

EXHIBIT 44

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HUDSON COUNTY, LAW DIVISION

MICHAEL FERGUSON, BENJAMIN)
UNGER, SHELDON BRUCK, CHAIM)
LEVIN, JO BRUCK, BELLA LEVIN,)
)
Plaintiffs,)

vs.)

Docket No. L-5473-12

JONAH (Jews Offering New)
Alternatives for Healing f/k/a)
Jews Offering New Alternatives)
to Homosexuality), Arthur)
Goldberg, Alan Downing, Alan)
Life Coaching LLC,)
)
Defendants.)

DEPOSITION OF: BLAKE SMITH

Costa Mesa, California
Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Reporter: Marlene Apodaca, CSR No. 6579

1 So, you know, the sexual abuse was really,
2 really messing with my head. And --

3 Q How old was this individual?

4 A He was 14 when it started. I was 10.

5 Q And he was a neighbor, you said?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And that lasted for two years?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Did your parents know about this?

10 A No.

11 Q Why didn't you tell them?

12 A I didn't have any kind of relationship with my
13 father. Essentially, my parents couldn't have done a
14 better job of raising me to be homosexual if they had
15 read Freud and said, "This is what we want."

16 I had a cold, distant, abusive father; and I had
17 a controlling, domineering, over-bearing mother, who
18 dressed me like a girl because she was disappointed that
19 her third son was yet another son. And so I kind of
20 would cling to my mother, but my mother was really
21 unavailable for anything.

22 Any time I went to my mother with anything, like
23 when I was being bullied, it was: "Oh, well, just take
24 it."

25 They're being mean. "Oh, well, just take it."

1 Q At the time you got married, were you still
2 experiencing same sex attraction?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Were you attracted to your wife?

5 A Yes. She was the first woman I was really
6 attracted to. And so I was like, "Wow, I don't want this
7 to get away."

8 Q Tell us about your marriage.

9 A It was completely dysfunctional, actually. So
10 it was -- it ended 17 years later. And so --

11 Q Did you continue to experience same sex
12 attraction throughout your marriage?

13 A Yes, I did. And sometimes they got really bad.
14 And then -- well, not throughout the marriage.

15 Let's see. When we had been married for --
16 well, okay. Let me just go back. At some point there
17 was period in there just after we had been married,
18 probably in 1981. '81? I'm having trouble remembering
19 the years. I've had a lot of them to keep straight. But
20 it would have been -- it would have been '83. That's
21 when it would have been.

22 '83 it got really bad. My life was bad. My
23 marriage was bad. The attractions were driving me nuts,
24 and I got way suicidal again. And I kind of got through
25 that, but I just pushed everybody aside, and I sucked it

1 up. And I decided, you know, because my wife -- I had a
2 son. I had a daughter on the way, and I just decided
3 that I'd made a commitment, and I was going to honor it.

4 And so I spent -- so I just decided that I was
5 going to stick around and raise my children and honor my
6 marital vows, and just live with it. And so that's what
7 I did for a few years. And --

8 Q Did you ever act out on your feelings?

9 A No.

10 Q So you remained faithful to your wife?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you have a problem with pornography at the
13 time?

14 A I did have a problem with pornography.
15 Pornography is something I did, because it's not like
16 what you younger men have to deal with now, where all
17 they have to do is mouse click.

18 I had to get in my car and go to a sleazy part
19 of town and walk through the parking lot into a porn shop
20 to get to it. So it wasn't a major issue for me. It
21 was, and it was kind of a release for me at times; but it
22 wasn't -- I wouldn't say that it was a major issue for
23 me.

24 I think what was a major issue for me is I
25 just -- you know, I was trying to live one way, and then

1 would actually ruin it for somebody in the future.
2 Because whether other people like it or not, a lot of the
3 benefit that comes from these is the surprise value. If
4 you know what's coming, then it would diminish the -- you
5 know, the value to the person.

6 And that is also -- that is also the case with
7 the New Warrior Weekend. I did a Noble Man Weekend
8 through a group called Celebration of Being, that focused
9 on my women issues. It was -- so -- and there, I also
10 signed a confidentiality release that says I won't tell
11 anybody what happened. I can talk about the results of
12 that experience, but I won't talk about what happened.

13 Q Talk briefly about the impact that the body
14 imaging work had on you at the New Warrior Weekend.

15 A Well, the importance of -- you know, people that
16 deal with same sex attractions generally have a whole lot
17 of body shame that goes along with it. And I see this in
18 men all the time, and I had it. I was -- like I said, I
19 mean I literally hated my male body when I was a kid.
20 And so -- and for a while, my biggest fear in life was
21 walking into a locker room. It's like, you know, I could
22 have a panic attack at the thought of going into a locker
23 room.

24 And, you know, so when I participated, as I got
25 rid of my own body shame and then went to this New

1 Warrior Weekend, it really just -- you know what? Men
2 have bodies, every one of them. Okay? I have a body,
3 and you have a body, and they're all bodies. And they're
4 not sex objects. They're not objects for my lust, and
5 they're just bodies. And some are different than others.
6 They're all different. Every one of them is different
7 from the other, and they all do what they're supposed to
8 do.

9 And so the nudity, just in that situation, in
10 that particular situation, the nudity there went a long
11 ways to help me to just be totally comfortable with me
12 and my own body and your body and his body, and all the
13 men's bodies around me, because there was a whole bunch
14 of them, and not worry about it.

15 Q How about anger transferring exercises, like
16 hitting pillows? Did you participate in any of those
17 exercises at JIM?

18 A No, no.

19 What I did was I had a group of guys that were
20 holding me down, and they deliberately said things that I
21 said, as I was talking. So all they were doing was
22 mirroring me, with the pure intent of getting me angry,
23 and helping me really connect with all of this repressed
24 rage that was in there.

25 So they were holding me down, and I shook them

1 time.

2 So, you know, and so we entered into the
3 marriage. And she had her dysfunctions, and I had mine.
4 And sex was really actually pretty bad most of the time.
5 And our sexual relationship is reflective of every other
6 aspect of our relationship. It was not healthy, and I
7 wasn't.

8 But as I began working with the Bishop and doing
9 my own work and seeing a therapist to help me with my
10 traumas, I became more and more healthy. And I kept
11 getting healthier and healthier and healthier; and she
12 stayed, and she didn't get healthy. In fact, she
13 probably -- every step I made forward, she made one back.

14 And I mean, and the irony is that, you know, she
15 was the one -- she was the one who ended up cheating, and
16 not me. And where, you know, in most of these other
17 marriages, it's like the man was cheating with men. And
18 she was -- and then when she decided to get divorced, she
19 ran all over my church telling everyone who would listen
20 that I'm gay.

21 And I at one point said, "Well, you're the only
22 one that's been with other men. So you can say what you
23 want, and I do have my issues."

24 But I'm just -- I went to JB. I went to Journey
25 Beyond. I did my process. And for about -- you know, I

1 gone, change?

2 A Yeah. Dramatically.

3 Q Was there an event or something that happened
4 that caused that, or is it something that you suddenly
5 noticed?

6 A I don't know. I mean, at the time I -- I blamed
7 the birth of my son, and my wife essentially cutting me
8 off. So, you know, but I don't think that that -- I
9 mean, looking back on it, I don't think that's the case.
10 I just -- I hadn't addressed the issues that needed to be
11 addressed. So, you know.

12 Q So looking back, you would say that the reason
13 that your SSA became a problem for you again was because
14 you hadn't addressed certain issues?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What specific issues do you feel led to your
17 problem with SSA in your case? I'm not necessarily
18 asking about all people, generally, but just about you.

19 A In my case, well, I can see myself as almost
20 textbook defensive detachment. And I was completely
21 detached from myself and my body and other men.

22 And if other men came in the room, I had -- you
23 know, this defense went up; and I didn't have, you know,
24 enough male friends to tell about. I had a couple,
25 and -- but, and I think that that was -- plus I had all

1 of the sexual abuse, and I had the physical abuse, and I
2 had all of the bullying. And I had to address all of
3 that stuff and I hadn't really -- I hadn't addressed any
4 of it. I just addressed the mechanics of having sex with
5 a woman, and deciding I could pull it off.

6 So I had years worth of work ahead of me, to
7 really get to the point where I am strong, solid man.

8 Q And is it your understanding or belief that
9 addressing the issues that you've identified: Your
10 defensive detachment, the abuse that you suffered, and
11 the bullying, that addressing those issues removes the
12 cause or the factor that leads you to experience SSA?

13 A It has definitely removed the experience of it.
14 So --

15 Q What effect, if any, does dealing with those
16 issues have on your OSA?

17 A Well, my second wife, she and I, we have a
18 beautiful relationship that started as friends, and then
19 grew into lovers. And so there wasn't a moment where I
20 went: "Oh, wow this lady is hot."

21 It was getting to know this beautiful person and
22 going, "She's a really impressive lady."

23 There was nothing sexual about it, in the
24 beginning.

25 It really wasn't until I did Journey Beyond that