

In The Matter Of:

*Bostock v.
Clayton County*

*Shelley M. Johnson
April 13, 2021
Video Deposition*

*Regency-Brentano, Inc.
13 Corporate Square
Suite 140
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
404.321.3333*



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Certified Court Reporters

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

Video Deposition

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| GERALD LYNN BOSTOCK, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. |
| |) | |
| vs. |) | 1:16-CV-01460-ELR-WEJ |
| |) | |
| CLAYTON COUNTY, |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendant. |) | |
| _____ |) | |

Videotaped deposition of SHELLEY MARIE JOHNSON, taken on behalf of the Plaintiff, pursuant to the stipulations contained herein, reading and signing of the deposition being reserved, in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before Daniel M. Gershwin, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, at 600 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 3900, Atlanta, Georgia, on the 13th day of April, 2021, commencing at the hour of 11:05 a.m.

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS
13 Corporate Square
Suite 140
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
(404) 321-3333

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1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:

2 On behalf of the Plaintiff:

3 THOMAS J. MEW, IV, ESQUIRE
4 ANDREW M. BEAL, ESQUIRE
5 Buckley Beal, LLP
6 600 Peachtree Street, NE
7 Suite 3900
8 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
9 T: (404) 781-1100
10 E: tmew@buckleybeal.com
11 E: abeal@buckleybeal.com

9 On behalf of the Defendant:

10 WILLIAM H. BUECHNER, JR., ESQUIRE
11 Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP
12 100 Galleria Parkway, SE
13 Suite 1600
14 Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948
15 T: (770) 818-1420
16 E: bbuechner@fmglaw.com

14 Videographer:

15 Mr. Jonathan Talbert
16 Legal Technology Services, Inc.
17 T: (770) 640-5050
18 E: jtalbert@legaltechservice.com

18 Also Present:

19 Mr. Gerald Lynn Bostock
20

21 - - -
22
23
24
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1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are on the video
2 record. The date is April 13th, 2021. The time
3 is approximately 11:05 a.m. This is the
4 beginning of Video File 1.

5 Would the court reporter please swear the
6 witness.

7 SHELLEY MARIE JOHNSON,
8 having been first duly sworn, was examined and
9 testified as follows:

10 MR. MEW: Do we need to identify
11 ourselves or are we good to go?

12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: No.

13 MR. MEW: Okay. Great.

14 This will be the deposition of Shelley
15 Johnson in the matter of Gerald Bostock vs.
16 Clayton County, 16-CV-01460, now pending in the
17 United States District Court for the Northern
18 District of Georgia.

19 The deposition is being taken pursuant to
20 notice to opposing counsel, subpoena -- subpoenas
21 to the witness, and for all purposes permitted
22 under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

23 Bill, are we in agreement about reserving
24 objections except as to form?

25 MR. BUECHNER: Yes.

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1 MR. MEW: Okay.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. MEW:

4 Q Would you state your full name for the
5 record, please, ma'am.

6 A Shelley Marie Johnson.

7 Q And, Ms. Johnson, I just want to show you
8 quickly two exhibits which I will not have extensive
9 questioning for you on, but I just wanted to show them
10 to you for the record.

11 (Thereupon, marked for identification,
12 Plaintiff's Exhibit Number [P-5](#).)

13 MR. MEW: And for purposes of everybody
14 assembled, we are doing sort of a master
15 deposition list, so the first exhibit here, for
16 instance, is Exhibit 5, but it is the first
17 deposition for purposes of -- the first exhibit
18 for purposes of today.

19 BY MR. MEW:

20 Q Ms. Johnson, I'm going to hand this down
21 to you. Okay? And take whatever time you need to
22 review it, but I will not have extensive questioning
23 for you on it.

24 Do you recall this being a subpoena you
25 received in this matter to come and testify?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And let me also, just for purposes
3 of the record, do you recall, Ms. Johnson, that the
4 deposition was rescheduled --

5 A Yes.

6 Q -- to today?

7 (Thereupon, marked for identification,
8 Plaintiff's Exhibit Number [P-7](#).)

9 BY MR. MEW:

10 Q Okay. So I'm going to show you what I've
11 marked as Exhibit 7, Ms. Johnson. And the same
12 question as before, will you just give that a look and
13 see if that is a subpoena that was served upon you?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And you are here pursuant to subpoena;
16 correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay.

19 A For the record, my name is spelled wrong.

20 Q Good grief. Okay. It is S-H-E-L-L-Y?

21 A E-Y.

22 Q E-Y. Okay. Okay. Well, I'm glad you
23 didn't seek to quash the subpoena anyway. Thank you.

24 Ms. Johnson, by the way, you may receive
25 various exhibits today. Please just sort of keep them

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1 by you because those will be the official ones for Daniel
2 to use at the end for purposes of the record.

3 Ms. Johnson, I know you were just sworn
4 in. I assume you understand your testimony today is
5 under oath just as it would be in a courtroom?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And are you taking any medication
8 today that would prevent you from giving complete and
9 truthful testimony?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay. And, Ms. Johnson, have you ever
12 had your deposition taken before?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. When was that, ma'am?

15 A Years ago, more than 15 years ago --

16 Q Okay.

17 A -- regarding an auto accident.

18 Q Okay. Were you a party in that case or
19 just a witness?

20 A A party.

21 Q Okay. And did that case -- you said you
22 gave a deposition; correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. Did you end up testifying in court
25 or did the case resolve before that time?

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1 A The case resolved.

2 Q Okay. Well, even though that was many
3 years ago, the ground rules and everything else
4 haven't changed that much, but let's go over them with
5 you to refresh your memory a bit.

6 Please, as you've been doing, continue to
7 answer questions out loud rather than head nods. Of
8 course, we do have a video, but the written record
9 will be very important, and a head nod or a head shake
10 don't track on the written record.

11 As well, if you can avoid the typical
12 uh-huh (affirmative), unh-unh (negative) because it's
13 just hard to know whether it's a positive or a
14 negative and it won't track well on the record.

15 If at any point, Ms. Johnson, I ask you a
16 question that is not clear to you, please let me know
17 that, and I will do my best to clarify or restate the
18 question for you. If you go ahead and answer, I'll
19 assume that you understood the question; is that fair?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And one thing -- and you're
22 already doing a good job of it -- you and I need to
23 avoid talking over one another so that Daniel can
24 capture a proper record and won't come across the
25 table and yell at either of us for talking over each

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1 other during the deposition. So even if you know
2 where I'm going with a question or the answer seems
3 very obvious, please let me finish that before you
4 begin your answer, and I will certainly try to extend
5 you the same courtesy so that we're not talking over
6 one another.

7 We can certainly take a break any time
8 you need one. That is fair. And I'm pretty good
9 about taking breaks anyway. Usually witnesses are
10 tougher than me so -- but we will be taking breaks.
11 But, of course, if you need one for another reason at
12 a different time, just please let us know.

13 There may come a time during my
14 questioning of you when Mr. Buechner raises an
15 objection to one of my questions. The rule on that is
16 after he states his objection for the record, then you
17 go ahead and answer the question. That way his
18 objection is preserved, but you do go ahead and answer
19 the question. Understood?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. Can I get your complete home
22 address, please, ma'am.

23 A REDACTED

24 [REDACTED]

25 Q And how long have you lived there, ma'am?

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1 A 12 and a half years.

2 Q Okay. And is that a resident -- I mean,
3 a home or an apartment or condo?

4 A Home.

5 Q Home. Okay.

6 And who lives there with you, if anyone?

7 A No one.

8 Q Okay. And is your maiden name Johnson or
9 did you -- is it a married name?

10 A Married name.

11 Q Okay. And what is your maiden name,
12 ma'am?

13 A Hicks.

14 Q Hicks. Okay.

15 Are you still married or divorced or is
16 your husband -- former husband deceased?

17 A Divorced.

18 Q Divorced. Okay.

19 And what is your ex-husband's name,
20 please?

21 A George Johnson.

22 Q George Johnson. Okay.

23 The reason I'm asking you some of these
24 questions that seem very invasive, Ms. Johnson, is so
25 that it may be necessary for all the lawyers to know

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1 it at trial for selection of a jury. In issues like
2 that, we want to make sure we know who all the people
3 are and names to look for.

4 Do you have any children, Ms. Johnson?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. Are your children above the age of
7 18?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Who are your -- what are your
10 children's names? Well, let me ask you this: Do any
11 of your children live in the Northern District of
12 Georgia? And I'm going to name some counties that
13 would be those counties. Okay? So in other words,
14 Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton,
15 Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, or Rockdale Counties?

16 A Henry.

17 Q Henry. Okay.

18 And which child or children live in Henry
19 County?

20 A My daughter Desiree.

21 Q Okay.

22 A D-E-S-I-R-E-E Hicks.

23 Q And is Desiree married?

24 A No.

25 Q And do you know, if you know, does

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1 Mr. Johnson still live in any of the counties I named?

2 Excuse me, Mr. Hicks. I'm sorry.

3 A No, Mr. Johnson.

4 Q Mr. Johnson. I'm sorry. Does he live in
5 any of those counties?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. Do you have any other relatives
8 who reside in any of those counties I listed? And I'm
9 certainly happy to go through the list with you again.

10 A I have two sisters in Rockdale and a
11 sister in Henry County.

12 Q Your sisters in Rockdale, what are their
13 names, please, ma'am?

14 A Valerie, V-A-L-E-R-I-E, McShan,
15 M-C-S-H-A-N.

16 Q Okay.

17 A And Holly, H-O-L-L-Y, Hicks Kendrick.

18 Q Hicks Kendrick. Okay.

19 And your sister in Henry County, what is
20 her name?

21 A Regina, R-E-G-I-N-A, Carr, C-A-R-R.

22 Q Okay. And I'm guessing from the names,
23 these siblings of yours might be married, is that
24 correct, or divorced?

25 A Regina -- Regina's married, Holly is

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1 divorced --

2 Q Okay.

3 A -- and Val is a widow.

4 Q I understand. Okay.

5 Regina's husband, his name is?

6 A Lonnie, L-O-N-N-I-E, Jr.

7 Q And he also goes by Carr, I assume?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And Holly's former husband is whom, if
10 you recall?

11 A Dennis.

12 Q Okay. And is that Kendrick?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And I believe he's in Cobb.

16 Q Okay. Thank you.

17 A But Regina is her second husband.

18 Q Okay. Her first husband -- does her
19 first husband live in any of those counties, if you
20 know?

21 A I believe Fulton. I'm not certain. And
22 Kenneth Bernard.

23 Q Bernard. Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

24 A You're welcome.

25 Q As you know, we're here about a lawsuit

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1 that Mr. Bostock has filed with Clayton County. I'll
2 represent to you that the case was filed sometime ago
3 in the District Court which is where it is now, and it
4 worked its way up through the appellate system and is
5 now back down in the District Court.

6 Have you ever reviewed any complaint or
7 amended complaint or any other pleadings that have
8 been filed with the court in Mr. Bostock's case?

9 A No.

10 Q Okay. Do you have a general
11 understanding about what Mr. Bostock's claim is in
12 this lawsuit?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And what is your understanding of
15 that, ma'am?

16 A That he was wrongfully terminated.

17 Q Okay. And do you understand -- let me
18 just represent, is it your understanding that he
19 alleges the wrongful termination was a result of his
20 sexual orientation?

21 A Yes.

22 (Thereupon, marked for identification,
23 Plaintiff's Exhibit Number [P-9](#).)

24 BY MR. MEW:

25 Q Okay. Ms. Johnson, let me just show

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1 you -- this may streamline it. It's a large exhibit,
2 and I can tell you, I represent to you wholeheartedly,
3 we will not be going through every page of this
4 document. It's marked as Exhibit 9.

5 MR. BUECHNER: There you go, Bill.

6 BY MR. MEW:

7 Q There you go, Ms. Johnson.

8 I'm only going to ask you about certain
9 pages. Of course, you may review anything you like if
10 you need to for context. This is a personnel file
11 that was produced to us in the matter.

12 Ms. Johnson, if you go down to the bottom
13 of the very first page, you see there's a marking
14 there that says "Clayton," and it has a number
15 following it.

16 A Yes.

17 Q As you may know, we call that a Bates
18 number or, if you're old school, a Bates stamp, and
19 that helps us identify pages on a document that might
20 not have continuous pages, so I'm going to refer to
21 those numbers when I ask you about a couple of pages
22 in the document. Is that -- is that clear enough?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. So if you look here -- sure. Let
25 me show you. So if you're looking on the very first

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1 page of --

2 A Right.

3 Q -- Exhibit 9, it starts at Clayton 2714.

4 A Yes.

5 Q And if you go to the next page, you'll
6 see it's sequential if you look --

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. So those are the numbers I'll be
9 referring to because otherwise I think we'd be
10 completely lost. Okay.

11 Ms. Johnson, if you would, would you mind
12 turning over to Clayton 2717. It's just a few --
13 maybe three pages in.

14 Okay. You appear to be there, ma'am; is
15 that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. And this is a document -- I don't
18 know. Have you ever seen this document before?

19 A No.

20 Q Okay. I'll represent to you again that
21 it was produced to us in the course of this case. It
22 has a caption on it -- or a caption, yes, that says
23 "Employment Record." You see where I'm looking?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And it has DOH, which I believe to be

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1 date of hire for you of February 7th, 2011. Is that
2 when you began your employment with Clayton County?

3 A If it says, but I thought it was sooner
4 but --

5 Q Okay. Okay. Well, let me ask: It lists
6 a position here of CASA support. I think that's
7 service supervisor. Do you see that?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Before that time, before you held that
10 position, did you hold any other positions with the
11 county?

12 A No, just as a CASA volunteer.

13 Q Okay. Well, do you recall about when you
14 became a CASA volunteer?

15 A Approximately 2009, maybe 2010.

16 Q Okay. Were you ever a member of the
17 Friends of Clayton County CASA?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And do you recall how long your
20 tenure was with them?

21 A I guess three years.

22 Q Three years. Okay.

23 Do you recall when you started with them?

24 A When I was employed.

25 Q Okay. So assuming, going off of this

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1 early 2011 date?

2 A '11, yes.

3 Q Okay. Okay. Fair enough.

4 And in the course of that membership with
5 Friends of Clayton County CASA, did you have occasion
6 to attend board meetings?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And did you hold any particular position
9 within Friends of Clayton County CASA?

10 A No.

11 Q And if you look here, I'm still on page
12 2717, Ms. Johnson, if you go down under "employed," it
13 lists here, it seems to say "status change,
14 intra-department transfer" in 2012?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you know the nature of that? It looks
17 like you retained the same position but --

18 A If I recollect correctly, my position was
19 a grant position and then it became a county position.

20 Q I see. Okay.

21 When you were first engaged in this -- in
22 this 2011 time period, were you considered a part-time
23 employee of the county or full-time; do you know?

24 A I worked -- I worked full-time hours
25 but -- I worked full-time hours.

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1 Q Did you receive -- before this what we've
2 seen as status change intra-department transfer that
3 you testified about a moment ago in October 2012,
4 before that time did you receive Clayton County monies
5 or remuneration for your work or was it solely from
6 the grant; do you know?

7 A I believe it was from the grant.

8 Q Okay. And then after that what's listed
9 here as a status change intra-department transfer, you
10 also received payment from Clayton County?

11 A I believe so.

12 Q Okay. And was your position while you
13 were employed or engaged by Clayton County, was it
14 always as a CASA support service supervisor?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Okay. Pretend that you're visiting my
17 second grade class on career day and you're giving me
18 a summary of your job duties. What generally did you
19 do? Actually let's start sort of at the beginning.
20 What is CASA?

21 A CASA is basically -- we are support for
22 children in foster care. We are the voice. We make
23 sure that their rights are understood and granted
24 and -- basically we're looking out for that child.

25 Q And does the CASA volunteer have any

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1 interaction with the Juvenile Court system at all?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And CASA is an acronym; is it not?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Am I going to put you on the spot under
6 oath? I am, I guess. Do you recall what it stands
7 for?

8 A I don't remember. Shame on me. I don't
9 remember. I don't remember.

10 Q Okay. If I were to suggest Court
11 Appointed Special Advocate?

12 A Special Advocate, you got it.

13 Q Okay. Did that jog your memory? Okay.
14 So you were working for the CASA program,
15 and I was about to ask you, is there any interaction
16 between the CASA program and the Juvenile Court system
17 in Clayton County?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And can you just speak generally
20 about what that interaction is.

21 A Once a child goes into the system, foster
22 care --

23 Q Yes, ma'am.

24 A -- within 72 hours they are required to
25 have a hearing. And once they go into the court for

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1 their hearing, then a CASA supervisor is assigned to
2 that particular case. And with -- as a supervisor, we
3 had volunteers working for us, and we would go ahead
4 and assign the case to one of our volunteers, and they
5 would follow up, they would keep track of the child,
6 they would visit the child monthly, any court
7 appearances, any needs that that child may have the
8 CASA volunteer or supervisor was involved to make sure
9 that the child was taken care of and their needs were
10 addressed.

11 Q During your time as a CASA -- now, you
12 mentioned a moment ago that the supervisor would
13 assign a volunteer to the case --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- is that correct?

16 When you were support service supervisor,
17 is that what you would do?

18 A Yes, but my caseload was different.

19 Q Okay.

20 A I didn't take on foster care children. I
21 was responsible -- and my volunteers, we were
22 responsible for going out to do the home evaluations
23 to ensure that the placement was conducive for that
24 child to be placed there.

25 Q Okay.

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1 A And then in addition to that, if a child
2 had been placed in that home for three years, we would
3 go back out and reevaluate the home, go to the school,
4 talk to the children, get all of their records and
5 just follow up, write our report, and submit it to the
6 judge assigned to that case.

7 Q Okay. And I may have misunderstood you.
8 The report that was submitted, was that typically
9 submitted to the Juvenile Court?

10 A Yes, the Juvenile Court judge that's
11 assigned to the county.

12 Q Was it ever submitted to any of the other
13 courts, Superior Court, State Court?

14 A If it was a custody case, and I only
15 worked on a custody case probably twice.

16 Q Okay. And I want to make sure I
17 understood your testimony from a moment ago. Did you
18 actually in your role assign a particular volunteer to
19 work with you on a particular case or matter?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. Okay.

22 A And they didn't work with me. They were
23 responsible for that case and reported back --

24 Q They would report back to you?

25 A -- to me, yes.

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1 Q Okay. Thank you for that.

2 As part of your job, were you ever
3 involved in volunteer recruitment?

4 A Not really.

5 Q Let me just ask you this: Were
6 volunteers in the CASA program important to you in
7 doing your job duties?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Would having enough volunteers be -- you
10 would characterize that as an essential part of being
11 able to do your job?

12 A Yes. So if I knew of somebody that I
13 thought would be a good CASA, yes, I would mention it
14 to them.

15 Q What -- in general you said someone who
16 would be a good CASA. What would you, just you,
17 personally look for in such a person just to determine
18 whether they might be a good fit for a volunteer?

19 A Somebody who's caring, somebody who's
20 accountable, somebody who is going to follow through
21 and do the work that's involved, somebody who's going
22 to be dedicated to that particular case that they are
23 involved in.

24 Q Do you happen to know, did you ever have
25 any volunteers that you assigned to matters who lived

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1 outside of Clayton County?

2 A I believe I had one or two that may have
3 lived outside of the county.

4 Q Do you know whether there was any reason
5 why someone who lived in another county, assuming they
6 could do the job duties, could not be a CASA volunteer
7 in Clayton County?

8 A I'm sorry?

9 Q Sure. Let me rephrase that. That was a
10 little confusing.

11 Are you aware of any restriction that
12 would require someone to live in Clayton County to be
13 a Clayton County CASA volunteer?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay. And when you -- you mentioned a
16 moment ago that you might meet someone who would
17 appear to you to be a good fit to be a CASA volunteer.
18 How would you approach that person about participating
19 in the program?

20 A Well, I always talked about CASA and
21 talked about the value and the need, and that's how I
22 would approach it --

23 Q Okay.

24 A -- and ask if they were interested
25 because I saw something in that individual that

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1 thought that they would be a fit for us.

2 Q Did you ever, you know, take someone to a
3 coffee or lunch or something to discuss volunteer
4 matters?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay. Do you know if others did, others
7 in the CASA program in Clayton County?

8 A My peers?

9 Q Yes, ma'am.

10 A I'm not certain. I don't know.

11 Q Okay. Do you know if Mr. Bostock did?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And yes, you know, and yes, he did; is
14 that correct?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Okay. During the time you served as a
17 CASA support service supervisor, who was your
18 immediate supervisor?

19 A Gerald Bostock.

20 Q Okay. And he was for your entire --
21 well, let me -- I'm going to have another question
22 about that in a moment. But through the time of
23 Mr. Bostock's termination, he was your supervisor for
24 that entire time?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q Okay. And do you happen to know what the
2 chain of command would be above Mr. Bostock, if any?

3 A Within the court?

4 Q Well, I guess let me break it down for
5 you. That's a good question.

6 Within the CASA program itself, was
7 Mr. Bostock the head of the program or was there
8 someone above him?

9 A He was the head of Clayton County, but
10 then the state CASA he would report to.

11 Q Understood. Okay.

12 And you mentioned the court. What, if
13 anything, do you understand about the interaction --
14 well, you've told me some things already but in terms
15 of Mr. Bostock and the interaction with the court
16 system in Clayton County?

17 A Say again. I'm sorry.

18 Q Sure. You've told me a bit already about
19 the interaction between CASA and the court system. Do
20 you know anything further about Mr. Bostock's
21 particular interactions with the court system or what
22 he did with respect to interacting with the courts?

23 A With the courts?

24 Q Yes, ma'am.

25 A As far as the job of a CASA or as far as

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1 the hierarchy in the court?

2 Q Let's start first with the hierarchy in
3 the court.

4 A Well, we all report -- well, Judge Teske
5 was over the court so --

6 Q Okay.

7 A -- in a sense we all -- basically I guess
8 I would say we reported to him.

9 Q Okay. And you had asked me a question
10 about -- my last question about you said it with
11 regard to the courts for the hierarchy. When you said
12 with regards to the courts, what would your answer be
13 to that question?

14 A Well, as Gerald being our supervisor, he
15 would still -- would represent us.

16 Q Okay. Okay. And I'm going back,
17 Ms. Johnson, to your personnel file exhibit, and I'm
18 still on the same page, still on the same page. It
19 reflects that there was a resignation -- that you
20 resigned in June -- June 6th, 2014; is that correct?

21 A Well, I actually left on the 23rd of May,
22 but I guess this may reflect time that I had on the
23 books.

24 Q I see. Okay. But you had previously
25 given notice of your resignation?

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1 A I did.

2 Q Okay. And what were the circumstances?

3 What led you to resign?

4 A It was a hostile environment.

5 Q Okay. How so?

6 A Carol Gossett became our supervisor.

7 Carol and I were once a colleague, and when Gerald was
8 terminated Carol became our supervisor, and there was
9 favoritism within the department. When Carol was a
10 colleague, she basically had three friends within the
11 court -- within our department. So when she became
12 our supervisor, she still maintained that relationship
13 with those three individuals, and there was favoritism
14 with those individuals.

15 Q Okay. And who were those three
16 individuals, if you recall?

17 A Becky, and I can't think of -- Galbreath,
18 Becky Galbreath; Kim, and I can't remember Kim's last
19 name; and Griffin Shirley.

20 Q Griffin Shirley. Okay.

21 And do you know any reason why -- well,
22 you characterized her as being -- acting -- excuse me,
23 exercising favoritism towards those three individuals.
24 Do you know any basis of why she would do that beyond
25 the friendship you mentioned?

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1 A Beyond -- because of -- beyond the
2 friendship?

3 Q Yes, ma'am.

4 A I don't know any other reason why beyond
5 the friendship.

6 Q Okay.

7 A I was just under the assumption because
8 of what was going on and what I was seeing it was
9 because she had a closer relationship with those three
10 individuals.

11 Q Okay. And you mentioned what was going
12 on and what you were seeing. Do you recall specific
13 instances that you felt were acts of favoritism by
14 Ms. Gossett?

15 A Yes. Griffin and Kim smoked cigarettes.

16 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

17 A And by Becky being a friend of those, the
18 three of them were constantly outside smoking
19 cigarettes.

20 In addition to that, Becky, Griffin, and
21 Kim decided to go back to school for their education,
22 and when they did that, they were leaving work early
23 to attend their classes. They were doing homework on
24 company time, and they were not following the
25 procedures for us to leave the building. We had

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1 internal procedures where you would -- we had a log.
2 You would sign out where you were going, what case you
3 were working on, if it was case related, or going to
4 lunch, whatever it is. And then we had a -- the court
5 had an internal system, JCAPS I think it was called,
6 and you would indicate in the system -- and I believe
7 the whole court was able to see this system to know
8 what was going on, where the individuals were.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And they weren't signing out where they
11 were going and things of that nature.

12 I mentioned it to Griffin just off the
13 top of my head because it was -- there was morale
14 issues as a result of them going -- leaving and not
15 following the rules and procedures.

16 Q Were they still being paid for the time
17 they were --

18 A Yes.

19 Q -- away?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And I'm sorry. I interrupted you.

22 A Oh, yeah.

23 Q You mentioned a conversation with
24 Mr. Shirley.

25 A Yes. And so the following morning when

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1 we got to work, Carol had called a staff meeting. And
2 so I expressed -- I happened to be the spokesperson
3 for everybody else who had an issue with it, and I
4 expressed what we were seeing and the favoritism, and
5 they explained to me, well, they can use their time
6 the way that they wanted to use it. Fine, I don't
7 have an issue with that. I didn't even have an issue
8 with them going back to school. My concern was it
9 was -- it appeared that they were sneaking. And I
10 mentioned to them that I felt Carol was at fault as
11 our supervisor because all she had to do was bring us
12 together and just tell us that they were going to be
13 going to school and they would be going to school on
14 company time, and we would have supported that.

15 So when I mentioned that morale was low
16 and we thought that there was favoritism then, then
17 things changed between me and Carol.

18 Q Okay. Let me stop you for one second
19 there.

20 At the meeting where you raised the
21 issue, you said they explained they could do or use
22 their time as they wanted. Was that the three
23 individuals, Becky, Kim, and Griffin, or somebody
24 different?

25 A The three individuals.

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1 Q And was Ms. Gossett present at this
2 meeting also?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And is that the same meeting where
5 you addressed a concern to Ms. Gossett that you just
6 testified about?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And you said things changed after that
9 time. How did they change?

10 A Carol turned on me basically. I couldn't
11 do anything right. I got a bad evaluation. Never in
12 my professional life had I ever gotten a negative
13 evaluation. She -- we had a -- Carol had established
14 a rule that when we were going out on the case if we
15 were leaving the county that we had to have somebody
16 go along with us.

17 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

18 A And I had a case down in Columbus. And
19 normally -- now, I can't even think. Annell,
20 Annell -- no, I can't even think of her last name.
21 I'm sorry. Annell and I would normally travel
22 together. And so we would work our schedules out to
23 make sure that we can accompany one another. And this
24 particular time, a day before I was to go to Columbus
25 and mentioned that Annell was going, Carol said that

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1 she couldn't go. And that --

2 Q I'm sorry to interrupt you. She said
3 Annell could not go?

4 A Could not go with me. And she told me I
5 needed to find one of my volunteers to go with me.
6 And at that late date I couldn't find anybody to go
7 with me, so I had to drive to Columbus myself. And I
8 got back probably about -- it was a Friday. I got
9 back probably about 6:00 o'clock. No word from Carol
10 to see how I was doing, if I was okay, nothing.

11 Another situation, I had gotten hurt on
12 the job, and I was on workers' comp, and I was going
13 to physical therapy and also having doctors'
14 appointments. And normally when -- if I knew that I
15 had to go to physical therapy or to the doctor's
16 appointment, I would combine that with whatever I had
17 to do in the field with one of my cases. That became
18 an issue.

19 So Carol and I met with Colin Slay.
20 Colin explained to us that the procedures were that
21 you could not combine any activities. If I was going
22 out for workers' comp, I can only clock out for the
23 workers' comp, come back in, clock back in, and then
24 if I needed to go back out to clock back out.

25 Not thinking, the very next time I went

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1 out, I had a doctor's appointment, did the doctor's
2 appointment, I had to go by DFCS, and I hadn't gone to
3 lunch. And I called Carol, and I told her that I was
4 just leaving the doctor's and I needed to go to DFCS
5 and I hadn't had lunch. I went ahead and did what I
6 needed to do. When I got back, she had written me up.

7 And I said to her: Carol, I didn't even
8 get a verbal. Why am I getting this written?

9 And she kept insisting that when we spoke
10 with Colin that was my verbal.

11 And I kept telling her: No, he was just
12 explaining the procedures to us. And I refused to
13 sign the letter.

14 Q Okay. Who is Colin Slay?

15 A Colin was -- Colin was over the
16 administrative portion of the court.

17 Q So he was part of the court system?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Clayton County court system?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Do you recall his position by any chance?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. Did he have much interaction with
24 the CASA side of the program?

25 A He had interaction with the whole court

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1 system.

2 Q Okay.

3 A The whole Juvenile Court.

4 Q Okay.

5 MR. BEAL: Hey, can we take just a
6 two-second -- a two-minute break?

7 MR. MEW: Sure.

8 MR. BEAL: Is that okay --

9 MR. MEW: Sure.

10 MR. BEAL: -- with everybody?

11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off video record
12 at 11:41.

13 (Thereupon, a recess was taken.)

14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on
15 video record at 11:44 a.m.

16 BY MR. MEW:

17 Q Ms. Johnson, did Ms. Gossett work under
18 Mr. Bostock before she assumed his position?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And either while she was working
21 for Mr. Bostock or after his termination, did you ever
22 hear Ms. Gossett make any negative remarks concerning
23 Mr. Bostock?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. Now, until his termination in --

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1 I'm sorry. Go ahead. Were you about to say
2 something?

3 A I'm sorry. No, I didn't hear. I'm
4 sorry. No, I didn't hear her.

5 Q Until Mr. Bostock's termination in or
6 around June 2013, he was your supervisor; correct?

7 A Correct.

8 Q Okay. And how closely did you work with
9 Mr. Bostock?

10 A I don't understand how closely.

11 Q Did you have daily interactions with
12 Mr. Bostock?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And did -- were you -- unless you
15 were out on some field work, were you and he
16 physically in a similar office area or space?

17 A Yes. And Gerald had gone out a couple of
18 times with me on cases.

19 Q Okay. Had you had an opportunity to
20 observe Mr. Bostock's -- Mr. Bostock as a supervisor?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. And what is your -- what was your
23 opinion of Mr. Bostock as a supervisor?

24 A I thought Gerald was fair. I thought
25 Gerald -- Gerald was going to make sure that

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1 everything was done the way it was supposed to have
2 been done. We had to make sure that our reports were
3 complete every month and they were correct. Gerald
4 was understanding.

5 Q You mentioned the reports. How would you
6 characterize Mr. Bostock's preparation of the reports
7 or oversight of the reports?

8 A Meticulous.

9 Q Did you have any interaction with
10 Mr. Bostock on reporting on financial matters such as
11 budgeting or expenditures?

12 A As far as the CASA, the whole CASA
13 program, no, just in regards to my monthly reports and
14 my monthly expenses.

15 Q With regard to your monthly reports and
16 expenses, excuse me, how would you characterize
17 Mr. Bostock's handling of that?

18 A Good. I mean, he wanted to make sure
19 that what we -- what I submitted was correct.

20 Q Did you consider Mr. Bostock to be an
21 honest person?

22 A Oh, yes.

23 Q And did you have any role with
24 Mr. Bostock in planning any type of recruitment events
25 such as I know one that's popular is the duck derby --

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1 A Duck derby.

2 Q -- we've heard about. Did you have any
3 role in the planning of those events?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Tell me briefly, let's just start with
6 the duck derby, what you did for that?

7 A We were responsible -- we -- I didn't go
8 out to get monies, but we were responsible for setting
9 up. We were responsible for attending. We were
10 responsible for getting people to attend the duck
11 derby. That was our biggest fundraiser, so, yeah, we
12 were -- we all were involved in the success of the
13 duck derby.

14 Q And if I understand it correctly, correct
15 me if I'm wrong, the duck derby was essentially a
16 person could sponsor one or more rubber, whatever they
17 are made of, ducks --

18 A Ducks.

19 Q -- toy ducks, and they would float to
20 some end line and whoever's duck won the derby would
21 receive a prize of some sort; is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And the monies --

24 A We had quite a few sponsors and different
25 levels of the gifts.

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1 Q Okay. With an event like the duck derby,
2 were you involved at all in the procurement, you know,
3 purchasing of supplies or anything for that?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay.

6 A That was basically Raquel's
7 responsibility working closely with Gerald.

8 Q Okay. Is Raquel's last name Stoudemire
9 by chance?

10 A Stoudemire, uh-huh (affirmative).

11 Q Okay. How is it that you came to learn
12 that Mr. Bostock was either terminated or was going to
13 be terminated very shortly?

14 A Griffin Shirley told me.

15 Q Okay. What did Mr. Shirley tell you?

16 A He told me that he and Carol had been
17 playing golf with Judge Teske and Carol told Judge
18 Teske that Gerald misappropriated funds. So Griffin
19 told me that he had a loyalty towards Gerald and so he
20 contacted Gerald to tell him what was going to
21 transpire.

22 Q Okay. And do you recall on or about when
23 this conversation occurred?

24 A Right around the time. It had to have
25 been either after we had the meeting -- I believe it

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1 was after we had the meeting with Judge Teske and the
2 staff of the court.

3 Q Okay. And I'm going to ask you about
4 that meeting in just a moment.

5 Did Mr. Shirley report or tell you
6 anything about why Ms. Gossett thought Mr. Bostock had
7 allegedly misappropriated funds?

8 A Something with the team, baseball team.
9 But other than that, no.

10 Q Okay. Did he give any specifics --

11 A No.

12 Q -- about it beyond that?

13 Did he mention anything to do with being
14 gay or it being a gay softball team?

15 A I don't remember.

16 Q Now, you mentioned a meeting. You
17 mentioned a meeting I think you said with the court
18 staff. Tell me about that meeting. When you say
19 "court staff," who was present from the court staff?

20 A Everybody in the Juvenile Court.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Judge Teske called a meeting the day that
23 Gerald was terminated, and we all reported to the
24 common area where we usually have meetings and
25 functions. And it was Judge Teske, it was Colin and

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1 John Johnson. And Judge Teske led the meeting and
2 basically told us that Gerald was terminated because
3 he misappropriated funds in sponsoring the gay
4 softball team and that the court would not tolerate
5 that type of behavior.

6 Q Let me ask you a few details about that
7 now.

8 You said basically the entire court staff
9 was there. About how many folks roughly were in
10 attendance?

11 A I can't tell you. I don't know how many
12 people were employed in Juvenile Court, but it was --
13 it was every department --

14 Q Okay.

15 A -- was in this meeting.

16 Q Not just --

17 A But that was not the first time. We had
18 other things where everybody in the court was
19 involved.

20 Q Did you have other times when a
21 termination was announced?

22 A Oh, no. No.

23 Q So this meeting wasn't just with the CASA
24 folks under Gerald?

25 A No. It was the entire Juvenile Court.

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1 Q Okay. Now, you mentioned that it was
2 Judge Teske who called the meeting and that Judge
3 Teske, Mr. Slay, and Mr. Johnson -- who I believe his
4 first name is John Johnson?

5 A John Johnson.

6 Q Okay. Mr. Johnson were at the meeting.
7 You mentioned that Judge Teske had made a
8 reference to Mr. Bostock misappropriating funds; is
9 that correct?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Did he specify the funds? In other
12 words, did he say Clayton County funds, some other
13 funds?

14 A I don't remember.

15 Q Okay. Did he at that time specifically
16 raise the softball team?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. Did he give any other examples of
19 alleged misappropriation by Gerald?

20 A Not that I remember.

21 Q Okay. And when Judge Teske raised the
22 softball team, did he make any reference to it being a
23 gay softball team or gay affiliated?

24 A To my rec -- to my recollection, yes.

25 Q Okay. And did he simply volunteer the

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1 fact that it was a gay team, was it in response to
2 some question, or did he just simply say?

3 A Part of his explanation of Gerald's
4 termination and that that type of behavior would not
5 be tolerated by the court.

6 Q And when he made that statement about
7 that type of behavior would not be tolerated by the
8 court, was that after he had already made the
9 reference to the gay softball team?

10 MR. BUECHNER: Object to form.

11 A Oh, I'm -- I'm not certain. He was -- he
12 was standing there telling us, so it was all together,
13 the misappropriation of funds and the team.

14 BY MR. MEW:

15 Q Okay.

16 A And Gerald's termination.

17 Q Okay. So was that all basically a single
18 statement or speech or announcement by Judge Teske?

19 MR. BUECHNER: Object to form.

20 A (Shakes head negatively.)

21 BY MR. MEW:

22 Q You can still answer after he objects.

23 A It wasn't -- I would say yes only because
24 there wasn't a pregnant pause or anything of that
25 nature. He was just stating that.

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1 Q There was no Q&A during that statement?

2 A No.

3 Q No questioning and answering?

4 A No. I don't believe there was any
5 questions or answers, period.

6 Q Okay. Do you recall how many times Judge
7 Teske mentioned it being a gay softball league or used
8 the term "gay"?

9 A No.

10 Q Okay. When he said it was a gay softball
11 team, did he place any particular emphasis on the word
12 "gay"? Did you have an understanding of what his
13 feelings were about that?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay. And I think I understood you to
16 say that Mr. -- excuse me, Judge Teske did not offer
17 further examples beyond the softball team?

18 A Not to my recollection, no.

19 Q Okay. And did he at that time say
20 anything about an audit or anything like that?

21 A I don't know if that came out at the
22 meeting that we were going to be audited or not, but
23 we were told that there was going to be an audit.

24 Q Okay. You mentioned that Mr. Slay was
25 present at that meeting as well. Did Mr. Slay say

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1 anything at the meeting?

2 A I don't remember.

3 Q Okay. Do you recall if Mr. Johnson said
4 anything at that meeting?

5 A No, I don't remember.

6 Q Okay. You don't know one way or the
7 other?

8 A Right.

9 Q Okay.

10 A The thing was once we got that
11 information, I was in shock, so a lot of stuff went
12 over my head. If anything else transpired, I don't
13 remember it.

14 Q You mentioned that you were in shock. Do
15 you recall how others reacted?

16 A I think we all were surprised.

17 Q Let me just ask you for your -- the
18 particular reason you were surprised was why?

19 A Why I was surprised?

20 Q Yes, ma'am, why were you surprised?

21 A Because I didn't think Gerald had done
22 anything wrong to be terminated.

23 Q And that was even after what Judge Teske
24 said, correct, about the sponsorship of the softball
25 team?

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1 A Right.

2 Q You didn't -- as a CASA -- as a CASA
3 employee or official, you didn't see anything wrong
4 with doing that?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Because Gerald's job was to recruit.
8 Gerald's job was to bring in volunteers.

9 Q Was there any -- well, let me ask you
10 this. I'm sorry. Was there any instruction at the
11 meeting from Judge Teske or some other official about
12 keeping the matter confidential?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay.

15 A We were told to not discuss it.

16 Q And who said that?

17 A Judge Teske.

18 Q Okay. Did he make any further statement
19 about not discussing it or how did he say -- what
20 exactly did he say?

21 A Oh, gee. All I know is he said not to
22 discuss it. How he said it, you know, I couldn't tell
23 you what he said to not discuss --

24 Q Did he --

25 A To not to --

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1 Q I'm sorry.

2 A Not to discuss it.

3 Q Did he suggest that there -- anyone who
4 did discuss it might be subject to some sort of
5 disciplinary action?

6 A Not that I remember.

7 Q Okay. Did you have any personal takeaway
8 from -- well, let me ask you this: When he said don't
9 discuss it, was your personal view that if someone
10 did, they might be subject to some sort of
11 repercussions?

12 A No, I didn't feel threatened in any way.

13 Q Okay.

14 A No, I didn't feel threatened in any way.

15 Q After the -- after the -- about -- about
16 how long did this meeting last?

17 A Oh, gee, I can't say.

18 Q Okay.

19 A Half hour maybe, half hour or less. It's
20 hard. I don't remember.

21 Q And following the -- let's just say the
22 breakup of the meeting, in other words, after the
23 meeting was concluded but everyone was still around,
24 did you have any discussions with any individuals
25 about what had transpired at the meeting?

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1 A Not until we got back into our
2 department.

3 Q Okay.

4 A And I believe that's when Griffin
5 mentioned to me about Carol.

6 Q Okay. The golf --

7 A Yes.

8 Q -- outing you mentioned earlier?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. Did anyone else make a statement
11 about Gerald's termination?

12 A Within the department?

13 Q Yes, ma'am.

14 A I'm sure we did. We -- I know we had to
15 have discussed it.

16 Q Did anyone at that time, that is, when
17 you went back to the department facility, did anyone
18 at that time make any statements about gay softball
19 league, Gerald being gay, any words to that effect?

20 A Not that I remember.

21 Q Okay. During the time that you worked
22 for the county starting in 2011 to the time of your
23 resignation, beyond what you've already testified to,
24 did you ever hear anyone comment or mention Gerald's
25 sexuality?

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1 A I don't think so.

2 Q Okay. Do you recall any disparaging
3 remarks anyone may have made about it?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. Did anyone ever make a suggestion
6 to you, for example, that they disagreed with the fact
7 that Mr. Bostock was gay; in other words, that they
8 disagreed with that, quote-unquote, lifestyle?

9 A They disagreed with what now? Say again.

10 Q That they found the fact -- let me ask
11 you a better question.

12 Did anyone express to you that they found
13 the fact that Mr. Bostock was gay was offensive or
14 reprehensible to them?

15 A No.

16 Q How about being gay in general, had
17 anyone ever expressed an opinion to you about that,
18 anyone at Clayton County I should say?

19 A Not that I recall.

20 Q Okay. And what was Mr. Shirley's role in
21 the CASA program at the time he made that statement to
22 you?

23 A Supervisor.

24 Q Supervisor. Okay.

25 And after Mr. Shirley said that to you,

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1 did you ever at any time for the rest of your tenure
2 have any conversations with him about that statement?

3 A I don't -- I don't -- I don't remember.

4 Q Okay.

5 A I didn't trust Griffin, so I -- I -- I
6 don't remember.

7 Q When he said that to you, was anyone else
8 a party to that conversation?

9 A I don't know if the people seated beside
10 us heard the conversation. We were not in a group --

11 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

12 A -- because Griffin, we were in -- Griffin
13 and I sat by one another even though we were in
14 different cubes but we sat by one another.

15 Q For purposes of the meeting? I'm sorry.

16 A No, in the office.

17 Q Oh, okay. Okay. Go ahead.

18 A And so we would converse because, you
19 know, we were close to one another. And so I know we
20 were standing by the window behind us, and he said it,
21 but I don't remember if anybody else was around.

22 Q You mentioned people on either side of
23 you. Do you know whether there were people on either
24 side of you?

25 A I don't remember at that time.

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1 Q Okay. Did you -- I'm sorry if I asked
2 you this already. Did you ever have any conversations
3 with Ms. Gossett about what Mr. Shirley told you?

4 A No.

5 Q After the meeting in which Judge Teske
6 made his remarks, after that meeting broke up, did you
7 observe anyone from the press on the property or on
8 the facilities?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Who did you see?

11 A Richard Belcher.

12 Q Okay. How is it that you knew it was
13 Mr. Belcher?

14 A From television.

15 Q Okay. Did you have any conversation with
16 Mr. Belcher?

17 A Oh, no.

18 Q Okay. Was he speaking with someone when
19 you saw him?

20 A He was standing in the lobby right by the
21 stairs to go up, and he was waiting for somebody to
22 either let him up or whatever. He was just standing
23 there in the lobby.

24 Q Okay. Do you know who he was there to
25 see or the purpose of his visit?

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1 A I can -- I only made an assumption.

2 Q What assumption did you make?

3 A That it was behind Gerald's termination.
4 We normally didn't have the media in the building like
5 that, and then after that meeting it just seems like
6 the whole environment was in chaos, you know, because
7 everybody was surprised.

8 Q Surprised -- I'm sorry. Let me just
9 interrupt you right there. Surprised about
10 Mr. Bostock's termination?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. And I'm sorry. Please continue.

13 A Yes.

14 Q You said after the meeting was --

15 A Yeah. It seemed like everything was like
16 chaotic. You know, people were in shock, so of course
17 there were conversations. I can't talk about the
18 other, you know, departments, but I know within our
19 department.

20 Q You had expressed a few minutes ago about
21 the sponsorship of the softball team not being wrong
22 or Gerald not doing anything wrong in that -- by doing
23 that or facilitating that. Did you have conversations
24 with anyone else either after he was terminated or
25 before about the sponsorship of the softball team?

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1 A Did I have a conversation with somebody
2 else?

3 Q Yes, ma'am. Well, let's break it down a
4 little bit.

5 A Okay.

6 Q Go ahead. I'm sorry.

7 A No, no.

8 Q So after the meeting, after the meeting
9 where his termination was announced --

10 A Uh-huh (affirmative).

11 Q -- did you have any conversations with
12 anybody about -- excuse me. I'm sorry about the
13 microphone. Did you have any conversations with
14 anyone about the sponsorship of the softball team?

15 A Just about the sponsorship of the team?

16 Q Yes, ma'am.

17 A Not that I can remember.

18 Q Okay. Did you have -- did anyone express
19 to you that they felt that Mr. Bostock's termination
20 was, you know, unfair or unfounded?

21 A In my opinion, I thought that everybody
22 felt the same way that I did.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Within our department. Like I said, I
25 can't speak --

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1 Q Right. And, of course, you had been
2 ordered at that point not to discuss the matter
3 further; correct?

4 A (Laughs.)

5 Q Okay. Correct? I know you're laughing,
6 but is that correct?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Okay. Okay.

9 A I mean, he dropped the bomb on us and he
10 expected us not to talk about it? This affected us
11 personally, you know, so of course we were going to at
12 least comment about it.

13 Q Sure. You -- we mentioned a moment ago
14 an audit or possible audit. Were you ever interviewed
15 or asked to give any input for any type of audit?

16 A The only thing that I remember, and it
17 possibly could be some of my reports, but I'm not
18 certain. I'm not certain. Because I would submit all
19 of my reports to Gerald, and Gerald did a monthly
20 report, so they basically should have had everything,
21 so I really don't think so.

22 Q Okay. You don't recall being contacted
23 by someone who said they were an investigator or
24 conducting an audit?

25 A For me personally?

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1 Q Yes, ma'am.

2 A No.

3 Q Okay. And do you recall any other staff
4 in the CASA program being contacted about that?

5 A I believe Raquel.

6 Q Raquel only?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q And that's Ms. Stoudemire?

9 A Yes. I'm sorry.

10 Q Okay. Anyone else besides
11 Ms. Stoudemire?

12 A No, I don't think -- I don't know.

13 Q Did anyone affiliated with the Clayton
14 County District Attorney's office ever contact you
15 about Mr. Bostock?

16 A Contact me about Gerald?

17 Q Yes, ma'am.

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. Do you know of anyone else who was
20 contacted by the district attorney's office about
21 Mr. Bostock?

22 A No.

23 Q You mentioned a little while ago that you
24 were a member of Friends of Clayton County CASA.

25 Was --

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1 A Excuse me.

2 Q Was Mr. Bostock's termination a topic of
3 discussion at any board meetings?

4 A I don't think so. I don't know.

5 Q Okay.

6 A I don't think so.

7 Q Okay. Were you attending the Friends of
8 Clayton County CASA at the time, that is, around June
9 2013 were you still a member?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. Do you recall if there was ever an
12 attempt by Judge Teske to call a special meeting of
13 the Friends of Clayton County CASA?

14 A Now that you mention it, I think so. But
15 I don't know -- I don't know any details or anything.
16 Yes.

17 Q Okay. Do you recall hearing of any
18 tension or conversation between Judge Teske and
19 Sabrina Crawford concerning Mr. Bostock's termination?

20 A I can't give you any details, but
21 something transpired, but I can't give you any
22 details.

23 Q Okay. How do you know that something
24 transpired?

25 A Because there was -- there was never a

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1 secret about anything. I just got word of it.

2 Q And do you recall how you got word?

3 A No, no.

4 Q What is your understanding of the
5 something that transpired?

6 A There was a discussion with Sabrina and
7 Judge Teske, but other than that I don't know
8 anything. I can't speak on that.

9 Q Was Sabrina at that time a member of
10 Friends of Clayton County CASA?

11 A Yes, I believe she was, yes.

12 MR. MEW: Take a break for a few minutes.
13 It's right at noon. If anyone wants a snack or
14 anything, we can do that as well.

15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off video record
16 at 12:09.

17 (Thereupon, a recess was taken.)

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on
19 video record at 12:22 p.m. This is the beginning
20 of Video File Number 2.

21 MR. MEW: Ms. Johnson, those are actually
22 all the questions I have for you. It's likely
23 that Mr. Buechner will want to ask you some
24 questions, and it may be that the lawyer in me
25 will then be required to ask you some follow-up

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1 based on what he asks you, but that concludes
2 your deposition -- your principal deposition with
3 me, so I thank you very much. I know you're
4 under subpoena, and I appreciate your cooperation
5 in complying with that and coming today.

6 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. BUECHNER:

9 Q Yes, Ms. Johnson, unfortunately I do have
10 a few questions for you but will try not to keep you
11 too long.

12 You mentioned that you were a member of
13 FCCC?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Is that -- is that something different
16 from being a board member? When you say you were a
17 member of FCCC, what does that mean?

18 A I wasn't on the board, but as a CASA
19 supervisor, we were members.

20 Q Okay. And what did membership in FCCC
21 entail?

22 A We attended monthly board meetings with
23 the board of Friends of Clayton County and any
24 functions that was sponsored. We were -- we were a
25 part of those functions.

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1 Q Okay. You mentioned that you did not
2 trust Griffin Shirley; is that right? Did I hear that
3 right?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Why didn't you trust Mr. Shirley?

6 A I felt that Griffin was two-faced. Yeah.

7 Q What do you mean by that?

8 A Well, the fact that he mentioned to me
9 that he went and told Gerald what was going to happen,
10 and then the fact, too, that when I mentioned to him
11 about the morale in the department, he turned right
12 around and called Carol.

13 Q Anything else?

14 A No. Not -- not that I can think of.

15 Q You mentioned some of your concerns about
16 Carol Gossett's treatment of you after that staff
17 meeting?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you ever discuss those concerns with
20 her?

21 A I did.

22 Q Okay. And what'd she tell you? Or
23 what --

24 A She --

25 Q What did you tell her? What'd you say to

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1 her and what was her response?

2 A I asked her why was she being such a
3 hard-ass, and she didn't respond to that. And then
4 when I would ask her certain things like the rules
5 about going out of county, having somebody with you,
6 and she backed off on that, you know, so I asked her
7 about that, you know, really no response.

8 Q On the issue of having someone come with
9 you when you were going outside the county, you said
10 she backed off. What do you mean by that? What did
11 she say?

12 A She didn't really respond to it. When I
13 would approach her -- and a lot of times when I
14 approached her, I was angry --

15 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

16 A -- and she really wouldn't respond to me.
17 Just as with the letter when she wrote me up about
18 saying that I didn't follow procedures and stuff, you
19 know, the only thing she just kept insisting that I
20 did get my verbal.

21 Q Did you discuss your concerns about Carol
22 to any supervisor above her like Colin Slay or John
23 Johnson or anybody else?

24 A I did when it was too late. Just before
25 I had already submitted my resignation, and I think it

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1 was like an exit interview that I had, excuse me, that
2 I had with Colin, excuse me, that I had with Colin,
3 and I explained to him what was going on. And I
4 was -- I was keeping a narrative of everything that
5 was transpiring within the department.

6 I also went to -- excuse me. I also went
7 to HR and gave them a copy of it and told them that I
8 wanted to file a complaint, and they told me that
9 because I had submitted my resignation that nothing
10 would really be done about it.

11 Q Okay. Who did you speak with in the
12 human resources department?

13 A Oh, gee, I don't remember her name.

14 Q You remember it was a female, though?

15 A It was a female.

16 Q And what did -- what, if anything, did
17 Colin Slay tell you after you told him?

18 A I don't remember.

19 Q Now, did you ever hear Judge Teske make
20 any negative comments about Gerald being gay?

21 A No.

22 Q Did you ever hear --

23 A Other than -- other than the statement he
24 made about the team --

25 Q All right.

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1 A -- no.

2 Q We'll talk about that in a minute.

3 A All right.

4 Q How about John Johnson, did you ever hear
5 him make any negative comments about --

6 A No.

7 Q -- Gerald being gay?

8 Did you ever hear Colin Slay say any --
9 make any negative comments about Gerald being gay?

10 A No.

11 Q Did you ever hear Judge Teske make any
12 negative comments about gay people in general?

13 A No. But I was not in their circle. I
14 would only interact with --

15 Q I understand.

16 A I'm sorry.

17 Q Did you ever hear John Johnson make any
18 negative comments about gay people in general?

19 A No.

20 Q Did you ever hear Colin Slay make any
21 negative comments about gay people in general?

22 A No.

23 MR. BUECHNER: Okay. I have an exhibit.

24 How do you -- you mentioned we were doing a
25 continuous?

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1 MR. MEW: Yeah. If you want to do it as
2 like a defendant's exhibits.

3 MR. BUECHNER: Okay.

4 MR. MEW: I don't recall what the
5 exhibits were for the previous deposition.

6 MR. BUECHNER: We can maybe just have one
7 continuous for plaintiff's exhibits and another
8 continuous for defendant's exhibits.

9 MR. MEW: I think that makes sense.

10 MR. BUECHNER: Okay. Let's mark this as
11 Defendant's Exhibit 1.

12 (Thereupon, an off-the-record discussion
13 was held.)

14 (Thereupon, marked for identification,
15 Defendant's Exhibit Number [D-1](#).)

16 BY MR. BUECHNER:

17 Q Let me just show you what's marked as
18 Defendant's Exhibit 1. Ms. Johnson, just take however
19 much time you need --

20 A Okay.

21 Q -- to review that, and let me know when
22 you're finished.

23 A (Reviews document.)

24 Q Okay. Looking on page 2 of this exhibit,
25 is that your signature?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And you signed it on April 1st,

3 2021?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Did you prepare this declaration?

6 A No.

7 Q Do you know who did prepare this

8 declaration?

9 A Attorney Mew.

10 Q Attorney Mew.

11 Did he ask you to -- did he prepare that

12 declaration and ask you to sign it?

13 A And to verify that I agreed.

14 Q That it's correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. Looking at paragraph 6 of your
17 declaration, it says: On or about June 3, 2013, Judge
18 Steven Teske, John Johnson, and Colin Slay held a
19 meeting which I and other Juvenile Court staff members
20 attended. They announced Mr. Bostock's termination.

21 Do you see that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Who among those three individuals, who --

24 who did the speaking concerning -- who announced

25 Mr. Bostock's termination?

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1 A Judge Teske.

2 Q Okay. Did John Johnson or Colin Slay say
3 anything during this meeting?

4 A Not that I can remember.

5 Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge as to
6 why that meeting was scheduled to inform the court
7 staff of Gerald's termination?

8 A Do -- do I know why it was called?

9 Q Correct.

10 A To let us know that Gerald had been
11 terminated.

12 Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge as to
13 why they -- that Judge Teske felt it was necessary to
14 inform the staff of Gerald's termination?

15 A Only what -- only by what Judge Teske
16 told us.

17 Q Okay. And what'd he tell you about that?

18 A That Gerald misappropriated funds by
19 sponsoring the gay team.

20 Q Okay. Turning to paragraph 7 it says
21 that: At this meeting Judge Teske, Johnson, and Slay
22 stated that Mr. Bostock had misappropriated funds by
23 sponsoring through CASA a softball team on which
24 Mr. Bostock played and that they thought it was not
25 appropriate.

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1 Do you see that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And to be clear, it was just Judge Teske
4 who said that; right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay.

7 A And I don't remember --

8 Q As best as you can recall?

9 A Right.

10 Q Okay. And it was your understanding that
11 Judge Teske was saying that the misappropriation of
12 funds was inappropriate?

13 MR. MEW: Object to form.

14 BY MR. BUECHNER:

15 Q You can answer.

16 A Repeat it again, please. I'm sorry.

17 Q During this meeting, you understood Judge
18 Teske as saying that the misappropriation of funds was
19 inappropriate or they didn't think that was
20 appropriate?

21 MR. MEW: Same objection.

22 A Yes, because he sponsored the team.

23 BY MR. BUECHNER:

24 Q Okay. And they thought that -- your
25 understanding of what he was saying is that he felt

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1 that sponsoring the team constituted a
2 misappropriation of funds?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And that he thought that was
5 inappropriate?

6 A Well, I can't say. I mean, I don't know
7 what his thinking was. I just know what he --

8 Q But that's what he -- that's what you
9 understood him to be saying?

10 A Yes, that he sponsored the gay team,
11 softball team.

12 Q Okay. Now, in paragraph 8 you said that
13 Judge Teske emphasized that the sponsorship was of a
14 gay softball team.

15 A A softball team.

16 Q Now, by emphasized, do you mean that he
17 just mentioned that it was a gay softball team?

18 A He said --

19 MR. MEW: Object to form.

20 A He -- go ahead.

21 BY MR. BUECHNER:

22 Q You can answer.

23 MR. MEW: You may always answer, yeah.

24 THE WITNESS: All right.

25 A He said that it was a gay softball team.

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1 BY MR. BUECHNER:

2 Q Okay. And other than that, that to
3 you -- that to you meant emphasized?

4 A Yes. Well, he didn't -- he said it. He
5 didn't like stress, but he said because he sponsored
6 the gay softball team.

7 Q He included the fact that it --

8 A Gay, yes.

9 Q -- was a gay softball league --

10 MR. MEW: Objection.

11 BY MR. BUECHNER:

12 Q -- or team?

13 Okay. Was there anything that he said
14 that gave you the impression that he had a problem
15 with the fact that it was a gay softball team as
16 opposed to a non-gay softball team?

17 MR. MEW: Object to form.

18 A I -- I didn't really think about anything
19 as far as the sponsorship and stuff. After he
20 mentioned about determination and stuff, that's where
21 my mind was, that --

22 BY MR. BUECHNER:

23 Q Okay.

24 A -- Gerald was -- so everything else kind
25 of went out the window. It was that Gerald was

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1 terminated, you know.

2 Q That was a shock in and of itself?

3 A Shock in itself.

4 Q Okay. You were asked by Mr. Bostock's
5 counsel about whether he mentioned or Judge Teske
6 mentioned during this meeting any reference to an
7 audit, and you responded that you -- tell me if I'm
8 mischaracterizing your testimony, but my understanding
9 of your testimony is that you weren't sure whether he
10 mentioned a forthcoming audit during this meeting or
11 at some later time; is that correct?

12 A Yes. But when I'm thinking about it, I
13 do believe that he said it at the meeting that there
14 would be an audit, but I --

15 Q Okay.

16 A -- you know, I'm not certain.

17 Q Do you remember whether he mentioned an
18 audit that had already been conducted?

19 A No.

20 Q You don't remember that at all or you
21 don't remember one way or the other?

22 A Say again. I'm sorry.

23 Q Do you remember him making -- Judge Teske
24 during this staff meeting making reference to a county
25 audit that had already taken place?

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1 A No. It was an audit regarding the
2 misappropriation of the funds.

3 Q That's what you remember?

4 A That's what I remember.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Because I believe it was just for the
7 CASA department that the audit was conducted for.

8 Q Okay. Do you remember one way or the
9 other whether Judge Teske mentioned that this softball
10 team that was sponsored was in Atlanta?

11 A I believe so.

12 Q Okay. Now, you -- now, you mentioned, I
13 believe, in paragraph 10, if you look over on
14 paragraph 10, that when you left -- or when the
15 meeting concluded, you left the room and observed the
16 reporter Richard Belcher in the lobby?

17 A Correct.

18 Q All right. Do you have any knowledge as
19 to the circumstances behind him being in the lobby at
20 that time?

21 A Only my assumption.

22 Q Okay. And what's your assumption?

23 A That it was because of Gerald's
24 termination.

25 Q Okay. And do you have any knowledge as

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1 to how he learned of Gerald's termination?

2 A I don't.

3 Q Okay. Did you ever review or read any
4 audit concerning the expenditure of CASA funds by
5 Mr. Bostock?

6 A Have I ever seen an audit, the --

7 Q Right.

8 A -- results of an audit? I'm not certain.
9 I'm not certain. I don't think so, but I'm not
10 certain.

11 Q You mentioned earlier that you as your --
12 as a CASA supervisor you supervised volunteers; is
13 that right?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Do you recall roughly how many volunteers
16 you had under your supervision?

17 A At any given time I would say anywhere
18 between seven to ten maybe.

19 Q Okay. And Griffin, Mr. Shirley,
20 discussed with you either I guess after this meeting
21 the conversation that he overheard between Carol
22 Gossett and Judge Teske. Do you remember that?

23 MR. MEW: Object to form.

24 A Griffin -- my understanding Griffin was
25 present --

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1 BY MR. BUECHNER:

2 Q Okay.

3 A -- at the -- when Carol told Judge Teske.

4 Q Right. Okay.

5 But you weren't present for that --

6 A No.

7 Q -- conversation?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay.

10 MR. BUECHNER: All right. Thank you,

11 Ms. Johnson. That's all the questions I have.

12 FURTHER EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. MEW:

14 Q I will be extremely brief, maybe a tenth
15 of Mr. Buechner's time. I'm going to be very brief.

16 A Okay.

17 Q You stated during Mr. Buechner's
18 examination of you that you were not part of their
19 circle. Do you recall that statement?

20 A Yes.

21 Q To whom were you referring with "their
22 circle"?

23 A Judge Teske, Colin, and John.

24 Q You were not part of or privy to private
25 conversations --

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1 A Exactly.

2 Q -- with them?

3 A I'm sorry.

4 Q I'm sorry. Go ahead.

5 A Yes. I cut you off. I'm sorry. Yes.

6 Q Yes, you were not; is that correct?

7 A Yes, I was not privy.

8 Q Okay. And you yourself did not engage in
9 what one might call close or private conversations
10 with any of those three gentlemen; is that correct?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And certainly not about Gerald's
13 termination?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Okay. And let's see. Very early in my
16 questioning of you, Ms. Johnson, you mentioned
17 qualities that you looked for in individuals when
18 recruiting CASA volunteers. Do you recall that
19 testimony?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And is it your opinion that Gerald
22 possessed those qualities?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did you view Gerald as very committed to
25 the goals and needs of the CASA program?

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1 A Of course. No doubt. Yes. Gerald
2 appeared to me to live for CASA, yeah.

3 MR. MEW: Ms. Johnson, that is all I have
4 for you.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you all.

6 MR. MEW: You are released from subpoena
7 and free before 1:00 o'clock.

8 MR. BUECHNER: Free at last, free at
9 last.

10 THE WITNESS: Oh, thank you.

11 MR. MEW: That may be a world record.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 MR. MEW: There is no subpoena hanging
14 over your head.

15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off video record
16 at 12:45 p.m.

17 (Thereupon, an off-the-record discussion
18 was held.)

19 THE COURT REPORTER: You want to explain
20 signature to her?

21 MR. MEW: Oh, yeah. And, Bill, while
22 you're here just so it's not ex parte.

23 MR. BUECHNER: Yeah.

24 MR. MEW: Ms. Johnson, you have the
25 right, if you wish, to review and sign the

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1 written copy of your deposition testimony if you
2 would like to. You may waive that right or you
3 may review it. And then if you think there's
4 something you said, for example, you know, I said
5 Judge Smith and I meant Judge Jones, you know,
6 that's just an example, you have the right to,
7 you know, correct that on a sheet or you can
8 waive that right. Your choice.

9 THE WITNESS: Well, when would that be
10 submitted and how?

11 THE COURT REPORTER: I would send it to
12 you, e-mail it to you, and then you could either
13 read and sign it or you could choose not to.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay. Yeah, please e-mail
15 it to me.

16 (Deposition concluded at 12:46 p.m.)

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E R R A T A S H E E T

Pursuant to Rule 30(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or O.C.G.A. 9-11-30(e), any changes in form or substance which you desire to make to your deposition testimony shall be entered upon the deposition with a statement of the reasons given for making them.

To assist you in making any such corrections, please use the form below. If supplemental or additional pages are necessary, please furnish same and attach them to this errata sheet.

- - -

I, the undersigned, SHELLEY MARIE JOHNSON, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing deposition and that said transcript is true and accurate, with the exception of the following changes noted below, if any:

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19 Reason: _____

20 _____

21 _____

22 SHELLEY MARIE JOHNSON,

23 Sworn to and subscribed before me,

24 _____, Notary Public.

25 This _____ day of _____, 20____.

My Commission Expires:

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA:

COUNTY OF GWINNETT:

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was taken down as stated in the caption, that the witness was first duly sworn, and the questions and answers thereto were reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing pages 1 through 77 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the evidence given upon said hearing, and I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case. The witness did reserve the right to read and sign the transcript.

This, the 19th day of April, 2021.



DANIEL M. GERSHWIN, CCR-B-1012
Certified Court Reporter

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DANIEL M. GERSHWIN, CCR-B-1012
Certified Court Reporter

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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Bostock v.
Clayton County

Video Deposition

Shelley M. Johnson
April 13, 2021

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