

10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

* * * * *

CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR.

NO. C-90,284

VS.

LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS'
ASSOCIATION AND JAY OLIPHANT

* * * * *

DEPOSITION OF MIKE EDMONSON, taken on
Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at the Law
Offices of Falcon & Avant, 429 Government
Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

REPORTED BY: TAMRA K. KENT C.C.R.

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EXHIBITS:

(None)

1 APPEARANCES:

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20 BY: MR. FLOYD J. FALCON, JR.

21 Also present: Mr. Calvin Braxton
22 Mr. James O'Quinn
23 Ms. Michele Girior
24 Major Jay Oliphant

25 Reported by: Tamra K. Kent, Certified Court
Reporter #83070, in and for the
State of Louisiana

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S T I P U L A T I O N

IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED by and among Counsel that the testimony of the witness, MIKE EDMONSON, is hereby being taken pursuant to Notice under the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure for all purposes permitted under law.

The witness waives the right to read and sign the deposition. The original is to be delivered to and retained by Jill L. Craft, Attorney, for proper filing with the Clerk of Court.

All objections, except those as to the form of the questions and/or responsiveness of the answers, are reserved until the time of the trial of this cause.

* * * * *

Tamra K. Kent, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, #83070, officiated in administering the oath to the witness.

1 MIKE EDMONSON, having been first duly
2 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

3 EXAMINATION

4 (Commencing at 2:45 p.m.)

5 BY MS. CRAFT:

6 Q. Mr. Edmonson, as you know, my name is Jill
7 Craft, and I represent Calvin Braxton seated to my
8 left in connection with a lawsuit pending in
9 Natchitoches Parish.

10 I know that you've given depositions
11 before, but just as a reminder, make sure to answer
12 out loud. If you forget, I will remind you or
13 somebody will.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. Can you give me your full name and address
16 for the record, please, sir.

17 A. Mike Edmonson, Post Office Box -- let's
18 just use my home address -- 4444 Poplar Street,
19 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70808.

20 Q. And you were a State Police Trooper officer
21 for how many years?

22 A. For a long time; 36 years.

23 Q. And the last position you held with State
24 Police was what?

25 A. Superintendent.

1 Q. You held that position from when to when?

2 A. January of I guess 2008, when Governor
3 Jindal was appointed, through -- I don't remember
4 the exact date. It was March of -- what was that?
5 2016 or '17? It was '17.

6 Q. '17?

7 A. Yeah, '16 or '17.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. It's been an interesting two and a half
10 years.

11 Q. Understood. It might just get a little
12 more interesting, unfortunately.

13 Did you ever consider Calvin Braxton to be
14 a threat to any member of the State Police?

15 A. Not to my knowledge.

16 Q. Did anyone ever communicate to you that
17 Calvin Braxton had threatened any officer under
18 your command?

19 A. I mean, I don't recall any -- any exact
20 conversation or anything that would have -- those
21 exact words or anything. I don't.

22 Q. Were you aware of any -- and I'm going to
23 call it plan -- or any notion of trying to remove
24 Calvin Braxton as a Louisiana State Police
25 Commissioner?

1 A. No, that wouldn't be something that would
2 go through me.

3 Q. Are you aware of anyone affiliated with the
4 Louisiana State Troopers' Association who talked
5 about it, mentioned, or had some sort of idea or
6 notion about removing Calvin Braxton as a Louisiana
7 State Trooper?

8 A. Again, that wouldn't be a conversation that
9 would go through me.

10 Q. Do you consider yourself to be the kind of
11 individual that may look at a trooper differently
12 if someone of Calvin Braxton's stature called you?

13 A. No, I would not.

14 Q. Do you have any explanation as to why
15 Mr. Oliphant at the end of the table just testified
16 to that?

17 A. Testified to what?

18 Q. He testified that he found the fact that my
19 client called you about an incident involving his
20 daughter to be a threat. I asked him what he meant
21 by that, and he said -- and I wrote it down to make
22 sure -- "That you were the kind of individual that
23 would look at Mr. Oliphant differently if Calvin
24 Braxton called you."

25 A. That I, myself, would look at him

1 differently?

2 Q. Yes, sir. You somehow would treat
3 Mr. Oliphant -- right down there -- differently if
4 Calvin Braxton called you; is that a true statement
5 or not?

6 A. I wouldn't know what -- what direction that
7 would be asked in. I can't think of -- I can only
8 apply that to me. I don't -- I don't make my
9 decision on someone based on what somebody else
10 says. I make my decision based on somebody --
11 based on my conversation with them and what I see
12 of that person. I don't see it any other way, and
13 so I don't...

14 Q. Understood. When I asked Mr. Oliphant what
15 he meant by that, he said that he was referring to
16 maintaining his command and future promotional
17 opportunities.

18 Were you the kind of superintendent who
19 would have negatively affected an officer under
20 your command because Calvin Braxton called you?

21 A. I wouldn't do that for anyone.

22 Q. Sir, there was a bar as I understand it
23 that was operated at the JESTC facility in Zachary;
24 is that right?

25 A. There's a lounge that's available when

1 school is going on -- people stay overnight -- so
2 you can have events and parties where alcohol can
3 be served.

4 Q. Were those events and parties exclusive to
5 you?

6 A. No, not -- not whatsoever.

7 Q. Do you have any explanation as to why
8 Mr. Young, the Executive Director of the State
9 Troopers' Association, testified that, in the years
10 2013 to 2016, that you would call him and order
11 liquor and he and/or someone at the Troopers'
12 Association would fill your liquor order and would
13 take it over to the JESTC lounge so that you could
14 have private parties?

15 A. I'm not aware of any private party that I
16 asked to have at JESTC.

17 Q. He specifically mentioned one. Let me ask
18 you about that.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. He said that you hosted a party --

21 A. This is Mr. Young?

22 Q. Yes, sir.

23 He said you hosted a party for the
24 International Association of Chiefs of Police --

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. -- and in regard to hosting that party at
2 the JESTC facility, that you called him at the
3 State Troopers' Association and put in a liquor
4 order, and that he filled the liquor order and he
5 brought it there so you could have this party.

6 Is that true or false?

7 A. Now, we did have events there. I did host
8 Colonels from around the country. I was Chairman
9 of the State -- which we represented all the State
10 Police Colonels in the country, and also a
11 representative on a regional basis. I was a
12 regional -- super -- an individual, and then I was
13 on the National Board.

14 And we did have an event there, one or two
15 events there, and we did have people in. But I
16 have attended events there for different ones, but
17 I have attended them for the -- for the
18 International Association of Chiefs of Police.

19 But I'm not aware of calling in an order
20 and saying, this is the exact liquor that I need
21 for this party. This is exactly what I would need.
22 I just don't recall a conversation like that.

23 Q. Did you ever call Mr. Young and tell him,
24 Look, we need liquor at JESTC?

25 A. I don't know why I would. I don't remember

1 or recall a conversation like that. I don't know
2 why I would call and order liquor.

3 Q. In all candor, I asked questions about this
4 bar and the operation of the bar --

5 A. Sure, sure.

6 Q. -- from him, and from Mr. O'Quinn seated
7 here at this table, and I asked Mr. Oliphant about
8 this bar.

9 And as I understood it, at least from
10 Mr. Young, and I believe also Mr. O'Quinn, the
11 reason that there was liquor at that JESTC facility
12 after January 31, 2011, was because you procured it
13 from LSTA. Was that true or false?

14 A. That Mike Edmonson --

15 Q. Mike Edmonson picked up the phone and/or
16 got LSTA to bring liquor out to that facility.
17 That's what they said.

18 A. I do not recall a conversation where Mike
19 Edmonson specifically ordered or called and said, I
20 need liquor to be brought out there.

21 That particular part of that building was
22 there when it was first built, and there was events
23 and parties where alcohol was out there that far
24 precluded me.

25 Q. Did the LSTA itself ever host events out

1 there?

2 A. I believe them to have. I mean, it would
3 have been something, though, that I think -- I
4 think that would have included something going on.
5 It would have been an event going on out there.

6 I'm not aware of somebody just having a
7 party. That's not what that facility was for. It
8 was for where if you have classes going on or
9 events going on at that particular facility that
10 involved public safety, State Police, whatever
11 would have been out there, and it was a place where
12 you didn't have to leave the premises. You could
13 be out there.

14 Q. In fact, during his deposition yesterday,
15 Mr. Young produced two documents, Exhibit #17 and
16 Exhibit #18. One is a Cooperative Endeavor
17 Agreement signed by you and him. And the other is
18 a Liquor Permit that expires January 31, 2011.

19 A. I think as its appointing authority I would
20 be the one who would enter into any type of...

21 Q. Was the purpose of the Cooperative Endeavor
22 Agreement so that the Louisiana State Troopers'
23 Association could operate a bar at the JESTC
24 facility?

25 A. That was my understanding. Since it would

1 be a -- as our legal team advised us -- and Michele
2 is over here; she can probably answer that
3 better -- that was the best way to run that so they
4 could use it. If it was a license that needed to
5 be had, they could obtain it and the Troopers'
6 Association could fund it, and if there's -- on
7 that particular one I guess.

8 Q. So was the intention that the Cooperative
9 Endeavor Agreement would continue in perpetuity for
10 a defined period?

11 A. I don't know that.

12 Q. And it was entered into with a group called
13 LSTA Enterprises, LLC. Do you know how that came
14 about?

15 A. I think it's how they put it together so we
16 could actually -- legal advisors that -- that would
17 be the way to actually have a lounge out there
18 where alcohol could be served. This is the way
19 that you could actually do it. I believe that's
20 why we entered into it.

21 Q. And so who funded the liquor that was at
22 the lounge?

23 A. I believe it to be the Troopers'
24 Association.

25 Q. And as I understood it, there was alcohol

1 being served at that facility into 2016. Was that
2 true when you left office?

3 A. I would assume.

4 Q. My client testified that he had a cocktail
5 there before. What were the criteria for folks
6 going to that lounge?

7 A. Well, I think if you're part of an event
8 that was going on out there, if you were invited to
9 that event, as I wouldn't -- he could have been
10 invited out there as a commission member. He could
11 have been invited out there as a -- as someone that
12 helped with State Police. It just depends on
13 what's going on out there.

14 Q. Did you ever see Mr. O'Quinn out there
15 drinking Crown Royal?

16 A. I have seen Mr. O'Quinn out there, but I
17 can't recall what he drank.

18 Q. Understood. When was the last time you saw
19 Mr. O'Quinn out there?

20 A. I couldn't recall. I have no idea.

21 Q. Before you left office, had you continued
22 to go to the JESTC facility and have alcohol?

23 A. Before I left office?

24 Q. Yes, sir.

25 A. I didn't go out there that many times. I

1 really -- I probably, in the entire time that
2 facility was out there, I might have spent one
3 night out there. It's just not something I did.

4 Q. Now, who ran the hotel out there?

5 A. It was run by the academy.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. It was housing for troopers that are in
8 in-service training, classes of troopers and
9 personnel that come in for a class or something.
10 There's a -- so you could have the event out there.

11 Q. How many times did you see Mr. O'Quinn out
12 there drinking?

13 A. I don't recall. I cannot sit here and
14 recall that I ever saw Mr. O'Quinn drinking, or
15 anyone at this table. I couldn't recall having
16 seen anyone out there drinking.

17 Q. What about Charlie Dupuy?

18 A. Charlie has certainly been out there.

19 Q. And why do you say that he's certainly been
20 out there?

21 A. Well, he's Assistant Superintendent. He
22 has been out there for events and those types of
23 things.

24 Q. Okay. Other than events, after 2011 --

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- towards that timeframe, was the bar
2 facility opened during particular hours and not
3 just for events?

4 A. To my knowledge, no. It wouldn't have been
5 opened unless there was an actual event related to
6 it. Now, it was -- it was -- meaning the JESTC is
7 kind of out a ways. It was a way that people that
8 wanted to go out and wanted to have an alcoholic
9 beverage, they could have it there. That way
10 they're not driving. They're not leaving the
11 facility, and they can maintain a presence at the
12 facility without leaving and have consumed alcohol.

13 Q. While you were Superintendent of State
14 Police, was this against policy, for a trooper to
15 have even a single alcoholic beverage and then get
16 in his unit and drive somewhere?

17 A. I would certainly think so.

18 Q. Were you aware of T. J. Doss doing that?

19 A. Drinking and then driving?

20 Q. Yes, sir. He said he had a cocktail. He
21 didn't feel like he was drunk, and he got behind
22 the wheel of his unit and drove.

23 A. I don't recall that.

24 Q. Was there an issue with respect to some
25 concern about some officers being at Superior Grill

1 and drinking during working hours?

2 A. I don't -- I don't understand the question.

3 Q. Was it ever brought to your attention, some
4 issue about officers being on the clock and they're
5 at Superior Grill and maybe drinking, or they're in
6 their units?

7 A. I don't recall a conversation like that.

8 Q. While you were Superintendent of State
9 Police, was it a violation of policy for an officer
10 to drive a State Police vehicle as a, quote,
11 designated driver for other troopers who were
12 drunk?

13 A. You mean for somebody just go to pick
14 somebody up?

15 Q. Mr. Doss testified that there were
16 occasions where, when he was drunk, that there was
17 another State Trooper who was the, quote,
18 designated driver and would drive around the state
19 vehicle, van, and drive the other drunk troopers.

20 MR. FALCON:

21 Objection. That's not what he
22 testified. He said there was one occasion.

23 MS. CRAFT:

24 One occasion.

25 MR. FALCON:

1 There was one occasion that he was
2 drunk and another person was driving a van
3 and he wasn't driving.

4 MS. CRAFT:

5 Well, the record will speak for itself.

6 MR. FALCON:

7 It will.

8 BY MS. CRAFT:

9 Q. Would that have been a violation of
10 policy --

11 A. I'm not --

12 Q. -- if you have a non-drunk trooper --

13 A. I'm not aware of that. I'm not aware of
14 that.

15 Q. And did you consider Mr. Doss to be a
16 friend of yours?

17 A. I do, yeah.

18 Q. When was the last time you talked to him?

19 A. I could not tell you.

20 Q. Did you consider Mr. O'Quinn to be a friend
21 of yours?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. When was the last time you talked to him?

24 A. I saw him today.

25 Q. Okay. Before that?

1 A. I couldn't recall exactly when.

2 Q. How about Mr. Oliphant, did you consider
3 him to be a friend of yours?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. When was the last time you talked to him?

6 A. I think I sent him -- I don't even know if
7 we spoke. We could have spoke when he was -- when
8 he was promoted, so whenever that was.

9 Q. On your watch, was Mr. Oliphant promoted?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. How many times?

12 A. I don't know exactly how many. Once -- at
13 least once.

14 Q. Now, as I understand it, you are aware that
15 Calvin Braxton's daughter was arrested for a DWI;
16 is that right?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Did Calvin Braxton ever to your knowledge,
19 even to you, ask that the charges of DWI against
20 his daughter be taken care of, fixed, reduced,
21 anything?

22 A. No, he never asked me that.

23 Q. In fact, was it your understanding that his
24 daughter accepted responsibility and did what she
25 had to do?

1 A. I had very limited conversations with
2 Mr. Braxton on that particular incident.

3 Q. Did Mr. Braxton ever suggest to you that
4 you take action with respect to an Officer
5 Linebaugh?

6 A. I'm trying to think back on the
7 conversation when this happened. Mr. Braxton did
8 call me on the matter and said he had a concern
9 with a trooper -- and he didn't go into the
10 details. And I didn't know about it until later
11 that it involved -- the traffic stop I believe it
12 was -- near where his daughter lived, or near the
13 house. And the trooper stopped and towed the
14 vehicle, or something, and he had a complaint about
15 that. He wanted me to address the complaint, or
16 would like for me to address the complaint. He
17 didn't order me to, or anything like that. It
18 wasn't an aggressive conversation. You could tell
19 he was upset.

20 I just told him, Look, there's a process
21 for that. That process involves you going to the
22 Troop Commander, and since you're in a position as
23 a State Police Commissioner on the State Police
24 Commission, I think you need to do that.

25 And he says, Absolutely. And to my

1 knowledge, he called. And I believe I spoke to the
2 then commander at least once, or a couple of times,
3 and he said that he's handling it and following
4 whatever procedure we had.

5 Q. Did Mr. Oliphant ever express to you that
6 he felt that Calvin Braxton was threatening him?

7 A. We had a conversation about it, and I just
8 remember -- I remember him saying that it was a --
9 it was an aggressive conversation. But I -- I
10 don't remember -- I don't remember anything about
11 him saying that he was threatened or any of those
12 things, or those exact words. I really don't.
13 That's a -- that's a -- the whole thing is very
14 vague in my mind.

15 Q. Understood. Did Mr. Oliphant tell you that
16 he had had some sort of aggressive conversation
17 with Mr. Braxton?

18 A. Yeah, that it was just -- it was just, you
19 know, talking about it, and he was trying to, you
20 know, say my daughter was stopped; the car was
21 towed, and it wasn't far from home. So I take it
22 in that manner. I don't take it as remembering
23 anything specific that was a very ugly
24 conversation. I don't mean in that manner. I
25 think it was just two individuals talking. And

1 it's all very vague to me. And that's all I can
2 tell you.

3 Q. The complaint that Calvin had -- correct me
4 if I'm wrong -- it was that the trooper had his
5 daughter's car towed to the tow lot instead of
6 allowing it to be towed down the street to the
7 house. That was the complaint, right?

8 A. I don't remember exactly what it was. I
9 just remember the fact that they were near his
10 house, and the trooper towed the daughter's --

11 Q. Towed the car?

12 A. I just remember that.

13 Q. Calvin wasn't complaining that his daughter
14 got pulled over, or that she got a DWI?

15 A. I mean, I believed him to be -- as vaguely
16 as I remember it -- and I don't want to put words
17 out there that I don't exactly remember, because I
18 don't remember the full conversation, and it's
19 really a blurred moment -- but I just remember it
20 to have been a deal where an individual was
21 concerned. It was his daughter.

22 I have a daughter. I mean, I would
23 certainly be concerned. And that to me was -- that
24 seemed to be the tone of that conversation. We
25 didn't have those types of conversations.

1 Q. You and Calvin?

2 A. Calvin, we didn't have those.

3 I mean, I believed, as the Superintendent,
4 I didn't micromanage. I think there's a process in
5 place, and I simply steered him to that process.

6 Q. If you had thought for one second, or if
7 Mr. Oliphant or anybody else had told you that they
8 believed Calvin was threatening either them or
9 Officer Linebaugh, what would you have done?

10 A. Well, I think I would have -- I would have
11 probably pulled him, the supervisor next up, and
12 had a conversation, Are y'all handling this? Or,
13 Are y'all looking at this?

14 Again, I would try to stay from putting
15 myself completely into it. Because there's a
16 process for that. And as I understand, at that
17 point, Captain Oliphant, he followed the process.
18 I mean, I respect him. He's outstanding in his
19 position. I fully trusted him, as I do today, and
20 I expected him to do the right thing. And to my
21 knowledge he did.

22 Q. Did Kevin Reeves replace you?

23 A. He did.

24 Q. So from a timing standpoint -- first of
25 all, while you were Superintendent at State Police,

1 did State Police have a policy regarding when you
2 were to write Incident Reports?

3 A. There's guidance on all of that.

4 Q. So what was the guidance? Were you allowed
5 to wait six months before you wrote an Incident
6 Report while you were Superintendent?

7 A. I could not tell you exactly what that
8 guidance was. I honestly don't remember.

9 Q. Understood. You are aware, however, of
10 officers being disciplined for not timely turning
11 in their Incident Reports, right?

12 A. I don't recall any specifically.

13 Q. Okay. Do you have any explanation as to
14 why Mr. Oliphant would have waited six months to
15 write an Incident Report about interactions he had
16 with Calvin Braxton?

17 A. I don't know.

18 Q. Okay. Do you know if that coincided with
19 you leaving the Superintendency and Kevin Reeves
20 coming in?

21 A. I don't know that. I couldn't tell you the
22 time period between that particular incident and
23 the time that I -- that Kevin came in as
24 Superintendent. Kevin to my knowledge was the --
25 was the Major in north Louisiana at the time. And

1 I don't know. I couldn't recall the date.

2 Q. Fair enough. When you were Superintendent
3 of State Police, were you aware of any contacts by
4 -- let me ask you a better question.

5 Was Jason Hanneman the Executive Director
6 of the State Police Commission while you were
7 Superintendent, or did that come after?

8 A. I think that he came towards the end -- or
9 after, yeah.

10 Q. Which helps me with my timeframe. So does
11 that kind of refresh your memory, as to whether it
12 was '16 or '17 when you left office?

13 A. It was '16 -- I guess.

14 Q. Well, let me try it this way. There was a
15 letter written by the Louisiana State Troopers'
16 Association to Governor Edwards that's dated
17 July 11, 2016, regarding Calvin Braxton, seeking to
18 have him removed as a State Police Commissioner.

19 Do you remember that letter being issued on
20 your watch?

21 A. I don't. I'm sorry; I don't.

22 Q. It's cc'd to a couple of people.

23 A. So it's cc'd to me, so I had to be Colonel.

24 Q. Okay. Do you recall receiving that?

25 A. I don't.

1 Q. Do you remember anything about this issue?

2 A. It's all very vague. I don't recall.

3 Q. Do you remember having discussions with
4 anyone about the process to remove Calvin Braxton
5 as a commissioner?

6 A. No, ma'am. It wouldn't be something that
7 would involve me as far as in that process.

8 Q. Why not?

9 A. I don't -- I don't appoint the commission
10 members.

11 Q. And so would it be fair to say the reason
12 you wouldn't get involved is because the commission
13 is separate from the State Police?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And you had an understanding that the State
16 Police is not supposed to be influencing the
17 commission, and the commission is not supposed to
18 be influencing the State Police, right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. That's because the State Police Commission
21 is supposed to be kind of the watchdog, if you
22 will, over the actions of the State Police
23 Troopers, what they do?

24 MR. FALCON:

25 Is that a question or a statement?

1 MS. CRAFT:

2 Yes, it's a question.

3 MR. FALCON:

4 Object to the form.

5 MS. CRAFT:

6 It was a leading question, but go
7 ahead.

8 THE WITNESS:

9 Exactly what? Give me the exact
10 question. I think I know what I want to
11 say but...

12 BY MS. CRAFT:

13 Q. The question was the division, because the
14 State Police Commission is supposed to be the
15 watchdog over the State Troopers?

16 A. I don't know that "watchdog" would be the
17 right word.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I think that they, the State Police
20 Commission, through its Executive Director and its
21 staff, gives -- I guess gives advice or helps
22 facilitate and works with legal. And I'd have a
23 lot of conversations with them, but it works
24 through legal and the department as far as
25 positions, as far as promotions, calling for a

1 list, testing, those types of situations.

2 But as far as the commission itself, I
3 don't know them to have an actual watchdog role.
4 They would rule in an appeal of a trooper that's
5 received disciplinary action. I think they would
6 rule on whatever the Executive Director is involved
7 in, in that process, and would oversee that
8 position.

9 But I don't know them to have a watchdog
10 role in the way I would look -- as far as a
11 watchdog, as far as watching every single activity
12 in the State Police and giving advice on it. I
13 didn't have a conversation with the -- with members
14 of the State Police Commission as far as how I did
15 my job.

16 And I did go, not every month, but I would
17 go from time to time and just address them as far
18 as what's going on with State Police, hopefully
19 upcoming classes, what our budget is, and those
20 types of things. But it was all minimal.

21 Q. The bar area we were talking about at
22 JESTC, was it named after Dale Hall?

23 A. It was not named after Dale Hall. Dale
24 Hall was certainly instrumental in finding the
25 property at JESTC, the 1500 acres that it sits on.

1 I don't know whatever rank he had at the time. He
2 was involved with looking at some land that the
3 State Police could put some satellite offices and
4 training facility, or we could actually do some
5 training of firearms and those type of things for
6 our -- a place for our bomb technicians to utilize
7 explosions and those type of things, exploding
8 different objects and things, and training.

9 This was in the time with the federal
10 government, we were involved with some training of
11 foreign countries that would come in mostly dealing
12 with bombs, but some of them dealing with police
13 officers and how to do -- a multitude of things.
14 It was through the State Department.

15 And so that's how JESTC was built. We were
16 able to build that facility out there because they
17 were doing a lot of the funding of it, the classes
18 they brought in. And I was involved as a training
19 major as we built that facility out there. And
20 Dale Hall was kind of -- he supervised me in a lot
21 of the situations and so...

22 Q. I know that you and Dale had been close for
23 a long time --

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. -- back to the Mistretta days. I know you

1 were close for a long time.

2 So was it kind of a joke that you guys
3 referred to it as the "Dale Hall facility"?

4 A. No, I wouldn't consider it a joke. I think
5 he was so instrumental in getting a lot of that
6 stuff done, that we --

7 Q. It was a troop thing?

8 A. I don't know that we -- I don't know that
9 you can -- it's officially -- it's not officially
10 named after Dale Hall. I think it was more of a --
11 of him passing as a -- there's a plaque -- and I
12 guess the plaque is still out there -- that we
13 referred to Dale Hall.

14 Q. Do you recall any discussions relating to
15 Cathy Derbonne and removing her as Executive
16 Director?

17 A. No. Again, that wouldn't be something that
18 would go through me. I don't appoint her or I
19 don't remove her. I know she had some discussions
20 with the board. What those were was not something
21 I was privileged to. I believe at the time Mark
22 Oxley was involved with all that.

23 Q. And Mark's position was what? I know he's
24 retired.

25 A. He was on the commission.

1 Q. With respect to Calvin Braxton, did you
2 ever see or become aware of anything that caused
3 you concern as it relates to his impartiality?

4 A. Not directly with me.

5 Q. Did you hear about anything?

6 A. There's nothing I can recall.

7 Q. Did you ever become aware of any statements
8 made by any troopers, that they were going to deal
9 with, or they were going to get Calvin?

10 A. Troopers came to me and said, "We're going
11 to get Calvin"?

12 Q. That you heard about or heard yourself.

13 A. I'm not aware of.

14 Q. Do you remember a time where the State
15 Police Commission didn't meet for, like, four
16 months in a row for lack of a quorum?

17 A. I mean, that happened from time to time.
18 I'm not aware of a four-month period or anything
19 like that. Like I said, most of that's really
20 cloudy and vague as far as I know.

21 Q. Do you recall the State Police Commission
22 and/or its Executive Director looking into
23 political contributions by the State Troopers'
24 Association through its Executive Director
25 Mr. Young?

1 A. Say that again, now.

2 Q. Are you aware of or do you recall anything
3 about a situation where Mr. Young was making
4 political contributions, donations, that he would
5 then be reimbursed from LSTA funds?

6 A. I heard all of those things because I read
7 it in the newspaper, and I certainly heard some of
8 those discussions. But to say that I was
9 privileged to those discussions or they were made
10 with me, no, ma'am.

11 Q. Were you aware of the State Police
12 Commission, or any of its commissioners, raising
13 some sort of an issue about the operation of a bar
14 at JESTC?

15 A. The State Police Commission? And we're
16 talking about the commission when Mr. Braxton would
17 serve on --

18 Q. Yes, yes.

19 A. I don't recall anything exactly.

20 Q. Do you remember there being any
21 investigations that the State Police Commission had
22 initiated on your watch? I know there was one
23 about political donations or contributions by the
24 State Troopers' Association.

25 A. Right.

1 Q. Anything else you can think of?

2 A. That who would have?

3 Q. That the State Police Commission was
4 looking into.

5 A. I'm not aware of any.

6 Q. Okay. With respect to the political-
7 contribution investigation by the commission, you
8 said that you may have talked to some people. Do
9 you remember who you talked to about that?

10 A. No. I was saying I could have heard it,
11 but based on what people said, what they read in
12 the paper and those types of things. I didn't have
13 any -- I'm not aware of any conversations I had
14 about the matter with people. Just not something I
15 was involved in.

16 Q. When you were the Superintendent of State
17 Police, did you regularly meet with Mr. Young?

18 A. I don't know that I regularly met with him.
19 I saw him from time to time. We weren't -- we went
20 and had lunch and those types of things out of it.
21 I've been to the LSTA before; had a sandwich with
22 him there. And I certainly go by there from time
23 to time, but nothing that I can recall specific.

24 Q. Do you have any explanation as to why
25 Mr. Oliphant would have journaled or logged an

1 entry date of March 10, 2015, or he says -- and let
2 me give it to you so you can read what he wrote.
3 It's Exhibit #14. I don't know if you have it in
4 front of you. I don't know why it's not here.

5 (Discussion off the record.)

6 On the very first page, there's an entry --
7 and I will represent to you this is a document that
8 Mr. Oliphant typed, or said he typed -- and there's
9 an entry on March 10, 2015, Tuesday. And he wrote
10 outside the redacted portions.

11 "Colonel Edmonson stopped by along with
12 Major Doug Cain on their way to Natchitoches,
13 Louisiana, to speak to the Rotary Club."

14 Do you remember that?

15 A. I do. I do. I do remember that.

16 Q. Do you know why Mr. Oliphant would have
17 written at the end of that thing, "I later talked
18 to" blank "who stated that Colonel had stopped by
19 Natchitoches Ford dealership to speak to Calvin
20 Braxton"?

21 A. Do I know why he wrote that in there?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. No, I don't know.

24 Q. Was it your understanding that there was
25 some sort of a concern that you had a friendly

1 relationship with Calvin Braxton?

2 A. I consider him a friend, yeah. I mean, I
3 consider him a friend.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Been to dinner with him. My wife and I
6 have been to dinner with he and several of his
7 friends from Natchitoches so -- but I do
8 remember -- because I've never been to his
9 dealership.

10 Q. You have never been?

11 A. I had never been. I'd never been to the
12 dealership and never to his office. And he invited
13 me several times to do that. And so I stopped and
14 saw it.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I want to say his son might have been
17 there. That may be completely wrong, but he may
18 have. I know going to his office and it being a
19 room maybe not quite this big. And it would be a
20 TV in it -- and this is just coming back to me.

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. -- but I do remember. And I do think that
23 I -- I do think I saw, saw Oliphant at that
24 particular one, that I spoke to the Rotary Club in
25 Natchitoches. Wasn't a large group; I remember

1 that. But I do remember stopping by and seeing his
2 dealership.

3 Q. And on the second page of Exhibit #14 is an
4 entry dated December 5, 2015. And Mr. Oliphant, in
5 the non-redacted portion, wrote, "Last night"
6 blank, and I will represent to you I think that's
7 Mr. Braxton's daughter, "was arrested for DWI by
8 Trooper Jayson Linebaugh." Blank "is the daughter
9 of LSP Commission member Calvin Braxton. I
10 contacted Colonel Edmonson and advised him via text
11 that I had talked to Calvin about the arrest and he
12 had some concerns and was not happy. Calvin
13 thought Linebaugh should have known who he was.
14 Upon telling Calvin that he had discretion, he
15 stated he didn't know what discretion was. Calvin
16 said he was going to call Colonel Edmonson."

17 My question is, Do you recall receiving a
18 text message from Mr. Oliphant?

19 A. If he said it, he did it. I mean, I'm sure
20 of that. I don't -- I don't -- I received hundreds
21 of text messages. But if he said he did, he did.
22 I do vaguely remember having the conversation. I
23 get calls from people as Colonel on a lot of
24 different things. And plus there's a process
25 within the State Police.

1 Again, I don't put myself in it because, if
2 I did, why do we have processes? And so I thought
3 it was handled the way it should be handled. It
4 should go through him at the -- as it was going
5 through.

6 Q. And he has an entry, "Next I talked to
7 Linebaugh about Calvin Braxton. He states he
8 didn't know who he is but has heard of the name.
9 He stated he didn't know anything about," blank
10 "and Calvin Braxton or that was his daughter." And
11 I'm assuming that's the daughter's name.

12 And he went on to say, "It wouldn't have
13 mattered that she was his daughter. When I talked
14 to Calvin later that day, he said Linebaugh was
15 lying. He then said if Linebaugh won't help him,
16 he may not help Linebaugh if he gets in trouble on
17 the job. I contacted Colonel Edmonson and told him
18 about the conversation and he stated Calvin had
19 already called him."

20 Did Oliphant tell you that my client,
21 according to Oliphant, said that if Linebaugh gets
22 in trouble on the job, he may not help him?

23 A. I mean, if he says he told me that, then
24 I'm sure that he did; I just don't recall it.

25 Q. If you had another trooper that calls you

1 and says that the State Police Commissioner says
2 that if Linebaugh gets in trouble on the job, I may
3 not help him, would you have done anything?

4 A. To who?

5 Q. Would you have instructed, for example,
6 Mr. Oliphant, "You need to write that up. That
7 sounds like a threat to me"?

8 A. I would have -- I would have told him to
9 document it. I would have told any supervisor,
10 based on a situation somebody tells him something
11 that they're not comfortable with, part of an
12 ongoing investigation, whatever, they need to
13 document everything.

14 So I would have told him to document what
15 he -- like I said, it is -- it's that bits and
16 pieces are coming back to me, but I don't remember
17 everything.

18 Q. And correct me if I'm wrong, by the time an
19 officer gets to the State Police Commission,
20 they've already been disciplined by their chain of
21 command, right?

22 A. That would be why an officer -- an officer
23 would be before them. Now, it has got to get to
24 that point, where they've been disciplined and
25 they've appealed it and they've gone through that,

1 and then they've asked for a hearing.

2 And then they would, it would be at that
3 point -- I guess they could -- I don't know what
4 the exact process would be. I guess if they had a
5 concern, they could write a letter themselves to
6 them.

7 Q. In the disciplinary appeals process --
8 correct me if I'm wrong -- when you were
9 Superintendent, in order for an officer to have an
10 appeal to the commission, he first has to get a
11 pre-disciplinary notice, an opportunity to respond.
12 And then there has to be the imposition of
13 discipline, and the officer has the right to appeal
14 internally up his chain of command? Right?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And then it gets to the final level, and
17 then he can appeal to the commission, right?

18 A. I would believe that to be the process.

19 Q. So there's a bunch of levels in Trooper
20 Linebaugh's chain of command that would have to be
21 exhausted before he would ever end up before the
22 State Police Commission on an appeal?

23 A. I believe that to be so.

24 Q. Okay. December 12th he has an entry. "I
25 talked to Calvin Braxton today, and he asked about

1 my plans for Linebaugh. He said Colonel Edmonson
2 told him I could move him wherever I wanted to move
3 him to. He said I needed to move Linebaugh out of
4 Natchitoches for about 60 to 90 days. To help get
5 his mind right, send him to New Orleans, Louisiana.
6 I laughed and told him that wasn't going to
7 happen."

8 Then, "He said," blank, and I don't know
9 who that is, "wanted him gone for arresting his
10 son." I think that may be the sheriff. "I told
11 him I had spoken to" blank "and thought everything
12 was all right. He said he was a commission member
13 and he had talked to others on the board and they
14 said they are not to be touched. I told Calvin I
15 knew nothing about that."

16 Do you know anything about this?

17 A. I mean, I vaguely remember bits and pieces.
18 I probably would have laughed, too, because I
19 wouldn't tell the Troop Commander you've got to
20 move somebody. That wouldn't be something that
21 would come from me. I'm just not like that. So I
22 don't think I would have done something like that.

23 But, I mean, that's not me telling him
24 that. I know he's saying something -- I think
25 Mr. Braxton told him that. I didn't have that

1 conversation to my knowledge, so I'm just not
2 recalling it.

3 Q. And did you ever, is it possible you made a
4 statement to Calvin, even as a joke, Look, maybe
5 somebody needs to transfer Linebaugh to New Orleans
6 for 60 to 90 days until he gets his mind right?

7 A. I don't recall that, no, ma'am.

8 Q. Is it possible?

9 A. That would be -- I would think it to be
10 highly improbable --

11 Q. Okay --

12 A. -- for me to actually say that someone
13 needs to be gone.

14 Because that would have been a conversation
15 that, with respect, I should be having with the
16 Troop Commander if I would have had that, or the
17 Regional Major, or the Lieutenant Colonel in charge
18 of patrol.

19 Q. Would you have expected, if Mr. Oliphant
20 had the conversation he describes in his
21 December 12th entry, if Calvin Braxton had said
22 something like that to him, would you have expected
23 Mr. Oliphant to have at least talked to the
24 Regional Commander, somebody above him?

25 A. I guess I'd have to have been on that

1 particular conversation. He says he laughed it
2 off, and so he would have to answer that as to why.

3 Q. Yes, sir. On December 14th he has an
4 entry, "Calvin Braxton called again and asked me
5 what I was going to do with Linebaugh. He said
6 Colonel Edmonson wouldn't tell him anything and I
7 hadn't told him anything. I made it very clear and
8 reiterated that, once again, that I was not going
9 to move Linebaugh. Calvin said if he didn't have
10 any more 'stroke' than that, then he didn't know
11 what he was going to do. I told him this wasn't
12 about stroke. Calvin stated he was not through
13 with the matter."

14 Were you ever informed of anything relating
15 to that entry?

16 A. I don't recall. I don't remember anything
17 with that specifically.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. He said Colonel Edmonson wouldn't tell him
20 anything -- and I hadn't told him anything -- who
21 is saying that?

22 Q. He claims that Braxton said that, that
23 Calvin said that.

24 A. We didn't have any extensive conversations
25 about any of that so, I mean, I -- when he first

1 talked to me about the incident, I told him that
2 he's got to go through the Troop Commander.

3 And he said okay.

4 Q. Did my client, to your knowledge, file an
5 Internal Affairs complaint against Jayson
6 Linebaugh?

7 A. I don't -- I don't know that.

8 Q. Has Calvin ever expressed to you that he in
9 any way believed that he was untouchable because he
10 was an LSP Commissioner?

11 A. He's never told me that. If he would have
12 told me that, I would say, "Calvin, that's silly.
13 That's not something you want to be saying."

14 Q. When you were Superintendent, did your
15 officers have the discretion, for example, to have
16 a particular class of folks they would exercise
17 their discretion and not give tickets to, like --

18 A. Wait. Tell me that again, now.

19 Q. When you were Superintendent, were you
20 aware of -- I'm going to call it an unwritten
21 policy in State Police -- that troopers would not
22 write tickets or give tickets to fellow law
23 enforcement officers, some lawyers, and doctors?

24 A. No. I'm not aware of any unwritten policy
25 in my entire career as a Louisiana State Trooper

1 that ever said that anybody was above the law.

2 Q. And as I understood it, during your watch
3 as Superintendent, you were a big advocate of that,
4 that everybody is treated equally; that nobody is
5 above the law, right?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. And you even gave speeches about that to
8 your academy classes?

9 A. And people have called me in the middle of
10 the night being arrested, getting a ticket, and I
11 specifically told every one of them the exact same
12 thing.

13 I said, "Hand the trooper the phone." And
14 then I would tell the trooper to do his job.

15 Q. Okay. So do you know why Mr. Oliphant
16 would have had some sort of notion that there's
17 this unwritten policy about not giving other law
18 enforcement officers tickets, or certain lawyers,
19 or doctors?

20 A. No, ma'am.

21 Q. In your entire dealings with Calvin -- and
22 you have known him a long time; is that right?

23 A. Yeah, I think -- when I became
24 Superintendent I met him.

25 Q. In your entire dealings with Calvin

1 Braxton, has he ever asked you for any favor?

2 A. Not -- not to my -- not to my recall, no,
3 ma'am. I don't know why he would. No.

4 Q. There's been some discussions, in all
5 candor to you, about ticket fixing. Are you aware
6 of ticket fixing? Like, for example, asking the
7 trooper to downgrade to a nonmoving, or asking the
8 District Attorney to downgrade to a nonmoving?

9 A. Well, the only person you can talk to once
10 your ticket is issued would be the District
11 Attorney, and then it's up to them.

12 Q. Before the ticket is issued, is there
13 anything wrong with a person who has been issued
14 the ticket asking a State Trooper to, Look, would
15 you put it as a nonmoving and I'll just pay the
16 ticket? I mean, is there anything wrong with that?

17 A. So you're asking me if someone is stopped
18 for speeding and they go -- and let's make it a
19 nonmoving -- I mean, technically that would be
20 wrong, I mean, so...

21 Q. And so would, for example, an officer of
22 rank, like Mr. Oliphant, calling an officer like
23 Mr. Linebaugh and asking him to change a ticket
24 he'd already issued to a nonmoving --

25 A. I'm not aware of that happening.

1 Q. You would agree with me, would you not,
2 that's at least a violation of State Police policy
3 while you were there?

4 A. As I would understand it, yes, ma'am. They
5 would have to explain why.

6 MS. CRAFT:

7 If you give me just a second, I may be
8 done.

9 (Brief recess was taken.)

10 Back on the record.

11 No further questions right now. Let's
12 see if somebody else does.

13 * * * * *

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. OXENHANDLER:

16 Q. Colonel Edmonson, my name is Steve
17 Oxenhandler, and I represent Major Oliphant in the
18 suit filed by Mr. Braxton.

19 Miss Craft had asked you a question about
20 whether you told Calvin Braxton to tell Colonel
21 Oliphant that it was okay with you to move Trooper
22 Linebaugh to New Orleans for 60 to 90 days to get
23 his mind right. You never told Calvin Braxton
24 that?

25 A. Not to my knowledge. I don't recall that,

1 no, sir.

2 Q. So if Calvin Braxton was insistent that you
3 said that, he wouldn't be telling the truth?

4 A. I don't remember a conversation like that.
5 To say anybody is lying, that's a -- I just don't
6 remember a conversation like that.

7 Q. But it would be --

8 A. I never told a Troop Commander to move
9 somebody or something. That would be just -- I
10 just -- I don't do that. I don't do that.

11 Q. When you received the call from Mr. Braxton
12 about his daughter's arrest, and you said he made a
13 complaint, did you refer the complaint to Miss
14 Cathy Flinchum in IA to conduct an IA
15 investigation; do you remember?

16 A. No, I don't remember that.

17 Q. If a sitting State Police Commissioner had
18 threatened to not be fair and impartial to a State
19 Trooper, would that have concerned you as to the --
20 as the State Police Superintendent?

21 A. Absolutely, it would concern me. Sure.
22 Are you asking me did he tell me that?

23 Q. Tell you, what?

24 A. It was like you were leading to another
25 question.

1 Q. No, I --

2 A. You were just meaning, like --

3 Q. No, if that scenario, you encountered a
4 scenario like that --

5 A. Yeah, I didn't.

6 Q. In his notes -- and if you can give him
7 Exhibit #14, again, please -- there's lines on the
8 left-hand side, 1333.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. This is Colonel Oliphant's log that he kept
11 during this process. And as you can see, he writes
12 later that morning -- and this is on July 13,
13 2016 -- "I received a call from Colonel Edmonson
14 indicating that he really supports me and the fact
15 that I wrote the report on Braxton.

16 "He asked that I had -- had I talked to
17 Calvin, and I told him I hadn't. He states he is
18 going to suggest that Braxton step down from his
19 position as commission member as a result of my
20 report and the one submitted by LSTA which I
21 haven't read." And that's Colonel Oliphant
22 speaking. "Now he stated that he would be a fool
23 to fight this."

24 So does this bring back your recollection
25 at all?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Do you remember talking to the Colonel
3 about this?

4 MS. CRAFT:

5 The Colonel?

6 BY MR. OXENHANDLER:

7 Q. Colonel Oliphant.

8 A. Then Captain Oliphant?

9 Q. Yes, I'm sorry.

10 A. I remember having different conversations
11 with him, but not nothing to that extent to say
12 that I was going to suggest that -- that wouldn't
13 be something I would suggest. That's got to come
14 from the Governor who appoints those positions. So
15 I wouldn't have suggested that he step down.

16 Q. Colonel, you would?

17 A. I just don't recall.

18 Q. It doesn't mean it didn't happen? Because
19 if Colonel Oliphant wrote this like before, would
20 you question whether he was accurate or not?

21 MS. CRAFT:

22 I'm going to object to the form of the
23 question you said --

24 MR. OXENHANDLER:

25 You can answer.

1 MS. CRAFT:

2 Let me just finish my objection.

3 BY MR. OXENHANDLER:

4 Q. Sir, go ahead.

5 A. Ask me it, again.

6 Q. As before, if Colonel Oliphant wrote this,
7 do you have any reason to doubt his accuracy?

8 MS. CRAFT:

9 Same objection.

10 THE WITNESS:

11 I don't. But I just don't recall the
12 conversation, and I -- and to say that it
13 was exactly in that order, I just don't
14 know. I honestly don't know.

15 BY MR. OXENHANDLER:

16 Q. If you go to 1338. "Colonel Edmonson
17 called again a short while later stating he had
18 sent me contact information and asked that I
19 contact Senator Robert Tarver of Shreveport who had
20 some question about the occurrence of events."

21 Do you remember telling that to Colonel --
22 to Oliphant?

23 A. I vaguely remember. I don't know if
24 Senator Tarver called me or a message was at my
25 office that he -- he wanted to get in touch with

1 Captain Oliphant. I don't remember the whole
2 situation of how that happened.

3 I do remember that Senator Tarver wanted to
4 talk to him, and I guess I passed that information
5 to him. I'm just reading the rest of it. I don't
6 -- I don't even know if I had a conversation
7 directly with Mr. Tarver or not. I don't recall.

8 Q. But you said you would go out to dinner
9 with the Braxtons. Would the Braxtons sometimes
10 pay for your dinner?

11 A. I said I went out one time with -- there
12 was several people -- and at that point in time, we
13 were in New Orleans. I don't remember what event,
14 but it was several people at the table. And I
15 don't -- I don't recall that Calvin picked up the
16 bill. I think we all put in for it. I don't
17 remember exactly what.

18 There was several -- more than just me and
19 him and what -- the situation I'm talking about,
20 his wife, we were at an event in New Orleans that
21 was multiple people. It was the opening of the
22 Roosevelt Hotel, and so it was a major event that
23 we were there for.

24 Q. Did you know that Mr. Braxton owns an
25 interest in the Roosevelt Hotel?

1 A. No, I don't know what percentage or
2 anything he owns, no, sir.

3 Q. Mr. Braxton testified that you would -- you
4 visited south Florida on at least one occasion and
5 went out with him on an 85-foot Viking fishing
6 trip, you and I think someone else. Is that true?

7 A. Frank Blackburn -- yes -- Frank Blackburn.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. We were in -- I don't remember what we were
10 in Miami for. I think it was a meeting. I think
11 it was with Motor Vehicle, a Motor Vehicle meeting
12 was there.

13 Q. Commission?

14 A. No, not a Motor Vehicle Commission meeting.
15 There was no commission meeting. It was dealing
16 with a Motor Vehicle matter, and I think it was one
17 of their -- they have meetings around the country,
18 the commissioners, Motor Vehicle, in that aspect,
19 and I know that we were invited to go on Sam
20 Friedman's boat.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. And Mr. Braxton was on that.

23 Q. And you didn't pay for that trip on the
24 fishing boat?

25 A. Not on that particular boat, not that I

1 recall.

2 Q. Was it just more than one time you went on
3 Sam Friedman's boat, or was it more than once?

4 A. No, the only time I recall.

5 MS. CRAFT:

6 That was another name I forgot.
7 Blackburn. That was another tragedy.
8 Goodness gracious; I've been around way too
9 long.

10 MR. OXENHANDLER:

11 That's all the questions I have. Thank
12 you, sir.

13 MS. CRAFT:

14 Are you going to read and sign? I
15 think that is her next question.

16 MR. OXENHANDLER:

17 Do you want to read and sign, sir, or
18 do you want to waive it?

19 THE WITNESS:

20 You can waive it.

21

22 (Thereupon, the taking of the witness'
23 testimony was concluded.)

24

25

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 This certification is valid only for a
4 transcript accompanied by my original signature and
5 original required seal on this page.

6

7 I, Tamra K. Kent, Certified Court Reporter
8 in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer
9 before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby
10 certify that MIKE EDMONSON, to whom the oath was
11 administered, after having been first duly sworn by
12 me upon authority of RS 37:2554, did testify as
13 hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 53 pages;

14 That this testimony was reported by me in
15 stenographic machine shorthand, was prepared and
16 transcribed by me or under my personal direction
17 and supervision, and is a true and correct
18 transcript to the best of my ability and
19 understanding;

20 That the transcript has been prepared in
21 compliance with transcript format guidelines
22 required by statute or by rules of the board, and
23 that I am informed about the complete arrangements,
24 financial or otherwise, with the person or entity
25 making arrangements for deposition services; that I

1 have acted in compliance with the prohibition on
2 contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana
3 Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules
4 and advisory opinions of the board; that I have no
5 actual knowledge of any prohibited employment or
6 contractual relationship, direct or indirect,
7 between a court reporting firm and any party
8 litigant in this matter, nor is there any such
9 relationship between myself and a party litigant;

10

11 That I am not related to counsel or to the
12 parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in
13 the outcome of this matter.

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17 Tamra K. Kent 83070
18 Certified Reporter in and for
19 the State of Louisiana

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