

EXHIBIT 54

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION - CIVIL PART
HUDSON COUNTY
DOCKET NO. HUD-L-5473-12
APP. DIV. NO. _____

MICHAEL FERGUSON, et al.,	:	
	:	TRANSCRIPT
Plaintiffs,	:	
vs.	:	OF
	:	
JONAH, ARTHUR GOLDBERG, ALAN	:	TRIAL
DOWNING and ALAN DOWNING LIFE	:	
COACHING, L.L.C.,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	
	:	

Place: Hudson County Superior Court
Administration Building
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, N.J. 07306

Date: June 18, 2015

B E F O R E:

HONORABLE PETER F. BARISO, JR., A.J.S.C. and a Jury.

TRANSCRIPT ORDERED BY:

JODI ERICKSON, ESQ.,
(Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, L.L.P.)

Audio Recorded by: C. Ortiz

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METRO TRANSCRIPTS, L.L.C.
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1 A Oh, okay.
2 Q So did you attend any JONAH events or
3 training sessions?
4 A Yes. I went to two of them.
5 Q Can you tell us about that, briefly?
6 A Yes. There were two trainings I went to for --
7 for GUTS work, in order to help other people with, you
8 know, releasing pent up emotions and -- and finding
9 healing. So I went to both of those, and learned a lot
10 of those processes.
11 Q How about Thaddeus Heffner. Do you know him?
12 A Yes.
13 Q Where did you meet him?
14 A I staffed a couple of -- actually, the first time
15 I met him was at Courage Sports Camp in 2011.
16 Q What's --
17 A It's a Catholic organization that runs a retreat
18 similar to JIM in some ways.
19 Q What's your impression of Mr. Heffner?
20 A He's very -- very peaceful, very -- very kind,
21 very loving. And I'm just -- every experience that
22 I've had with him has been very positive.
23 Q Based on your experience with these men, have
24 you ever heard them refer to homosexuality as a mental
25 disorder or mental disease?

1 A No, I've never heard them use that. I've heard
2 them say the opposite, actually, yeah.
3 Q By the way, have you ever heard the word
4 disorder used in a religious context?
5 A Yes. It's actually in the catechism of my church
6 that homosexual behavior is an intrinsic disorder. And
7 so I am -- that's the faith that I follow, and so that
8 is my understanding of homosexuality.
9 Q Have you ever heard the defendants say they
10 can cure homosexuality?
11 A Never.
12 Q I want to talk a little bit about your goals.
13 Before you started this journey, how would you describe
14 them?
15 A Initially, my goals were just to find --
16 initially, mostly sobriety because I was -- you know, I
17 found myself addicted to either pornography or to
18 acting out, or to a lot of emotional codependency in --
19 in gay relationships. And I was almost kind of an
20 agnostic at the time. I'd been away from my faith for
21 a couple of years, and kind of just distanced from it,
22 even though I was kind of longing for it.
23 But I sought out Dr. Nicolosi first because I knew
24 that he had a very scientific approach to it and he was
25 a licensed psychologist. And I knew that, based on

1 what I had seen, with all the books I'd seen, and the
2 people I've heard that have worked with him, I knew
3 that if anybody could help me, he could.

4 And then from working with him, and seeing a lot
5 of healing in a very short time, I became -- I came
6 back into my faith because I realized that -- that the
7 Church was right all along, that the teaching of the
8 church was for my own benefit. It wasn't just an old
9 rule or some kind of a stipulation. It was actually
10 out of love and for my own benefit.

11 Q How would you describe how your same sex
12 attraction has changed since you started this journey?

13 A I'd the erotic same sex attraction and the
14 romanticism has ben reduced by at least -- at least 90
15 percent in terms of frequency and intensity. I used to
16 be, you know, having lustful thoughts or acting out
17 every day, sometimes several times a day, before I
18 started this. And now it's more of like just a random
19 thought, every couple weeks or so. And it doesn't
20 compel me to -- to do anything that I don't want to do.
21 It just -- it's a random thought, and I'm able to
22 release that and analyze that.

23 Q How about your opposite sex attraction? How
24 has that changed?

25 A I've definitely seen an -- an increase in that.

1 It's different from what I normally would have
2 expected, in the past. It's not like a 180-degree
3 shift because that wouldn't be healthy, either. And as
4 Dr. Nicolosi explained to me early on, that typically
5 for -- for men coming out of same sex attraction, the
6 way that opposite sex attraction develops is they
7 develop a friendship --

8 MR. DINIELLI: Objection. This is expert
9 testimony, and it's hearsay.

10 THE COURT: Sustained.

11 Q I just want to hear about how your opposite
12 sex attraction changed.

13 A Okay. The way my opposite sex attraction has
14 changed is that when I have been able date a girl and
15 get to know her, that I see that attraction develop as
16 the friendship develops, and as the relationship
17 develops. It's not the way some guys, where they look
18 at -- see every girl as they walk by. And I don't
19 necessarily see that as healthy, either. I don't want
20 to objectify women either. I want to have a healthy
21 marriage, eventually.

22 Q Are you happier now?

23 A Yes.

24 Q In which way?

25 A In every imaginable way. My life is a thousand

1 A I met them both on a JIM weekend in 2007, the
2 weekend I attended.

3 Q And why did you attend that weekend?

4 A I attended that weekend because I also experience
5 same sex attraction.

6 Q How did you come to realize you experience
7 same sex attraction?

8 A I came to realize this when I was about 12 years
9 old. I had a lot of questions. And I remember some
10 boys in middle school making fun of what they called
11 gay kids. And I remember walking away from that
12 experience and thinking I'm more like the gay kids
13 they're making fun of.

14 Q Can you tell us briefly about your childhood?

15 A Yeah. It was a good childhood. I come from a
16 loving home, a great mom and dad, three brothers, one
17 sister, and a really good family. The only downfall
18 was early on, I had a pretty good falling out with my
19 dad.

20 Q Why was that?

21 A I was with a girl and we were playing the "I'll
22 show you mine if you show me yours" games, and that a
23 lot of kids do play.

24 Q How old were you?

25 A I was four years old. About 50 percent of

1 American apparently plays these games. And I know that
2 now, but I didn't back then. And we were caught by the
3 girl's mom. And the second we were caught, I was -- I
4 knew I was in deep trouble. I knew I was in big
5 trouble. I knew once my dad found out, I was going to
6 get nailed for this, and that's exactly what happened.

7 That mom had called my mom. And then that day,
8 when my dad got home from work, he called me into his
9 bedroom and I'll never forget. He -- I walked that
10 hallway and I go in the bedroom, and he was sitting on
11 his bed. And he said -- he just pointed right here,
12 come stand right over here. So I go and stand right
13 there, just nervous and scared. And he just started
14 yelling at me and started demanding answers, did you
15 see her private parts, did you look at her, did you
16 touch her. And I didn't. She was wearing these
17 Oshkosh B'gosh overalls and I couldn't get them off. I
18 wanted to, but I couldn't get them off.

19 And it was -- that was horrible. It was very
20 traumatic. I'll never forget that moment. I felt like
21 something broke inside of me that day, like a
22 disconnect happened between my dad and I.

23 Q What was grade school like for you?

24 A Grade school, it just kind of went on. That was
25 in Bismarck, North Dakota. And then we moved when I