

# **EXHIBIT 38**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
HUDSON COUNTY, LAW DIVISION  
-----x  
MICHAEL FERGUSON, BENJAMIN UNGER, SHELDON  
BRUCK, CHAIM LEVIN, JO BRUCK, BELLA LEVIN,

Plaintiffs,

-versus-

JONAH (Jews Offering New Alternatives for  
Healing f/k/a Jews Offering New Alternatives  
to Homosexuality), ARTHUR GOLDBERG, ALAN  
DOWNING, ALAN DOWNING LIFE COACHING LLC,

Defendants.

Docket No. L-5473-12  
-----x

One Liberty Plaza  
New York, New York

February 28, 2014  
9:34 a.m.

DEPOSITION of LEON MIRMANAS, taken  
pursuant to Notice, taken by Fran Insley, a  
Notary Public of the States of New York and  
New Jersey.

ELLEN GRAUER COURT REPORTING, CO., LLC  
126 East 56th Street, Fifth Floor  
New York, New York 10022  
212-750-6434  
REF: 106356

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 beginning. What was the first organization  
3 that you had therapy with?

4 A. It was actually an individual.  
5 Maurice van Sweden from Jerusalem. He is a  
6 Dutch guy living in Jerusalem who is a coach  
7 counselor and he overcame same sex attraction  
8 and I found him through a friend and that's why  
9 I ended up moving to Jerusalem. I went into  
10 Yeshiva and at the same time I was in treatment  
11 with him for one year and eight months.

12 Q. What year was that?

13 A. That was 2004 to ending of 2005,  
14 yes.

15 Q. And you went to see him to deal with  
16 your issues surrounding same sex attraction?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That was the first time you sought  
19 treatment for that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Why did you seek treatment for that?

22 A. I was extremely depressed. I had a  
23 lot of emotional pain. I was very confused.  
24 At that time I didn't know it was depression.  
25 I had suicidal ideation. I wanted to die all

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 the time. I couldn't stop masturbating. I  
3 couldn't stop seeking anonymous sex.

4 Q. How often did you have anonymous  
5 sex?

6 A. Starting 16, I start to have sex at  
7 least once a day with somebody else besides the  
8 masturbation, of course. That was about twelve  
9 times per day, but one person per day at least.

10 Q. Where did you find these people?

11 A. In washrooms or in the street,  
12 public washrooms. That was at that point  
13 before the internet. Internet made things  
14 easier to find, people easier to find for sex.

15 Q. So you saw this therapist in  
16 Jerusalem?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who was the next person that you  
19 saw for treatment?

20 A. I moved to in '96 to Canada to  
21 Montreal and the next thing I started is  
22 treatment for addictions, for sex addiction and  
23 eating disorder. I used to be bulimic. That  
24 was the Clinique du Nouveau Depart.

25 Q. Can you spell that?

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 a minute. What are some of the things that you  
3 did at New Warriors?

4 A. I work on my integrity on saying  
5 truth of talking, truth as a man, stop giving  
6 excuses all the time about everything, you  
7 know, just do what I have to do.

8 I work on getting my masculinity  
9 that basically it was taken by my mother who  
10 was very overwhelming and controlling. I work  
11 on anger.

12 Q. Describe for me the methods they use  
13 to help you work on these things.

14 A. Well, beginning is confrontational,  
15 the first part, and after that, it's  
16 basically -- so basically, for example, why do  
17 you arrive late to the weekend, if we told you  
18 this time? That was the first part. So stop  
19 giving excuses and then we use methods such as  
20 hitting pillows, screaming, talking about our  
21 shame, let's say about in sexuality, about  
22 feeling different from other guys and then we  
23 find out that after all we are all the same,  
24 you know.

25 Q. Were there specific exercises that

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 you did or activities to address that?

3 A. Yes, many. It's a very intense  
4 weekend. The most intense exercise is what we  
5 call the carpet, right. And it's where  
6 basically you work on your piece of -- on your  
7 piece of the most painful, let's say, area in  
8 your life that was what I call that point,  
9 my -- and I mentioned it before -- my emotional  
10 pain, that I thought it come from what my  
11 parents did to me and were still doing.

12 Extremely controlling, castrating mother who  
13 doesn't let me express myself in any way and a  
14 father who was extremely angry and he was never  
15 there for me. So I had a lot to scream about  
16 and be angry about.

17 I was never able to -- I was always  
18 a good boy before that, always nice and  
19 favorite of all my aunts and favorite of my  
20 grandmother and at that point, I was able to,  
21 for the first time in my life, to express anger  
22 in a safe environment and in a proper way, in a  
23 healthy way, not destructive anger, just be  
24 able to express what is so repressed inside of  
25 me. So that was life changing and cathartic

## MIRMANAS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

obviously, right.

Q. You indicated before there was an exercise where you hit a pillow?

A. I hit pillows there, yes.

Q. What did you hit them with?

A. I think it was a bat or a racquet. I can't remember which one I used at that point.

Q. What was the purpose of that exercise?

A. To be able to scream and bring out the anger that they feel is repressed within some of us.

Q. So what were you told to scream about?

A. I can't recall exactly what it was about. What I can recall is that it was about -- to my dad, I was talking to my dad about saying why you were not there for me, to defend me, to protect me, to show me things.

Q. Did New Warriors tell you what to scream about or did they just give a general instruction about --

A. They guide you. They give you

## MIRMANAS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Q. So you had direct contact with Dr. Goldwasser though, right?

A. Yes, every week, twice a week with him.

Q. What type of therapy did Dr. Goldwasser himself provide for you?

A. Trauma, PTSD treatment, basically and mainly for SSA and we use -- one of the main -- it was talk therapy, but we always use EMDR, eye movement --

Q. Please say that very slowly for the court reporter.

A. Eye movement, desensitization and reprocessing which is the most effective treatment for trauma out there. One of the most three mosts and number one.

Q. Now, you testified you saw other doctors or other therapists in Dr. Goldwasser's practice?

A. Yes.

Q. Who else did you see?

A. Dr. Silvina Belmonte. A fantastic psychologist. She is -- I did with her psychodynamic psychotherapy. She is a



## MIRMANAS

1  
2 sexologist as well and she is a psychologist.  
3 Her orientation is psychodynamic psychotherapy.  
4 I saw her also like twice a week I believe,  
5 once or twice a week, depending on the week.  
6 She was a busy woman.

7 Q. Anybody else that you saw in his  
8 practice?

9 A. I got the -- I had a psychiatrist  
10 there. I don't remember his name though. I  
11 had a psychiatrist who wanted me prescribing  
12 medications which I decide not to -- I just  
13 took the antidepressant. I never took the ADHD  
14 medication.

15 I still was very ignorant about what  
16 was ADHD and I don't like medications too much.  
17 So I did antidepressants at that point. He  
18 also send me close to the clinic, to a gym  
19 basically with a trainer who was aware of my  
20 journey.

21 I don't remember -- he had a small  
22 boutique gym in Miami Beach and I was like two  
23 times a week there with him. I had  
24 naturopathic doctor at that point as well and a  
25 Chinese medicine doctor because I like to work

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 more naturally and holistically.

3 Q. Were you referred to them by Dr.  
4 Goldwasser?

5 A. Yes, all of them. He took into  
6 account my beliefs about medicine and all that,  
7 so I try not to put chemicals in my body as  
8 much as I can and I also did other stuff  
9 outside, it was a sex addiction group in Fort  
10 Lauderdale and I did addictions -- brief  
11 addictions treatment with motivation  
12 interviewing at Nova Southeastern University  
13 with Dr. Mark Sobell and his group. It was  
14 extremely helpful as well. He is a Toronto  
15 doctor who was in Miami.

16 Q. Was the sex addiction group  
17 recommended by Dr. Goldwasser?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And was Nova Southwestern  
20 University, that program, recommended by Dr.  
21 Goldwasser?

22 A. No. I did talk to Dr. Goldwasser.  
23 I went to do that, but Dr. Sobell was world  
24 famous on addictions and I found it very  
25 interesting what he had to offer.

## MIRMANAS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Q. You found them on your own?

A. Him, yes.

Q. Did Dr. Goldwasser have an opinion about whether or not you should do that program when you told him about it?

A. Yes, he totally support it. I am not sure if he talked to Dr. Sobell or he asked me for documentation about what they offered or he went online to look, but we did discuss it, yes.

And I was seeing a rabbi at that point. I was religious. I became religious at age 22. I was seeing a rabbi for this weekly. Who Dr. Goldwasser recommended. Dr. Goldwasser is a religious man and I went to see this rabbi.

Q. Is Dr. Goldwasser Jewish?

A. Yes, he's orthodox Jewish.

Q. So, it sounds like, and correct me if I'm wrong, you saw Dr. Goldwasser for more than one condition?

A. Yes, they did a proper assessment for the first time, at least he clear ideas about what I had. At that point he told me

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 your pain is not the SSA. Your pain is all of  
3 this is caused by trauma and that is the main  
4 core issue. Nobody told me that really before.

5 Q. What was the trauma?

6 A. I was sexually abused by a cousin.  
7 My first memory of that abuse is when I was two  
8 years old.

9 Q. How long did that abuse continue  
10 for?

11 A. Over ten years.

12 Q. How would you describe your  
13 experience with Dr. Goldwasser?

14 A. Extremely positive.

15 Q. Did he help you with some of these  
16 issues?

17 MR. MC COY: Objection. Leading.

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. Which ones?

20 A. The depression went much better, not  
21 fully, but went down a lot. How I view myself,  
22 attraction towards women, what is -- probably  
23 not just Dr. Goldwasser. It is a combination  
24 of the treatment. I cannot separate just Dr.  
25 Goldwasser.

## MIRMANAS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Q. When was the first time?

A. '96 to '98.

Q. And when that abstinence ended, you went back to having sex?

A. Yes, full blown.

Q. Heterosexual or homosexual sex?

A. Homosexual.

Q. Exclusively?

A. Exclusively. I was not having a sex with a woman anymore for many years. Last contact with a woman I was 18.

Q. When was the second time you practiced abstinence?

A. 2002 to 2004.

Q. At the end of 2004 initially when you went back to having sex, was it with men or women?

A. Men.

Q. Between the ages of -- I think you testified that after treating -- correct me if I'm wrong -- after treating with Dr. Goldwasser you started to experience some attraction to women?

A. Yes, very quite significant, but not

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 convincing enough to marry or something like  
3 that. I start having constant thoughts and  
4 fantasies and wet dreams about a woman, with a  
5 woman and until -- and that was as long as I  
6 wasn't having any sex.

7           Every time I had gay sex, I went  
8 back to my addiction to what I considered gay  
9 sex, I went -- I stop having fantasies with the  
10 woman. I felt at that point my addiction was  
11 covering my attraction. That's the first I  
12 came to understand the dynamic inside my --  
13 right and how strong I want to escape the pain  
14 because my break from pain was my addiction to  
15 sex and food and over expanding as well.

16           Q.     Let's see. You just said that from  
17 2002 to 2004 you went back to having sex?

18           A.     I quit 2002 to 2004.

19           Q.     Right, and then you went back to  
20 having sex with men. Was there any point after  
21 that that you stopped having sex with men?

22           A.     Two times when I was in treatment  
23 with Dr. Goldwasser I quit. Very difficult  
24 because I was -- my mom was mostly down in  
25 Miami and she triggers me a lot of emotions and

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 Q. When was the next time -- you said  
3 there were two females you dated. When was the  
4 next one?

5 A. Right after the first one, one month  
6 after, two months after, in 2006 we met. We  
7 stayed maybe one year ten months, one year  
8 eight months together. We were talking about  
9 marriage. I was not convinced myself because I  
10 was still attracted to males and it was  
11 difficult not to be having sex with males, so I  
12 was basically leading a double life with my  
13 girlfriend which I absolutely hated and I felt  
14 I was living a lie and I eventually told her  
15 that, because she felt it when we in bed and I  
16 was having sex with her and I was saying how  
17 the heck can I do this the rest of my life? I  
18 don't like women as much as I thought I did. I  
19 was still attracted, but I don't have like  
20 constant fantasies. So I try -- we try with  
21 psychotherapies, rabbis. She is religious girl  
22 and we just split like four months before the  
23 wedding or something.

24 Q. You were engaged to her?

25 A. Yeah. And that was a very, very low

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MIRMANAS

The one I went to, and basically it's to give you nutrients in your brain to -- to balance instead of taking medications and I'm still taking stuff like that up to now.

Q. Nowhere in this letter it appears to me, unless you can point it to me, is there any mention of your child sex abuse. Do you know why that might be?

A. Let me see because I know -- the one thing I'm seeing here is dramatic experiences and pathological family dynamics that is one, that can include that.

Q. Let me ask you this. Were there any other causes of your PST -- PTSD than your child sex abuse?

A. Yes.

Q. What were those?

A. My parents abusing me.

Q. Emotional and sexual abuse?

A. Yes, it was emotional and sexual. My mother abused me sexually as well.

Q. What I'm trying to figure out is, so in the post traumatic stress disorder, the predicate is a trauma which causes the stress,



## MIRMANAS

1  
2 right? The trauma was the emotional and sexual  
3 abuse that were perpetrated on you by your  
4 parents?

5 A. And my cousin who was -- before  
6 performing sex on me and in me for about ten  
7 years.

8 Q. I guess the sexual abuse was the  
9 trauma that was the source of the PTSD?

10 A. No one of the traumas was the source  
11 of the PTSD.

12 Q. So I'm trying to figure out what  
13 they are. So there was the sex abuse. What  
14 else was there?

15 A. My mother touching me. My mother  
16 calling me names all day long as long as I  
17 remember. My dad angry like I felt like he was  
18 going to kill me. He never kill me, but I felt  
19 he was about to explode. Walking on egg shells  
20 with him. That's how I grew up. Insulting me,  
21 screaming at me, other family members touching  
22 or showing myself pornography or genitals.

23 Q. Anything else?

24 A. I was also put down by a bunch of  
25 kids in school. Bullying, terrible bullying

## MIRMANAS

1  
2 every day.

3 Q. Bullying is enough to cause PTSD?

4 A. Absolutely. Depending on your  
5 intensity and depending on your character and  
6 your character is inborn. So if you're a very  
7 sensitive boy and you're very, very scared and  
8 you already have all the crap happening at home  
9 and you go to school and everyone or 30 kids  
10 are on your case, because you're different and  
11 you're scared and you don't know what to do and  
12 you don't play sports, of course it's pretty  
13 traumatic.

14 Q. Anything else besides those things?

15 A. I don't think so.

16 Q. I'm just trying to understand what  
17 the trauma was.

18 A. I explained it already. It's a  
19 miracle I didn't kill myself.

20 Q. Further on it states that he  
21 recommended sexual addiction treatment.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What was the sexual addiction  
24 treatment that he recommended?

25 A. I went -- besides working with