initial ones, I'm talking about the ones
- 4 for trial -- did you have any involvement in
- 5 obtaining those expert reports?
- 6 A. No. Well --
- 7 Q. Let me put up Exhibit 17. I want to
- 8 make sure you have the document in front of you.
- 9 (Exhibit 17 marked.)
- 10 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 11 Q. All right. Exhibit 17 consists of
- 12 34 pages of expert reports. Let me just quickly
- 13 scroll through them --
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. -- just so you can put your eyes on what
- 16 I'm talking about. I don't expect you to read it.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 Q. They were all filed in April 2018.
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. And these are the reports of Dr. Dorros,
- 21 Dr. Ciacci, Dr. Le, Dr. Pleasure, Dr. Ritter, and
- 22 Dr. Shaw.
- A. Okay.
- Q. And my question is: Did you have any
- 25 involvement in obtaining these expert reports that

- 1 were filed in April 2018?
- 2 A. No. I mean, Will made contact with
- 3 these experts.
- 4 You know, would I have reviewed them --
- 5 "them" being what you just put up -- before they
- 6 went out? Yes or no, I don't know. If he had some
- 7 questions, I'm sure I would have looked at them. I
- 8 would think so.
- 9 Q. Is it your recollection -- strike that.
- 10 Is it correct you have no recollection
- 11 of reviewing these reports before they were filed?
- 12 A. Yeah, I have no recollection. I can
- 13 tell you what my custom and practice would have
- 14 been, and that is I would have reviewed some of
- 15 them. I might not have reviewed Dorros and Ritter.
- 16 But, I mean, I don't know. Custom and practice is I
- 17 normally do, but I don't have any recollection of
- 18 doing it in this case.
- 19 Q. Do you recall speaking with all of those
- 20 experts at some point?
- 21 A. I -- I remember sitting down with Mike
- 22 Ritter. And early, early, early on I did talk with
- 23 Dr. Ciacci. But I have no recollection, I can't
- even tell you who Dr. Shaw is.
- 25 But that's my recollection.

- 1 Q. You don't know who Kevin Shaw is, the ER
- 2 doctor?
- A. No. Dr. Ritter's the ER doctor. Maybe
- 4 Shaw's an ER doctor as well.
- 5 Q. What authority did you give Will Collins
- 6 to make decisions about what experts to hire for the
- 7 case?
- 8 A. What authority? To hire experts that
- 9 were relevant to the issues in the lawsuit.
- 10 Q. Okay. And was it your understanding
- 11 that he could -- that he didn't need to discuss with
- 12 you who these experts were?
- 13 A. No. There wasn't an understanding one
- 14 way or the other. He would normally discuss with me
- 15 who he had contacted and would run by their
- 16 preliminary discussions, and if he had questions,
- 17 he'd come to me and I'd answer them. I don't
- 18 remember any, but he had the authority to -- to
- 19 go -- we'd used some of these experts in the past in
- 20 other cases, so, you know, they were known to us and
- 21 had a track record with us.
- 22 Q. Do you know a doctor whose name is Alisa
- 23 Gean, G-E-A-N?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. The reason I ask is that in your cost

- 1 accounting it shows your firm paid \$5,000 to a
- 2 Dr. Alisa Gean, and I was wondering if that was a
- 3 mistake or if that's somebody that you or Will had
- 4 consulted with.
- 5 A. I don't know, but I'll find out for you.
- 6 What was the name again, John?
- 7 Q. G-E-A N is the last name. Alisa Gean.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. And the cost accounting -- the cost --
- 10 I'm sorry. Do you have a question?
- 11 A. Go ahead. I'm sorry.
- 12 Q. The cost accounting from your office
- 13 says that the -- that that doctor's bill did not
- 14 come in until after the mediation.
- 15 A. Okay. I don't know who it is. I will
- 16 find out.
- 17 Q. Did you have any conversations at any
- 18 time with Daria or Daniel before the mediation about
- 19 whether CopperPoint could enforce a lien on any
- 20 settlement?
- 21 A. Sure.
- 22 Q. Tell me about those conversations.
- 23 When -- first of all, do you know when they were?
- 24 A. Jeez, I mean, we had -- we had --
- 25 throughout -- throughout the time that I met him

- 1 in -- in Colorado -- whether or not we discussed
- 2 that then, I don't recall, but we had lots of
- 3 conversations -- when I say "lots," you know, in
- 4 excess of five conversations -- throughout the time
- 5 about CopperPoint's lien or claims, Nevada and
- 6 Arizona, and they would occasionally call and ask
- 7 questions. We'd answer them.
- 8 I gave them my firm belief about the
- 9 statute and also the fact that -- that Daria's
- 10 surgery in May was, you know, obviously related to
- 11 things other than her industrial fall.
- We had -- we had multiple discussions
- 13 about -- that had -- on the -- you know, I wrote
- 14 that letter in April. There were e-mails about this
- 15 before the mediation. Daria, as I recall, told us
- 16 about the liens and wanted to know about the money.
- 17 There were ongoing discussions, John, with them
- 18 about these issues.
- 19 Which is one reason why, you know, we
- 20 tried to get her to keep the workers' comp lawyer in
- 21 Arizona.
- 22 Q. You wanted to get her to what a workers'
- 23 comp lawyer?
- A. You know, she had a workers' comp
- 25 lawyer.

- 1 Q. I wasn't asking for you to reframe your
- 2 answer. I missed one of the words you said.
- A. I'm sorry. We wanted her to have and
- 4 keep the workers' comp lawyer to deal with those
- 5 issues for her.
- 6 Q. So would it be correct that you advised
- 7 Daria and Daniel numerous times throughout the life
- 8 of the medical malpractice case of your belief that
- 9 CopperPoint did not have any valid lien claim on the
- 10 proceeds of the Nevada medical malpractice case,
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. Exactly right, in Nevada.
- 13 Q. Okay. Did you also tell Daria that you
- 14 believed that CopperPoint had no valid lien claim in
- 15 the Arizona workers' compensation proceedings?
- 16 A. You know, I don't know if I specifically
- 17 said. I remember telling her -- and a subject that
- 18 she didn't agree with -- that her surgery in May of
- 19 2015 was related to -- to, you know, the fact that
- 20 she had joint disease in her leg, in her right knee,
- 21 and that's why they did the -- they put the
- 22 artificial joint in that knee, you know. However,
- 23 those are issues that we did tell her that she had
- 24 to address with her workers' comp lawyers in
- 25 Arizona.

- 1 Q. I want to go now to the mediation brief
- 2 itself.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. Did you write that entire thing
- 5 yourself?
- 6 A. I don't recall. Probably. I write a
- 7 lot of mediation briefs.
- 8 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to bring up
- 9 Exhibit 18.
- 10 (Exhibit 18 marked.)
- 11 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 12 Q. 18 is two pages -- let me bring it up.
- 13 Just a second.
- 14 A. Certainly.
- 15 Q. There we are. 18 is page 26 and 27, 27
- 16 being the signature page of the mediation brief.
- Whose signature is that on page 27?
- 18 A. That's mine.
- 19 Q. Now, in this mediation brief on
- 20 page 26 -- and let me make it a little bigger --
- 21 starting at line 13, it says, "As indicated earlier
- 22 in this brief, Daria underwent knee surgery a couple
- 23 of weeks before she presented with the spinal
- 24 epidural abscess. That knee surgery was occasioned
- 25 because of an injury that she suffered at work, and

- 1 thus, all of Daria's expenses to date has been paid
- 2 by her workers' compensation carrier."
- 3 Did you dictate that or put that into
- 4 the mediation brief?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. And at line 17 it reads, "As of
- 7 March 7, 2018, Daria's workers' compensation carrier
- 8 sent a combined lien summary showing that the amount
- 9 paid through March 7, 2018, totaled \$2,768,656.65.
- 10 They, of course, would like to recoup this sum by
- 11 way of their claims for a lien."
- 12 A. Right. In their comp case. Right.
- 13 Q. And so you dictated or created that for
- 14 this -- for this mediation brief?
- 15 A. Sure.
- 16 Q. Let me bring the document back up again.
- 17 At line 22 and 23 and 24 it says, "In
- 18 addition, Daria and Daniel are each entitled to the
- 19 full \$350,000 limit for their general, noneconomic
- 20 damages."
- 21 Do you see that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Had you ever read the Nevada statute
- 24 regarding the limitations on recovery of noneconomic
- 25 damages in medical malpractice cases?

- 1 A. I'm sure I did, yeah. My recollection
- 2 is I did.
- 3 Q. And was it your understanding after
- 4 reading that statute that in Nevada medical
- 5 malpractice cases there could be more than one
- 6 \$350,000 recovery for noneconomic damages?
- 7 A. Sure, of course.
- 8 Q. Did you ever discuss that with Tom Alch?
- 9 A. I don't believe so.
- 10 Q. Did you ever discuss that with any
- 11 Nevada lawyer?
- 12 A. I don't recall doing that.
- 13 Q. So it was your understanding that there
- 14 is a separate \$350,000 recovery allowed on a
- 15 spouse's loss of consortium claim in a medical
- 16 malpractice case?
- 17 A. Yes. Right. I mean, you know, in
- 18 the -- if you read the statute, it's the same as
- 19 California's. And so, you know, we assumed that the
- 20 Nevada law was the same as California, and I saw
- 21 nothing to the contrary when I read the statute.
- Q. Was it -- is it your recollection that
- 23 the Nevada medical malpractice statute dealing with
- 24 noneconomic damages is the same as California's
- 25 statute?

- 1 A. Except it's an additional hundred
- 2 thousand bucks.
- 3 Q. Except that in California it's 250,000
- 4 and in Nevada it's 350,000?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. And in all other respects it was your
- 7 understanding that the two statutes were virtually
- 8 identical?
- 9 A. Virtually. Actually, almost identical,
- 10 yes.
- 11 Q. Did you do any Nevada legal research
- 12 regarding whether Daniel's loss of consortium claim
- 13 could include any economic damages?
- 14 A. No. He would be entitled to his own
- 15 separate economic damages under what we call here
- 16 Haniff versus Housing Authority. Those would be
- 17 special damages.
- 18 Q. Haniff, H-A-N-I-F?
- 19 A. Yep. It may be two Fs, John.
- Q. I think there maybe are two Fs.
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. So was it your understanding in Nevada
- 23 that a -- that Daniel had a separate right to
- 24 recover economic damages?
- 25 A. Under the rationale of Haniff, yes, of

- 1 course.
- 2 Q. Do you know if Haniff was adopted by any
- 3 appellate court in Nevada?
- 4 A. No, but I know they're in jury -- jury
- 5 instructions are very similar to those in California
- 6 and talk about those damages are recoverable. At
- 7 least they're part of the jury instructions.
- 8 Q. When did you read jury instructions from
- 9 Nevada regarding this case?
- 10 A. I don't remember, but I -- I always make
- 11 it a habit of reviewing jury instructions on cases.
- 12 Q. Does Nevada have pattern approved jury
- 13 instructions like California?
- 14 A. They do.
- 15 Q. Yes, that's your understanding?
- 16 A. Yes, that's my understanding, yeah.
- 17 Q. And is it your recollection that you
- 18 actually read those pattern jury instructions for
- 19 medical malpractice cases that are used in Nevada?
- 20 A. I did.
- 21 Q. Now, let's go to the mediation itself.
- A. Right.
- 23 Q. You attended the mediation with the
- 24 clients?
- 25 A. Yes.

Page 71 1 Was Will Collins there also? Q. Yes. 2 Α. Was Tom Alch there? 3 Q. 4 Α. No. During the mediation, at any time did 5 Q. 6 you have a telephone conversation with Tom Alch? 7 Α. No. 8 Q. Did you ever send him any texts or 9 e-mails? 10 Α. Not that I remember. 11 Q. During the mediation, did you ever give 12 an estimate for the clients what their net recovery would be? 13 14 Α. I don't remember, but that would not be 15 unusual. 16 And during the mediation, do you recall Q. 17 any discussion with them about your opinion that 18 CopperPoint had no lien on their case? 19 Could you have the court reporter read Α. 20 that back, John, please? 21 MR. BLUMBERG: Sure. 22 Madam Court Reporter, would you please 23 read the question back. 24 (The record is read by the reporter.) 25 THE WITNESS: Do I have a recollection

- 1 of that? A vague recollection that we had that
- 2 discussion, yeah. Again, I don't have any specific.
- 3 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 4 Q. Did you ever have -- did you ever write
- 5 a letter or send an e-mail or write a memo about the
- 6 conversation you had with the clients that there was
- 7 no lien? You know, that the advice you had given
- 8 them of your opinion that there was no lien, did you
- 9 ever put that in a letter before the settlement
- 10 releases were signed and the money distributed?
- 11 A. Yeah. I think that April 5th, 2017,
- 12 letter addresses that. Did I do it after that? Did
- 13 I do a memo? I don't recall one.
- 14 Q. And it's your recollection that the
- 15 April letter addressed lien rights?
- 16 A. Yeah, I believe that April -- if you
- 17 want to put it up again, I'll look at it. But I
- 18 believe I state in there -- I think lien rights are
- 19 discussed in there, and I think -- in that letter,
- and I could be wrong. I think in that letter I also
- 21 addressed my view that even in Arizona I didn't
- 22 think there were any lien rights. But again, I
- 23 don't have that letter in front of me.
- 24 Q. Let me put it in front of you.
- 25 I'm putting Exhibit 34 in front of you.

- 1 Do you want to take a --
- 2 A. Sure.
- 3 Q. -- want to take a look at it and tell me
- 4 if that refreshes your recollection. Just tell me
- 5 when you need the page turned.
- 6 (Exhibit 34 marked.)
- 7 A. Okay. Okay. Okay.
- 8 Q. Does that refresh your recollection that
- 9 the letter of June 17, 2016, didn't mention anything
- 10 about lien rights?
- 11 A. It does. If you go to the first page.
- 12 Keep going. It says right here -- the second
- 13 paragraph, it says, "My recommendation is based upon
- 14 numerous factors. First, if we were to file a case
- 15 in Arizona, CopperPoint would attempt to assert a
- 16 lien against any money you received as a result of
- 17 your lawsuit. As of this moment, we do not believe
- 18 that CopperPoint would have a right to a lien
- 19 against a case in Arizona."
- So it did address that right there.
- 21 Q. Were you aware of the agreement signed
- 22 by Daria with regard to a settlement of workers'
- 23 compensation housing needs?
- 24 A. Yes and no. I remember that she called
- 25 and said that they were -- "they" being

- 1 CopperPoint -- was wanting to contribute something
- 2 so they could have a house that was more conducive
- 3 to her type of life, but that's all I can remember
- 4 about that.
- 5 Q. Let me bring up Exhibit 19.
- 6 A. Sure.
- 7 (Exhibit 19 marked.)
- 8 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 9 Q. Exhibit 19, the first page of the
- 10 document -- and this is a fax of about
- 11 August 2, 2016, it looks like, "Attention Will or
- 12 Marshall" on the first page, and then there is a
- 13 letter from the attorney for CopperPoint and then
- 14 essentially an agreement regarding \$300,000.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. Do you recall seeing this?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Do you recall discussing this with Will
- 19 or with Daria?
- 20 A. You know, John, as I said, I -- I have a
- 21 recollection of having a discussion with Daria or
- 22 Daniel, or both, that CopperPoint was going to help
- 23 them get a house. I don't remember seeing this
- 24 document. I don't remember seeing this document. I
- 25 mean, I'm not saying I didn't. I just don't recall

- 1 it.
- 2 Q. Paragraph 3 of the document on page 3
- 3 says, "The Applicant further agrees that the
- 4 \$300,000 settlement amount to be paid by the
- 5 Defendant Carrier under this Agreement shall be
- 6 included in Defendant Carrier's subrogation lien
- 7 described in paragraph 3 of the Factual and
- 8 Procedural Background Section herein above."
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. Were you aware that this document
- 11 granted a \$300,000 lien on Daria's recovery in the
- 12 Nevada case?
- 13 A. In the comp case. But no. In the comp
- 14 case, sure. Which I might add is even reason for
- 15 why we kept telling her that she needed to run these
- 16 issues by a workers' comp lawyer in Arizona.
- 17 Q. Going to paragraph -- the referred to
- paragraph 3 on page 2, it says, "On August 19, 2015,
- 19 the Defendant Carrier issued a Notice of Claim
- 20 Status indicating that by virtue of ARS
- 21 Section 23-1023, the Defendants had a lien against
- the Applicant's recovery from the third party
- 23 responsible for her injuries."
- Were you aware of that?
- 25 A. I see that language, but that's not a

- 1 valid lien in Nevada pursuant to Nevada statutes.
- 2 And as I've indicated, it would have
- 3 been incumbent, in my view, on this carrier to do
- 4 their own independent investigation to see if there
- 5 was a third party responsible for her injuries
- 6 because there was not.
- 7 Q. Now, going to Tom Alch --
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. -- you had mentioned earlier that you
- 10 were aware that he had left the Fagel firm and
- 11 joined the Shoop firm.
- When that occurred, did you have any
- 13 discussion with Tom Alch or Bruce Fagel about his
- 14 continuing participation in the case?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. So would it be correct that any
- 17 compensation that Tom Alch would be paid for working
- 18 on the case would be from Bruce Fagel?
- 19 A. Yeah. Yeah. The way it worked, John,
- 20 is they had an agreement, and when the case
- 21 resolved, I was informed what that percentage would
- be, and I think I -- I think I sent Tom a check
- 23 consistent with that agreement.
- 24 Q. So it's your recollection that you had
- 25 no separate discussion with Tom Alch about his

- 1 continuing to be local counsel in the case?
- 2 A. That's correct. I just assumed it would
- 3 continue.
- 4 Q. Were you involved in the preparation or
- 5 the modification of any of the settlement agreements
- 6 after a settlement was reached with the Nevada
- 7 defendants?
- 8 A. I would have been involved in reviewing
- 9 them. I don't think we modified them, that I
- 10 recall.
- 11 Q. Do you know whether Tom Alch was
- 12 involved in editing or approving the settlement
- 13 agreements?
- 14 A. I do not know. I know that came up the
- 15 other day because Will asked me about it after the
- 16 depo.
- 17 And my recollection is -- is Tom -- my
- 18 recollection is that those releases came here, we
- 19 looked at them, I think we approved them and sent
- 20 them off to Daria and Daniel.
- 21 Q. So you have no recollection that Tom
- 22 Alch was involved in editing or approving any of the
- 23 settlement agreements?
- A. That's correct. And my view is I don't
- 25 know why he would be.

Page 78 1 Let me bring up Exhibit 20. Q. 2 Α. Sure. 3 (Exhibit 20 marked.) 4 BY MR. BLUMBERG: 5 20 is an e-mail from Will Collins to Q. Daria Harper, and it says, "As we discussed on the 6 7 phone, attached is the release and settlement 8 agreement from Valley Hospital. Marshall and Tom 9 have both reviewed and approved the document." 10 Did you ever see this? 11 No. Α. 12 Q. I'm going to bring up Exhibit 21 --13 Was it sent to me? I didn't look. Was Α. 14 I cc'd on it. John? 15 Q. No. 16 Α. Okay. Then I don't recall seeing it. 17 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to bring up 18 Exhibit 21. 19 (Exhibit 21 marked.) 20 BY MR. BLUMBERG: 21 Q. Exhibit 21 is an e-mail that's -- that 22 starts at the bottom at page 3 from an Adam

- 23 Schneider at the Cotton firm. Did you know who Adam
- 24 Schneider was? No? Yes?
- 25 I'm sorry. I said yes. Α.

- 1 Q. Okay. And it had to do with a proposed
- 2 release?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And then it has Will Collins asking Adam
- 5 Schneider, "Can you send along another page for Tom
- 6 Alch's signature. He informed me that he needs to
- 7 sign as well. If you can add it to its own page,
- 8 that might be easiest."
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. Were you aware -- were you aware of that
- 11 fact?
- 12 A. No, I wasn't. But you've clarified and
- 13 cleaned it up right here. Thank you.
- 14 Q. All right. And then the first page
- 15 shows that Will Collins sent the Janda release to
- 16 Tom Alch, and that Tom Alch sent back his signature
- 17 page.
- 18 A. Perfect.
- 19 Q. The last page of the document is a
- 20 signature page. Do you recognize that signature as
- 21 Tom Alch?
- A. No. But it looks like it.
- Q. It looks like how he signs his name,
- 24 that you're familiar with?
- 25 A. Yeah, yeah.

- 1 Q. And you see that down at the bottom it
- 2 identifies Shoop, A Professional Corporation?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. I'm going to go to Exhibit 22 now.
- 5 MR. BLUMBERG: We've been going about
- 6 another hour. Are you good to go or do you want to
- 7 take a short break.
- 8 THE WITNESS: I'd love to go down and
- 9 use the little boys' room for about -- five minutes
- 10 at my age. I'll take about five minutes.
- 11 MR. BLUMBERG: Five minutes is fine.
- 12 We'll see you back here.
- 13 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off the record
- 14 at 12:55 p.m.
- 15 (A recess was taken.)
- 16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
- 17 record at 1:05 p.m.
- MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to bring up
- 19 Exhibit 22.
- 20 (Exhibit 22 marked.)
- 21 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 22 Q. 22 is two pages of notes. Do you
- 23 recognize these two pages?
- A. Do I recognize them? That's my
- 25 handwriting.

- 1 Q. Can you describe what these two pages
- 2 are?
- 3 A. No. Just a breakdown of money,
- 4 annuities, fees, costs. There's a note down below,
- 5 "Jay." I don't know what that means.
- 6 I don't know. It's just a breakdown of
- 7 the fees and stuff.
- 8 Q. Where it says "Daniel" on page 2 of the
- 9 document, can you explain what these numbers mean?
- 10 A. 350 for loss of consortium, 350 for
- 11 wrongful death, and then 350 for extraordinary
- 12 services, I believe.
- 13 That's not my -- I don't know who wrote
- 14 that, but that's -- that's what that is.
- 15 Q. What extraordinary services?
- 16 A. What he was doing for his wife. His --
- 17 his care, his taking care of her over and above his
- 18 responsibilities as a husband. The fact that he
- 19 basically was her caretaker.
- Q. Did your clients tell you to apportion
- 21 this amount for Daniel? By "this amount" --
- A. Did they tell me?
- 23 Q. -- I mean the total of 350 times 3.
- 24 A. Did they tell me? No. Was it
- 25 discussed? Absolutely.

- 1 Q. When was it discussed?
- 2 A. During the course of the mediation. And
- 3 we met with them the night before the mediation and
- 4 I went through -- you know, obviously we went
- 5 through the sequence and what a mediation was about
- 6 and how we'd all be separated. You know, the
- 7 routine that most of us talk about our clients
- 8 about.
- 9 They were interested in the money. I
- 10 told them how we could segregate certain money out.
- 11 And they had no issues with any of that. The
- 12 ultimate decision is theirs.
- And then during the mediation -- which
- 14 this might have been -- this might have been
- 15 prepared at the mediation, I don't know -- we went
- 16 through it, and they had no issues at all with it.
- 17 Q. You're not saying this document was
- 18 prepared in advance of the mediation, are you?
- 19 A. No, no. I said this might have been.
- 20 You asked me a question, did we go through a
- 21 breakdown during the course of the mediation, we
- 22 knew what the settlement was going to be.
- This could have been done at the end of
- 24 the mediation. I don't know when this document was
- 25 prepared, John.

- 1 Q. You mentioned something about
- 2 segregating or to segregate money out. What did you
- 3 mean?
- 4 A. Well, identifying Daria's settlement and
- 5 Daniel's settlement. He was a proper party, had his
- 6 loss of consortium, also had his wrongful death
- 7 waiver and the extraordinary services portion. So
- 8 that's all.
- 9 Q. Why would it be necessary to segregate
- 10 out the recovery for Daniel?
- 11 A. Just to identify what damages that the
- 12 parties should agree to pay with respect to his --
- 13 (audio distortion) -- as a party. He's entitled to
- 14 get compensated.
- 15 Q. When you say to identify what the
- 16 settling parties had agreed to pay, was there any
- 17 apportionment in any of the settlement agreements
- 18 with regard to Daniel's claims or the amount
- 19 apportioned to Daniel?
- 20 A. I don't recall. I haven't read those
- 21 settlement agreements, but I'm sure they included
- 22 wrongful death in there. I'm sure they included the
- 23 causes of action that are set forth -- identified in
- 24 the complaint because they would have identified the
- 25 complaint by number, at least that's what is

- 1 normally done, and I'm sure they included a wrongful
- 2 death waiver.
- 3 MR. BLUMBERG: I want to go to
- 4 Exhibit 23 now.
- 5 (Exhibit 23 marked.)
- 6 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 7 Q. 23 is the distribution sheet. It's
- 8 actually three pages. Actually, this is the wrong
- 9 document. Give me a second here.
- 10 All right. This is a document from your
- 11 file, but I think it may be the wrong document that
- 12 I've called up as an exhibit. But the first page --
- 13 let me just go to that.
- On the first page, it's a calculation of
- 15 fees and costs and distribution. Would that be an
- 16 accurate statement?
- 17 A. Yeah, looks like it.
- 18 Q. And did you approve this?
- 19 A. Sure. Ultimately I did, yeah, of
- 20 course.
- 21 Q. And this amount on Daniel's recovery of
- \$1,050,000, that seems to match what was on the
- 23 previous exhibit, the 350 times 3?
- 24 A. Right.
- Q. Would that be correct?

- 1 A. Yes, I agree with what you just said.
- 2 Q. Now, you would agree that none of the
- 3 settlement agreements allocated any amount to Daniel
- 4 separately?
- 5 A. You know, John, I'm going to take your
- 6 word for it. I do not know that. I haven't
- 7 reviewed them. But if you say that's true -- he's
- 8 part of the settlement. I'm sure his name is in the
- 9 release and I'm sure he signed it. Was there a
- 10 separate release just for him? Not that I'm aware
- 11 of.
- 12 Q. Now, this shows that you calculated your
- 13 attorney's fees based on an allocation of money for
- 14 each client. Would that be correct?
- 15 A. It appears that way.
- 16 Q. Which means that on -- for each client
- 17 you calculated the 40 percent of the first 50,000,
- one-third of the second 50,000, 25 percent of the
- 19 next 600,000 -- excuse me -- of the next 500,000,
- and then 15 percent of the remainder.
- 21 Would that be correct?
- A. Yeah, if that's what the breakdown is in
- 23 Nevada. I don't have a -- as I am sitting here --
- 24 recollection. But that would have been the way it
- 25 was done.

- 1 Q. Based on my calculation here, you
- 2 deducted a hundred percent of the cost from Daria's
- 3 share to reach a net amount, but you didn't allocate
- 4 any of the costs to be deducted from Daniel's share.
- 5 Was there a reason for that?
- 6 A. No. Just based on discussions with
- 7 them. I mean, that's not uncommon -- in these cases
- 8 that the -- those that would have -- (audio
- 9 distortion).
- 10 Could we have done it a different way?
- 11 Sure. It was my judgment to do it this way. And
- 12 was there other ways to do it? I'm sure there were.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 MR. BLUMBERG: Okay. Madam Court
- 15 Reporter, he kind of cut out on my end. Did you get
- 16 the testimony?
- 17 (Reporter clarification and record is
- 18 read by the reporter.)
- 19 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- Q. I want to go back to Exhibit 3, which
- 21 was the contingent fee agreement.
- Now, in Exhibit 3 there is a reference
- 23 to California Business and Professions Code 6146.
- 24 Do you see it there at paragraph 5?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Was it your intent that the
- 2 attorney-client contract you entered into with Daria
- 3 and Daniel would be governed by California law?
- 4 A. No. But it's -- other than the -- other
- 5 than the 250 versus the 350, it's my understanding,
- 6 based on what I looked at -- and, again, I haven't
- 7 done it in a couple years -- it's basically the
- 8 same.
- 9 Q. Was it your intention that the -- that
- 10 the contract be governed by California law or
- 11 Nevada law?
- 12 A. You know, it was a Nevada case, so I
- 13 would -- I would think it would be governed by
- 14 Nevada law.
- 15 Did I specifically change the fee
- 16 agreement? No, I did not. Because to me, the fee
- 17 agreement's the fee agreement.
- And the statutes, other than the
- 19 difference in limitations, is the same in both
- 20 states.
- Q. When you calculated the attorneys' fees
- 22 due from the allocation that you made for Daniel,
- 23 did you go back to this document, the contingency
- 24 fee agreement, to see what it said about the payment
- 25 of attorneys' fees?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Up at the top here in the first
- 3 paragraph, do you see that it says that Daria Harper
- 4 and Daniel Wininger are designated as "Client"?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And do you see at paragraph 9
- 7 that it talks about "Client agrees to pay for the
- 8 services herein described and prosecution of such
- 9 claims, the fee of 40 percent of the first \$50,000,"
- 10 et cetera?
- 11 A. Yeah, I see that.
- 12 Q. When you made the payments to the
- 13 clients of their share of the settlement, when you
- 14 sent checks, is it correct that those checks were
- 15 made out jointly to both?
- 16 A. I don't remember. I haven't seen those.
- 17 Might be.
- MR. BLUMBERG: Let me bring up
- 19 Exhibit 24.
- 20 (Exhibit 24 marked.)
- 21 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 22 Q. All right. Here's 24. And that's your
- 23 signature on the check?
- 24 A. It is.
- Q. And it's made out jointly to both

Page 89 1 clients? 2 Α. It is. 3 MR. BLUMBERG: And let me bring up 4 Exhibit 25. 5 (Exhibit 25 marked.) 6 BY MR. BLUMBERG: 7 Q. 25 has to do with electronic fund 8 transfer and it's an eight-page document. Was it 9 your understanding that the transfers of money, 10 electronic transfers of money that would go into 11 their accounts from the annuity payments would be 12 into a joint account? 13 Α. If that's what they requested. 14 MR. BLUMBERG: And let's look at 15 Exhibit 26. 16 (Exhibit 26 marked.) 17 BY MR. BLUMBERG: 18 Q. Do you recall that there was a 19 structured settlement for both of them that you put together? 20 21 Α. I didn't put it together, but I know 22 there was a structured settlement. 23 Q. That was a clumsy question. 24 You arranged for that to be done by an 25 annuity broker, didn't you?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And so this is a letter from your file,
- 3 Exhibit 26, where it shows the annuity going to both
- 4 of them, correct?
- 5 A. Looks like it, yeah.
- 6 Q. So the attorneys' fees you charged to
- 7 Daniel was based on a separate calculation of the
- 8 40 percent one-third, 25 percent.
- 9 Why did you do that?
- 10 A. Because he's an individual client, he
- 11 had individual claims, and as a result of that, he
- 12 pays fees on his loss of consortium, his wrongful
- 13 death. I mean, I could have waited until Daria dies
- 14 and we file a wrongful death and you get fees. It's
- 15 standard, it's customary and it's done every day in
- 16 this business.
- 17 Q. Well, I move to strike your answer as
- 18 nonresponsive. Let me ask it a different way.
- 19 In your fee agreement, Daria and Daniel
- were described jointly as "Client," weren't they?
- 21 A. They are identified as "Client," that's
- 22 correct.
- 23 Q. And the -- excuse me.
- 24 (Telephonic interruption.)
- MR. BLUMBERG: Let me start over again.

- 1 Hang on one second.
- 2 THE WITNESS: Sure.
- 3 MR. BLUMBERG: Let me turn this thing
- 4 off.
- 5 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 6 Q. All right. In your attorney fee
- 7 agreement, Daria and Daniel are described jointly as
- 8 "Client," and the obligation to pay fees is
- 9 described in terms of "Client will pay 40 percent of
- 10 the first 50,000," et cetera.
- 11 You agree with that don't you?
- 12 A. Yes. That's what the document states,
- 13 Exhibit 3.
- 14 Q. Nowhere in the document does it say each
- 15 person will individually pay a separate 40 percent,
- 16 one-third, et cetera, correct?
- 17 A. I'd have to review it but probably not.
- MR. BLUMBERG: I want to go now to
- 19 Exhibit 27. Exhibit 27, let me put it up.
- 20 (Exhibit 27 marked.)
- 21 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 22 Q. Exhibit 27 is an e-mail sent from Daria
- 23 Harper to you. It says, "Per our phone conversation
- 24 today, I am requesting that you send the rest of my
- 25 settlement by wire transfer. You stated CopperPoint

- 1 has no rights to my settlement, so I do not want my
- 2 money sitting there to negotiate with. You have
- 3 already paid yourself, Marshall, and paid Will. I
- 4 would like the rest of my settlement."
- 5 Do you recall seeing this?
- 6 A. Do I recall it? No. But I'm sure I
- 7 did.
- 8 Q. Is there a reason that you didn't pay
- 9 the money that was being withheld as of
- 10 September 6, 2018?
- 11 A. Because in my discussions with Daria and
- 12 Daniel, we did not feel that CopperPoint had any
- 13 lien rights in Nevada, but they were discussing
- 14 bringing claims, and I told Daria that I thought we
- 15 should hold back -- I can't remember the amount --
- 16 money in an effort -- in case they do come after her
- 17 so she could have money to pay for attorneys' fees
- 18 to handle the workers' comp issues that may arise in
- 19 the state of Arizona.
- 20 And so I did it in an effort to keep
- 21 money back to -- so she would have some money, in an
- 22 effort to protect her and to protect Daniel, so that
- 23 there would be a fund to help if that became --
- 24 became a reality.
- 25 Q. Is it your testimony that they

- 1 instructed you after September 6, 2018, to keep the
- 2 money in your trust account?
- 3 A. Sure. They -- we came to an
- 4 understanding that I would keep the money in my
- 5 trust account. And I did.
- 6 And then when Alan Schiffman got
- 7 involved, I sent him the money.
- 8 MR. BLUMBERG: I want to bring up as the
- 9 next exhibit 28.
- 10 (Exhibit 28 marked.)
- 11 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 12 Q. 28 is a letter you wrote on
- 13 September 18, 2018.
- 14 Do you recognize this letter?
- 15 A. I do.
- 16 Q. And in this letter you related reasons
- 17 why you didn't believe the law allowed CopperPoint
- 18 to have a lien.
- 19 Was there a reason why you never sought
- 20 to get a court declaration in Nevada of whether
- 21 there was a lien before you settled the case?
- A. There was no lien claimed in the state
- 23 of Nevada.
- 24 Q. Do you know what Nevada law provides
- 25 with regard to how an insurance company claims a

- 1 lien in Nevada?
- 2 A. No. I know the statute doesn't permit a
- 3 lien in medical malpractice cases. How they do it
- 4 in other non -- cases, I didn't look. I just
- 5 reviewed what they could and could not do in a med
- 6 mal case.
- 7 Q. Now, in this letter -- let me make it a
- 8 little larger so it can be read easier.
- 9 A. I have my cheaters on, John, so I would
- 10 be able to see it.
- 11 Q. I could make it as large as you want.
- 12 A. I'm good.
- 13 Q. Now, in the last paragraph of the second
- 14 page, it says, "Given that risk, it is imperative
- 15 that funds be set aside not only to deal with
- 16 potential legal action by CopperPoint, but also to
- 17 pay a negotiated lien should the lien be found to be
- 18 appropriate by a court."
- 19 I don't see anywhere in this letter
- where it says you are going to hold the money in
- 21 your trust account. Was there any letter or e-mail
- that you're aware of that says that that's what you
- were going to be doing?
- 24 A. It's in the distribution sheet which you
- 25 showed me that that money was withheld, and of

- 1 course it's going to be held in my trust account.
- 2 And it was held in my trust account. And when Alan
- 3 Schiffman got involved and requested it, I returned
- 4 it.
- 5 Q. Did you ever send a copy of an amended
- 6 distribution sheet that says that you were going to
- 7 be withholding money for a lien?
- 8 A. I don't believe so.
- 9 Q. We mentioned earlier there was about
- 10 \$6,000 that was paid to the clerk of the
- 11 Clark County District Court for out-of-state-party
- 12 security deposits. Do you recall that?
- 13 A. I recall you asking me about it.
- 14 Q. When was the last time that you tried
- 15 to -- strike that.
- You know that because the case was
- 17 settled that money needs to be refunded from the
- 18 clerk, correct?
- 19 A. Yeah. Yes. And we sent a letter to the
- 20 clerk requesting the refund.
- 21 Q. When was the last time you requested the
- 22 clerk to send a refund?
- A. I have no idea. I didn't do it. My
- 24 legal assistant, Janette, sent a letter, and I don't
- 25 know when that was or how often or -- I don't know.

- 1 Q. Well, is it your information that no
- 2 refund was ever paid of the money that was paid by
- 3 the clients?
- 4 A. I don't think there was any -- I don't
- 5 believe -- I think that's correct.
- 6 Q. What have you done to secure repayment
- 7 of that money?
- 8 A. I haven't done -- other than send the
- 9 letter. I can follow up with my legal assistant to
- 10 see what she's done. That's something she would do,
- 11 not me. I would have no vehicle to do that. But I
- 12 can ask you what she's done and get the status of it
- 13 for you. Be happy to report back to you.
- 14 Q. Were you --
- 15 A. And, John, let me just say this. If
- 16 there's an issue, I'll be happy to send -- send a
- 17 check for the 6 grand and then I'll make sure
- 18 Janette gets on it. But I have no problem with
- 19 that.
- Q. Well, those kind of discussions I think
- 21 your attorney would prefer we have not on the
- 22 deposition record.
- 23 A. Okay. Well, then you talk to Jim. You
- 24 call him and work things out.
- 25 MR. KJAR: That's correct. I'm fine

- 1 with such discussions.
- 2 THE WITNESS: Right.
- 3 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 4 Q. So earlier this year your firm found
- 5 attorneys in Arizona and Nevada to represent Daria
- 6 Harper; is that correct?
- 7 A. That's my understanding.
- 8 Q. And the attorney in Arizona, his name
- 9 was Adam Palmer?
- 10 A. That's my understanding.
- 11 Q. Were you present during the deposition
- 12 of Will Collins when he testified about composing an
- 13 e-mail to Adam Palmer with your input?
- 14 A. No.
- MR. BLUMBERG: Let me see if I can put
- 16 up the document. I think that's Exhibit 29.
- 17 (Exhibit 29 marked.)
- 18 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 19 Q. Do you recall being in the room with
- 20 Will Collins when he was writing an e-mail to Adam
- 21 Palmer?
- 22 A. I don't recall. I'm not saying I
- 23 wasn't. I certainly could have been.
- Q. Well, he testified that when he was
- 25 writing this e-mail you were in the room with him

- 1 and you were kind of writing it together.
- 2 Do you have a recollection of that?
- 3 A. No. But if he said that, then I was.
- 4 Q. Okay. I'm going to put up 29.
- 5 A. Yeah, thank you.
- 6 Q. Do you recall seeing this e-mail before?
- 7 A. No. I'm looking at it right now.
- 8 Okay. I've read it.
- 9 Q. Do you recall seeing this e-mail before
- 10 it was sent?
- 11 A. I don't, but I'm not saying I didn't.
- MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to bring up
- 13 Exhibit 30.
- 14 (Exhibit 30 marked.)
- 15 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 16 Q. Exhibit 30 is an e-mail that you sent to
- 17 Alan Schiffman. There we go.
- Do you recall sending this e-mail? It's
- 19 dated January 21, 2020.
- A. Yeah, I would have sent this.
- 21 Q. And would you say --
- 22 A. Can you narrow it down, John? Because I
- 23 can't see the right-hand margin. It's -- you and
- 24 David and Karen are --
- 25 Q. (Indicating.)

Page 99 1 That will do it. Α. 2 Q. Is that better? 3 Α. Yeah, perfect. Thank you very much. 4 Okay. The question? 5 Q. Was everything in the e-mail intended by 6 you to be true? 7 Α. You have to let me read it. 8 Yeah, that still -- that's more or less 9 pretty accurate. 10 Q. Do you see the line where it says, "One 11 thing is certain re their lien claims, is that they 12 would have had the responsibility to pay these 13 benefits regardless of our lawsuit." 14 Do you see that line? 15 Α. Yeah, I do. 16 What benefits are you referring to? Q. 17 Α. Her -- her Arizona workers' comp 18 benefits. Once they started paying them -- in my 19 view, paying as a volunteer -- they were going to 20 continue. Point number one. 21 Point number two, Daria Harper, based 22 upon my discussions and my medical literature, once 23 she got to Havasu she was quadriplegic and that 24 wasn't going to get any better. 25 And so, you know, they weren't paying

- 1 because of the negligence of what happened after she
- 2 left Lake Havasu -- I mean Havasu Regional Medical
- 3 Center.
- 4 The next issue, as we already
- 5 discussed multiple times today, is that her surgery
- 6 for her knee replacement wasn't related to her
- 7 August 11th, 2014, fall.
- 8 Q. Right. I remember all that testimony.
- 9 My question is when you wrote "One thing is certain
- 10 re their lien claims, is that they would have had
- 11 the responsibility to pay these benefits regardless
- 12 of our lawsuit."
- 13 A. Once they started to pay, for whatever
- 14 reason, in my view they had a responsibility to
- 15 continue to pay, whatever their rationale for paying
- 16 it was to begin with.
- 17 The issue was, is that she was unable to
- 18 walk. She was quadriplegic before she got to
- 19 Valley. Valley's where the alleged negligence
- 20 occurred.
- We had -- we'll get into it, I assume,
- 22 at some point, causation issues in this case, as I
- 23 said here in this e-mail. We weren't going to
- 24 overcome them.
- 25 But she was already quadriplegic at

- 1 Havasu Regional Medical Center. If that's the basis
- 2 upon which they were paying, they were going to have
- 3 to continue to pay, because her continued
- 4 quadriplegia and her inability and her neurological
- 5 status wasn't as a result of the negligence that
- 6 occurred at Valley, period. And that's what that
- 7 meant.
- 8 Q. Was it your opinion during the
- 9 litigation that Daria's entire disability and all of
- 10 her economic damages were unrelated to -- strike
- 11 that. Let me go about it this way.
- 12 Isn't it true that in your prosecution
- 13 of the Nevada lawsuit, that you claimed that Daria
- 14 Harper's entire disability and all of her economic
- 15 damages were caused by the malpractice in Nevada?
- 16 A. Did we advocate that position? Yeah, we
- 17 did. We -- we did advocate that position. But as
- 18 you well know, there's a distinction between
- 19 advocacy and reality.
- Q. Well, I'm going to move to strike that
- 21 second sentence.
- 22 My question is, you advocated in the
- 23 Nevada lawsuit that all of her economic damages and
- 24 her entire disability were caused by the malpractice
- 25 of the Nevada healthcare providers, correct?

- 1 A. That's -- that's -- that's what we
- 2 advocated.
- 3 Q. Thank you.
- 4 And isn't it true that you filed
- 5 declarations of doctors that essentially said the
- 6 same thing?
- 7 A. No. You've got to read those
- 8 declarations very carefully because they were
- 9 very -- they were drafted in a fashion that was --
- 10 they were very carefully drafted with respect to the
- 11 causation issue in the case. And --
- 12 Q. Is it your opinion that Daria Harper was
- 13 paralyzed when she left Havasu, before she arrived
- 14 at Valley Hospital?
- 15 A. A hundred percent. Her diagnosis in the
- 16 emergency room was quadriplegia.
- 17 Q. I'm asking what your understanding was.
- 18 A. Yes.
- MR. KJAR: He's trying to tell you.
- THE WITNESS: I'm trying to tell you.
- 21 Yes, she was.
- MR. KJAR: Do you want the basis of his
- 23 understanding?
- 24 THE WITNESS: She was paralyzed. She
- 25 was paralyzed when she got to Havasu, and she was

- 1 paralyzed when they intubated her to -- to protect
- 2 her airway, and she was paralyzed when she got in
- 3 that helicopter, and the triage diagnosis at Valley
- 4 was quadriplegia.
- 5 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 6 Q. I'm going to recall Exhibit 6. 6 is the
- 7 answers -- interrogatory answers propound -- the
- 8 answers to interrogatories propounded by
- 9 Dr. Davidson. Give me a second.
- 10 6 is -- excuse me.
- 11 Exhibit 6 is on the screen. I'm looking
- 12 at the answer to Interrogatory 15.
- 13 A. I got it. Okay.
- 14 You just lost me there.
- 15 Q. Is the document --
- 16 A. Yeah, could you scroll up a little bit,
- 17 John, please.
- 18 Q. Up or down?
- 19 A. The other way. Other way. Thank you.
- 20 Keep going. Stop. Stop. Okay. Got it.
- 21 Q. All right. So the interrogatory asks,
- 22 "If you contend that Defendant Jeffrey Davidson,
- 23 M.D., failed to comply with the standard of care
- 24 concerning your care and treatment, please state in
- 25 your own words how Dr. Davidson fell below the

- 1 standard."
- 2 And then in the answer it says, "The
- 3 failure to comply with the standard of care caused a
- 4 delay in diagnosis of an abscess, and Ms. Harper's
- 5 spinal cord was irreparably damaged, resulting in
- 6 paralysis."
- 7 A. Right.
- 8 Q. Okay? It says see also affidavit of
- 9 Michael Ritter filed with the complaint. Okay?
- 10 A. Yep.
- 11 Q. So let me bring up the declaration of
- 12 Dr. Ritter. And that is Exhibit 4. It's not on the
- 13 screen yet. I'm still doing some stuff here.
- 14 Is the document up?
- 15 A. It is, yeah.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. John, can you scroll -- shrink it down a
- 18 little bit? Because I can't see the right-hand
- 19 side.
- 20 Q. Let me -- how's that?
- 21 A. Better. Perfect. Thank you.
- 22 Q. Paragraph 6 on page 2 of the Ritter
- 23 affidavit says, "It is also my opinion, to a
- 24 reasonable degree of medical probability, had
- 25 Ms. Harper received earlier medical treatment,

- 1 compliant with the standard of care, she would not
- 2 be paralyzed." Right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You're getting some significant
- 5 backlighting from the -- from the blinds. I'm
- 6 wondering if you can turn them a different direction
- 7 so that it's not affecting the screen.
- 8 A. How's that?
- 9 Q. That's better. Thank you.
- 10 Give me one second. I've got to call up
- 11 another document here.
- Okay. I'm going to bring up Exhibit 17,
- 13 which is the expert declarations. And specifically,
- 14 this is the declaration of Dr. Ciacci, at
- 15 paragraph 14.
- 16 Can you see the document?
- 17 A. Yes, very well. Thank you.
- 18 Q. Okay. And at paragraph 14 he says,
- 19 "Next, it is my opinion to a reasonable degree of
- 20 medical certainty that Ms. Harper's neurological
- 21 function was -- continued to be salvageable on
- June 10, 2015. In that regard, it is my opinion to
- 23 a reasonable degree of medical certainty that had
- 24 Ms. Harper been properly evaluated and treated on
- June 9, 2015, she would have been taken to surgery

- 1 to drain the abscess, which would have avoided
- 2 permanent injury to her spinal cord such that she
- 3 would not be paralyzed today."
- 4 Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Do you know what kind of doctor Joseph
- 7 Ciacci is?
- 8 A. He's a neurosurgeon.
- 9 Q. Okay. Now going to the law firm in
- 10 Nevada that you had located. That was Pisanelli
- 11 Bice law firm. Do you recall that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And you wanted that firm to file a
- 14 declaratory relief action in Nevada to establish
- that CopperPoint had no lien, correct?
- 16 A. That was the discussion that this office
- 17 had with them.
- 18 Q. And do you recall signing their retainer
- 19 agreement?
- A. I think if they sent it to me, I would
- 21 have signed it.
- MR. BLUMBERG: All right. Let me bring
- 23 up Exhibit 31.
- 24 (Exhibit 31 marked.)
- 25 ///

- 1 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 2 Q. Do you see 31 on the screen?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. "Yes"?
- 5 A. Yes. I'm sorry. Yes. Sorry.
- 6 Q. Okay. And this is a letter from
- 7 Pisanelli Bice dated January 27, 2020, and it's sent
- 8 to Daria Harper, care of your office.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And on the third -- excuse me, fourth
- 11 page, it appears to have your signature on the
- 12 document; is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Your firm sent a \$15,000 retainer to the
- 15 Pisanelli Bice firm. Do you recall that?
- 16 A. (Audio distortion.)
- 17 Q. What was the source of that money?
- 18 A. (Audio distortion.)
- 19 Q. You're cutting out.
- 20 (Reporter clarification.)
- THE WITNESS: The source of the money
- 22 was money we held back in the trust account to cover
- 23 these types of expenses.
- 24 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 25 Q. Do you recall in the letter that you

- 1 agreed to that it said that you and your law firm,
- 2 Law Offices of Marshall Silberberg, have agreed to
- 3 be responsible for the firm's retainer and payment
- 4 of the firm's invoices?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. And what was your understanding of that?
- 7 That you would be responsible by paying the clients'
- 8 money?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. And you also paid the \$5,000 out of the
- 11 clients' trust account monies to Adam Palmer in
- 12 Arizona?
- 13 A. I believe so.
- 14 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to go now to --
- 15 well, let me just check one more box. Let me bring
- 16 up Exhibit 32.
- 17 (Exhibit 32 marked.)
- 18 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 19 Q. You received a demand from Alan
- 20 Schiffman to refund to Daria and Daniel all the
- 21 money you were holding in your trust account,
- 22 correct?
- A. I believe I did, yes.
- Q. Okay. I'm bringing up 32, and 32 is a
- 25 check from your office of \$259,000.

Page 109 1 Do you recognize this check? 2 Α. I do. 3 (Exhibit 33 marked.) BY MR. BLUMBERG: 4 5 Q. Now, going to Exhibit 33, 33 has a 6 collection of four pages. The first page is a distribution -- it says, "Distribution Sheet -7 Fagel." 8 9 Do you recognize this? 10 No, but it's -- it's what we have. Α. 11 Correct, I see it. 12 Q. And the second page is signed by Janette 13 Dockstader, a letter to Tom Alch enclosing a check 14 for \$28,268, which -- it says, "which represents 15 your portion of fees on the matter." 16 How did you know what the fees were? 17 Α. I don't remember. I think Tom told me 18 what his -- what he had Bruce had agreed to. 19 Q. And the third page of the document has 20 copies of a check to Law Office of Bruce Fagel for 21 \$540,026, and a check to Tom Alch for \$28,268. 22 Were those the amounts you were -- you 23 were told by Tom Alch and Bruce Fagel to make the 24 checks out to? 25 (Audio distortion.) Α.

Page 110 1 Q. Is the answer "yes"? 2 Α. (Audio distortion) -- that's between he 3 and Bruce. 4 Q. I'm sorry. Your answer cut out. I 5 don't know if the court reporter got it. MR. BLUMBERG: Madam Court Reporter, did 6 7 you get this answer? 8 (The record is read by the reporter.) 9 THE WITNESS: No, that's not what I 10 said. 11 THE REPORTER: Repeat your answer. 12 THE WITNESS: The answer, John, is Tom 13 gave me the percentage breakdown between he and 14 Bruce, and based upon that, I issued the checks. 15 Did you get that? 16 BY MR. BLUMBERG: 17 Q. Yes, I got that. 18 So the information -- so the information 19 was solely from Tom Alch? 20 Α. I believe so. And then the last page of this exhibit 21 Q. 22 is a letter to Kristyann Brodecki of Bruce Fagel's 23 office enclosing the check to Bruce Fagel. 24 And this was sent with your authority,

correct?

25

Page 111 1 Α. Yes. 2 Q. Was there ever a consent by the clients 3 for payment of these fees? 4 An actual written consent? I don't 5 believe so. I don't remember. They were advised 6 that I was -- I was --7 (Audio distortion). 8 (Reporter clarification.) 9 THE WITNESS: They were told in that, as 10 you described it, as a generic letter, about Bruce 11 and Tom's involvement. And in the fee agreement it 12 says I may send referral fees to other lawyers. 13 But did they -- did they specifically 14 sign anything? I don't believe so. 15 MR. BLUMBERG: Okay. I don't have any 16 further questions. I'm going to take a recess right 17 now. I'm going to send the exhibits to -- you wanted me to send it to Janette in your office? 18 19 THE WITNESS: Yeah. It's Janette --20 J-A-N-E-T-T-E -- @Silberberglaw.com. I'll let her 21 know that they're coming. 22 Do you want to take ten minutes? Or 23 David, do you have questions? 24 MR. CLARK: If I do, there are very few, 25 but I would like to see the exhibits.

Page 112 1 MR. BLUMBERG: Okay. I'm going to send both of you a link. David, would you give me your 2 3 e-mail? 4 MR. CLARK: DClark -- D-C-L-A-R-K --5 @LipsonNeilson.com. L-I-P-S-O-N-N-E-I-L-S-O-N, one 6 word, LipsonNeilson.com. 7 MR. BLUMBERG: S-O-N? MR. CLARK: S-O-N, yes. 8 9 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to send a 10 download link to both of your offices so you can 11 download all these exhibits. Shall we take 15? 12 Would that work for everybody? 13 THE WITNESS: Why don't we do 20, John, 14 just so they can get it and review it. 15 MR. BLUMBERG: We can take 20 or 30. 16 Jim and David, what do you need? 17 MR. KJAR: How about 15 minutes and then 18 we'll come back? I have a few questions. 19 MR. CLARK: Can we do 20? MR. BLUMBERG: 20 it is. All right, 20 21 we're off the record. 22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off the record at 2:00 p.m. 23 24 (A recess was taken.) 25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the

Page 113 1 record at 2:27 p.m. **EXAMINATION** 2 3 BY MR. CLARK: 4 I guess it's my turn. Q. 5 Α. Yeah, that's fine. 6 Q. Mr. Silberberg, my name is David Clark. 7 I'm an attorney representing Tom Alch and Shoop 8 Professional Law Corporation. 9 Can you hear me well enough? 10 Α. I can. 11 Q. I don't have a whole lot of questions. 12 If I understood your testimony 13 correctly, it was your understanding that Tom Alch 14 was simply going to be local counsel, and then when 15 discovery started, he was going to have no further 16 involvement. Do I recall that correctly from your testimony? 17 18 Α. Yes. That's basically right, correct. 19 Okay. As I understand it, he never Q. appeared at any depositions? 20 21 Α. That's correct. 22 Either defending or taking? Q. 23 That's correct. Α. 24 Q. If I understand, he never even appeared 25 as local counsel at the depositions; is that

- 1 correct?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. And he did not have any involvement in
- 4 creating the fee agreement that you had with the
- 5 plaintiffs?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Do you know if he had any
- 8 discussions, direct communications, with either of
- 9 the plaintiffs?
- 10 A. I don't -- I don't have any recollection
- 11 that he did.
- 12 Q. Do you have any recollection or evidence
- 13 that you asked him to communicate directly with the
- 14 plaintiffs?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Okay. You already -- already testified
- 17 that he did not attend or participate in the
- 18 mediation; is that correct?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. And when you had discussions with the
- 21 plaintiffs regarding your opinions on the validity
- 22 of CopperPoint's claim lien, was he involved in any
- 23 of those conversations with the plaintiffs?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. When you -- when the plaintiffs -- when

- 1 the defendants paid their monies, all the monies
- 2 went to you, correct?
- A. Right.
- 4 Q. And then you distributed them pursuant
- 5 to your agreement with the plaintiffs; is that
- 6 right?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. And did Mr. Alch have any involvement in
- 9 those decisions?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. You had indicated in your letter
- 12 to the plaintiffs, I think it's Exhibit 5, that you
- 13 had worked with Bruce Fagel and Tom Alch in the
- 14 past. That was in the letter --
- 15 A. Yes. Yes.
- 16 Q. Did you have any prior professional
- 17 relationship with the Shoop Law Corporation?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. To your understanding, in this matter
- 20 did you have any communication or involvement with
- 21 the Shoop Law Corporation aside from Tom Alch?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. I'll represent to you that the principal
- 24 of Shoop Law Corporation is David Shoop. Do you
- 25 know him?

- 1 A. I do not.
- 2 Q. Okay. The ongoing efforts you made
- 3 to retain later Nevada counsel and Arizona counsel,
- 4 was Mr. Alch or Shoop involved in any of those
- 5 efforts?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Is it fair to say that after you sent
- 8 Mr. -- Mr. Alch his check, I think it was in August
- 9 of 2018, that he had no further involvement in these
- 10 related matters?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. Now, you indicated that when Mr. Alch
- 13 went from Bruce Fagel's firm to the Shoop firm, you
- 14 just assumed he was going to still be involved in
- 15 this case?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. But did you ever communicate with
- 18 him directly to confirm that?
- 19 A. Not that I remember.
- Q. Did you ever communicate with the Shoop
- 21 law firm to confirm that?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Did you ever confirm that with Bruce
- 24 Fagel?
- A. No. I never talked to Bruce.

- 1 Q. I think in response to questioning on
- 2 Exhibit 8, which was a letter you sent to
- 3 CopperPoint in October of 2016, there was a copy to
- 4 Tom Alch indicated in that letter.
- 5 Do you recall that testimony?
- 6 A. I do. I recall that exhibit with the cc
- 7 to Tom Alch and I think to Anna Schiffman.
- 8 Q. Okay. I think in response to
- 9 Mr. Blumberg's questioning, you said you didn't see
- any reason it was copied to him, just to keep him in
- 11 the loop?
- 12 A. Yeah, I don't know. I don't know what
- 13 the protocol was.
- 14 Q. Did Mr. Alch have any involvement in
- 15 negotiations with CopperPoint over their claimed
- 16 lien?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. You expressed your opinion to the
- 19 plaintiffs that in your opinion CopperPoint did not
- 20 have a valid lien against the Nevada malpractice
- 21 settlement proceeds; is that correct?
- A. Right.
- Q. Was Mr. Alch involved in your coming to
- 24 that opinion?
- 25 A. No. I mean -- no.

- 1 Q. And I may have already asked this: He
- 2 was not involved in your communications of that
- 3 opinion to the plaintiffs, correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. I will represent to you that in one of
- 6 the releases I've seen, I think it was one of the
- 7 million-dollar releases, there's a signature of
- 8 yours on behalf of Thomas Alch and the Shoop
- 9 Professional Law Corporation.
- 10 My question to you is did you have --
- 11 are you aware of any authority you had to speak for
- 12 the Shoop Professional Law Corporation during
- 13 this -- during this case?
- 14 A. No.
- MR. CLARK: Okay. With that, I'll pass
- 16 the witness.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Thanks, David.
- 18 EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MR. KJAR:
- 20 Q. This is Kjar. I have a few questions.
- 21 Mr. Silberberg, as of the time of the
- 22 mediation, after you'd had a chance to fully work
- 23 this case up and you and Mr. Collins had a chance to
- 24 confer with your experts and evaluate this case, did
- you have an opinion as to the likelihood of your

- 1 ability to win this case for Mr. and Mrs. Harper?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What was that opinion?
- 4 A. That we would most likely lose this case
- 5 on the second issue of causation.
- 6 Q. And could you explain the basis of
- 7 the -- of that opinion that you held when you
- 8 decided to settle this case --
- 9 A. Sure. Sure.
- 10 Q. -- for \$6.2 million?
- 11 A. Right. The -- the -- as we've discussed
- 12 and Mr. Blumberg and I discussed, the -- the issues
- 13 of negligence were not going to be an issue, but the
- 14 problem we had in this case was -- and before
- 15 mediation, was that the -- the literature did not
- 16 support our position.
- 17 Dr. Ciacci, who was a neurosurgeon, went
- 18 radio silence on us, and when we did get an
- 19 opportunity to speak with him, he said that
- 20 causation would be a very difficult issue, as did
- 21 Dr. Ritter. I had multiple discussions with Mike
- 22 Ritter, and he said that causation in this case
- 23 would be a very difficult issue to overcome.
- In addition to that, as a result of
- 25 that, I spoke -- curbside consult -- with Ivar

Kenneth Marshall Silberberg Daria Harper, et al. v. CopperPoint Mutual Insurance Holding Company Page 120 1 Szper, who I think Mr. Blumberg probably knows at 2 that point was a neurosurgeon in Long Beach, and he 3 would not support the causation based upon the fact 4 that Daria had had motor symptoms three days before, 5 had collapsed at home, and was quadriplegic when she 6 got to Valley. 7 The literature supports the position 8 that what motor deficits you have at the time you 9 enter a healthcare facility is what you -- the best 10 you can expect. 11 As a result of that, I had a case with 12 Duncan McBride, the chief of neurosurgery at Harbor 13 UCLA. Duncan has seen a lot of these cases because 14 of his involvement at Harbor UCLA, and he echoed the 15 same opinions as did Dr. Szper --16 (Audio distortion.) 17 (Reporter clarification.) 18 THE WITNESS: S-Z-P-E-R. 19 In addition, the defendants added some 20 substantial experts on the issue of causation. 21 One was a prominent spine neurosurgeon from 22 Georgetown --23 (Audio distortion.) 24 (Reporter clarification.) 25 THE WITNESS: Georgetown University.

Page 121 1 Georgetown. 2 In addition, there was a Dr. Park, a 3 neurosurgeon in -- affiliated with Cedars in 4 West L.A., all of which stated opinions that we had 5 received ---6 (Audio distortion.) 7 THE WITNESS: The problem was that in 8 these cases, the spinal epidural abscess cases, 9 which I've handled a few before this case, my 10 experience is that the fact that Daria had entered 11 the hospital in Lake Havasu with a quadriplegia and 12 had matriculated to Valley with the triage diagnosis 13 of quadriplegia, that there wasn't --14 (Audio distortion.) 15 (Reporter clarification.) 16 BY MR. Kjar: 17 Q. Let me ask a new question. 18 Were there any other factors that 19 affected your decision to settle this case and 20 caused you to be concerned that you would not win 21 it? 22 Α. Other than the causation issues --23 Q. You were saying something about the 24 mediation? 25 At the mediation I certainly had Α.

- 1 discussions with the mediator. The mediator had
- 2 discussions with our client. We had had discussions
- 3 with our clients about the likelihood of losing this
- 4 case on causation. Judge Bell, in discussions
- 5 with -- during the course of the mediation confirmed
- 6 that, indicating that, you know, 85, 90 percent of
- 7 med mal cases in the state of Nevada are won by the
- 8 defense.
- 9 So taking that into consideration, all
- 10 of that, it was obviously in our best interest to
- 11 settle this case, which we did for 6.25 million,
- 12 which was a lot of money when one considers what our
- 13 obstacles were.
- 14 Q. Now, your associate, Mr. Collins, did he
- 15 also speak with your experts, particularly experts
- 16 like Dr. Ciacci and your radiology expert,
- 17 Dr. Dorros?
- 18 A. Yes. He did the initial conversations
- 19 with them.
- 20 Q. Did you have any discussions with
- 21 Mr. Collins prior to and at the time you settled the
- 22 case about what he had learned from those experts,
- 23 particularly on causation?
- 24 A. Well, Dr. Dorros had made comments that
- 25 Dr. Jerome Barakos, who was the neuroradiologist

- 1 from San Francisco -- an expert who I have used in
- 2 the past, is a very persuasive expert -- was of the
- 3 view that the initial MRI taken on the 10th showed
- 4 infarctions which would have dated it back to at the
- 5 time probably before she got to Valley.
- 6 Dorros said he could -- he could play
- 7 with that or could dispute that; however, he also
- 8 said if pushed, those types of infarcts might not
- 9 present themselves for a couple of days.
- So we were -- we were stuck with some
- 11 pretty persuasive adverse testimony as it related to
- 12 the June 10th MRI.
- 13 Q. Did you have an understanding through
- 14 Collins, through Dr. Dorros or your other experts as
- 15 to whether or not subsequent imaging studies
- 16 following the initial ones did, in fact, show large
- 17 infarcts to her spinal cord?
- 18 A. Yes, the entire cord. The abscess went
- 19 from her cervical all the way down to her lumbar,
- and she did, in fact, infarct her cord.
- 21 Q. Did you have an understanding, based on
- your discussions with Mr. Collins, as to whether or
- 23 not your radiology expert, Dr. Dorros, thought that
- 24 would be problematic for your case?
- 25 A. Yes. He thought it would -- indeed

- 1 thought it would be problematic for the case as to
- 2 the timing of her injury. Which corresponds with
- 3 the fact, of course, that she was indeed
- 4 quadriplegic at home and was quadriplegic when she
- 5 got to Valley Hospital.
- 6 Q. Based on your discussions with
- 7 Mr. Collins, what -- what did you learn
- 8 specifically, particularly for Dr. Dorros, as to why
- 9 the fact that subsequent imaging showed massive
- 10 infarcts of the spinal cord would be problematic for
- 11 your case?
- 12 A. Because they can take a period of time
- 13 before they manifest themselves, before there's a
- 14 signal intensity change on the MRI. And as a result
- 15 of that, he couldn't and he wouldn't support to a
- 16 reasonable degree of medical probability that it
- 17 wasn't --
- 18 (Audio distortion.)
- 19 (Reporter clarification.)
- 20 THE WITNESS: -- that it was not
- 21 present, as Dr. Barakos had stated in his
- 22 declaration.
- 23 BY MR. KJAR:
- 24 Q. Taking all of these factors into
- 25 consideration, why did you settle her case for

- 1 \$6.2 million instead of taking it to trial?
- 2 A. Well, because if you take it to trial
- and lose, she gets nothing. With the \$6.25 million,
- 4 assuming that there isn't some sort of lien issue,
- 5 she is still going to obtain a net settlement of
- 6 well over a million dollars, which would take care
- 7 of a lot of her needs, and it was in her best
- 8 interest to settle the case.
- 9 She had the choice. We laid everything
- 10 out to her at the mediation. We gave our
- 11 recommendations.
- But she and Daniel, as two competent
- 13 adults, made the decision to resolve the case and
- 14 not take the risk of getting zero and take the risk
- of a potential cost fills by these defense lawyers
- 16 would be obviously reduced to use against her.
- 17 Q. Is it a fair statement that based on
- 18 your evaluation --
- 19 (Audio distortion.)
- 20 (Reporter clarification.)
- 21 BY MR. KJAR:
- 22 Q. Based upon your evaluation of the case
- and the information you received from your medical
- 24 experts, particularly the neurosurgeons, a Dr. Szper
- 25 and McBride, as well as Dr. Ciacci and Dr. Ritter,

- 1 did you have an opinion to a reasonable legal
- 2 probability when you settled that case as to whether
- 3 or not you would win or not?
- 4 A. Yeah, I thought it was more probable.
- 5 Not that we would lose. I had been down that road
- 6 as a defense lawyer and won multiple cases on the
- 7 issue of causation when I was defending physicians
- 8 in hospitals. And if the defendants had admitted
- 9 negligence, it would have been even more probable
- 10 that we would not have prevailed. I thought it was
- 11 more likely that we would lose on that issue, and I
- 12 had to so advise my clients to that.
- 13 Q. Why did you think that if the defendants
- 14 admitted negligence, that would be -- make your case
- 15 more difficult to win?
- 16 A. Because the optics on the deviations
- 17 from the standard of care were pretty impressive.
- 18 There had been some mistakes. So they would reduce
- 19 all that. I mean, they would eliminate that. They
- would eliminate those bad optics, come in and fall
- 21 on the sword that what they did, they delayed.
- However, it's the all Chick Hearn, "No harm, no
- 23 foul." And they'd get rid of all of the sexy
- 24 arguments we would have had.
- Q. Did you have an understanding from

- 1 things you learned at the mediation or speaking with
- 2 defense lawyers prior to the mediation that
- 3 conceding the negligence aspect of the case was
- 4 something they were tactically thinking of doing?
- 5 A. That was a -- an issue that they had --
- 6 they were considering. Now, nobody came to me and
- 7 said we are going to do it. But was it being
- 8 considered? Absolutely.
- 9 Q. Did that concern you?
- 10 A. Of course.
- 11 Q. Did you exercise your professional
- 12 judgment based upon your knowledge, your learning
- 13 and your experience in ultimately advising the
- 14 plaintiffs to accept \$6.2 million to settle this
- 15 case?
- 16 A. Of course.
- 17 Q. Did you think that was an appropriate
- 18 and reasonable exercise of your judgment?
- 19 A. It was actually the only logical and
- 20 prudent judgment that one could exercise taking into
- 21 account the issues that we were faced with.
- Q. Did you consider that even if in some
- 23 way, shape or form CopperPoint was allowed to assert
- 24 a \$2.7 million lien against your clients'
- 25 recoveries, as to whether or not a \$6.2 million

- 1 settlement would still be of benefit to them?
- A. Of course. I mean, A, there was no lien
- 3 rights. There was never any lien filed. There was
- 4 never any lien claimed.
- 5 But let's take your question at face
- 6 value. They still would have -- after fees and
- 7 costs, they still would have netted out well over a
- 8 million dollars.
- 9 Q. Did you have an opinion as to whether or
- 10 not that would have been able to assist her with
- 11 whatever future needs she had?
- 12 A. Sure.
- 13 Q. What was your general understanding as
- 14 to what Ms. Harper really needed in terms of future
- 15 needs, notwithstanding what was in your life care
- 16 plan?
- 17 A. Well, she had been at Craig Hospital
- 18 for -- I don't know, for what was -- a year. They
- 19 plateaued her and stabilized her with respect to her
- 20 physical and occupational therapy needs and had
- 21 gotten her ready. So those really weren't an issue.
- 22 She did need assistance -- I mean, she's
- 23 a tetraplegic -- and Daniel was providing that care
- 24 for her. She occasionally needed to go and see
- 25 neurologists and physical medicine physicians. But

- 1 those visits were few and far between.
- 2 So she obviously needed more -- more
- 3 frequent medical visits. Daniel was providing care
- 4 for her, which she needed.
- 5 And that was kind of what her needs
- 6 were.
- 7 Q. In your opinion, at any time while the
- 8 Nevada claim was filed and pending and being
- 9 litigated and right up to the day you settled that
- 10 case, did CopperPoint ever assert a lien in that
- 11 case?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Did they file any type of formal
- 14 pleading in the Nevada case attempting to assert a
- 15 lien?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Did they file a complaint in
- 18 intervention?
- 19 A. No.
- Q. Did they file a notice of lien in your
- 21 case?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. You received information from
- 24 CopperPoint about the amount of money that they had
- 25 paid to the plaintiff in terms of prior benefits,

- 1 correct?
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. How would you use that?
- 4 A. Well, you use it -- if you had to go to
- 5 trial, you would use it as a benchmark for the past
- 6 medicals. You would try to board the money that
- 7 actually had been paid to show the extent of the
- 8 past medical specials.
- 9 Q. In your view, based on your research and
- 10 your understanding of Nevada law and your consulting
- 11 with any other lawyers who practiced in Nevada --
- 12 and by the way, did you consult with some of the
- 13 defense lawyers who had been practicing in Nevada
- 14 their whole career as medical malpractice lawyers as
- 15 to whether or not CopperPoint could assert a lien?
- 16 A. I did.
- 17 Q. And what -- what did you take away from
- 18 those discussions?
- 19 A. That the statute since its inception did
- 20 not permit liens.
- 21 Q. And based upon your research in Nevada
- 22 law, including this McCrosky case as you described
- 23 it, what did that show in terms of whether or not
- 24 CopperPoint could assert a lien?
- 25 A. Well, there was no caselaw that said --

- 1 that said the statute was not viable and
- 2 enforceable, and the -- that portion of the McCrosky
- 3 case upheld provisions of that statute. And so --
- 4 and quite frankly, I mean, there's a lot of
- 5 plaintiffs' lawyers in Las Vegas and other places
- 6 that I'm sure -- I'm sure attempted at some point to
- 7 try and challenge, and there had been no -- there'd
- 8 been no challenges, to my knowledge, that had been
- 9 successful.
- So at that point when we had this case,
- 11 that was the law of Nevada. It was the law in
- 12 Nevada when we settled the case.
- 13 Q. Did you think it was reasonable for you
- 14 to settle this case on the assumption that
- 15 CopperPoint could not assert a lien against the
- 16 \$6 million recovery based upon all the factors
- 17 you've discussed: your legal research, your
- 18 speaking with plaintiff lawyers in Nevada, your
- 19 discussing this with the mediator, and your
- 20 discussions with the lawyers who were defending the
- 21 case who had been practicing medical malpractice
- work in Nevada for many, many years?
- A. Yeah, I don't think Daria and Daniel had
- 24 any choice. It was a case -- I think we had a
- 25 September, October trial date. So -- and we hadn't

- 1 designated -- we hadn't taken expert depos yet. And
- 2 that would have, in my view, if we had gotten
- 3 involved in expert discovery, would have hollowed
- 4 out the value of this case, and especially if they
- 5 had admitted negligence.
- 6 So this was a case that was ripe for
- 7 mediation, the mediator agreed it was ripe for
- 8 mediation, and that was -- that was our position and
- 9 those were our recommendations, and they
- 10 independently evaluated our recommendations and
- 11 agreed to accept them.
- 12 Q. How many medical malpractice cases had
- 13 you tried as a trial lawyer when you settled this
- 14 case, approximately?
- 15 A. To verdict?
- 16 Q. Correct. Including arbitrations.
- 17 A. In excess of 250.
- 18 Q. Based upon your experience as a
- 19 medical -- by the way, did you try cases as a
- 20 defense lawyer too?
- 21 A. Oh, yeah. That's what I'm including in
- the 250. As a plaintiffs' lawyer you don't want to
- 23 try cases.
- Q. So based upon the 250 or so cases that
- 25 you arbitrated and tried as both a medical

- 1 malpractice defense lawyer and a medical malpractice
- 2 plaintiff lawyer, did you think your case was going
- 3 to get better or worse if it didn't settle at the
- 4 mediation?
- 5 A. Well, if we had to engage in expert
- 6 discovery, the causation issue, it would have gotten
- 7 a lot worse.
- 8 Q. Why did you hold that opinion when you
- 9 recommended to the Harpers that they accept
- 10 \$6.2 million to settle the case?
- 11 A. Because of the -- of the significant
- 12 danger and risk of losing the case on causation.
- 13 Q. And you learned that from discussions
- 14 with your experts; is that correct?
- 15 A. Yeah. And looking at the declarations
- 16 from the defense experts.
- 17 Q. And you had -- you had tried cases
- 18 involving paralysis, epidural abscesses, prior to
- 19 this, correct?
- 20 A. I had not -- I don't know if I tried
- 21 one, but I'd certainly handled them.
- Q. Were you familiar with the medical
- 23 literature on the subject of how -- the degree of
- 24 recovery which a patient can expect following the
- 25 diagnosis of an epidural abscess and spinal cord

- 1 injuries?
- 2 A. Yeah, I was intimately familiar with the
- 3 literature.
- 4 Q. What did it tell you in that regard?
- 5 A. The literature was very clear that if
- 6 you enter a hospital with the primary symptom of
- 7 severe back pain but you're neurologically intact,
- 8 then there is a window of opportunity for surgery.
- 9 Those who enter a healthcare facility
- 10 who are -- have neurological deficits, it's very
- 11 clear that in 85 to 90 percent of those patients
- 12 those deficits don't get better and can, indeed, get
- worse if there's a delay in making the diagnosis.
- 14 So those patients who enter with a fixed
- 15 neurological deficit, those deficits will remain.
- 16 And Daria entered Valley -- Valley -- excuse me,
- 17 Havasu Regional with complete flaccid paralysis, and
- when she was transferred at 5:00 in the morning to
- 19 Valley, as I said before, the triage diagnosis upon
- 20 her entry was quadriplegia.
- So that was the issue that Dr. Szper and
- 22 Dr. McBride said they couldn't -- you know, she was
- 23 never going to walk again, as I put in my e-mail to
- 24 Alan Schiffman.
- Q. Was that your state of mind and your

- 1 understanding as to the problems with causation in
- 2 this case when you recommended settlement for
- 3 \$6.2 million?
- 4 A. Absolutely. And those are the
- 5 discussions that we had with Daria and Daniel at the
- 6 mediation, the night before the mediation, and we
- 7 actually had these discussions before we met them in
- 8 Las Vegas for the mediation.
- 9 So this was not a discussion that we had
- 10 with them just the day of. These are discussions we
- 11 had -- I don't know exactly when, but days or a week
- or so before the mediation; we met them the night
- 13 before at Circus, where they were staying,
- 14 and had this long discussion with them; and then we
- 15 had the discussion with them during the course of
- the mediation, as did Judge Bell in his discussions.
- 17 Q. So this fatal causation issue to their
- 18 case as you evaluated was not something new or
- 19 something you sprung on them at the mediation; it
- was something that had been part of an ongoing
- 21 discussion for some time prior to the mediation. Is
- 22 that correct?
- A. A hundred percent.
- 24 Q. Okay. In your opinion, had you made
- 25 them aware of these issues well prior to the

- 1 mediation so they had adequate time to consider
- 2 them?
- 3 A. Of course.
- 4 Q. All right. I want to turn now to the
- 5 issue of whether or not Daria Harper in your view
- 6 had a meritorious medical malpractice case in
- 7 Arizona.
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. Did you reach an opinion on that issue?
- 10 A. I did.
- 11 Q. Did you discuss -- did you discuss that
- 12 issue with some of your experts?
- 13 A. I did. And with Daria and Daniel.
- 14 Q. And tell us what your opinion was on
- 15 whether or not she had a meritorious medical
- 16 malpractice case in Arizona.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 MR. BLUMBERG: You said in Arizona?
- 19 MR. KJAR: Correct, yes.
- MR. BLUMBERG: Thank you.
- 21 THE WITNESS: There were two prongs to
- 22 the Arizona evaluation. Prong number one was
- 23 whether or not the surgery which she had performed
- 24 in May of 2015, was there anything done with respect
- 25 to -- anything done that would deviate from the

- 1 standard of care, and the issue was very clearly no.
- 2 She had had -- as I indicated, she had what's called
- 3 this UKA procedure where she had -- because she had
- 4 Grade 4 chondromalacia, or bone-on-bone
- 5 osteoarthritis. So with respect to her -- her
- 6 arthroplasty, that was done correctly, there was no
- 7 post-op infection, and she was making a good
- 8 recovery. And so that was done well.
- 9 The next issue would have been when she
- 10 got to Havasu Regional Medical Center on June 8th
- 11 with respect to did they do anything to mishandle
- 12 it. Dr. Ritter was very clear that the ER doc
- 13 started her on the appropriate antibiotics, ordered
- 14 a CT scan and figured out that she needed a higher
- 15 level of care, and consulted in triage with Valley,
- set up the medical flight.
- 17 So they were -- they were
- 18 Johnny-on-the-spot with respect to getting her out
- 19 of -- of Havasu knowing that they did not have
- 20 neurosurgical coverage. And so she needed care.
- So from that standpoint, we were told
- there was just simply no evidence of any issue.
- 23 I discussed with Les Worcester, an
- 24 internist in Long Beach who does some infectious
- 25 disease stuff, and he said, Look, you know, the

- 1 cause in somebody like her of the epidural abscess
- 2 is -- is -- obesity is a known predictive risk
- 3 factor. There's no evidence of any infection
- 4 before, there's no evidence of infection, you know,
- 5 and because she was so morbidly obese, she did have
- 6 some issues with -- you know, some issues.
- 7 And so there was nothing we could even
- 8 correlate with respect to her epidural abscess. She
- 9 got it, you know, she was -- she was a person and a
- 10 patient who had risk factors for it, and that was
- 11 the issue.
- So there was no case in Arizona, and we
- 13 so advised her, and we couldn't file it.
- 14 BY MR. KJAR:
- 15 Q. And I believe you were shown in a prior
- 16 exhibit where she signed off on a letter you sent
- 17 her agreeing to that recommendation?
- 18 A. Exactly.
- 19 Q. Did you have an understanding as to
- 20 whether or not CopperPoint could file -- strike
- 21 that.
- 22 Did you have any type of understanding
- as to, assuming you did file a medical malpractice
- 24 case in Arizona, whether her comp carrier,
- 25 CopperPoint, could assert a lien in that case?

- 1 A. Well, I think technically they could
- 2 have. But in our view, there was no connection
- 3 between her epidural abscess and what they were --
- 4 and her fall which occurred on August 11, 2014, some
- 5 10, 11 months earlier. There was no just
- 6 connection.
- 7 Q. Let me go back to the Nevada case.
- 8 In your opinion and in your view as you
- 9 were handling this case, from the moment you filed
- 10 it until the moment you settled it, did CopperPoint
- 11 have a valid lien against that case?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Did they, in your view, ever attempt to
- 14 assert a valid, binding lien in the Nevada case?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. And the opinion that CopperPoint didn't
- 17 have a lien in your Nevada case, as you've already
- 18 said, was based upon your review of the Nevada
- 19 statute precluding such liens, correct?
- A. Right.
- 21 Q. Your review of the caselaw, including
- 22 the McCrosky case?
- A. Right.
- 24 Q. Your conversations with plaintiff
- 25 lawyers who practiced in Nevada, correct?

- 1 A. Defense lawyers primarily.
- 2 Q. And defense lawyers.
- The mediator, Judge Bell, correct?
- 4 A. Right.
- 5 Q. Now, you were shown Exhibit 19, and
- 6 specifically on page 2 there's a paragraph 3 here.
- 7 Now, it says, "On August 19th, 2015, the Defendant
- 8 Carrier issued a Notice of Claim Status indicating
- 9 that by virtue of ARS" -- that's an Arizona statute?
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. -- "the Defendants had a lien against
- 12 Applicants' recovery from the third party
- 13 responsible for her injuries." Right?
- 14 A. That's what it says.
- 15 Q. Now, on August 19th, 2015, had you even
- 16 filed the complaint?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. When was the complaint filed?
- 19 A. I believe June of 2016.
- 20 Q. All right. Is there any --
- A. I wasn't even -- I hadn't even been
- retained in the case on August 19th, 2015.
- 23 Q. Is there anything in paragraph 3, as you
- 24 read this, that grants CopperPoint a valid,
- 25 enforceable lien in the Nevada lawsuit that you

- 1 filed ten months later?
- 2 A. No. No. It doesn't even address
- 3 Nevada.
- 4 Q. In your view, did CopperPoint sending
- 5 you information about the amount of monies they paid
- 6 toward your client -- voluntarily, apparently --
- 7 through her workers' compensation benefits amount to
- 8 a formal lien in her Nevada lawsuit?
- 9 A. Of course not.
- 10 Q. Do you know who -- do you know who
- 11 CopperPoint sent this notice of claim status to on
- 12 August 19th, 2015?
- 13 A. I don't know. Let me look. I do not.
- 14 Q. And by the way, this statement of -- in
- 15 Exhibit 19 that you were shown, this is something
- 16 filed by CopperPoint in her workers' compensation
- 17 case in Arizona, right?
- 18 A. Right.
- 19 Q. Does that have -- did that -- does that
- 20 now or -- in your view, have any -- did that have
- 21 any effect on her pending medical malpractice case
- 22 in Nevada?
- A. No. And there was no medical
- 24 malpractice case pending in Nevada at the time --
- 25 that I know of -- that they say they filed this, in

- 1 August of 2015.
- 2 Q. This -- in fact, Exhibit 9 says it's a
- 3 petition for approval of a compromise and settlement
- 4 of claim with credit?
- 5 A. Right.
- 6 Q. They're making a claim for a potential
- 7 credit?
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. At some undefined point in the future,
- 10 correct?
- 11 A. That's what it looks like.
- 12 Q. But as far as you know, they never took
- 13 any legal steps to perfect and claim a lien in your
- 14 Nevada case; is that correct?
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. So is it correct that when you settled
- 17 this case for \$6.2 million on behalf of the Harpers,
- in your view and to the best of your knowledge
- 19 CopperPoint did not have a valid lien, they had not
- attempted to file a valid lien, and they would not
- 21 be permitted to file a valid lien and collect it in
- 22 your Nevada case; is that correct?
- A. That's right.
- Q. Okay. Why did you retain a law firm in
- 25 Nevada to evaluate the possibility of filing a

- 1 declaratory relief action?
- 2 A. To help Daria's potential issues in the
- 3 state of Arizona.
- 4 Q. Could you please expound upon that?
- 5 A. Sure. If she could get -- same thing as
- 6 what Mr. Blumberg has done in this case -- get a
- 7 declaratory relief action that there's no lien
- 8 issues and such, she could take that -- whether
- 9 it would be binding or not on the Arizona court
- 10 would be -- who knows, but it would certainly
- 11 try to assist her with respect to any issues that
- 12 were being set forth in an Arizona workers' comp
- 13 case.
- 14 Q. Now, did Mr. or Mrs. Harper ever agree
- 15 to allow that firm to represent them?
- 16 A. Yes. They eventually did.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. Okay? They eventually did. And then
- 19 they withdrew for -- I don't know what reasons. I
- 20 have my suspicions, but I don't know.
- 21 Q. So that firm withdrew from representing
- 22 the Harpers?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you send them a \$15,000 retainer?
- 25 A. We did. And they sent two back.

- 1 Q. And what did you do with that?
- A. It went into the trust account, and then
- 3 it was sent as part of the package back to
- 4 Mr. Schiffman.
- 5 Q. As far as you know, the Harpers suffered
- 6 no financial harm from the retention of that firm?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 MR. KJAR: I think that's all I have.
- 10 MR. BLUMBERG: I have a few.
- 11 EXAMINATION
- 12 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 13 Q. Mr. Silberberg --
- 14 A. Yeah. My --
- 15 Q. I'm sorry?
- 16 A. My screen has gone blank. I'm looking
- 17 at a Microsoft. Can I have somebody come in and --
- 18 I can see you up there, John. I can see you up
- 19 there, so I'm good.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- A. And I can hear you fine, so...
- 22 Q. You said Daria agreed to the Pisanelli
- 23 Bice firm representing her? You said that?
- 24 A. Yeah, she signed -- signed an agreement
- with them, as I understand it.

- 1 Q. You never saw a signed agreement, did
- 2 you?
- 3 A. I'm not so sure. I think I did. I
- 4 think I saw a letter where she agreed, or an e-mail
- 5 to me that she'd agreed.
- 6 Q. Which is it? Is it an e-mail? Is it a
- 7 signed document?
- 8 A. Well --
- 9 Q. What is your testimony that she agreed
- 10 that they would represent her?
- 11 A. I don't remember.
- 12 Q. Isn't it true that the Pisanelli Bice
- 13 firm declined to handle the case and that's why they
- 14 sent the money back?
- 15 A. No. That's not my understanding.
- 16 Q. Did you have any conversations with or
- 17 read any of the e-mails from the attorney at
- 18 Pisanelli Bice who was handling the case at the
- 19 beginning?
- A. I think I did initially. The subsequent
- 21 e-mails I don't recall.
- 22 Q. And you -- and it's your recollection
- 23 that it wasn't the Pisanelli Bice firm that declined
- 24 to continue representing Daria Harper; is that your
- 25 testimony?

- 1 A. No, no, no. They -- somewhat down the
- 2 road they did withdraw and said they wouldn't
- 3 continue with her representation.
- 4 Q. And do you -- and do you know why?
- 5 A. No. I don't know the exact reasons, and
- 6 I'm not -- I have my own views. I'm not going to
- 7 speculate as to them.
- 8 Q. You're entitled to your views. I'm
- 9 asking for your sworn testimony.
- 10 A. I don't know why.
- 11 Q. Okay. Now, when I asked you questions
- 12 about whether you consulted with any Nevada
- 13 plaintiff lawyers about whether or not Nevada law
- 14 prohibited a lien if there were settlements, you
- 15 told me you did not?
- 16 A. Well, I consulted with Tom Alch. Other
- 17 than that, you're right. But of course I consulted
- 18 with Tom Alch.
- 19 Q. So you have a recollection now that you
- 20 consulted with Tom Alch, who told you that in his
- 21 opinion there was no lien under Nevada law if there
- 22 was a settlement; is that correct?
- A. He sent me -- we talked about, early on,
- 24 if you recall, Mr. Blumberg, I had talked with Tom,
- and he said they don't have any lien rights, and it

- 1 was he who sent me the statute.
- 2 Q. Okay. So were you relying on the -- on
- 3 the advice given to you by Mr. Alch that CopperPoint
- 4 had no lien rights?
- 5 A. Absolutely not. I was relying upon my
- 6 reading of the statute and my understanding that
- 7 they hadn't filed a lien. So...
- 8 Q. Okay. Now, you were talking about a
- 9 conversation that you had with Dr. Dorros. Isn't it
- 10 true that you testified earlier that you had no such
- 11 conversations with Dr. Dorros and that the
- 12 conversations with Dr. Dorros were all with Will
- 13 Collins?
- 14 A. I don't recall that I said I didn't have
- 15 any involvement with Dr. Dorros. I said the initial
- 16 contact with the experts was done by Will, he
- 17 prepared the -- the declarations, and we had
- 18 subsequent dialogue with experts as we were going
- 19 along, especially after we received the -- the
- 20 declarations from the defense.
- I mean, you have to understand how this
- 22 office operates. Will can be on a conference call
- 23 with Dr. Dorros in his office and I frequently go in
- 24 and participate. So --
- 25 Q. Do you have a specific recollection of

- 1 speaking with Dr. Dorros after the receipt of the
- 2 defense expert declarations?
- 3 A. I do not have a specific recollection.
- 4 Q. Did you read the memos to the file that
- 5 Will Collins made, particularly about his
- 6 conversation with Dr. Dorros after the defense
- 7 declarations were received?
- 8 A. No, but I'm sure I did.
- 9 Q. Is it -- well, then do you recall
- 10 reading that it was -- that Dr. Dorros, after he
- 11 read the defense declaration of Dr. -- is it
- 12 Barakos?
- 13 A. Barakos. Jerome Barakos.
- 14 Q. Barakos.
- 15 That after he read Dr. Barakos'
- 16 declaration, that he said that Dr. Barakos is making
- 17 stuff up?
- 18 A. I don't recall that.
- 19 Q. That he completely disagrees with the
- 20 opinions of Dr. Barakos?
- 21 A. I don't think he totally disagreed. And
- 22 I said that in my -- in my comments with the
- 23 questions from Jim.
- 24 Q. You said what?
- A. I said that he could take issue with

- 1 Dr. Barakos on the issue of the signal changes on
- 2 the MRI. I specifically said that.
- 3 Q. So Dr. Dorros was not discouraged by the
- 4 defense declarations; he was steadfast in the
- 5 opinion that there was causation of the paralysis.
- 6 Isn't that true?
- 7 A. No, I don't think with that he was
- 8 steadfast.
- 9 Q. Okay. I'm going to put up a document,
- 10 and I'm going to number it 35.
- 11 (Exhibit 35 marked.)
- 12 A. I'm not going to be able to see it on my
- 13 screen.
- MR. KJAR: But we can step up and look
- 15 at it.
- 16 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 17 Q. This is a -- do you see this document on
- 18 your screen? It says "Memorandum," and it's from
- 19 WSC regarding Dr. Dorros, and it's "Re: Defense
- 20 reports." Do you see it?
- 21 A. Yeah. Can you -- yeah, you don't have
- 22 to shrink it down. I see that. Right.
- Q. Okay. Do you see the first sentence?
- 24 It says, "Dr. Dorros says he is not concerned with
- 25 the other two expert opinions. He said the only one

- 1 that we have to deal with is Barakos. He went over
- 2 the images again and concluded that Dr. B is making
- 3 stuff up."
- 4 Do you see that?
- 5 A. I'm reading it.
- 6 Yeah, I see that. I see what you're
- 7 pointing to.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 MR. BLUMBERG: And Madam Court Reporter,
- 10 you're going to need to remind me to provide the
- 11 last two documents to you, which weren't in the
- 12 original set.
- 13 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 14 Q. Did it dishearten you, Mr. Silberberg,
- 15 when you were told by the mediator that the vast
- 16 majority of medical malpractice cases result in
- 17 defense verdicts?
- 18 A. Absolutely not. That's the same number
- 19 as we have out here, John.
- Q. And so how many times and how many
- 21 mediations of -- in medical malpractice cases has
- the mediator not said to you about the great
- 23 advantage that the defense has in medical
- 24 malpractice cases?
- A. Oh, I'd say the vast majority don't

- 1 mention that.
- 2 Q. But you are aware that somewhere in the
- 3 range of 75 to 85 percent of cases, medical
- 4 malpractice cases, that go to juries result in
- 5 defense verdicts, correct?
- 6 A. Sure. There's a reason for that.
- 7 Q. I didn't ask about the reason or the
- 8 reasons. I asked about whether you were aware of
- 9 that statistic.
- 10 A. Yeah, I'm aware in Orange County,
- 11 California, it's even higher.
- 12 Q. Is it your testimony that any of the
- 13 experts whose declarations and affidavits were filed
- 14 in this case on behalf of plaintiff committed
- 15 perjury?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. So you are not saying that the opinions
- 18 that were expressed by the experts whose
- 19 declarations your firm filed in this case were
- 20 knowingly untrue?
- A. Well, there's a whole difference in
- 22 there, John. Opinions -- I don't think you can have
- 23 perjury on opinions. Perjury is when you
- 24 intentionally fabricate a fact. Opinions can
- 25 change. Opinions can alter. And experts change

- 1 their opinions all the time.
- 2 Q. All right. Let me ask it this way.
- In your opinion, did any expert render
- 4 an opinion that was in a declaration they signed
- 5 under penalty of perjury in April 2018, is it your
- 6 opinion that any of those experts rendered opinions
- 7 that those experts knew were false?
- 8 A. Not that I'm aware of at that time.
- 9 Q. At the mediation, you gave advice to
- 10 Daria and Daniel that in your opinion there was --
- 11 CopperPoint had no enforceable lien and no way that
- 12 they would -- that CopperPoint would be able to
- 13 use -- strike that. I withdraw it. Let me ask it a
- 14 different way.
- 15 You told Daria and Daniel that
- 16 CopperPoint had no right to any of the proceeds from
- 17 the settlement, correct?
- 18 A. Told them that they had not filed a
- 19 lien, didn't have any lien rights, and at that point
- 20 had not set forth any rights to the proceeds of
- 21 their settlement.
- Q. And so you told them that they did not
- 23 need -- that if they accepted the \$6,250,000, it was
- 24 not subject to a -- a lien by CopperPoint?
- 25 A. I did not say that, and read my

- 1 September 18th, 2018, letter. You'll see exactly
- 2 what had been discussed from the beginning of this
- 3 lawsuit till the time of that letter.
- 4 They were always advised that
- 5 CopperPoint might try to assert liens. They were
- 6 always told that they had -- that CopperPoint could
- 7 go after them in Arizona. That's why we emphasized
- 8 for a long, long time that they have competent
- 9 counsel in Arizona, which they initially did,
- 10 couldn't get along, got fired. We told them to
- 11 continue to get representation.
- 12 You can't force them to do something
- 13 they don't want to do. But they were told -- and
- all that is set forth in that September 2018 letter.
- 15 Q. Did you discuss with them the
- 16 possibility -- "them" meaning Daria and Daniel --
- 17 did you discuss with them the possibility that
- 18 CopperPoint could assert a credit in the amount of
- 19 their settlement in Nevada with regard to any future
- 20 rights that -- any future obligation that
- 21 CopperPoint would have to make payments on their
- 22 behalf?
- A. I think that was discussed from the
- 24 standpoint of -- of -- with the settlement
- 25 amounts they could get, they certainly now had the

- 1 option to go out and sign up for the Affordable Care
- 2 Act and get their own independent insurance if
- 3 CopperPoint was going to try to get a credit for the
- 4 amounts against any future payments.
- 5 And we discussed them getting -- since
- 6 the preexisting conditions was not an issue, we
- 7 discussed with them getting their own independent
- 8 insurance.
- 9 Q. So is it your testimony that you had
- 10 discussions with Daria and Daniel that CopperPoint
- 11 might be able to assert a credit as to any ongoing
- 12 or future obligation to make payments as a result of
- 13 the Nevada settlement?
- 14 A. With respect to their Arizona issues,
- 15 that was a possibility. Therefore --
- 16 Q. Now, wait a minute. That's a yes or no.
- 17 A. No, it isn't a yes or a --
- 18 Q. I'm not calling for an explanation or a
- 19 therefore.
- 20 A. I told them that that could be a
- 21 potential in Arizona, therefore -- once again I'll
- 22 reiterate it again to you -- you'd better get
- 23 yourself a lawyer in Arizona to help you deal with
- 24 these issues.
- 25 Q. When did you tell them that they should

- 1 get a lawyer in Nevada to help deal with these
- 2 issues of the possibility of CopperPoint taking a
- 3 credit?
- 4 MR. KJAR: Nevada or Arizona?
- 5 THE WITNESS: You mean Arizona?
- 6 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 7 Q. Arizona.
- 8 A. My God, we were talking to them about
- 9 getting lawyers in Arizona from the get-go. They
- 10 had a lawyer back in 2016 who she fired, according
- 11 to the memos in my file. Schiffman got involved,
- 12 and then Daniel, according to Schiffman in his
- 13 e-mail, threatened bodily harm, so Schiffman gets
- 14 off the case. And then after that we tell them
- 15 continue to use and get lawyers who can get involved
- 16 and help you with the Arizona deal.
- 17 Those discussions were happening from
- the get-go, from the filing of this lawsuit.
- 19 Q. When was the first time you told Daria
- 20 and Daniel --
- A. We were the ones, through talking with
- the plaintiffs' lawyer in Tucson, we got Alan and
- 23 Anna Schiffman's name, and then later on we got
- 24 another lawyer for them, which, you know, he backed
- 25 off because of some -- I do know this, that Alan

- 1 Schiffman got involved and made some unkind
- 2 comments. That's all I know about it.
- 3 Q. When was the first time you mentioned to
- 4 Daria and Daniel that CopperPoint might assert a
- 5 credit based on a settlement of the Nevada lawsuit?
- 6 A. I have no idea, other than I told them I
- 7 was not a workers' comp lawyer and they needed
- 8 advice from a comp lawyer in Arizona.
- 9 Q. Did you ever consider that there was a
- 10 possibility that CopperPoint might assert a credit?
- 11 A. Never in the Nevada case. They always
- 12 had a right if they wanted to try to bring some
- 13 actions in Arizona. But again, that's why she
- 14 needed competent legal counsel in Arizona.
- 15 Q. Did you ever write a letter or an e-mail
- 16 or any written communication to your clients that
- 17 CopperPoint might assert a credit on any ongoing
- 18 obligation to provide benefits if there was a
- 19 settlement in Nevada?
- 20 A. I -- I talked to them about lien
- 21 issues --
- 22 Q. Mr. Silberberg --
- 23 A. The answer --
- 24 Q. The question did not ask you about what
- 25 you talked to them about. My question specifically

- 1 was did you put anything in writing to them
- 2 regarding the possibility that CopperPoint could
- 3 assert a credit against any future obligation to
- 4 provide benefits.
- 5 A. Of course.
- 6 Q. You put that in writing, using the word
- 7 "credit"?
- 8 A. Well, I don't know if it says "credit."
- 9 We talked about lien issues, which --
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 MR. BLUMBERG: I have nothing further.
- 13 MR. CLARK: Mr. Silberberg, David Clark
- 14 here again.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, David. Nice to see
- 16 you again.
- 17 EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. CLARK:
- 19 Q. In response to questions from your
- 20 attorney, you listed a large number of doctors and
- 21 experts that you consulted with. Do you recall that
- 22 testimony?
- 23 A. Sure.
- Q. Did you consult with Mr. Alch with
- 25 regard to any of those experts?

Page 158 1 No. Α. Is that a "no"? 2 Q. No. 3 Α. 4 Q. Do you know if he was involved at all in 5 evaluating their opinions in this case? 6 Α. He was not. 7 MR. CLARK: Thank you. No further 8 questions. 9 MR. KJAR: I have a couple. 10 **EXAMINATION** 11 BY MR. KJAR: 12 Mr. Silberberg, what was the thrust Q. 13 of -- as you understood it based on your discussions 14 with either Dr. Dorros or Will, who I understand had 15 a lot of discussions -- what was the thrust and 16 purpose of Dorros' declaration and what would have 17 been his testimony at trial? 18 Α. The thrust would have been the timing of 19 the infarcts and the -- the evidence going back to 20 the CT scan that was done at Havasu as to the 21 displacement of the thecal sac, which was already 22 showing evidence of compression against the spinal 23 cord at the time that Daria got to the Havasu 24 Regional Medical Center, which would then explain 25 that the displacement of the thecal sac displaced

- 1 and put compression on the spinal cord, as to why
- 2 she had -- and was paralyzed when she got to the
- 3 hospital.
- 4 Q. Was it your understanding that the
- 5 statement of Dr. Dorros was something to the effect
- 6 that he couldn't see any evidence of an infarction
- 7 on the very first imaging studies taken of her spine
- 8 in Nevada?
- 9 A. The very first MRI done on June 10th.
- 10 That's it.
- 11 Q. And the defense expert from
- 12 San Francisco, whose name I forget --
- 13 A. Barakos. Jerome Barakos.
- 14 Q. -- disagreed and said there was
- 15 evidence, correct?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Now, did you have an understanding based
- 18 on your discussions with Mr. Collins as to whether
- 19 or not Dr. Dorros raised any further concerns about
- 20 your case in terms of when the infarct would be
- 21 visible and show up and how that might be something
- 22 he could be subject to cross-examination on?
- A. He did say there is things out there to
- 24 support that it may be there but not show up for a
- 25 day or two. You know, no question about that.

- 1 Q. And did you take the fact that
- 2 Dr. Dorros had told Will that if pressed he would
- 3 have to admit that the infarct could have been there
- 4 and was not visible on the x-rays in your decision
- 5 to recommend settlement?
- 6 A. I don't understand that question.
- 7 Q. Okay. Well, the fact that Dr. Dorros
- 8 had told, as you understood it, Mr. Collins that
- 9 even though the infarct wasn't visible to him on the
- 10 initial MRI, it still well could have been there and
- 11 could take some time to show up?
- 12 A. Sure. But let me just say this for
- 13 everybody. Dorros was not the big clog on the
- 14 causation. It was the fact that Daria -- and the
- 15 literature -- she showed up quadriplegic at Havasu.
- 16 Q. Radiologists don't treat epidural
- 17 abscesses, do they?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Neurosurgeons do that?
- A. That's right.
- 21 Q. And what was your understanding as to
- 22 what the neurosurgeon experts, not only that you
- 23 consulted with but that the defense had ready to
- 24 testify, as well as many years of medical literature
- 25 in established peer-reviewed journals said on that

- 1 subject?
- 2 A. She had a fixed lesion when she got to
- 3 Havasu Regional Medical Center, and that fixed
- 4 lesion was the fact that she was paralyzed, was
- 5 quadriplegic, and as a result of that she had a
- 6 fixed lesion.
- 7 Q. Did you understand as to whether or not,
- 8 based upon the opinions of your experts as well as
- 9 the medical literature and the defense experts when
- 10 you settled the case, as to whether or not to a
- 11 reasonable medical probability her spinal cord
- 12 injury was complete when she got to Havasu in
- 13 Arizona?
- 14 A. That's -- that is a position that is
- 15 supported by the literature.
- 16 Q. Did you believe to a reasonable legal
- 17 probability you could prevail at trial on that
- 18 issue?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Did you have a discussion with the
- 21 mediator, Judge Bell, about not only the overall
- 22 statistical incidence of defense verdicts in Nevada
- 23 on medical negligence cases, but what he thought
- 24 your client's chances were in her individual case of
- 25 prevailing in this case?

Page 162 1 Α. He thought we would lose on causation. That was his view. And he so expressed to me and to 2 3 her. 4 MR. KJAR: Thank you. Nothing further. 5 MR. BLUMBERG: I don't have anything else. I think we're done. 6 7 MR. CLARK: Nothing further. 8 MR. KJAR: I don't remember, do we do a stip? 9 10 MR. BLUMBERG: No. They don't allow it 11 in Nevada. We just have to go by their rules. 12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off the record at 3:31 p.m. 13 14 THE REPORTER: Does anybody need a copy 15 of today's transcript. 16 MR. CLARK: Yes. David Clark. I'll 17 take an electronic version. 18 THE REPORTER: You got it. 19 Mr. Kjar? MR. KJAR: Oh, yeah, I want that and I 20 21 want a copy of the video. 22 23 (The deposition concluded at 3:31 p.m.) 24 -000-25

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15	I, KENNETH MARSHALL SILBERBERG, deponent	
16	herein, do hereby certify and declare the within and foregoing transcription to be my deposition in said	
17	action; that I have read, corrected and do hereby affix my signature to said deposition under penalty	
18	of perjury.	
19	KENNETH MARSHALL SILBERBERG, Deponent	
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Page 164 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 1 STATE OF NEVADA ) 2 )SS: 3 COUNTY OF CLARK ) 4 5 I, Karen L. Jones, a duly commissioned and licensed Court Reporter, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby certify: That I reported the 6 taking of the deposition of the witness, KENNETH 7 MARSHALL SILBERBERG, commencing on Monday, November 9. 2020 at 10:44 a.m. 8 9 That prior to being examined, the witness was, by me, duly sworn to testify to the truth. That I thereafter transcribed my said shorthand notes into 10 typewriting and that the typewritten transcript of 11 said deposition is a complete, true and accurate transcription of said shorthand notes. 12 13 I further certify that (1) I am not a relative or employee of an attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of an attorney or counsel involved in said action, nor a person 15 financially interested in the action; nor do I have any other relationship with any of the parties or with counsel of any of the parties involved in the 16 action that may reasonably cause my impartiality to 17 be questioned; and (2) that transcript review pursuant to NRCP 30(e) was requested. 18 19 20 IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, in my office, in the County of Clark, State of 21 Nevada, this 22nd day of November, 2020. 22 23 KAREN L. JONES, CCR NO. 694 24 25

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# **EXHIBIT 3A**

# **EXHIBIT 3A**

## June 17, 2016

Daniel Wininger Daria Harper 3485 S. Gaylord Court, Apt. C-332 Englewood, CO 80113

Re: Daria Harper v. Valley Hospital Medical Center, et al.

Dear Daniel and Daria:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the general nature of the attorney-client relationship, as well as to provide you with information concerning what to expect during the pendency of your case.

By virtue of the fact that I now represent you, we have what is called an attorney-client relationship. The attorney-client relationship carries with it the attorney-client privilege. The purpose of this privilege is to encourage a free flow of information between us. With regard to this case, that means no third party, defendant or lawyer is entitled to obtain or request any written or verbal communications between yourself and my office.

However, third persons, defendants or their lawyers may be entitled to obtain confidential communications between us in the event the attorney-client privilege is waived. A waiver may occur if you communicate our confidential communications through others. As such, I must instruct you to keep all of our communications, both written and verbal, in the strictest of confidence. You are not to discuss your case or the facts of this case with anyone. Moreover, I encourage you to set up a confidential file, separate and apart from your other office records, in which to place our confidential written correspondence.

With regard to what to expect during your case, my office recently filed a Complaint in the Clark County Superior Court in Las Vegas Nevada, a copy of which is enclosed for your file. The Complaint has been sent out for service on all defendants which has officially started this case. At this time the Nevada complaint is only filed against Valley Hospital and the physicians at that facility. The reason for only filing against the Nevada parties is that Arizona has a two-year statute of limitation, which gives us additional time to try to pursue a settlement against the Nevada defendants before proceeding against Havasu Regional. Additionally, both Arizona and Nevada are several liability states, meaning that each defendant is only responsible for his or her negligence. Due to this, we determined that it was safer and more efficient to wait to file a

Re: Daria Harper v. Valley Hospital Medical Center, et al.

June 17, 2016

Page 2

complaint against the Arizona defendants in order to prevent any argument about their proportionate fault in the Nevada case.

We have also associated another law firm into the case in order to allow us to represent your interests in Nevada and Arizona. This was necessary because Nevada courts require an attorney with a Nevada bar license file a complaint and be part of the case. In light of that requirement, we associated with Bruce Fagel and Thomas Alch of the Law Offices of Bruce Fagel. We have worked with both Mr. Fagel and Mr. Alch on many cases. They are highly skilled and experienced medical malpractice litigators and are strong additions to your legal team. Please be advised that this association of counsel in no way impacts the percentage of your potential recovery.

The next phase is the "discovery" sequence wherein depositions are taken, both yours and the defendants and their agents, and reciprocal Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents are made. This phase will most likely take six to eight months to complete. Of course, I will represent you at your depositions and will take the depositions of all defendants and their agents. Further, we will make all court appearances on your behalf.

Once discovery is completed, I will make every effort to settle your case extra-judicially. Nothing will be done by way of negotiations or settlement without your expressed knowledge and consent. In the event the case does not settle, we may proceed to trial for judicial resolution.

As I mentioned above, we have an additional year to file a complaint against the Arizona defendants. We anticipate filing that complaint in the first week of June 2017, assuming that Nevada lawsuit does not resolve before that time. If the Nevada lawsuit resolves by way of settlement, we will immediately proceed against the Arizona defendants.

As I explained to you in our initial meeting, there are no guarantees in your case. However, I assure you that my office will use all best efforts to advance your interests and resolve this matter in your favor. Also, rest assured that we will advise you of all significant developments as they occur.

Thank you for affording my office the opportunity to represent you in this matter.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

Marshall Silberberg

MS/jd Enclosure

## **EXHIBIT 3B**

## **EXHIBIT 3B**

## **DISTRIBUTION SHEET - FAGEL**

CASE:

HARPER v. VALLEY HOSPITAL, et al.

DATE OF SETTLEMENT: 5/2/18

**SETTLEMENT AMOUNT:** \$6,250,000.00

**ATTORNEY FEES:** \$1,160,737.00

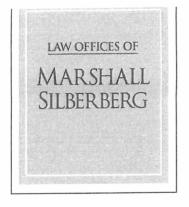
**50% Attorney fees:** \$565,368.00

Less 5% to Tom Alch \$28,268.00

\$537,100.00

**Fagel Costs** \$2,926.00

Balance to Bruce Fagel \$540,026.00



August 23, 2018

## VIA FEDEX

Tom Alch SHOOP | A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION 350 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 330 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

RE: Harper matter

Dear Mr. Alch:

Relative to the above, enclosed with this letter is our firm's check no. 5101 in the amount of \$28,268.00, which represents your portion of fees on this matter.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

Janette Dockstader, Legal Assistant to

Marshall Silberberg

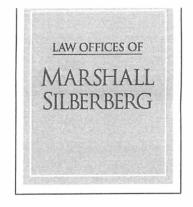
:jd Enclosures

3333 Michelson Drive, Suite 710 | Irvine, CA 92612 | (949) 718-0960 Phone | (949) 266-5811 Fax

5102 LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG, PC ATTORNEY CLIENT TRUST ACCOUNT EXPORTED THE Print 3333 MICHELSON DR STE 710 IRVINE, CA 92612-1691 90-8578/3222 8-18-18 DATE PAY TO THE ORDER OF. 540,026 DOLLARS 9 Cos 15 "OOS102" :322285781: 7171921331 5101 LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG, PC ATTORNEY CLIENT TRUST ACCOUNT 3333 MICHELSON DR STE 710 EZ EZSnield\* Check Fraud Protection for Business IRVINE, CA 92612-1691 90-8578/3222 DATE 8-18-18 PAY TO THE ORDER OF 100 DOLLARS PACIFIC PREMIER 

7171921330

"OO5101" "322285781"



August 23, 2018

## VIA FEDEX

Kristyann Brodecki Law Offices of Bruce Fagel 100 North Crescent Drive, Suite 360 Beverly Hills, CA 90210

RE: Daria Harper

Dear Kristyann:

Relative to the above, enclosed with this letter is our firm's check no. 5102 in the amount of \$540,026.00, which represents the fees and costs owed in this matter.

As always, it is a pleasure working with your office.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

Janette Dockstader, Legal Assistant to

Marshall Silberberg

:jd Enclosures

# **EXHIBIT 4**

## **EXHIBIT 4**

## 

# <u>OPPOSITION TO FAGEL MOTION TO DISMISS</u>

I, JOHN P. BLUMBERG, declare that I represent plaintiffs Daria Harper and Daniel Wininger and, based on my personal knowledge, can and would testify to the truth of the following facts:

- 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in California and admitted *pro hac vice* to represent plaintiffs in this lawsuit. I am knowledgeable of the facts contained herein and am competent to testify thereto.
- 2. I am over the age of eighteen and I have personal knowledge of all matters set forth herein. If called to do so, I would competently and truthfully testify to all matters set forth herein.
- 3. Attached as Exhibit "1" is a true copy of the Declaration of Thomas S. Alch that he filed in this action in support of the motion to dismiss of former co-defendant Shoop, A Professional Law Corporation.
- 4. Attached as Exhibit "2" is a true copy of the deposition that I took of Thomas S. Alch on December 29, 2020.
- 5. Attached as Exhibit "3" is a true copy of the deposition that I took of Kenneth Marshall Silberberg on November 9, 2020. Attached as Exhibits 3A and 3B respectively are exhibits "5" and "33" thereto.
- 6. Attached as Exhibit "5" is a true copy of the Supplemental Disclosure of Witnesses and Documents by Thomas S. Alch. Attached as Exhibit 5A are pages ALCH000891-000906 thereto.
- 7. Attached as Exhibit "6" is a true copy of the Deposition of William S. Collins that I took on November 6, 2020. Attached as Exhibit 6A is exhibit "14" thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 4th day of June, 2021.

/s/ John P. Blumberg
John P. Blumberg, Esq.

# **EXHIBIT 5**

## **EXHIBIT 5**

## ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 2/2/2021 9:11 AM

LIPSON NEILSON P.C. 9900 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89144 Telephone: (702) 382-1500 Facsimile: (702) 382-1512	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	CLARK CO  DARIA HARPER, an individual; and DANIEL WININGER, an individual,  Plaintiffs,  v.  COPPERPOINT MUTUAL INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY, an Arizona corporation; COPPERPOINT GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, an Arizona corporation; LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG, P.C., a California corporation; KENNETH MARSHALL SILBERBERG aka MARSHALL SILBERBERG aka MARSHALL SILBERBERG, an individual; THOMAS S. ALCH aka THOMAS STEVEN ALCH, an individual; SHOOP, A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION, a California corporation; DOES 1-50, inclusive,  Defendants.  Defendants THOMAS S. ALCH aka TI	Case No. A-20-814541-C Dept. 30  DEFENDANT THOMAS S. ALCH AKA THOMAS STEVEN ALCH'S FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 16.1(a)(1)			
	23	his counsel of record, Lipson Neilson P.C., hereby submits his First Supplemental Disclosure of				
	24	Witnesses and Documents in accordance with NRCP 16.1(a)(1) as follows:				
	25	///				
	26	///				
	27	///				
	28					

Page 1 of 7

PA 00424

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The NRCP 30(b)(6) Witness for Law Offices of Marshall Silberberg, P.C. is expected to testify regarding the facts and circumstances in this litigation.

10. William Collins, Esq. c/o Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper LLP 841 Apollo Street, Suite 100 El Segundo, CA 90245 Telephone: (424) 217-3026

Mr. Collins is expected to testify regarding the facts and circumstances in this litigation.

- 11. Defendant reserves the right to call any and all expert witnesses which he may after select as the need arises during the course of litigation.
- 12. Defendant reserves the right to call any and all of any other party's proposed witnesses, or any other witnesses of any party who become known as this litigation progresses and as other witnesses are discovered or located.
- 13. All persons needed to lay a proper foundation for the introduction of exhibits and/or deposition testimony.
  - 14. Any necessary rebuttal witnesses.
- 15. Agents, representatives, employees of Plaintiff or Defendants with knowledge of the claims and defenses asserted herein.
  - 16. All individuals listed or identified in exhibits.
  - 17. Individuals discovered pursuant to any document review.
  - 18. Individuals identified during any subsequent discovery.
  - 19. Individuals identified in any written discovery requests from any party.
- 20. Any witnesses listed by any other party, and the same may be called as an adverse witness.

Defendant reserves the right to supplement this witness list as any other witnesses become known as this litigation progresses and as other witnesses are discovered or located.

# LIPSON NEILSON P.C. 9900 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89144 Telephone: (702) 382-1500 Facsimile: (702) 382-

## B. Copy or Description by Category of Document Within Defendant's Possession that May Be Used to Support Defenses

DESCRIPTION	BATES NO.
Declaration of Joseph D. Ciacci, M.D.	ALCH000001-ALCH000005
Declaration of Stephen Dorros, M.D., FACR	ALCH000006-ALCH000009
Declaration of Phuoc Le, M.D.	ALCH000010-ALCH000016
Declaration of Samuel Pleasure, M.D., Ph.D.	ALCH000017-ALCH000023
Declaration of Michael Steven Ritter, M.D., FAAEM, FACEP	ALCH000024-ALCH000027
Declaration of Kevin Shaw, M.D.	ALCH000028-ALCH000033
Economic Losses Report from Peter Formuzis	ALCH000034-ALCH000049
Life Care Plan prepared by Greg Vigna, M.D., JD, CLCP	ALCH000050-ALCH000111
Paid Medical Bills for Selected Claim	ALCH000112-ALCH000113
Harper v. Janda, et al. Full General Release and Indemnity Agreement	ALCH000114-ALCH000126
Harper v. Janda, et al. Mediation Settlement Agreement	ALCH000127-ALCH000128
Settlement Disbursement Sheet – Bruce Fagel	ALCH000129
Insurance Policy.pdf	ALCH000130-ALCH000161
Payment from Bruce G. Fagel	ALCH000162-ALCH000163
Emails	ALCH000164-ALCH000916

As Plaintiffs' counsel is aware, Defendant was employed by the Law Offices of Bruce G. Fagel and Associates ["Fagel"] during a substantial portion of the subject litigation. Defendant does not have access to any materials on the Fagel servers or computers. Additionally, Defendant does not have access to any emails from his email account that was used when he was employed by Fagel. Defendant reserves the right to supplement his disclosures should he locate related documents at a later date. Discovery and investigation continue.

#### C. Computation of Any Category of Damages

Not applicable.

**D.** Any Insurance Agreement or Agreement by Person in the Insurance Business Please see ALCH000130-ALCH000161.

# Facsimile: (702) 382-1512 9900 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89144 Telephone: (702) 382-1500 Facsimile: (702) 3

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#### Ε. **Disclosure of Expert Testimony**

Defendant has not yet determined what, if any, experts will be used at trial in this matter and reserves the right to call any and all expert witnesses which he may hereafter select as the need arises during the course of litigation. Defendant reserves the right to supplement these disclosures at a later date.

DATED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

#### LIPSON NEILSON P.C.

/s/ David A. Clark

By: DAVID A. CLARK Nevada Bar No. 4443 9900 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89144 Attorneys for Defendant, Thomas S. Alch **LIPSON NEILSON P.C.** 

27

28

# **EXHIBIT 5A**

# **EXHIBIT 5A**

From: Will Collins wcollins@silberberglaw.com

Subject: RE: Harper - Reports / Declaration

Date: Mar 2, 2018 at 12:24:14 PM

To: Thomas Alch thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

The reports are now due 4/16/18, we moved the date via stipulation two weeks ago.

I am free Tuesday. What time?

#### William S. Collins

#### Attorney

LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG 3333 Michelson Drive Suite 710 Irvine, CA 92612

Tel: (949) 718-0960

Fax: (949) 266-5811

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From: Thomas Alch [mailto:thomas.alch@shooplaw.com]

Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 12:21 PM

To: Will Collins < wcollins@silberberglaw.com>

Cc: Janette Dockstader < ianette@silberberglaw.com>

Subject: Re: Harper - Reports / Declaration

Thanks Will. When are they due? If possible I would like to talk on Tuesday.

Thomas S. Alch Attorney at Law

# SHOOP I A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

350 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 330 Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (310) 277-1700 (p) (310) 277-8500 (f) thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

The information contained herein may constitute a confidential and privileged attorneyclient communication or work product intended only for the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. Any unauthorized use, distribution or photocopying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are in receipt of this communication in error, please notify sender immediately.

On Mar 2, 2018, at 12:03 PM, Will Collins < wcollins@silberberglaw.com > wrote:

Tom,

Following up on the email below. Please let me know when you have some time to review and discuss the reports we have generated thus far.

#### William S. Collins

#### Attorney

LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG 3333 Michelson Drive Suite 710 Irvine, CA 92612

Tel: (949) 718-0960

Fax: (949) 266-5811

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From: Will Collins

Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:35 PM

**To:** 'Thomas Alch' < thomas.alch@shooplaw.com > **Cc:** Janette Dockstader < janette@silberberglaw.com >

Subject: RE: Harper - Reports / Declaration

Tom,

Have you had a chance to look over the reports. I want to get these finalized and need your guidance.

**Thanks** 

#### William S. Collins

#### Attorney

LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG 3333 Michelson Drive Suite 710 Irvine, CA 92612

Tel: (949) 718-0960

Fax: (949) 266-5811

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From: Thomas Alch [mailto:thomas.alch@shooplaw.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2018 11:09 AM **To:** Will Collins <a href="mailto:wcollins@silberberglaw.com">wcollins@silberberglaw.com</a>

Cc: Janette Dockstader < janette@silberberglaw.com>

Subject: Re: Harper - Reports / Declaration

Thank you Will.

Thomas S. Alch Attorney at Law IMG\_0594 - Copy

### SHOOP I A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

350 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 330 Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (310) 277-1700 (p) (310) 277-8500 (f) thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

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On Jan 10, 2018, at 10:15 AM, Will Collins < wcollins@silberberglaw.com > wrote:

Tom,

I have attached the reports that we prepared for our experts. The only one that is not yet finalized is Dr. Le (our hospitalist expert). The remainder are largely finalized, with signatures pending completion of the remaining depositions. As you will see, we have experts to opine on the resident hospitalist, the resident and attending neurologist, the

emergency room doctor, neurosurgery and neuroradiology. Neurosurgery is our main causation guy. We should have the life care plan shortly.

#### William S. Collins

#### **Attorney**

LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG 3333 Michelson Drive Suite 710 Irvine, CA 92612

Tel: (949) 718-0960

Fax: (949) 266-5811

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- <Declaration-Report Le.pdf>
- <Declaration-Report Shaw.pdf>
- <Declaration-Report Dorros.pdf>
- <Declaration-Report Ritter.pdf>
- <Declaration-Report Ciacci.pdf>
- <Declaration-Report Pleasure.pdf>

From: Janette Dockstader janette@silberberglaw.com

Subject: RE: Daria Harper re jury fees Date: Mar 5, 2018 at 11:14:21 AM

To: Will Collins wcollins@silberberglaw.com Cc: Silvana silvana@fagellaw.com, Tom Alch

(Thomas.Alch@shooplaw.com) Thomas.Alch@shooplaw.com

I don't see anything in our file that jury fees have been posted. I don't know how to go about this in NV. Silvana and Tom – will you please advise on how we get this paid and filed? THANK YOU!

From: Will Collins

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:11 AM

To: Janette Dockstader < janette@silberberglaw.com>

Subject: FW: Daria Harper re jury fees

FYI

#### William S. Collins

#### Attorney

LAW OFFICES OF MARSHALL SILBERBERG 3333 Michelson Drive Suite 710 Irvine, CA 92612

Tel: (949) 718-0960 Fax: (949) 266-5811

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From: Brenda <a href="mailto:brenda@fagellaw.com">brenda@fagellaw.com</a>>
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 11:10 AM

To: Marshall Silberberg < MS@silberberglaw.com>; Will Collins

<a href="mailto:wcollins@silberberglaw.com">wcollins@silberberglaw.com</a>
<a href="mailto:Subject">Subject</a>: Daria Harper re jury fees

Bruce would like you to please confirm that the jury fees have been posted in the Daria Harper case.

Please advise.

Brenda Assfy
Legal Assistant to Bruce G. Fagel, M.D., J.D.

Law Offices of Bruce G. Fagel MD, JD and Associates

Telephone: (310) 281-8700 Facsimile: (310) 281-5656 e-mail: brenda@fagellaw.com

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From: Bruce Fagel brucefagel@fagellaw.com

Subject: FW: 2 Nevada Cases reasonable and Daria Harper

Date: Mar 5, 2018 at 11:50:17 AM

To: Thomas Alch tommyalch@gmail.com



Bruce G. Fagel, M.D., J.D.
LAW OFFICES OF BRUCE G. FAGEL & ASSOCIATES
100 North Crescent Drive, Suite 360

Beverly Hills, CA 90210 Telephone: (310) 281-8700 Facsimile: (310) 281-5656

e-mail: brucefagel@fagellaw.com

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From: Brenda

**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:49 AM **To:** Bruce Fagel <a href="mailto:brucefagel@fagellaw.com">brucefagel@fagellaw.com</a>

Subject: RE: 2 Nevada Cases re and Daria Harper

I have no idea – Tom handled that.

From: Bruce Fagel

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:48 AM To: Brenda <a href="mailto:brenda@fagellaw.com">brenda@fagellaw.com</a>

Subject: RE: 2 Nevada Cases re

When did we post in Parnell? That was the last Nevada case we had

From: Brenda

**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:09 AM **To:** Bruce Fagel <a href="mailto:brucefagel@fagellaw.com">brucefagel@fagellaw.com</a>

Subject: RE: 2 Nevada Cases re and Daria Harper

Know the date of what? I am asking you when we are to post jury fees?

From: Bruce Fagel

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:07 AM To: Brenda <a href="mailto:brenda@fagellaw.com">brenda@fagellaw.com</a>

Subject: RE: 2 Nevada Cases re Wendy Gaea and Daria Harper

Marshall is handling Harper, but confirm that with his office I need to call Joe Bonjoivi about Gaea – but we may need to post jury fees – I need to know the date

From: Brenda

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:04 AM

**To:** Bruce Fagel <<u>brucefagel@fagellaw.com</u>>; Richard Akemon

<richardakemon@fagellaw.com>

Subject: 2 Nevada Cases re and Daria Harper

Do you know when you are to post jury fees in Nevada cases? trial date is 7-9-2018 and Daria Harper the trial is 9-4-2018.

Please let me know.

Brenda Assfy Legal Assistant to Bruce G. Fagel, M.D., J.D.

Law Offices of Bruce G. Fagel MD, JD and Associates Telephone: (310) 281-8700 Facsimile: (310) 281-5656 e-mail: <u>brenda@fagellaw.com</u>

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From: Thomas Alch thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

Subject: Jury Fees in and Harper Date: Mar 5, 2018 at 1:28:36 PM

To: BRUCE FAGEL brucefagel@fagellaw.com, BRENDA ASSFY

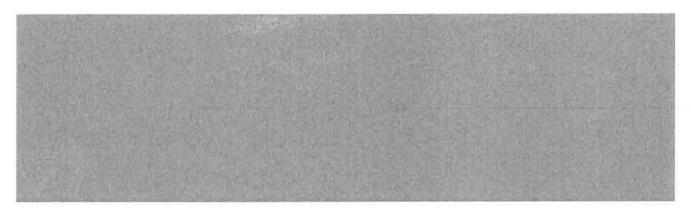
brenda@fagellaw.com, janette@silberberglaw.com,

ms@silberberglaw.com, wcollins@silberberglaw.com, Silvana

RINCOVER silvana@fagellaw.com

Bcc: thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

The Clark County Local Rules, EJDC 1.76, jury fees are paid at the conclusion of the trial.



witnesses must stand ready to proceed to trial upon reasonable oral notification by the court to the attlitigants) involved.

#### Rule 1.76. Deposit of jurors' fees for civil trials.

- (a) As an exception to NRCP 38, allowable thereunder and pursuant to NRCP 83, the clerk shall not c from the party demanding a civil trial by jury as otherwise would be required by said sections of the Nev Procedure.
- (b) All jurors' fees and expenses shall be determined subsequent to the conclusion of the civil trial and t accordingly.

[Added; effective January 4, 2010.]

Rule 1.80. Assignment of overflow cases. An overflow judge or judges may be selected by the appropriate. When a district judge is not presiding at the trial of a case, that judge shall take an overflow c description which the chief judge might assign to her or him. However, the chief judge shall assign to juc family division only overflow cases within the family division.

[Ås amended; September 20, 1999.]

#### Rule 1.90. Caseflow management.

(a) Delay reduction standards.

(1) Time to disposition. For criminal cases, the aspirational standard of the court is for 50% of all c within 6 months, 90% of all cases to be resolved within 1 year (with the last 10% being only life sentenc cases) and for 100% of the cases to be resolved within 2 years. It is the goal of the court to achieve a final of its civil cases within 24 months of filing and a final resolution in 95% of its cases within 36 months of The court recognizes that there will be exceptional cases which will not be resolved within 36 month recognizes that 100% of all cases must be resolved within 60 months from the date of filing, unless stipulation by the parties to extend deadlines under NRCP 41(e).

(2) Time limits for discovery commissioner. Except in complex litigation as defined in NRCP 16, commissioner shall ensure that pretrial discovery is completed within 18 months from the filing of the joir report. Discovery in complex litigation shall be completed within 24 months from the filing of the joir

report.

29 V. Prince Builder Builder and an included a Million and a Constitution of the bound and decided as formation

- (3) Time timits for pretrial motions. All pretrial motions shall be neard and decided no later than date scheduled for trial.
- (4) Time limits for matters under submission. Unless the case is extraordinarily complex, a judg officer shall issue a decision in all matters submitted for decision to him or her not later than 20 days after s extraordinarily complex cases, a decision must be rendered not later than 30 days after said submissi decision of the judge or other judicial officer, the prevailing party shall submit a written order to the judge not later than 20 days from the date of the decision.
- (5) Time limits for entry of judgments. Unless the case is extraordinarily complex, a judge or ot shall order the prevailing party to prepare a written judgment and findings of fact and conclusions of law ar not later than 20 days following trial. In extraordinarily complex cases, the attorney for the prevailing pawritten judgment and findings of fact and conclusions of law to the judge or judicial official not later than the conclusion of trial.
- (6) Time limits for remands from Nevada Supreme Court. Any case remanded for further action by shall be scheduled for a status check no later than 30 days from issuance of the remittitur.

(b) Civil caseflow management.

(1) Responsibility of trial judge. It is the clear responsibility of each individual trial judge to mar calendar in an efficient and effective manner. Each judge is charged with the responsibility for maintaining a

- (2) Dismissal calendar. Each department shall review its civil caseload for complaints not serve within 180 days of filing and for civil cases pending longer than 12 months in which no action has been tak months. The cases shall either be disposed of or moved forward by means of a dismissal calendar held at lea department.
- (3) Scheduling orders. The discovery commissioner shall issue a scheduling order in a civil case no from the filing of the joint case conference report. The scheduling order shall indicate whether the case is I than 4 weeks to try and at least 5 dates consistent with the settlement program on which the parties are settlement conference be scheduled when all counsel plus those persons with settlement authority are ava 10:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

(4) Trial setting. Upon receipt of a scheduling order from the discovery commissioner, the trial trial setting order within 60 days, setting the matter for trial no later than 12 months from the date of the discovery forth in the scheduling order.

(5) Trial date. The trial shall go forward on the date originally set, unless the court grants a c showing of good cause. No trial date shall be continued pursuant to stipulation of the parties without ap judge. At the time a continuance is granted, the trial judge must set the case for trial at a time and date cer date shall be set at the earliest available date within 9 months of original trial date.

https://www.leg-stale-nv-us/CourtRules/EighthDCR.html



Thomas S. Alch Attorney at Law



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thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

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From: Janette Dockstader janette@silberberglaw.com

Subject: RE: Jury Fees in Gaea and Harper

Date: Mar 5, 2018 at 1:43:20 PM

To: Thomas Alch thomas.alch@shooplaw.com

Thanks so much Tom!

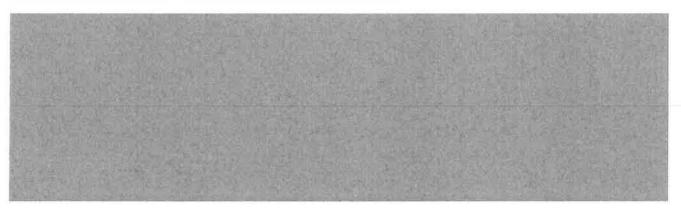
From: Thomas Alch <thomas.alch@shooplaw.com>

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 1:29 PM

To: BRUCE FAGEL <a href="mailto:brucefagel@fagellaw.com">brucefagel@fagellaw.com</a>; BRENDA ASSFY <a href="mailto:brucefagellaw.com">brucefagellaw.com</a>; Janette Dockstader <a href="mailto:anette@silberberglaw.com">janette@silberberglaw.com</a>; Mar <a href="mailto:wcollins@silberberglaw.com">mailto:wcollins@silberberglaw.com</a>; Silvana RINCOVER <a href="mailto:silvana@fagellaw.com">silvana@fagellaw.com</a>; Silvana RINCOVER <a href="mailto:silvana@fagellaw.com">silvana@fagellaw.com</a>; Silvana RINCOVER <a href="mailto:silvana@fagellaw.com">silvana@fagellaw.com</a>; Silvana@fagellaw.com</a>

Subject: Jury Fees in Gaea and Harper

The Clark County Local Rules, EJDC 1.76, jury fees are paid at the conclusion of the trial.



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- (4) Time limits for matters under submission. Unless the case is extraordinarily complex, a judg officer shall issue a decision in all matters submitted for decision to him or her not later than 20 days after s extraordinarily complex cases, a decision must be rendered not later than 30 days after said submissi decision of the judge or other judicial officer, the prevailing party shall submit a written order to the judge not later than 20 days from the date of the decision.
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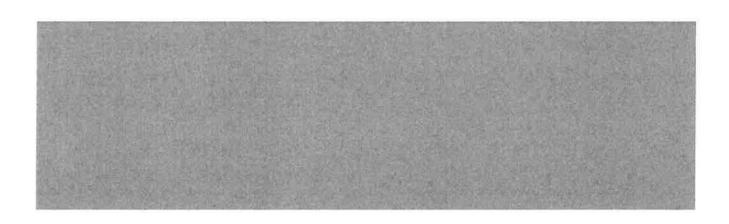
- (2) Dismissal calendar. Each department shall review its civil caseload for complaints not serve within 180 days of filing and for civil cases pending longer than 12 months in which no action has been tak months. The cases shall either be disposed of or moved forward by means of a dismissal calendar held at lea department.
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https://www.leg.state.nv.us/CourtRutes/EighthDCR.html



Thomas S. Alch Attorney at Law



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# **EXHIBIT 6**

# **EXHIBIT 6**

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Page 1
1
               DISTRICT COURT
2
             CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
3
4 DARIA HARPER, an individual; ) Case No.: A-20-814541-C
  and DANIEL WININGER, an
5 individual,
                       ) Dept. No.: 30
          Plaintiffs,
6
7 vs.
8 COPPERPOINT MUTUAL INSURANCE )
  HOLDING COMPANY, an Arizona )
9 corporation; COPPERPOINT
  GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
10 an Arizona corporation; LAW )
  OFFICES OF MARSHALL
11 SILBERBERG, P.C., a California)
  corporation; KENNETH MARSHALL)
12 SILBERBERG aka MARSHALL
  SILBERBERG aka K. MARSHALL
13 SILBERBERG, an individual:
  THOMAS S. ALCH aka THOMAS
14 STEVEN ALCH, an individual;
  SHOOP, A PROFESSIONAL LAW
15 CORPORATION, a California
  corporation; DOES 1-50,
16 inclusive,
17
           Defendants.
18
19
        VIDEORECORDED VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION
                  OF
20
             WILLIAM S. COLLINS, ESQ.
21
       Taken remotely on Friday, November 6, 2020
               At 10:33 a.m.
22
   By a Certified Court Reporter and Legal Videographer
23
24 Reported by: Dawn Bratcher Gustin, CCR 253, RPR, CRR
                       California CSR 7124
25 Job No. 41839
```

	Page 2
1 APPEARANCES: (All participants appearing remotely)	
For the Plaintiffs:	
JOHN P. BLUMBERG, ESQ.  4 BLUMBERG LAW CORPORATION 444 West Ocean Boulevard 5 Suite 1500	
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7 - and -	
8 JASON R. MAIER, ESQ. MAIER GUTIERREZ & ASSOCIATES 9 8816 Spanish Ridge Avenue	
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148  10 jrm@mgalaw.com	
11	
12 For the Defendants Kenneth Marshall Silberberg and Law Offices of Marshall Silberberg: 13	
JAMES KJAR, ESQ.  14 KJAR, McKENNA & STOCKALPER LLP 841 Apollo Street  15 Suite 100 El Segundo, California 90245	
16 kjar@kmslegal.com	
17 - and -	
18 ROBERT C. MCBRIDE, ESQ. McBRIDE HALL	
19 8329 West Sunset Road Suite 260	
20 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 rcmcbride@mcbridehall.com	
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22	
23	
24	
25	

```
Page 3
1 APPEARANCES (Continued):
  (All participants appearing remotely)
3 For the Defendants Shoop, A Professional Law
  Corporation, and Thomas S. Alch:
        DAVID A. CLARK, ESQ.
        LIPSON NEILSON P.C.
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        9900 Covington Cross Drive
        Suite 120
6
        Las Vegas, Nevada 89144
7
        dclark@lipsonneilson.com
8
  The Videographer:
         DYLAN THOMAS, Legal Videographer
10
11
12 Also Present:
13
         MARSHALL SILBERBERG, ESQ.
        VIRGINIA WONG, ABOTA Intern with Mr. Kjar
14
15
16
17
18
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20
21
22
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25
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5 Examination by Mr. Clark 66	
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13 Exhibit 3 6/3/16 Affidavit of Michael 15 Steven Ritter, MD, FAAEM, FACEP; 14 6/2/16 Affidavit of David Neer, MD (7 pages) 15	
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9 Exhibit 13 House settlement and lien (8 pages)	52
Exhibit 14 6/1/18 email re Alch involver 11 (1 page)	ment 55
12 Exhibit 15 Settlement Disbursement S	Sheet 56
13 Exhibit 16 2/4/20 Email to Adam Palm (1 page)	ier 59
Exhibit 17 Emails to Dustin Holmes (3)	pages) 64
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are on the record. Today
- 3 is November 6th, 2020. The time is 10:33 a.m. This is
- 4 the remote deposition of William Collins in the case
- 5 Harper vs. CopperPoint.
- 6 I am Dylan Thomas with Oasis Reporting
- 7 Services. I will be monitoring the proceedings and the
- 8 recording of both the video and the audio today.
- 9 At this time I will ask counsel to identify
- 10 themselves, state whom they represent, and agree on the
- 11 record that there is no objection to the court reporter
- 12 administering a binding oath to the witness through
- 13 remote videoconferencing. If no objection is stated, we
- 14 will proceed forward with the agreement of all counsel.
- 15 We will begin appearances with the noticing attorney.
- 16 MR. BLUMBERG: John Blumberg representing
- 17 Plaintiffs.
- 18 MR. MAIER: Jason Maier, local counsel for
- 19 Plaintiffs.
- 20 MR. CLARK: David Clark for Defendants Alch and
- 21 Shoop.
- MR. McBRIDE: Robert McBride, local Nevada
- 23 counsel for Marshall Silberberg.
- 24 MR. KJAR: Jim Kjar for Marshall Silberberg;
- 25 the law firm of Silberberg; and the witness, Will

- 1 Collins.
- 2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. Is -- is that
- 3 everybody?
- 4 Okay.
- 5 All right. The court reporter today is Dawn
- 6 Gustin with Oasis Reporting Services. The reporter may
- 7 now swear in the witness.
- 8 (Witness sworn.)
- 9 THE COURT REPORTER: Please pro- --
- 10 WILLIAM S. COLLINS, ESQ.,
- 11 having been first duly sworn, was
- 12 examined and testified as follows:
- 13 EXAMINATION
- 14 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 15 Q. Would you state your full name, please.
- 16 A. William Collins.
- 17 Q. Mr. Collins, you are an attorney licensed in
- 18 California?
- 19 A. I am.
- 20 Q. And you know that this is your deposition where
- 21 you are testifying under oath.
- 22 A. I do.
- 23 Q. Are you feeling capable today mentally and
- 24 physically to be able to give your deposition testimony
- 25 understanding questions and formulating answers?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you think of any reason why you would not
- 3 be able to do so today?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Are you currently employed as an attorney?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And who employs you?
- 8 A. The law offices of Marshall Silberberg.
- 9 Q. Do you have any ownership interest in that
- 10 firm?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. You were licensed to practice in what year?
- 13 A. Oh, gosh. 2012 or 2013. I don't remember off
- 14 the top of my head.
- 15 Q. And is your practice primarily civil litigation
- 16 or entirely civil litigation?
- 17 A. Entirely civil litigation.
- 18 Q. Have you ever acted as first chair in any jury
- 19 trial?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Have you reviewed any documents that have been
- 22 filed in this legal malpractice case?
- MR. KJAR: I think "filed" is a bit vague.
- But if you can answer, go ahead.
- 25 THE WITNESS: Are you referring to the pending

- 1 case?
- 2 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 3 Q. I mean the case of Harper vs. CopperPoint,
- 4 Silberberg, and others.
- 5 A. I saw the complaint after it was served and
- 6 read that briefly. I skimmed it. And then I have seen
- 7 a request for production. I'm not sure if that was in
- 8 discovery or attached to my deposition notice, but --
- 9 and then I have also seen a recent order on several
- 10 motions, and I believe that's it.
- 11 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to mark as Exhibit 1
- 12 the subpoena duces tecum requiring production of
- 13 documents for this deposition. I'm going to do a screen
- 14 share and put that document up, hopefully.
- 15 (Exhibit 1 was marked.)
- 16 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 17 Q. All right. This is the subpoena duces tecum
- 18 requiring the production of documents today. And
- 19 Exhibit 1 to the subpoena duces tecum lists the
- 20 documents to be produced.
- 21 Is this the document that you reviewed
- 22 requiring document production?
- 23 A. I don't believe it's this specific document. I
- 24 believe it was something substantially similar.
- 25 Q. Now, your attorney, Mr. Kjar, provided numerous

- 1 documents, and I want to focus on some categories where
- 2 documents were not produced, at least I did not find
- 3 them.
- 4 Going to Number 10 of the subpoena duces tecum,
- 5 do you see the document on the screen?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. It requires all documents, including electronic
- 8 and hard copy, that show deposits made and money
- 9 withdrawn from the client trust account of Marshall
- 10 Silberberg relating to Daria Harper and Daniel -- Daniel
- 11 Wininger.
- 12 That document, if it was produced, I never saw
- 13 it. Are you aware that such a document has been
- 14 produced?
- 15 A. The only thing I could say, Mr. Blumberg, is I
- 16 have no access to that information. So I would be
- 17 purely speculating as to any responsive documents.
- 18 Q. All right. With regard to Number 13, all
- 19 documents, including electronic and hard copy, that show
- 20 consent by Daria Harper and Daniel Wininger to the
- 21 payment of any attorney's fees to Bruce G. Fagel, are
- 22 you aware of the existence of any such document?
- 23 A. I'd have to give you the same response. I
- 24 don't have access to that type of information relating
- 25 to monies being paid to clients or anything like that,

- 1 so I would be speculating as to the existence or
- 2 nonexistence.
- 3 Q. Well, this doesn't ask about money paid. This
- 4 is a document that would have been signed by your
- 5 clients, Daria Harper and Daniel Wininger, regarding
- 6 payment of attorney's fees.
- 7 Are you aware or have you ever seen such a
- 8 document?
- 9 A. I don't handle that type of stuff; so I don't
- 10 know if it exists or not.
- 11 Q. When you say you don't handle that kind of
- 12 stuff, can you tell me what you mean.
- 13 A. Referral fee agreements are between Marshall --
- 14 generally held -- handled by Marshall, not me. So I
- 15 don't know if these documents exist or not.
- 16 Q. Okay. And for the remainder of the deposition,
- 17 I might -- or I will probably refer to Daria Harper as
- 18 Daria and Daniel Wininger as Daniel. Will you
- 19 understand who I'm referring to?
- 20 A. Of course.
- 21 Q. Going now to Number 14, it required all
- 22 documents, including electronic and hard copy, that show
- 23 an attorney-client contract between Daria Harper and
- 24 Daniel Wininger on the one hand and Thomas S. Alch on
- 25 the other.

- 1 Have you ever seen such a document?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. And Number 16 requiring all documents,
- 4 including electronic and hard copy, that show receipt,
- 5 deposit, and disposition of refunds of money received
- 6 from the Eighth Judicial District Court of Clark County,
- 7 have you ever seen any documents relating to the refund
- 8 of money paid to the Eighth Judicial District Court?
- 9 A. I have not.
- 10 Q. Are you aware of whether a request for such
- 11 refund has been made?
- 12 A. I am aware that it has been made.
- 13 Q. All right. Do you know how Daria Harper was
- 14 referred to the firm? And when I say "the firm" or
- 15 "your firm," I'm referring to the Law Offices of
- 16 Marshall Silberberg.
- 17 A. Lunderstand.
- 18 I am not aware how she was referred here.
- 19 Q. In reviewing documents, it appears that your
- 20 firm was first contacted by Daria Harper around December
- 21 2015. Would that comport with your recollection?
- A. No, with the caveat being I'm not sure I had
- 23 started working here at that time.
- 24 Q. When did you begin working with Marshall
- 25 Silberberg?

- 1 A. I think it was April 2016. I -- it could have
- 2 been April 2015. I -- I don't remember. I know it was
- 3 in April.
- 4 Q. Do you recall the first time you ever spoke to
- 5 Daniel or Daria?
- 6 A. No, I don't remember the first time.
- 7 Q. Do you remember the circumstances?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Do you recall the first time that you met her
- 10 face-to-face?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you recall when that was?
- 13 A. It was, I believe, before her deposition in Las
- 14 Vegas.
- 15 Q. Have you ever seen the retainer agreement that
- 16 Daria and Daniel signed in this case in -- in your
- 17 firm's case?
- 18 A. I believe I have.
- MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to put up as Exhibit 2
- 20 what appears to be a retainer agreement.
- 21 (Exhibit 2 was marked.)
- 22 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 23 Q. And are you seeing the agreement on the screen?
- 24 A. Yes, I see it.
- 25 Q. And I'm just scrolling through it, and on page

- 1 4 there are signatures. Does this appear to be the
- 2 retainer agreement that was signed by Daria and Daniel
- 3 and Mr. Silberberg?
- 4 A. It appears to be, but I was not present when
- 5 this was signed.
- 6 Q. Were you personally involved in evaluating the
- 7 merits of the case? And let me just focus my question a
- 8 little better than that.
- 9 Were you involved before the retainer agreement
- 10 was signed in evaluating the merits of the case from
- 11 a --
- 12 A. I --
- 13 Q. -- medical standpoint?
- 14 A. Sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt you.
- 15 I don't believe I was.
- 16 Q. Do you recall the first involvement that you
- 17 had in the case?
- 18 A. Specifically the first thing I did, I do not.
- 19 Q. When you first became involved in the case,
- 20 what was your understanding of what your role would be?
- A. To do what I'm told.
- 22 Q. Okay. Were you told that you would have
- 23 certain responsibilities?
- A. Specifically, no, but it was implied as an
- 25 associate that I would have responsibilities.

- 1 Q. What -- did you have an understanding of what
- 2 your responsibilities would be?
- 3 A. In a general sense, yes.
- 4 Q. And in a general sense, what was your
- 5 understanding?
- 6 A. Organize medical records. Create a chronology
- 7 of medical records. Make sure we had sufficient
- 8 records. Making sure we had imaging studies. You know,
- 9 if you want me to take you through the litigation
- 10 process, it would also include communicating with the
- 11 client when necessary, preparation for depositions, and
- 12 up through expert discovery and coordinating with
- 13 experts for review opinions, et cetera.
- MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to put up as Exhibit 3
- 15 some expert declarations that were filed concurrently
- 16 with the complaint in Clark County.
- 17 (Exhibit 3 was marked.)
- 18 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 19 Q. Exhibit 3 consists of the declaration of
- 20 Dr. Ritter and the declaration of Dr. Neer. Were you
- 21 involved in any way in obtaining these declarations?
- A. I don't see the exhibit, Mr. Blumberg.
- 23 Q. And thank you for pointing that out.
- 24 A. Um-hum.
- 25 Q. Let's try this again.

- 1 A. There you go.
- 2 Q. All right. So the affidavit of Dr. David Neer,
- 3 which was signed in June 2016, and the affidavit of
- 4 Dr. Ritter also signed in June 2016.
- 5 Did you have any involvement in talking with
- 6 either of these doctors and obtaining these affidavits?
- 7 A. I -- I don't think so with regard to these
- 8 affidavits that were attached for purposes of initiating
- 9 the lawsuit.
- 10 Q. Were you involved at all in drafting the
- 11 complaint that was filed in Clark County?
- 12 A. I don't recall being involved in drafting the
- 13 complaint.
- 14 Q. In the -- in connection with your role and
- 15 responsibilities in the case, did you take any
- 16 depositions?
- 17 A. No, I did not.
- 18 Q. Did you defend any depositions?
- 19 A. Just Daria and Daniel.
- 20 Q. Were you responsible once the case was filed in
- 21 Las Vegas to propound any written discovery?
- 22 A. I don't recall specifics.
- 23 Q. Okay. Do you -- you don't recall propounding
- 24 any written discovery in the case?
- 25 A. I know we propounded discovery. I don't recall

- 1 if I did it or someone else did it. Quite frankly, a
- 2 lot of discovery has been propounded since that time so
- 3 it's all kind of hazy.
- 4 Q. Okay. What about responding to discovery? Do
- 5 you recall responding to any discovery in the case,
- 6 written discovery?
- 7 A. Typing the responses, I did not, but I
- 8 generally review all responses before they go out. I
- 9 just -- I don't remember specifics in this case.
- 10 MR. BLUMBERG: All right. Let me bring up
- 11 Exhibit 4.
- 12 Give me a second here.
- 13 There we go.
- 14 (Exhibit 4 was marked.)
- 15 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 16 Q. All right. Exhibit 4 is on the screen. It is
- 17 Plaintiff Daria Harper's response to special
- 18 interrogatories propounded by Jeffrey Davidson, MD. Let
- 19 me show you the first page and show you the last page.
- 20 Does -- does this document refresh your
- 21 recollection of whether you were responsible in any way
- 22 for the production of this -- of these interrogatory
- 23 answers?
- 24 A. When you say production, are you just -- are
- 25 you talking about the actual responses being typed in or

- 1 are you talking about sending them over to co-counsel to
- 2 be then filed.
- 3 Q. Well, when I say "production," I mean having
- 4 any input at all into the answers that ended up on these
- 5 pages, whether it was doing file research, whether it
- 6 was talking to the clients. I don't care who typed it.
- 7 A. In our office at that time, our paralegal
- 8 communicated with the clients and then prepared
- 9 responses which would then be reviewed, approved, and
- 10 then sent out.
- 11 Q. All right. Do you -- based upon your
- 12 recollection, do you know whether you reviewed these
- 13 responses?
- 14 A. I don't have an independent recollection of
- 15 reviewing these responses, but generally we review
- 16 everything before it goes out.
- 17 Q. Okay. The royal "we" is sometimes hard to
- 18 determine who you're talking about. When you say "we,"
- 19 who do you mean?
- 20 A. The handling attorney on the case. So if I was
- 21 handling this at this time, I would have reviewed these
- 22 before they went out.
- 23 Q. All right. You would have reviewed them before
- 24 they went out?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And is it your general protocol when you are
- 2 reviewing the interrogatory responses that have been
- 3 prepared by a paralegal that if it doesn't say exactly
- 4 what you think it should say, you make corrections on it
- 5 before it is put into final form?
- 6 A. If necessary, we make corrections, yes.
- 7 MR. BLUMBERG: Now, the next document I'm going
- 8 to bring up is Exhibit 5.
- 9 (Exhibit 5 was marked.)
- 10 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 11 Q. And Exhibit 5 is Daria Harper's response to
- 12 interrogatories propounded by Defendant Murad Jussa, MD.
- 13 Same question as previously. Before these interrogatory
- 14 responses went out, would you have reviewed them for
- 15 accuracy and completeness?
- 16 A. That would be the custom and practice here,
- 17 yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, you'll notice on page 14 of the
- 19 document under where it says "Law Offices of Marshall
- 20 Silberberg" and then it says "by," and there's two
- 21 names: Kenneth Marshall Silberberg and William Stephens
- 22 Collins, and then there's an S/ in the -- on the line.
- Would that refer to you or to Mr. Silberberg?
- 24 A. I don't know. I don't recall doing a /S/. I
- 25 don't -- I don't remember.

- 1 Q. All right. Between you and Mr. Silberberg --
- 2 strike that.
- 3 Do you believe that Mr. Silberberg reviewed
- 4 this document before it went out?
- A. I have no idea.
- 6 Q. Based upon your understanding of how things
- 7 worked in the firm around May 2017, would he have
- 8 reviewed this document before it went out?
- 9 A. I -- I have no idea. I hesitate to speculate.
- 10 I couldn't tell you.
- 11 Q. Well, in some firms the boss wants to see
- 12 everything that goes out with no exceptions, and in
- 13 other firms, the boss will delegate to another attorney
- 14 in the firm the responsibility of reviewing the
- 15 documents so that he or she can be relieved of that --
- 16 that task.
- 17 With regard to this case, do you know whether
- 18 you were the one who was tasked with the ultimate
- 19 responsibility of reviewing the document?
- 20 A. In a general sense, yes, it would be me
- 21 reviewing it or the handling attorney reviewing it, but
- 22 there are times where Marshall will review things as
- 23 well. I just can't give you specific as to this case.
- 24 Q. At the -- at the time, how many attorneys were
- 25 there in the firm?

- 1 A. There were three total, maybe four. I don't
- 2 remember when the fourth attorney joined us.
- 3 Q. Who was the -- well, who are the three for sure
- 4 besides Mr. Silberberg and you?
- 5 A. Kim Carasso.
- 6 Q. And who is the fourth?
- 7 A. Susan Dahlin, D-a-h-l-i-n.
- 8 Q. Did you have the responsibility of locating
- 9 expert witnesses in the case?
- 10 A. Solely me? No.
- 11 Q. What was your responsibility with regard to
- 12 locating expert witnesses?
- 13 A. My responsibility was if we needed an expert,
- 14 it was to contact the person Marshall wanted to use or
- 15 to get some names and then run them by Marshall for
- 16 approval if it was someone that was new or we were
- 17 unfamiliar with.
- 18 Q. Do you know between you and Mr. Silberberg who
- 19 had more verbal conversations with the clients?
- 20 A. I don't know who had more. There was
- 21 significant verbal communication with the clients by
- 22 everyone in this office.
- 23 Q. Between you and Mr. Silberberg, do you know who
- 24 had more email communication with the clients?
- 25 A. No, I don't know who had more. There was a lot

- 1 of emails, though.
- 2 Q. Between you and Mr. Silberberg, do you know who
- 3 had more text messaging with the clients?
- 4 A. I don't know who had more. I had almost no
- 5 text messaging with them. Some, but not many.
- 6 Q. Based on a conversation with Mr. Kjar, it was
- 7 my impression that you had gone through the file to
- 8 assist in the production of the file for purposes of
- 9 this lawsuit. Did -- is that correct, that you -- that
- 10 you have gone through the file to make sure that
- 11 everything that needed to be produced was produced?
- 12 A. I went through the file to make sure you had
- 13 the entire electronic file.
- 14 Q. To your knowledge -- well, let me back up.
- Have you, before the original files were sent
- 16 to me, gone through the -- the hard copy of the files?
- 17 A. No, I don't believe I did go through the hard
- 18 copy of the files.
- 19 Q. Are you aware that -- whether Mr. Silberberg
- 20 ever wrote memos to the file regarding this case?
- 21 A. I'm sure he did. I can't think of any off the
- 22 top of my head, though.
- 23 Q. Have you ever seen any that you recall?
- 24 A. Not that I recall.
- 25 Q. And do you recall seeing any electronic memos

- 1 when you were going through the electronic records?
- 2 A. There are a lot of electronic memos.
- 3 Q. From Mr. Silberberg?
- 4 A. I believe so, but I don't recall off the top of
- 5 my head.
- 6 Q. Are you aware of letters that Mr. Silberberg
- 7 wrote to CopperPoint regarding the care that it was
- 8 required to provide to Daria Harper?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And you were aware that CopperPoint was
- 11 claiming a right under Arizona law to a lien on the
- 12 proceeds of any recovery in your case?
- 13 A. I was aware that CopperPoint was threatening
- 14 action in Arizona.
- 15 Q. Were you aware of a claim of lien; that is,
- 16 CopperPoint had informed you or Mr. Silberberg that they
- 17 claimed the right to a lien in the case?
- 18 A. I was aware they were claiming a right to
- 19 reimbursement, but I never saw what was characterized as
- 20 a formal lien.
- 21 Q. When you say you're -- you're not sure you saw
- 22 something called a formal lien, I want to make sure
- 23 we're talking about the same thing.
- 24 Did you see any documents from CopperPoint
- 25 whereby they claimed a right of reimbursement?

- 1 A. Yes, they sent a very long spreadsheet of care
- 2 costs, for lack of a better word.
- 3 Q. And in addition to the spreadsheet, did you
- 4 also see documents in which they claimed a right of
- 5 reimbursement?
- 6 A. I don't believe I saw a document saying they
- 7 claimed a right of reimbursement, but by sending the
- 8 spreadsheet, they were claiming something. They were
- 9 claiming reimbursement, presumably.
- 10 Q. From the beginning of your involvement in the
- 11 case until the mediation in the case, did you have any
- 12 conversations with anybody from CopperPoint?
- 13 A. I don't recall conversations with people from
- 14 CopperPoint before mediation or after.
- 15 Q. And from the beginning of the case until the
- 16 mediation, do you recall exchanging any written
- 17 correspondence, including emails, with anyone from
- 18 CopperPoint?
- 19 A. I believe Pam Fudge would send that spreadsheet
- 20 along, but I am not sure if we corresponded back and
- 21 forth. I don't recall that.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- MR. BLUMBERG: All right. I'm going to bring
- 24 up as Exhibit 6 --
- 25 (Exhibit 6 was marked.)

## 1 BY MR. BLUMBERG:

- 2 Q. -- an email from Will Collins dated March 9,
- 3 2018, and it is to Janette Dockstader and Ellie Tucker
- 4 giving an instruction that says:
- 5 "Please save the liens to the system and print
- 6 the email for Marshall to review."
- 7 Do you see that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And under that, it says:
- 10 "Ellie FYI 2.7 m lien."
- 11 What does that mean?
- 12 A. 2. -- for your information, 2.7 million lien.
- 13 Q. Now, under that is the email that you forwarded
- 14 that is from Pam Fudge dated March 9, 2018, where she
- 15 makes reference and attaches all of the current lien
- 16 amounts.
- 17 Do you see that?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And that's what you forwarded?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. At some point, you were admitted to practice
- 22 pro hac vice in Nevada; correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And at some point, would it be correct to state
- 25 that you read the Nevada statute governing the right to

- 1 lien claims of insurance companies in medical
- 2 malpractice cases?
- 3 A. Yes, if we're referring to the same statute,
- 4 42.021, I think it was. Yes, I saw that statute.
- 5 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to bring up as Exhibit
- 6 7 --
- 7 (Exhibit 7 was marked.)
- 8 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 9 Q. 7 should be in front of you. It's an email.
- 10 At the top it says Janet or Janette Dockstader. Is that
- 11 what you're looking at?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. And this is an email that was sent from
- 14 Tom Alch to Marshall Silberberg, Will Collins, Janette
- 15 Dockstader on September 30, 2016. You recall seeing
- 16 this statute at or around that time?
- 17 A. I don't remember seeing it at that time, but if
- 18 it was emailed to me, I would have seen it, yes.
- 19 Q. Do you recall whether this was the first time
- 20 you had seen it?
- 21 A. I don't recall if it was the first time I had
- 22 seen it.
- 23 Q. Had you ever been involved in representing a
- 24 client in Nevada before?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Now, by the time you received this email from
- 2 Mr. Alch, September 30, 2016, do you recall having done
- 3 any legal research on Nevada law pertaining to medical
- 4 malpractice cases?
- 5 A. I remember doing some research. I don't
- 6 remember if it was before or after this email.
- 7 Q. What research do you recall doing?
- 8 A. Looked at NRS 42.021 and was looking to see if
- 9 it was good law and if the statute was valid and
- 10 determined it was a valid statute.
- 11 Q. When you say a valid statute, do you mean it
- 12 had not been overturned or modified by appellate or
- 13 Supreme Court decisions?
- 14 A. I believe the only modifying factor was in the
- 15 Kroske case, which explicitly dealt with federal
- 16 peremption but left the statute intact otherwise. And I
- 17 recall a footnote in that decision saying that.
- 18 Q. At any point during your representation of
- 19 Daria and Daniel, did you do any Nevada legal research
- 20 on the subject of whether a medical malpractice
- 21 settlement barred any lien recovery by insurance
- 22 companies?
- A. I remember doing research on the lien issue and
- 24 then collateral source issue, but we were looking at
- 25 workers' comp specifically.

- 1 Q. Would it be correct to say that you were
- 2 looking at the Nevada workers' compensation statutes
- 3 with regard to the provisions that permitted recovery of
- 4 workers' compensation liens?
- 5 A. The workers' comp statutes themselves, I'm not
- 6 sure, but we were looking -- or I was looking in general
- 7 at that statute that we just discussed and looking to
- 8 see if workers' comp had a lien in Nevada on a medical
- 9 malpractice case.
- 10 Q. I'm going to bring up as Exhibit 8 a memorandum
- 11 dated March 6, 2018, from WSC. That's you; right?
- 12 A. That is me.
- 13 (Exhibit 8 was marked.)
- 14 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 15 Q. And let me ask you, you wrote this memo?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. After you wrote this memo, did you have
- 18 discussions with Marshall Silberberg regarding your
- 19 research in the case?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And do you recall the discussions? Do you
- 22 recall what was said?
- A. The specifics, no, but generally the concern
- 24 was always what would CopperPoint do if her case
- 25 settled. And I went to Marshall and said, "Marshall,

- 1 they may try and claim a lien," and I showed him this.
- 2 And then he said, "Reread the Nevada statute."
- 3 And I think that's when Janette re-forwarded me
- 4 that email you previously showed me about NRS 42.021.
- 5 Q. Okay. Now, Exhibit 8 has as its first page
- 6 your memorandum.
- 7 A. Um-hum.
- 8 Q. And then the following pages, page 2, has the
- 9 Arizona statute and the Nevada workers' comp lien
- 10 statute, NRS 616C.215. Those were attached to your
- 11 memo?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And did you see where the Arizona statute did
- 14 not prohibit a workers' compensation insurance company
- 15 from claiming a lien right in a medical malpractice
- 16 case?
- 17 A. I put the Arizona law in here for that reason,
- 18 that there was a conflict of law between Arizona and
- 19 Nevada.
- 20 Q. So after Mr. Silberberg asked you or suggested
- 21 to you that you go back and read the Nevada statute, NRS
- 22 41.021 [sic], you did that?
- 23 A. 42.021, yes, I did.
- 24 Q. And after rereading it, did you have a further
- 25 conversation with Mr. Silberberg?

- 1 A. I -- I believe I did.
- 2 Q. And what was the conversation?
- 3 A. The conversation generally was Arizona law
- 4 seems to allow a lien while the Nevada statute does not
- 5 allow a lien, and the conversation was this is a Nevada
- 6 case with potentially a Nevada recovery and that we were
- 7 worried CopperPoint would do something, may do
- 8 something, but that we needed -- that -- that the Nevada
- 9 law was -- was -- the statute was valid. That was the
- 10 sum and substance of the conversation.
- 11 Q. Did you discuss what the effect would be of
- 12 42.021 if there was a settlement rather than a trial
- 13 where evidence was introduced?
- 14 A. If there were a trial? I don't think we ever
- 15 discussed this statute as it pertains to a trial. Trial
- 16 was not on our mind, quite frankly, at that time.
- 17 Q. Were you assuming that if there was a
- 18 settlement, that under Nevada law CopperPoint would be
- 19 precluded from claiming a lien?
- 20 A. We looked at the statute, and it was valid.
- 21 So, yeah, we -- it said that medic- -- or comp -- excuse
- 22 me -- workers' comp could not assert a lien in a medical
- 23 malpractice case.
- Q. Did it say that that applied to settlements?
- 25 A. It's -- it said in a medical malpractice case.

- 1 A settlement is part of a medical malpractice case.
- 2 Q. At the time you wrote this memo and at the time
- 3 that you had this conversation with Mr. Silberberg about
- 4 whether there might be a lien that is claimed by
- 5 CopperPoint, was it your understanding of the Nevada law
- 6 42.021 that a settlement of a medical malpractice case
- 7 under 42.021 would preclude CopperPoint from a lien
- 8 claim?
- 9 A. Yeah. The statute was the statute.
- 10 Q. And you read the statute?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Did you consult with any Nevada medical
- 13 malpractice attorneys other than Tom Alch regarding
- 14 whether a medical malpractice settlement would bar a
- 15 workers' compensation lien claim?
- 16 A. Just Mr. Alch, who was our local counsel.
- 17 Q. Okay. What was discussed with Mr. Alch in that
- 18 regard?
- 19 A. I don't believe I was part of those
- 20 discussions.
- 21 Q. You have no recollection of a discussion with
- 22 Mr. Alch in that regard with -- about the applicability
- 23 of NRS 42.021?
- 24 A. I don't remember specific discussions with him,
- 25 with me. I don't remember.

- 1 Q. Do you recall discussing with Mr. Silberberg
- 2 whether he had had such discussions with Mr. Alch?
- 3 A. I don't remember discussing Mr. Silberberg's
- 4 discussions that he had with Mr. Alch, no.
- 5 Q. Do you recall discussions with Mr. Silberberg
- 6 that if there was a settlement and if Nevada law
- 7 applied, there would be no lien?
- 8 A. Discussions with me?
- 9 Q. Do you recall having discussions with
- 10 Mr. Silberberg regarding the -- regarding whether NRS
- 11 42.021 would preclude a lien by CopperPoint?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And did the two of you -- I withdraw that
- 14 question.
- 15 Did Mr. Silberberg say to you that he believed
- 16 that it would preclude a lien?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. In the files that were produced, there was an
- 19 article from "Arizona Attorney" magazine, and that's
- 20 going to be marked Exhibit 9.
- 21 And here's the question: Did that document
- 22 show up?
- A. No, it did not.
- 24 Q. Oh, okay. That's one of the things I've
- 25 learned about doing this. Every new document you have

- 1 to stop the screen share and then start all over again.
- 2 So --
- 3 A. Doing pretty good, Mr. Blumberg.
- 4 Q. Oh, thank you. Okay. Flattery will get you
- 5 everywhere.
- 6 (Exhibit 9 was marked.)
- 7 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 8 Q. Okay. So this document is now on the screen,
- 9 and it is an article from "Arizona Attorney" dated April
- 10 2000.
- 11 Do you see this?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Do you recall at some point reading this
- 14 article?
- 15 A. I don't recall reading it specifically, but I
- 16 remember this article.
- 17 Q. Do you remember when it was obtained?
- 18 A. Alan Schiffman sent it to us.
- 19 Q. Do you recall when?
- 20 A. I don't remember when.
- 21 Q. Was it in the year 2020?
- 22 A. No. This was way before that. 2016, 2017,
- 23 maybe 2018. I don't remember.
- 24 Q. And you would have read it about the time that
- 25 it was sent to you by Mr. Schiffman?

- 1 A. I don't specifically remember reading it, but I
- 2 remember printing it.
- 3 Q. Do you think you read it?
- 4 A. I think so.
- 5 Q. Did you discuss this article with
- 6 Mr. Silberberg?
- A. I don't believe I discussed it with him.
- 8 Q. Did you discuss this article with Mr. Schiffman
- 9 or any other Arizona attorney?
- 10 A. I remember Mr. Schiffman sent this article, but
- 11 I don't remember the discussion.
- 12 Q. In the couple of months before the mediation in
- 13 this case, in your case, did you have an understanding
- 14 that if there was a settlement of a workers'
- 15 compensation case without the consent of the workers'
- 16 compensation carrier, that there could be significant
- 17 forfeiture consequences for the client?
- 18 A. Did I have an understanding that if the case
- 19 was settled, there would be consequences for the client?
- 20 Is that your question?
- 21 Q. That's right.
- 22 A. My understanding was and the instruction I had
- 23 been given was that the statute was valid and it meant
- 24 there was no lien. So I was not a workers' compensation
- 25 attorney in Arizona, which is -- was not part of my job

- 1 responsibility as to what may happen in Arizona.
- 2 Q. You stated earlier that you recognized that
- 3 there might be a conflict of law issue between Arizona
- 4 and Nevada?
- 5 A. On the -- the statutes on their face
- 6 conflicted.
- 7 Q. And did you personally come to any conclusion
- 8 which state's law would apply with regard to Daria and
- 9 Daniel's case?
- 10 A. After discussing with Mr. Silberberg, the
- 11 conclusion was that the Nevada statute applied to the
- 12 Nevada medical malpractice case.
- 13 Q. How sure were you and Mr. Silberberg about
- 14 that?
- 15 A. I can't speak as to Mr. Silberberg, but the
- 16 statute on its face was valid and clear as to medical
- 17 malpractice cases.
- 18 Q. I'm talking about in a conflicts of law
- 19 situation where the law of one state may be applied as
- 20 opposed to the law of another state. Did you consider
- 21 how it would be determined which state's law would
- 22 apply?
- A. My consideration was this was a Nevada lawsuit
- 24 with a Nevada injury which meant Nevada law would apply.
- 25 Q. Was it your opinion at the time that it was

- 1 highly unlikely that Arizona law would apply or
- 2 impossible that Arizona law would apply?
- 3 A. I didn't formulate an opinion as to Arizona
- 4 law. We --
- 5 Q. I'm not talking -- let me stop you.
- 6 I'm not talking about an opinion about Arizona
- 7 law. I'm talking about an opinion regarding the
- 8 application of Arizona law versus the application of
- 9 Nevada law.
- 10 A. I spoke to Mr. Silberberg about this, and he
- 11 instructed me after looking at the statute that this was
- 12 a Nevada medical malpractice case with a Nevada injury
- 13 and Nevada law would apply. And at that point the
- 14 discussion ended, and I was told what to do, so to
- 15 speak.
- 16 Q. When you say you were "told what to do," what
- 17 were you told what -- what were you told to do?
- 18 A. To listen to what he told me.
- 19 Q. Did he tell you --
- 20 A. I work for him.
- 21 Q. Did he tell you -- yeah.
- Did he tell you, okay, now here's your next
- 23 assignment in the case or here's what I want you to do
- 24 in the case? That's what I'm asking.
- 25 A. Well, that's a hard question to ask because I

- 1 don't remember when this conversation necessarily took
- 2 place, but, of course, the instruction was let's keep
- 3 moving the case forward. So we, you know, went on about
- 4 the work of moving forward a medical malpractice case.
- 5 Q. This would -- would this have been -- would
- 6 this have been after you wrote your memo, your March
- 7 2018 memo, these conversations?
- 8 A. I believe the conversation took place right
- 9 after that memo and after he looked at it. And that's
- 10 pretty much where the conversations with me stopped.
- 11 Q. At any time did you do any Nevada legal
- 12 research regarding the limitations on the recovery of
- 13 noneconomic damages?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Did you ever read the statute on what a
- 16 plaintiff can recover by way of noneconomic damages?
- 17 A. I don't remember specifically reading the
- 18 statute, but I was -- had an understanding of what it
- 19 was.
- 20 Q. And what was your understanding -- well, when
- 21 you say you don't specifically recall, do you have any
- 22 recollection at all of reading the Nevada statute on
- 23 noneconomic damages?
- A. As I sit here right now, no, I do not.
- MR. KJAR: John, can we go off the record?

- 1 MR. BLUMBERG: Do you need a break, Jim?
- 2 MR. KJAR: Yeah.
- 3 MR. BLUMBERG: Sure. How long do you need?
- 4 MR. KJAR: At least five minutes.
- 5 MR. BLUMBERG: Did you say five, f-i-v-e?
- 6 MR. KJAR: Yes.
- 7 MR. BLUMBERG: Okay. See you in five.
- 8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. We are off the record
- 9 at 11:30 a.m.
- 10 (A recess was taken from 11:30 a.m. to
- 11 11:40 a.m.)
- 12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the record at
- 13 11:40 a.m.
- 14 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 15 Q. Mr. Collins, during the break did -- did you
- 16 come to any realization that an answer that you had
- 17 previously given was inaccurate and you needed to
- 18 revisit the -- the question?
- 19 A. I don't think so.
- 20 Q. No epiphanies?
- 21 A. I don't get paid to have epiphanies,
- 22 Mr. Blumberg.
- MR. KJAR: How about you? Did you get any,
- 24 John? Because epiphanies can run both ways.
- 25 THE WITNESS: Epiphanies -- (Zoom skipped) --

- 1 I'm told.
- 2 (Reporter interruption.)
- THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. It was me.
- 4 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 5 Q. Oh, by the way, I hear voices in the -- you
- 6 know, on the screen, but I don't know where those voices
- 7 are. Is anyone in the room with you?
- 8 A. Mr. Kjar.
- 9 Q. Okay. Anyone else?
- 10 MR. KJAR: No.
- 11 THE WITNESS: No.
- 12 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 13 Q. Okay.
- MR. KJAR: Don't tell me you're hearing voices,
- 15 John.
- 16 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 17 Q. When we left off before the break, I had been
- 18 asking about whether you had done any Nevada legal
- 19 research on the Nevada medical malpractice statute that
- 20 dealt with noneconomic damages, and you said that you
- 21 didn't recall having done any.
- 22 A. I don't.
- 23 Q. Did you have an understanding from any source
- 24 what -- whether there were any caps on recovery of
- 25 damages, noneconomic damages, in a Nevada medical

- 1 malpractice case?
- 2 A. My understanding from Mr. Alch and
- 3 Mr. Silberberg was that Nevada statute was like
- 4 California's except for their general damages cap was
- 5 350 and not 250.
- 6 Q. And you never compared the two statutes?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. And Mr. Alch told you that the statutes were
- 9 virtually identical except instead of 250,000 it was
- 10 350,000?
- 11 A. I don't remember if Mr. Alch told me that
- 12 specifically. My understanding was the 350 versus 250.
- 13 Q. Did you have an understanding of whether there
- 14 was a separate \$350,000 recovery on a spouse's loss of
- 15 consortium claim in a medical malpractice case?
- 16 A. I had no understanding one way or the other.
- 17 Q. So -- so you had not -- strike that.
- So when you say you had no understanding one
- 19 way or the other, can you tell me what you mean?
- A. I did not contemplate that issue at any point
- 21 in time, nor was I asked to do that.
- 22 Q. Did you ever do any Nevada legal research
- 23 regarding whether Daniel's loss of consortium claim
- 24 could include economic damages?
- A. No, I did not.

- 1 Q. Did you ever discuss that issue with Tom Alch?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Did you ever discuss that issue with
- 4 Mr. Silberberg?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Were you tasked with determining whether there
- 7 were any Medicare or Medicaid liens?
- 8 A. I don't think I was tasked with doing that.
- 9 Q. Do you know who in your office had that
- 10 responsibility?
- 11 A. Generally in our office with respect to
- 12 Medi-Cal and Medicare, our paralegal does that.
- 13 Q. When you have handled cases in Mr. Silberberg's
- 14 office -- and let me just ask this broadly:
- 15 Are there any cases where you are the handling
- 16 lawyer?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. When -- when I asked you and used the
- 19 word "handling" lawyer, what did that mean to you?
- 20 A. Handling is day-to-day. That's what I mean,
- 21 handling.
- 22 Q. Okay. So let me use the word primary
- 23 responsible lawyer.
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 Q. And using an example, there are some cases that

- 1 a lawyer is tasked with doing various things during a
- 2 case but it's another lawyer's responsibility to oversee
- 3 everything.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. Other situations, a lawyer is tasked with
- 6 handling everything in the case and the boss could be
- 7 consulted on -- on various things but -- but the other
- 8 lawyer is responsible for -- for working on and
- 9 developing the whole case.
- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. With regard to your role in the Law Offices of
- 12 Marshall Silberberg, do you have any cases where you are
- 13 the primary responsible lawyer?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Now, when your firm represents clients whose
- 16 cases are subject to liens, do you or Mr. Silberberg
- 17 negotiate reductions of those liens on behalf of your
- 18 clients?
- 19 A. At times, yes.
- 20 Q. So, for example, if there's an insurance
- 21 company lien, you would negotiate with the insurance
- 22 company to see if you could get a reduction in their
- 23 claim?
- 24 A. Yes, for example, in auto cases.
- 25 Q. And if there is a Medicare lien, you negotiate

- 1 with the government representatives to see what kinds of
- 2 reductions you can get in the case?
- 3 A. At times, yes.
- 4 Q. To your knowledge, does the firm ever charge
- 5 clients anything in addition to the contingent fee for
- 6 negotiating those liens?
- 7 A. There are times where we have contracted with
- 8 outside entities to handle reductions and --
- 9 Q. And?
- 10 A. -- that cost, to my understanding, is passed on
- 11 on the client ledger at times.
- 12 Q. Did you have some involvement in obtaining the
- 13 expert reports that had to be filed in the spring of
- 14 2018?
- 15 A. I did.
- 16 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to put up as Exhibit
- 17 10 --
- 18 (Exhibit 10 was marked.)
- 19 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 20 Q. -- a collection of expert declarations. And
- 21 these declarations -- and the exhibit is 34 pages in
- 22 length. There's Dr. Dorros, Dr. Le, Dr. Pleasure,
- 23 Dr. Ritter, Dr. Shaw. I thought there was one more in
- 24 here. I think there was one more.
- 25 /////

- 1 A. Yes, Dr. Ciacci.
- 2 Q. Ciacci. I'm just looking to see if that's
- 3 included here.
- 4 A. I didn't see it there when you were scrolling.
- 5 Q. There it is. Ciacci.
- 6 You spoke with all of these experts, didn't
- 7 you?
- 8 A. Extensively.
- 9 Q. And when you say extensively, what do you mean?
- 10 A. This was a complex case. There was a lot of
- 11 phone calls and communication.
- 12 Q. And so did you discuss with them, for example,
- 13 all of their opinions in the case and their responses to
- 14 the opinions that the defense experts had expressed,
- 15 that sort of thing?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And did all of these doctors agree to testify
- 18 at trial consistent with what was in their declarations?
- 19 A. Not all.
- 20 Q. All right. Did you prepare these declarations
- 21 for their signature?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And everything that you put in these
- 24 declarations was what your understanding was of what
- 25 they had told you were their opinions?

- 1 A. Yes. I put in the opinions that would help our
- 2 case.
- 3 Q. That wasn't my question.
- 4 When you drafted these declarations, did you
- 5 make stuff up that they hadn't told you?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Okay. So when you drafted these declarations,
- 8 is it an accurate statement that you wrote in the
- 9 declaration for the doctor to sign under penalty of
- 10 perjury those opinions that the doctor had given you?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And with regard to every opinion that was
- 13 listed in the declaration, did the doctor say that he
- 14 would testify to that in deposition and in trial?
- 15 A. Did the doctors use those words? I don't
- 16 recall. But these were sent to the doctors for review
- 17 and signature.
- 18 Q. And it was your understanding that by signing
- 19 the declarations, you could count on them to give that
- 20 opinion when their deposition was taken.
- 21 A. I'm not sure how I can answer that.
- 22 Q. Well, wouldn't you be surprised if they
- 23 testified in a way that was contrary to something that
- 24 was in their declaration?
- 25 A. Of course. Anyone would be surprised if an

- 1 expert flipped.
- 2 Q. And so it was your expectation that they would
- 3 testify consistently with what you had put in the
- 4 declarations that they signed; correct?
- 5 A. I can't answer if they would testify. I knew
- 6 the experts signed the declarations and were comfortable
- 7 with what was in them.
- 8 Q. Fair enough.
- 9 Did you personally have any conversations at
- 10 any time with Daniel or Daria before the mediation about
- 11 whether CopperPoint could enforce a lien on their
- 12 settlement?
- 13 A. I don't remember specific conversations, but I
- 14 remember there were conversations between this office
- 15 and Daria and Daniel about CopperPoint.
- 16 Q. I'll get to this office in a minute. I'm right
- 17 now asking about what your recollection was of what you
- 18 said to them with regard to whether CopperPoint could
- 19 enforce or attempt to enforce a lien on their
- 20 settlement.
- 21 A. I don't remember specifics, but generally there
- 22 were conversations that Nevada didn't permit a lien, but
- 23 that didn't guarantee CopperPoint wouldn't take some
- 24 form of action against them in Arizona.
- 25 Q. Did you ever tell them words to the effect that

- 1 in your opinion, Nevada law, where the case was -- where
- 2 the case was pending, did not permit CopperPoint to have
- 3 a lien?
- 4 A. I don't remember if I said that to them
- 5 specifically, but generally there were conversations,
- 6 and it was put in writing.
- 7 Q. When you say "it was put in writing," what
- 8 writing?
- 9 A. September 18th, 2018, there was a letter sent to
- 10 Daria and Daniel specifically addressing the issues of
- 11 Nevada law, Arizona law, and CopperPoint.
- 12 Q. Do you recall ever seeing anything in writing
- 13 on that subject prior to September 18, 2018?
- 14 A. I'm not sure. Specifically I can't recall
- 15 anything. There may have been emails, but I don't
- 16 remember.
- 17 Q. I want to talk about the mediation now. You
- 18 attended the mediation?
- 19 A. I did.
- 20 Q. And at the mediation were Daniel and Daria
- 21 there in attendance?
- A. They were.
- 23 Q. Mr. Silberberg was also there?
- 24 A. He was.
- 25 Q. Was Mr. Alch there?

- 1 A. I don't think so.
- 2 Q. Do you recall having any discussions by
- 3 telephone with Mr. Alch during the mediation?
- 4 A. I did not have any discussions with Mr. Alch by
- 5 telephone during the mediation.
- 6 Q. Do you recall seeing or hearing Mr. Silberberg
- 7 having conversations with Mr. Alch during the mediation?
- 8 A. I don't have a recollection of that. I am not
- 9 sure if it happened.
- 10 Q. Did you draft the mediation brief?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Did you write any part of it?
- 13 A. I can't say that I wrote any part of it. I
- 14 believe Marshall dictated it.
- 15 Q. Did you read it?
- 16 A. I think so.
- 17 Q. At any time before the commencement of the
- 18 mediation, do you believe that it is more likely than
- 19 not that you read the mediation brief?
- A. I believe I read it when it was ready to go
- 21 out.
- 22 Q. Do you recall discussing it with
- 23 Mr. Silberberg?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Do you recall pointing out anything in the

- 1 brief that might not be inaccurate -- that might not be
- 2 accurate?
- 3 A. I don't recall that.
- 4 Q. If you had seen something inaccurate or
- 5 unclear, would you have pointed that out to
- 6 Mr. Silberberg?
- 7 A. I don't recall seeing anything that I pointed
- 8 out. I don't get paid -- well, I voice my opinion when
- 9 I'm asked my opinion. I don't remember pointing
- 10 anything out to him.
- 11 Q. Let me ask it this way: If you -- by that
- 12 time, by the time the mediation brief was written, you
- 13 had spent a lot of time talking with the experts;
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. That's true.
- 16 Q. You had spent a lot of time talking with the
- 17 clients; correct?
- 18 A. True.
- 19 Q. You had defended their depositions; correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You had been involved in providing responses to
- 22 written discovery; correct?
- A. I think so.
- 24 Q. So in reading the mediation brief, if you saw
- 25 something that you knew was incorrect, would you keep

- 1 that to yourself?
- 2 A. If I saw something that I believed needed to be
- 3 addressed, I would have voiced my opinion.
- 4 Q. And by "needed to be addressed," what do you
- 5 mean?
- 6 A. Something that I thought should be included or
- 7 something that I had a question about, but I don't
- 8 remember that happening.
- 9 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to mark as Exhibit 11
- 10 a page from the mediation brief.
- 11 (Exhibit 11 was marked.)
- 12 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 13 Q. It is page 26. Just take a second and look at
- 14 the page, and then I'm going to ask you if you recall
- 15 reading this page. Is it large enough for you to see?
- 16 A. Yes, I can see it.
- 17 Okay.
- 18 Q. Is there anything on that page that you
- 19 believed at the time or believe now is incorrect?
- 20 A. I don't think so.
- 21 Q. During the mediation, did you or Mr. Silberberg
- 22 give an estimate to the clients what they would net from
- 23 the settlement?
- 24 A. I did not give any such estimate. I believe
- 25 Mr. Silberberg did some math to give them an idea.

- 1 Q. When you say "did some math," was that on any
- 2 paper that ultimately found its way into the file?
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 Q. During the mediation, was there any discussion
- 5 that you heard or participated in with the clients about
- 6 CopperPoint's lien or their lien claim?
- A. I remember generally there was a discussion
- 8 about whether or not the defendants would pay the lien
- 9 or assume the lien.
- 10 Q. You mean in addition to the settlement amount?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. And that was a discussion -- was that part of
- 13 the negotiation that was going on, or was that a
- 14 discussion apart from the negotiation that was had with
- 15 the clients?
- 16 A. I believe it was part of the negotiation, and
- 17 the discussion was with the mediator, Judge Bell.
- 18 Q. Do you remember whether that was before or
- 19 after the six -- 6,250,000 had been offered?
- 20 A. I don't recall. I just recall it was during
- 21 the mediation.
- 22 Q. If the -- strike that.
- Was one of the demands that you recall during
- 24 the mediation that was made on behalf of Plaintiff that
- 25 the defendants assume the lien or pay the lien?

- 1 A. I believe so.
- 2 Q. During the development of the case, are you
- 3 aware of the agreement that was signed by Daria
- 4 regarding what I'll call a housing settlement?
- 5 A. Between Daria and CopperPoint?
- 6 Q. Yes.
- 7 A. Yeah. I was aware of that, yeah.
- 8 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to put up as Exhibit
- 9 12 a -- I'll call it a letter. I'll put it up.
- 10 (Exhibit 12 was marked.)
- 11 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 12 Q. It's almost a first-page memo that says
- 13 "Subject: Settlement Letter," and the date is July 26,
- 14 2016.
- 15 Do you recall seeing this document?
- 16 A. Zoom out just a bit.
- 17 Q. Sure.
- 18 A. I don't know if I've ever seen this letter, but
- 19 I was aware of something having to do with her housing
- 20 in CopperPoint.
- 21 MR. BLUMBERG: I'm going to bring up as Exhibit
- 22 13 --
- 23 (Exhibit 13 was marked.)
- 24 BY MR. BLUMBERG:
- 25 Q. This is a -- kind of looks like a fax. The