

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CASE NO.: CACE 15-000072

BRADLEY J. EDWARDS, and PAUL G. CASSELL,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ALAN DERSHOWITZ,

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF NON-PARTY VIRGINIA ROBERTS' EMERGENCY MOTION TO SEAL

DATE TAKEN:	December 18, 2015
TIME:	9:26 a.m - 9:45 a.m.
PLACE:	Broward County Courthouse
	201 Southeast 6th Street
	Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
BEFORE:	Thomas M. Lynch, IV, Circuit Court Judge

This cause came on to be heard at the time and place aforesaid, when and where the following proceedings were reported by:

> Michele Cameron Magna Legal Services 866-624-6221



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    APPEARANCES:
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    On behalf of Non-Party, Virgina Roberts:
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     On behalf of the Defendant:
 8
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                 NO EXHIBITS MARKED
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Page 3 (The following proceedings were had:) 1 2 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. 3 MS. MCCAWLEY: Good morning, Your Honor. 4 MR. SAFRA: Good morning. 5 THE COURT: Sorry for the delay. 6 Do we have anything other than what I 7 reviewed, the Emergency Motion to Seal? 8 MS. MCCAWLEY: There's the Emergency 9 Motion to Seal that we filed. 10 We also filed, on Wednesday, a Motion to 11 Strike that affidavit, which is not set for 12 today. 13 THE COURT: Okay. 14 MS. MCCAWLEY: And counsel would like an 15 opportunity to respond to that; so I will just briefly address that, but not in 16 17 substance. 18 THE COURT: I just wanted to make sure. 19 MS. MCCAWLEY: Sure. 20 MR. SAFRA: And our opposition to the 21 emergency motion. 2.2 THE COURT: Yes. 23 MR. SAFRA: Okay. 24 THE COURT: I also read about everything 25 in the Sunday Times.



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1 MS. MCCAWLEY: Your Honor, may I 2 proceed? 3 THE COURT: Sure. 4 MS. MCCAWLEY: Great, thank you. 5 We're here before you today on 6 non-party, Virginia Roberts', Emergency 7 Motion to Seal the affidavit of Alan Dershowtiz. The issue before the Court is 8 9 discrete. It's a single issue, and that is 10 whether or not Mr. Dershowitz violated the 11 settlement privilege by filing his affidavit 12 in the public file with this Court. 13 To give you some background, how this 14 transpired, Mr. Dershowitz was set for 15 deposition in this case. As you know, he is 16 a party in this case. I attended that 17 deposition on behalf of non-party, Virginia 18 Roberts. During the course of that 19 deposition, there were a number of issues 20 that transpired. Mr. Dershowitz was 21 difficult to control. He would make speaking 2.2 answers that were not pertinent to the 23 question that had been asked. In the course 24 of that, he started to try to disclose what I 25 allege are confidential settlement



discussions that occurred amongst my client, 1 2 her lawyers, and Mr. Dershowitz, along with 3 some other individuals. I objected to those. 4 I tried to talk over -- he continued to talk 5 over me. I tried to stop that from 6 happening. Eventually, his counsel assisted 7 in that and got him to hold off, over my 8 objections, so that we could have the Court 9 hear that issue. 10 It would have been appropriate for them to present their Motion in Limine asking the 11 12 Court to rule on those objections. That 13 piece of their motion is something that the 14 Court would commonly see. 15 What is different about their Motion in 16 Limine is Mr. Dershowitz intentionally 17 attached, and his lawyers allowed him to 18 attach to that Motion in Limine, an 19 affidavit -- I think it's five or six pages 20 long -- where he puts in the public court 21 file everything that he proclaims occurred 2.2 during those confidential settlement 23 discussions. 24

So my objection was on file. Rather than allowing the Court to rule on that



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Page 6 objection, he proceeded to put in the public 1 court file his litany, we which contend is a 2 3 misrepresentation of what occurred during those confidential settlement discussions. 4 5 Then he proceeded to leak that affidavit 6 to the New York Times, because he knew they 7 were doing a story, and he wanted that 8 information to go to the Times. This 9 transpired very quickly; that is why I filed 10 an emergency motion. I don't take that 11 lightly. 12 THE COURT: Can I ask a question? 13 MS. MCCAWLEY: Sure. 14 THE COURT: Is there a dispute as to 15 that quote, unquote, leak? 16 MR. SAFRA: Yes. 17 THE COURT: Okay. 18 MS. MCCAWLEY: Oh, is there a dispute? 19 Okay. I wasn't aware that there was a 20 dispute. I thought that was --21 THE COURT: I wasn't, either; so that's 2.2 why --23 MS. MCCAWLEY: No, that's good to know. 24 With respect to what transpired, he knew 25 the objections were sitting.



Now, the basis of the Motion in Limine, his argument, through his lawyers, is that these were not settlement discussions. In other words, there's no protection here; he's entitled to say whatever he wants about those conversations because they were not settlement discussions.

8 We have been very careful -- my partner, 9 David Boies, who is the Chairman of my 10 firm -- was very careful not to reveal any of 11 those conversations because we contend they are settlement discussions. But if the Court 12 13 would allow me, I'd like to submit in camera, 14 for your review, nothing that reveals the 15 settlement discussions, but an e-mail from 16 Mr. Dershowitz's team that characterizes this 17 exact issue as being, quote, This is being 18 sent to you as part of a process of 19 negotiation, hopefully leading to a 20 resolution of the matter involving 21 in Dershowitz and Ms. Roberts. 2.2 Then the documents attached to that, 23 which I will not submit to the Court because

we contend that's part of the confidential settlement process, were labeled



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"Confidential negotiation purposes only".

It is shameless that they came before this Court and told the Court that these were not confidential settlement negotiations when, in their own words, in this negotiation process, they labeled them as such.

7 Your Honor, that's sanctionable conduct. 8 We clearly contend that this was a 9 confidential process. The whole purpose of 10 Statute 90.408 that deals with settlement 11 discussions amongst parties is to allow 12 parties to freely discuss those issues to 13 resolve a matter without worrying about a 14 repercussion that something said during those 15 confidential negotiations could be used 16 against their client. That is the whole 17 purpose. That's why we have this protection.

There's also the mediation privilege protection, which is set forth in 44.403. And while there was not a mediator, per se, attending these, that statute, the Florida legislature also protected conversations leading up to that mediation. And as you know, in this case, the parties have engaged in a mediation with Judge Streitfeld. All of



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these conversations were efforts by the parties to try to find resolution of the matters between the issues at stake in this case; so for them to file a motion saying that these were not confidential settlement discussions, I think, is sanctionable conduct. I contend that it is.

The Court has the power -- there's a 8 9 number of cases, Parzino, which is cited in 10 our Motion to Strike -- and I know counsel will have an opportunity to respond to this 11 12 one -- the Court considers that, but that 13 case is directly on point because it dealt 14 with this exact issue, where a party wanted 15 to reveal settlement discussions to the press 16 and to the public, file them publically, 17 revealed them to the press, and the Court 18 struck the pleadings in that case because --19 and the District Court approved that because 20 it was an appropriate sanction for revealing 21 something that was confidential information, 2.2 particularly when it was done intentionally. 23 You don't have to go any further than 24 the face of the Motion in Limine that says, 25 "I have objected that those are confidential



settlement discussions." They disagree with 1 2 that objection. Instead of allowing the 3 Court to rule on that objection, they then 4 submit an affidavit that spews falsehoods of 5 what transpired in those meetings, but then 6 says that they are true; so we contend that 7 the affidavit should be sealed and stricken from the record, but at a minimum, sealed for 8 9 the moment until the Court can make that 10 ruling. Because if it's not sealed, the 11 media can continue to use that and they can 12 continue to work that angle without any 13 protection on our end.

14 If the Court is not inclined to do that, 15 if the Court deicides no, that I don't 16 believe these were settlement conversations 17 of some kind and Mr. Dershowitz is allowed to 18 go to the media and any other public source 19 and say these things, then we want a clear 20 statement on the record that we are entitled 21 to do so, as well. What's good for the goose 2.2 is good for the gander: all of these 23 documents that we were given, all the 24 information that he gave us in the course of 25 that process, which we have protected as



Page 11 confidential settlement discussions --1 THE COURT: Well, I'm sure there would 2 3 be no problem with that, correct? MR. SAFRA: With regard to the 4 5 disclosure of the documentation that was 6 given to them at meetings at issue? 7 THE COURT: Right. 8 MR. SAFRA: No problem. 9 MS. MCCAWLEY: And everything said 10 during those meetings. Everything said 11 during those meetings. 12 THE COURT: You have no problem with 13 that, right? 14 MR. SAFRA: Yes. 15 THE COURT: Okay. MR. SAFRA: Yes, like in agreement as to 16 17 the documents. 18 MS. MCCAWLEY: So Your Honor, at bottom, we contend that these were confidential 19 settlement negotiations. We believe that 20 21 Mr. Dershowitz intentionally did this 2.2 knowingly and that he should be sanctioned 23 for this conduct. Because if not, he will 24 continue to do this. This is his way of 25 litigating. It's the wrong way. It's in bad



Page 12 faith, and we contend that those discussions 1 2 should be protected. 3 THE COURT: Thank you. 4 MS. MCCAWLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. 5 MR. SAFRA: Good morning, Your Honor. 6 THE COURT: Good morning. 7 MR. SAFRA: I'm going to put my argument aside for a second and address probably the 8 9 three main points that, based upon even your 10 comments, I think it would probably behoove 11 everybody to understand first. 12 What's at issue here is just whether 13 there's a basis, an emergency basis, for 14 sealing. Not the Motion to Strike, not their 15 pending request for sanctions, and not our 16 Motion in Limine. 17 THE COURT: Correct. 18 MR. SAFRA: Okay. I think the primary 19 argument or the majority of what she has 20 conveyed, Ms. McCawley, deals with what is 21 not at issue; and we got one of those major 2.2 filings on Wednesday afternoon and are 23 entitled to an opportunity to respond, and 24 that's not in dispute. 25 As to the practices of my client that



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are alleged and this alleged leaking, I actually think it's the total opposite. Other than one op-ed piece by the Wall Street Journal, okay, my client -- which was a legal analysis piece -- has never been the initiator to any of the press, okay.

7 What is going on here is that the 8 Plaintiffs, and now also Ms. Roberts, are 9 making their filings in the public record, 10 okay, and then tipping off the press to them 11 either through the filing or themselves and saying, "No comment," or, "I'm not 12 13 commenting," but here's my comment where I 14 call them a liar or, you know, try to hide 15 under the litigation privilege. And then 16 they're trying to prevent my client from 17 responding either publically when the Times, 18 for example, contacts them after they've 19 received the filing, or even through public 20 record, if he does make a response --21 THE COURT: How did the Times receive the filing? 22 23 MR. SAFRA: Either from Plaintiffs or 24 getting notice that it was filed, but not 25 from us.



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Page 14 There was a phone call to my client that 1 2 then said we've interviewed --3 THE COURT: Well, certainly Mr. Boies' 4 client wouldn't have any motivation. 5 MR. SAFRA: They spoke to Mr. Boies 6 before they spoke to my client and told them 7 that they had already spoken to them. 8 THE COURT: I'm talking about to 9 disclose the filing in question. 10 MR. SAFRA: The filing in question, no, 11 but the affidavits of Ms. Roberts that after 12 Your Honor --13 THE COURT: No, I'm not talking about 14 that. MR. SAFRA: But that's what --15 16 THE COURT: I'm talking about what we 17 are talking about today. 18 MR. SAFRA: They called and they had 19 disclosed how they got -- the Times article 20 got the affidavit, they were then checking 21 the court record. 2.2 But I'm saying that my client was called 23 about the Times and asked for statements in 24 response, but he didn't do any leaking of any 25 sort. He didn't do any initiating; so I'm



Page 15 just advising the Court that our position is 1 2 all he did was respond to some questions when 3 he was contacted, saying that they had 4 already interviewed Boies, they're doing an 5 article on this story and so on. And I 6 believe they were asked, "Well, how did you 7 get notice?" And I can't confirm whether --8 but their practice has been -- and that's why 9 we tried to prevent the affidavit from being 10 put back in the record, and as the Court remembers you ruled, that it should not be 11 12 sealed; the presumption of openness trumps 13 any desire to seal. 14 THE COURT: I understand that. 15 MR. SAFRA: Okay. So --16 THE COURT: But if the argument for that 17 was different than the argument as it relates 18 to this. 19 MR. SAFRA: Okay. And as to this, I'll 20 address that. The first thing is, is that 21 first of all, it's not at issue today whether 2.2 these are settlement conversations, but I 23 tell this Court, they are not. 24 The e-mail that Ms. McCawley is 25 referencing is from after mediation. Every



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single meeting and subject matter of Mr. Dershowitz's affidavit deals with meetings with Mr. Boise before mediation or any settlement conversation ever occurred.

There was a meeting between a non-party's counsel and my client to try to get to the facts, because Mr. Dershowitz believes that if he could have an opportunity to disprove the facts, then maybe, if Mr. Boies agreed and then Ms. Roberts then agreed or they talked to him, then maybe, from a factual standpoint, there could be some resolution and who knows what effect.

But Mr. Boise made it very, very clear: he does not represent the Plaintiffs, he has no authority for anything, he is not there for any capacity on their behalf --

18 THE COURT: I understand. But I had a 19 question --

20 MR. SAFRA: -- and that was after -- and 21 I can't get into the specifics of the 22 mediation and the conversations to the extent 23 in which Ms. McCawley and Mr. Boies were 24 involved, which were over the last month or 25 two, and is nothing of the subject matter of



Page 17 Mr. Dershowitz's public affidavit. Those 1 2 communications had to do with when there was 3 resolution trying to be reached with the 4 Plaintiffs, and one part of it involved 5 Ms. Roberts. But that's not in the 6 affidavit. That has no reference, and that's 7 an afterwards. THE COURT: Well, I've got a question. 8 9 MR. SAFRA: They ignore the timeline. 10 THE COURT: During the deposition of 11 your client, your client certainly was aware 12 that it was their position that these 13 discussions were confidential, right? 14 MR. SAFRA: They raised an objection, 15 and actually, I disagree with the characterization of Mr. Dershowitz's 16 17 testimony, because at one point, he even --18 THE COURT: That's not my question. 19 MR. SAFRA: I was going to answer that. 20 THE COURT: Okay. 21 MR. SAFRA: Okay. So he was aware of 2.2 the objection. He even stated on the record, 23 "I can't answer that because it implicates 24 that conversation." 25 But we waited over a month for them to



Page 18 bring it, and they're trying to complete 1 2 these depositions. And so we filed our 3 Motion in Limine not addressing the settlement part, but just addressing the 4 5 non-settlement-related communications that occurred before settlement was even an issue. 6 7 THE COURT: That sounds like a, "Yes" --8 MR. SAFRA: Yes. 9 THE COURT: -- to my question. 10 MR. SAFRA: We were aware of their 11 objection, and we did not implicate that 12 aspect in our affidavit. 13 THE COURT: So your client was aware of 14 those discussions, that it was their 15 position, were confidential? 16 MR. SAFRA: They ever never specified 17 which -- the mediation-related ones, yes. 18 THE COURT: Notwithstanding that fact, 19 there was that filing. Why would that 20 happen? 21 MR. SAFRA: That filing has nothing to 2.2 do with the settlement-related conversations. 23 Those have not been made public --24 THE COURT: Well, I know that's your 25 position.



	Taye IJ
1	MR. SAFRA: and Mr. Boise was even
2	contacted and said, "We are going to be"
3	THE COURT: It just doesn't seem like
4	it's the right thing to do, if your client is
5	aware that it's their position that those
6	discussions are confidential, and then, after
7	that, the filing occurs.
8	MR. SAFRA: The right thing to do was
9	wait a time period for them to raise the
10	objections, which we did; contact Mr. Boies,
11	which my client did, and say we are going to
12	be making a filing, okay. Gave them extra
13	time. No response. Nothing. And then we
14	have no choice but try to proceed. So that
15	way, when the next deposition comes, we can
16	actually resolve the issues. We purposely
17	did not address the at-issue settlement time
18	period after the mediation when that issue
19	when that was involved. These meetings all
20	occurred months before then and related to an
21	opportunity for Mr. Dershowitz to meet with
22	Mr. Boise to show him, these are my
23	calendars, information, and disprove the
24	facts. He is a non-party. There's no
25	resolution, and it did not involve the



Page 20 Plaintiffs. It was not a settlement. 1 There 2 was no mediator. 3 If it was supposed to be confidential, 4 wouldn't we have seen, for that time period, 5 an e-mail from Mr. Boise, or someone, saying 6 it's confidential? Something in writing 7 saying it's a confidential settlement? There 8 is nothing for that time period, and that's 9 the time period that's at issue in his 10 affidavits. 11 THE COURT: Ma'am, from your standpoint, does it matter that it was published in the 12 13 Times? I mean, that's where I first learned 14 15 about it, because I don't monitor filings on 16 the computer, obviously. 17 MS. MCCAWLEY: Right. Your Honor, it 18 matters, two things. 19 First, yes, it does matter. It matters 20 that it was filed in the public record, over 21 my objection. That, in and of itself, is 2.2 sanctionable. But it also matters that it 23 was leaked to the press. THE COURT: No, no. I'm not talking 24 25 about sanctions.



	Page 21
1	MS. MCCAWLEY: Right. Okay. Yes, but
2	it does matter to us, because those are
3	confidential settlement negotiations. You
4	know, with all due respect, I
5	THE COURT: And it's probably all over
6	the internet, and certainly were mentioned in
7	the New York Times.
8	MS. MCCAWLEY: I understand. And the
9	reason why it matters to strike those is
10	because once they're stricken
11	THE COURT: No, I'm not talking about
12	the striking.
13	MS. MCCAWLEY: No, I understand. But
14	the
15	THE COURT: I'm talking about the
16	sealing.
17	MS. MCCAWLEY: The sealing, yes. Right.
18	THE COURT: That's the only thing we're
19	here for.
20	MS. MCCAWLEY: I understand what you're
21	saying. Is the cat already out of the bag?
22	How does it help to seal it?
23	THE COURT: I was going to use that, but
24	cats in bags are troubling to me.
25	MS. MCCAWLEY: I understand. It's so



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Page 22 odd, right? 1 2 MR. SAFRA: I still need an explanation 3 on that one. THE COURT: It's, like, skinning cats, 4 5 cats in bags. 6 MS. MCCAWLEY: Right. I know. My 7 apologies. But --8 Beating dead horses. THE COURT: 9 MS. MCCAWLEY: Right. 10 THE COURT: All of that stuff. 11 MS. MCCAWLEY: But the point is -- and 12 that phrase has been used in case law. And 13 the point is, that if it is sealed, the media 14 is less likely to repeat those things. So if 15 there's an action by the Court that says it 16 was not appropriate for those things to be 17 leaked, they're confidential settlement negotiations, that empowers us to have 18 19 actionability against the media. 20 But I want to be very clear here, 21 because I attended those settlement 2.2 conversations; I was involved in that. This 23 e-mail that I have is dated July 9th, 2015, 24 where Dershowitz, out of his own words, 25 labels these as confidential settlement



Page 23 negotiations between the parties. 1 It is 2 without question that these were settlement 3 conversations. 4 I appreciate what he is trying to refer 5 to, this later mediation with Judge Streitfeld. There is a mediation that has 6 7 gone on in the last couple of weeks with Judge Streitfeld. These were confidential 8 9 settlement negotiations that started in May 10 and went up to the present; so to say that --11 THE COURT: I agree with you. I think 12 they're confidential settlement discussions. 13 I'm going to grant the Motion to Seal. 14 MS. MCCAWLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. 15 MR. SAFRA: Well, Your Honor --16 THE COURT: Over the strong objection of 17 the Defendant. 18 MR. SAFRA: Can I, for the record --19 Thank you. MS. MCCAWLEY: 20 MR. SAFRA: -- at least also reserve 21 that for the relief that needs to be shown 2.2 irreparable harm, death, or manifest injury, 23 and it's our position that that hasn't been 24 shown in the requested relief. 25 THE COURT: You don't think confidential



Page 24 settlement agreements should be sealed? I 1 2 know you don't think they are confidential 3 settlement agreements --MR. SAFRA: Well --4 5 THE COURT: -- but if they are, which 6 I've made that finding, you don't think they 7 should be sealed? 8 MR. SAFRA: Well, you're making the 9 finding that they were confidential 10 settlement --11 THE COURT: I am. 12 MR. SAFRA: -- but that wasn't at issue 13 here, and they haven't even filed the 14 opposition, and we have our Motion in Limine; 15 so you're ruling upon that when --16 THE COURT: No. I'm just sealing these 17 because I think they should be sealed. MR. SAFRA: Okay. 18 19 THE COURT: Although, you know --20 MR. SAFRA: Take your words for the 21 future. 2.2 THE COURT: -- everyone is aware of --23 MR. SAFRA: Understood. 24 THE COURT: Well, everyone. Whoever 25 read the New York Times is aware of the



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Page 25 situation; so I will grant the motion. 1 2 MR. SAFRA: For clarity, the Motion in 3 Limine, when that gets scheduled, is your finding that it's a settlement 4 5 communication --6 THE COURT: I'll listen to any argument 7 anyone has on any issue. We're not doing 8 that today. 9 MR. SAFRA: Just the seal. 10 THE COURT: I'm available for hearings 11 anytime after the 3rd of January. 12 MR. SAFRA: And can I state, so you 13 don't get a disagreement where we end up back 14 before the Court -- just because I'm aware 15 and I want to raise --16 MS. MCCAWLEY: Right. 17 MR. SAFRA: -- it and so that you have 18 an opportunity, it is our position or my 19 client's position that these meetings 20 occurred in New York and that the sealing 21 would apply to the public filings and in 2.2 Florida. 23 MS. MCCAWLEY: Your Honor, if the intent 24 here is to continue to spew the confidential 25 settlement negotiations and have



Page 26 Mr. Dershowitz go to New York or other 1 2 locations to say these things again, I would 3 object to that. I think this Court needs to 4 be very stern in its response that these are 5 not appropriate to be disclosed. 6 THE COURT: Well, I think he is aware of 7 that. MR. SAFRA: I'm aware, and I will convey 8 9 to my client. I think the Court's 10 jurisdiction is what is it, but I just wanted 11 to raise the issue and we will act in good 12 faith and, you know, do just like we did last 13 time, contact Mr. Boies to give opportunities 14 before anything happens. 15 MS. MCCAWLEY: Your Honor, I disagree 16 with that. I have no indication that 17 Mr. Boies was contacted about this in 18 advance. 19 THE COURT: Thanks. Nice to see you. 20 MS. MCCAWLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. 21 MR. SAFRA: Thank you, Your Honor. Have 2.2 a good weekend. 23 THE COURT: You, too. MS. MCCAWLEY: I have a Proposed Order 24 25 with me. Do you want me to --



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1	THE COURT: Yes, it's probably best to
2	do that.
3	MS. MCCAWLEY: Thank you.
4	THE COURT: My suggestion would be to
5	follow up with the clerk, as well.
6	MS. MCCAWLEY: Yes. Of course, yes.
7	(Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at
8	9:45 o'clock a.m.)
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4	CERTIFICATE
5	STATE OF FLORIDA)
6	COUNTY OF BROWARD)
7	I, MICHELE CAMERON, Notary Public in and for
8	the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that
9	the case of BRADLEY J. EDWARDS, and PAUL G. CASSELL
10	are the Plaintiffs, and ALAN DERSHOWTIZ is the
11	Defendant, was heard before the Honorabe Thomas M.
12	Lynch, IV, as Judge, and that the foregoing pages,
13	numbered 1 to 28, inclusive, constitute a true and
14	correct transcription of the proceedings taken on
15	December 18, 2015.
16	WITNESS my hand and official seal in the City
17	of Fort Lauderdale, County of Broward, State of
18	Florida, this 18th day of December, 2015.
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20	
21	Acuel Camera
	MICHELE CAMERON
22	Notary Public, State of
	Florida at Large
23	My Commission Expires: 12-27-15
	My Commission No.: EE152087
24	
25	



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