In The Matter Of:

Walden vs. Chrysler

Sergio Marchionne

January 09, 2015

Tiffany Alley Global Reporting & Video

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DECATUR COUNTY. STATE OF GEORGIA

JAMES BRYAN WALDEN and LINDSAY WALDEN, Individually and on Civil Action File behalf of the Estate of their deceased Son, REMINGTON COLE WALDEN,

No. 12CV472

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CHRYSLER GROUP, L.L.C., and BRYAN L. HARRELL,

Defendants.

THE DEPOSITION OF SERGIO MARCHIONNE

January 9, 2015

9:20 a.m.

The Peachtree, Suite 300

1355 Peachtree Street NE

Atlanta, Georgia

Maureen S. Kreimer, RPR, CRR, CCR-B-1379, LCR-061

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1	APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:	1 (Pursuant to Article 10(B) of the Rules
2	On behalf of the Plaintiffs:	2 and Regulations of the Georgia Board of Court
3	JAMES E. BUTLER JR, ESQUIRE	3 Reporting, a written disclosure statement was
4	DAVID ROHWEDDER, ESQUIRE	4 submitted by the court reporter to all counsel
5	Butler Wooten Cheeley & Peak LLP	5 present at the proceeding.)
6	2719 Buford Highway	6 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #A marked)
7	Atlanta, Georgia 30324	7 MR. BUTLER: This will be the videotaped
8	-and-	8 deposition of Mr. Marchionne taken pursuant to
9	JAMES EDWARD BUTLER III, ESQUIRE	9 notice for all lawful purposes, taken on
10	Butler Tobin LLC	10 cross-examination.
11	1932 N. Druid Hills Road NE	What's the time, Maureen?
12	Suite 250	12 THE COURT REPORTER: I have got 9:19.
13	Atlanta, Georgia 30319	13 MR. BUTLER: Okay.
14		14 THE COURT REPORTER: Just now hit 9:20.
15	On behalf of the Defendant Chrysler Group, LLC:	15 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Okay, ready to go?
16	M. DIANE OWENS, ESQUIRE	16 MS. OWENS: Yes, sir.
17	TERRY O. BRANTLEY, ESQUIRE	17 MR. BUTLER: Okay.
18	Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP	18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: You ready, sir?
19	The Peachtree, Suite 300	19 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.
20	1355 Peachtree Street NE	20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Yeah, stand by, please.
21	Atlanta, Georgia 30309	21 MR. BUTLER: We'll announce.
22	,	22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. And we are on
23		23 the record. The time is approximately 9:20 a.m.
24	(Defendant Appearances Continued next	l
25	page)	24 This is the beginning of the videotaped deposition 25 of Sergio Marchionne. Would Counsel present please
	F 4 3 5 7	25 of Sergio Watchioline. Would Counsel present please
	Page 7	Page 9
1	-and-	1 identify themselves and who they represent for the
2	BRIAN S. WESTENBERG, ESQUIRE	2 record.
3	Miller Canfield	3 MR. BUTLER: Jim Butler, Jeb Butler and
4	840 West Long Lake Road	4 Dave Rohwedder, and paralegal Beth Glen, here for
5	Suite 200	5 the Plaintiffs.
6	Troy, Michigan 48098-6358	6 MR. BETTS: Robert Betts for Defendant
7	-and-	7 Harrell.
8	MARJORIE H. LOEB, ESQUIRE	8 MS. OWENS: Diane Owens, Brian Westenberg,
9	LOUANN VAN DER WIELE, ESQUIRE	9 Terry Brantley, Margie Loeb and Louann Van Der
10	Chrysler Group, LLC	10 Wiele, on behalf of the Defendant Chrysler Group,
11	1000 Chrysler Drive	11 LLC.
12	Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326-2766	12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Anyone else? Thank
13		13 you, Counsel.
i	On behalf of Bryan Harrell:	14 Would the court reporter please swear the
14	On behalf of Bryan Haffell:	1 14 WOULD HE COILL TEDOLLET DIEASE SWEAT THE
14 15	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE	1 1
	-	15 witness.
15	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE,
15 16 17	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and
15 16 17 18	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP 56 Perimeter Center East, Suite 450	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows:
15 16 17 18 19	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION
15 16 17 18 19 20	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP 56 Perimeter Center East, Suite 450 Atlanta, Georgia 30346	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP 56 Perimeter Center East, Suite 450 Atlanta, Georgia 30346 Also present: Ms. Beth Glen, paralegal Butler	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. BUTLER: 21 Q. State your name for the record, please,
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP 56 Perimeter Center East, Suite 450 Atlanta, Georgia 30346	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. BUTLER: 21 Q. State your name for the record, please, 22 sir.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP 56 Perimeter Center East, Suite 450 Atlanta, Georgia 30346 Also present: Ms. Beth Glen, paralegal Butler	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. BUTLER: 21 Q. State your name for the record, please, 22 sir. 23 A. Sergio Marchionne.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	ROBERT BETTS, ESQUIRE Karsten Bicknese Seacrest, Karesh, Tate & Bicknese LLP 56 Perimeter Center East, Suite 450 Atlanta, Georgia 30346 Also present: Ms. Beth Glen, paralegal Butler	15 witness. 16 SERGIO MARCHIONNE, 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. BUTLER: 21 Q. State your name for the record, please, 22 sir.

1 Q. Pardon?

- 2 A. I will answer to most readings.
- 3 Q. What is your job?
- A. I'm the chief executive of Fiat Chrysler
- 5 Automobiles, and I'm the -- which is the Dutch
- 6 company headquartered in Europe which runs, now,
- 7 runs Chrysler U. S. And I'm also the chief
- 8 executive of the U.S. Operations.
- Q. Well, for what corporation do you work?
- 10 What's the proper name of the corporation?
- A. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V.,
- 12 headquartered in Holland, listed in New York.
- Q. I thought it was registered as a
- 14 Netherlands corporation but headquartered in London?
- 15 A. It is incorporated under Dutch law. It
- 16 is --
- 17 Q. And headquarter is in London; correct?
- A. It has a corporate residence in London, 18
- 19 and it is listed in New York.
- 20 Q. Okay. And so that's Fiat Chrysler
- 21 Automobiles, N period, V period?
- 22 A. N period, V period.
- 23 Q. And the U.S. affiliate you mentioned,
- 24 what's the name of that company?
- A. It is now called FCA US, LLC. 25

Page 12

Page 13

the same company. I can't express an opinion on

A. The only thing I can tell you is that it's

- what you suggested.
- Q. Well, do we need to change the name of the
- corporate defendant in this case?
- A. That's a legal matter. I'm not here to
- express an opinion. I just don't know.
- 8 Q. You are a lawyer, are you not?
- 9 A. Yes. But I'm a Canadian lawyer, as you
- 10 well know, and that has...
- 11 You're not an engineer, are you?
- 12 A. I'm not an engineer.
- 13 You're a lawyer and a chartered
- 14 accountant; correct?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Where do you live?
- 17 Switzerland.
- 18 Where in Switzerland?
- 19 A. A city called Zug.
- 20 Q. Is that near Geneva?
- 21 A. No. It's in the German part of
- 22 Switzerland.
- 23 Q. Z-U-G?
- 24 A. Z-U-G. The name of the town is actually
- 25 Walchwil.

- Q. That's the company that used to be named
- Chrysler Group, LLC?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. The name was changed on December 16, 2014?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. The name change doesn't really change
- anything, does it?
- A. It does not. It was done to make sure
- 9 that the whole global organization reflected the new
- 10 acronym of FCA.
- 11 Q. All right. It's the same corporation;
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Identical.
- 14 Q. So in this lawsuit we don't need to change
- 15 the name of the corporate defendant from Chrysler
- 16 Group, LLC, to FCA US, LLC, because it's the same
- 17 corporation; correct?
- A. I can't express an opinion on the legal 18
- 19 merits of what you said.
- Q. Well, do you claim that the name change --
- 21 name change means that the corporation is no longer
- 22 responsible if the court and jury find it liable in
- 23 this case?
- 24 A. It's the same company.
- 25 Q. Is that a "yes" or a "no"?

- Q. All right. Are you chairman of FCA US? 1
- 2
- 3 Q. Fiat took over Chrysler when it bought
- 4 Chrysler's out of -- Chrysler's assets out of
- bankruptcy in 2009; correct?
- A. I'm not sure that's exactly how the
- 7 transaction happened, but it became a shareholder of
- Chrysler Group, LLC, in 2009.
- 9 Q. Fiat did?
- 10 A. Yeah, Fiat did.
- 11 Q. Chrysler Group, LLC, was a new corporation
- 12 created in 2009; correct?
- A. I think so. I don't know for sure, but I 13
- 14 think it was new.
- Q. And the assets of old Chrysler were 15
- 16 transferred into Chrysler Group; correct?
- 17 MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 You may answer.
- 20 A. Some may have been transferred, yes.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 22 Q. All right.
- 23 A. It was part of a corporate reorganization
- 24 in association with the bankruptcy.
- 25 Q. As part of that corporate reorganization

1 and bankruptcy, the Chrysler entities received a

- 2 bailout from the United States Treasury; isn't that
- 3 correct?
- 4 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 5 question.
- 6 A. They received a series of funding measures
- 7 from both the Canadian and the U.S. government and
- 8 the province of Ontario, in particular, that allowed
- 9 Chrysler Group, LLC, to function from June 10th,
- 10 2009.
- 11 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 12 nonresponsive.
- 13 Let me get my question back.
- 14 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 15 Q. As part of the corporate reorganization
- 16 and bankruptcy, the Chrysler entities received a
- 17 bailout from the United States Treasury; isn't that
- 18 correct?
- 19 MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 20 A. I thought I'd answered it.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 22 Q. Will you answer my question?
- 23 A. I just answered.
- 24 Q. I didn't ask you anything about Canada or
- 25 Ontario, did I?

- Page 14 1 the end result was that one-and-a-half billion
 - 2 dollars was not repaid?
 - 3 A. There was funding that was given to -- it
 - 4 was given, going back to December of 2008 and the

Page 16

- 5 first quarter of 2009, it was given to a predecessor
- 6 company, with which I have no affiliation and no
- 7 knowledge of.
- 8 Q. Well, the net result of all the U.S.
- 9 taxpayer funding given to Chrysler is the taxpayers
- 10 ended up losing one-and-a-half billion dollars;
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. I would not know because I was not aware
- 13 of the funding that went into the old company at the
- 14 time.
- 15 The only thing I do know, Mr. Butler, is
- 16 that I became CEO of the company on June 10th, 2009,
- 17 and on that date there was funding provided by the
- 18 United States Treasury, for which we took full
- 19 responsibility and repaid in 2011.
- 20 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 21 part as nonresponsive.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true, sir, that you called this
- 24 U. S. taxpayer funding of Chrysler a "bailout"?
- 25 A. I probably have historically, yes. But

Page 15

- A. But I'm trying to tell you what happened.
- 2 You can disregard what happened.
- Q. Well, did Chrysler receive a bailout from
- 4 the United States Treasury?
- 5 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 6 question.
- 7 A. It received funding from the United States
- 8 Treasury and from other entities that's across the
- 9 border.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. How much funding did Chrysler receive from
- 12 the United States Treasury?
- 13 A. About \$7 billion dollars.
- 14 Q. 7 billion?
- 15 A. 7 billion. All of --
- 16 Q. I thought I read somewhere that it was
- 17 more like 12-and-a-half billion?
- 18 A. No. It was 7 billion. And all of which
- 19 was repaid in May of 2011 with 19.7 percent interest20 per annum.
- 21 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 22 part as nonresponsive.
- 23 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Sir, isn't it true that of the United
- 25 States' taxpayer money that was given to Chrysler,

Page 17

1 the whole process was called a bailout, including

- 2 General Motors at the time.
- 3 Q. When Fiat took over the assets of Chrysler
- 4 in 2009, it then controlled those assets through the
- 5 new corporation Chrysler Group, LLC; correct?
- 6 A. It did not initially until it acquired
- 7 control in 2011.
- Q. Sir, didn't Fiat have a 58.5 percent
- 9 interest of the new corporation Chrysler Group in
- 10 2009?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. When did it obtain complete control over
- 13 Chrysler?
- 14 A. January 1st, 2014, was the date in which
- 15 we announced the acquisition of the remaining
- 16 interest by Viva in the company, and it was closed
- 17 within the month of January of last year.
- 18 Q. And now Fiat owns 100 percent?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. But you took over -- you and the
- 21 management team at Fiat took over management of
- 22 Chrysler in June -- on June 10, 2009; correct?
- 23 A. I took over as CEO on June 10th, 2009, and
- 24 the management team came from Chrysler in the United
- 25 States. There were only two or three expats that

1 were brought in at the time.

- 2 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #33 marked)
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 4 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 33.
- 5 Is that the Chrysler press release
- 6 announcing the name change?
- 7 A. Yes. I think. Yeah.
- 8 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #38 marked)
- 9 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 10 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 38.
- Have you ever seen that article before
- 12 from Reuters -- Reuters, Reuters, or however you
- 13 pronounce that. It's the London press organization.
- 14 A. I have not seen this particular one, but
- 15 I'm aware of the publication.
- 16 Would you like me to read it.
- 17 Q. I was just going to ask you a couple of 18 questions about it.
- 19 A. If you'll give me a second, just...
- 20 Q. Sure.
- 21 A. I have read it.
- Q. All right. This indicates that Chrysler,
- 23 or Chrysler Group, I guess, was going to buy the
- 24 remaining 41-point -- well, strike that.
- 25 This indicates that Fiat was going to buy

- Page 18 1 A. That is technically not true.
 - 2 Q. Technically not true?
 - 3 A. Well --
 - Q. Is it practically true?
 - 5 A. It's not practically true either. Fiat
 - 6 did pay for its interest in Chrysler.
 - Q. Do you recall being interviewed by the

Page 20

- 8 Globe and Mail -- which is a London newspaper;
- 9 correct?

7

- 10 A. Globe and Mail is a Canadian newspaper.
- 11 Q. Canadian. Okay. I don't get out much.
- Do you ever recall being interviewed by
- 13 the Globe and Mail? Obviously, it's Canadian. It's
- 14 got the maple leaf.
- 15 A. I'm not sure. If I could see the article.
- 16 (Plaintiff's Exhibit #83 marked).
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 83.
- 19 Do you recall being interviewed by the
- 20 Globe and Mail for this article entitled, quote,
- 21 "2009's CEO of the Year"?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. All right. Do you recall telling the
- 24 Globe and Mail -- look at Page 4, the last
- 25 paragraph: "If Chrysler drives off a cliff, once

- 1 the remaining 41-and-a-half percent of the stock of
- 2 Chrysler Group; correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Yes, sir. It also indicates that Fiat and
- 5 its U. S. unit, Chrysler at the time, had liquidity
- 6 amounting to \$27.7 billion dollars?
- 7 A. That's what the report says, yes.
- 8 Q. Well, is that -- was that accurate?
- 9 A. Approximately, yes. I don't know whether
- 10 the exact number is 41, but it has liquidity in
- 11 excess of 20 billion euros at the time.
- 12 Q. All right. If you look at the -- this is
- 13 also the article where you were quoted as saying
- 14 that the Jeeps with rear gas tanks are, quote,
- 15 "absolutely safe," close quote.
- Do you see that?
- 17 A. Yeah, I did see it.
- 18 Q. Did you say that?
- 19 A. I did say it.
- 20 Q. How many times have you said that?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- Q. Many times?
- 23 A. More than once.
- Q. All right. The truth is that Fiat got
- 25 Chrysler basically for nothing; isn't that right?

- Page 21 1 again, it won't cost Marchionne anything but a
- 2 bruised ego for he has vowed not to put a cent into
- 3 a company that cost him nothing to buy and whose
- 4 value is registered as a big fat zero on Fiat's
- 5 books. 'This is the best thing we could have done
- 6 for ourselves and for Chrysler,' he says."
- 7 Do you recall telling them that?
- 8 A. I remember making the comment in quotation
- 9 marks. The rest of the stuff is something that the
- 10 journalist put in, which I did not say.
- 11 Q. So the journalist got that wrong?
- 12 A. I don't know -- that's his writing.
- 13 That's not my statement.
- 14 Q. Well, I understand. But he -- quote, he
- 15 says that you have vowed not to put a cent into a
- 16 company "that cost him nothing to buy"?
- 17 A. That's not what I said.
- 18 Q. You didn't say that?
- 19 A. No, because he says it.
- 20 Q. I know. I know he wrote it. But you --
- 21 he had to get it from somewhere. Did you tell him
- 22 that?
- 23 A. There is a lot of things in here that he
- 24 wrote that are his own writing.
- 25 Q. I understand. Did you tell him that or

2 A. No.

1 not?

- Q. Okay. 3
- A. What I did -- what I did say publicly is
- 5 that the initial introduction of Fiat into Chrysler,
- 6 that Fiat was not going to put any funding into the
- 7 organization in 2009.
- Q. Well, it's not just this reporter -- this
- 9 reporter did interview you, did he not?
- A. Yes, he did.
- 11 Q. And he asked you questions?
- 12 A. He did.
- Q. Okay. But it's not just the reporter's
- 14 words based on his interview with you. Isn't it
- 15 true that other analysts have said that Fiat
- 16 basically -- basically got Chrysler for nothing?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 17
- 18 question.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- O. Is that true?
- A. Other people may have made that statement.
- 22 It wasn't me.
- 23 Q. Look at Page 7.
- 24 A. I am looking at Page 7.
- 25 Q. All right. Top of the page it's quoting

Page 24 1

- Isn't that what it says Mr. Dudenhöffer
- 2 said?
- 3 A. I'm just reading the statement. That's
- what it says.
- 5 O. Well, is all that correct?
- A. No.
- Q. Now, with respect to this statement in
- Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 38 to Reuters that the Jeeps
- with rear gas tanks are absolutely safe, how many
- Americans have been burned in wrecks where your
- corporation's Jeeps with rear gas tanks were hit in
- 12 the rear?
- 13 A. I do not know.
- 14 Q. Have you asked?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. Did you read the June 13, 2013, letter
- 17 sent to Chrysler Group by the Office of Defects
- 18 Investigation of NHTSA?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Do you recall that in that letter it says
- 21 that there have been at least 32 fatal rear impact
- 22 fire crashes involving Grand Cherokees resulting in
- 23 44 deaths?
- 24 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 25 question.

1

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- 1 Ferdinand Dudenhöffer, director of Germany's Center
- 2 for Automotive Research.
- 3 Do you know him?
- 4 A. No, he's a bit far removed from the
- 5 American car business. He's German.
- Q. He's not far from the Italian car
- 7 business, is he?
- A. No. But he's pretty far away from the
- 9 U.S. side. I don't know him.
- Q. I have forgotten my geography. Does
- 11 Germany -- do Germany and Italy, are they adjoining?
- 12 Do they have a common border?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Thank you. I was worried that I'd --
- A. I'm trying to find out exactly. I think
- 16 it does have a section that is bordered.
- Q. I thought so.
- MS. OWENS: Geography is not my specialty. 18
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as 19
- 20 inappropriate.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't Mr. Dudenhöffer quoted in this
- 23 article, which is about you, as saying, quote,
- 24 "Marchionne found a company he could buy for
- 25 nothing. There was no risk. He got it as a gift."

Page 25 A. If you could show me the letter.

- BY MR. BUTLER:
- 3 Q. Well, do you recall that? That is my
- first question. I'm going to show you the letter.
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. But do you recall that is my question
- 7 right now.
- 8 A. I don't recall the exact wording of the 9 letter.
- 10 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #40 marked)
- BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. All right. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit 12
- 13 No. 40.
- Is that, in fact, the ODI's June 3, 2013, 14
- 15 letter from -- or to Chrysler Group?
- 16 A. It looks that way.
- All right. And if you'll look at Page 5. 17 Q.
- 18 Α. Yeah.
- Second paragraph. Do you see where it 19 Q.
- 20 says --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- "there have been at least 32 fatal rear
- 23 impact fire crashes involving Grand Cherokees
- 24 resulting in 44 deaths"? Do you see that?
- 25 A. Yes, I do.

7

Q. All right. When you read that -- when did

2 you read that letter?

- 3 A. Whenever I received it.
- 4 Q. When did you receive it?
- 5 A. It must have been the same day that it was
- 6 sent. I --
- 7 Q. Do you know how --
- 8 A. There would have been no delay.
- 9 Q. Do you know how you received it?
- 10 A. No, it came through my office, through my
- 11 assistant. I don't know exactly how.
- 12 Q. Do you know where you were on June 3,
- 13 2013?
- 14 A. No, I don't.
- 15 Q. Did you talk to anybody about this letter?
- 16 A. After I received it, yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. Well, did you ask anybody about any
- 18 of these 44 deaths in rear impact fire crashes
- 19 involving Grand Cherokees?
- 20 A. I asked about what our view was on the
- 21 accuracy of that statement, yes.
- Q. Mm-hmm. Who did you ask?
- 23 A. Our technical staff. In particular a guy
- 24 by the name of Mark Chernoby, who was the Head of
- 25 Engineering.

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- 1 since March 6, 2012, when Remi Walden died?
- 2 A. I do not.
- 3 Q. Have you asked?
- 4 A. No, I have not.
- 5 Q. Who at Chrysler Group or at FCA is
- 6 supposed to keep up with that information?
 - A. We have a group of people who handle
- 8 regulatory affairs and handle safety matters.
- 9 Q. Well, if I wanted to call somebody up -- I
- 10 know I can't call somebody up, but if I could and
- 11 wanted to call somebody up and ask them that
- 12 question, since you don't know --
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. -- how many Americans have been burned in
- 15 rear impacts in the Jeeps with rear gas tanks since
- 16 Remi died, who would I call?
- 17 A. Mark Chernoby.
- 18 Q. We count at least 19 since March 6, 2012.
 - Has anybody provided you any information
- 20 about how many there have been?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 22 question.

19

24

- 23 A. No.
 - (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #41 marked)
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

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- 1 Q. How do you spell his last name?
- A. C-H-E-R-N-O, B as in Bob, Y.
- Q. Do you deny that as of June 3, 2013, there
- 4 had been at least 44 deaths in rear impact fire
- 5 crashes involving Grand Cherokees?
- 6 A. I have no way of disagreeing with that
- 7 statement.
 - Q. Okay. Isn't it true that the Office of
- 9 Defects Investigation found that Americans had died
- 10 in fatal fires in Jeeps with rear gas tanks in these
- 11 U. S. states? And you can follow me, it's on
- 12 Pages 7 and 9. Texas, Indiana, Florida, New York,
- 13 California, Mississippi, Louisiana, Wyoming,
- 14 Virginia, South Carolina, New Jersey, Illinois,
- 15 Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Puerto Rico,
- 16 Wisconsin and Georgia.
- 17 Isn't that what ODI wrote in the letter to
- 18 Chrysler Group on June 3, 2013?
- 19 A. That's what it says.
- Q. Does Chrysler Group deny that?
- 21 A. I don't deny what's in this letter in
- 22 terms of the factual listing here.
- Q. All right. Do you know how many Americans
- 24 have died in wrecks where Chrysler Jeeps with rear
- 25 gas tanks were hit in the rear and caught fire just

Page 29

Page 28

- 1 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 41. This
- 2 is our list.
- 3 Can you admit or deny that all of these
- 4 people have been burned in Jeep fires where Jeeps
- 5 with rear gas tanks were hit in the rear since
- 6 March 6, 2012?
 - MS. OWENS: Objection to form of the
- 8 question.

- 9 A. I have no knowledge.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. Were you aware of the last one on this
- 12 list, the death of Kayla White on November 11, 2014?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. That occurred in Detroit; correct?
- 15 A. That's what this says.
- 16 Q. Chrysler Group's headquarters is in Auburn
- 17 Hills, Michigan; correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. That's a suburb of Detroit?
- 20 A. I don't know that it's a suburb, but it's
- 21 a city around Detroit, yes.
- Q. Do you know Judson Estes?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. I can't remember how far he said Auburn
- 25 Hills -- or strike that.

I can't remember how far Mr. Estes said

- 2 the scene of this wreck was from the Chrysler Group
- 3 headquarters, like 20-something miles. Nobody has
- 4 mentioned this death of Kayla White to you?
- 5 A. No.
- Q. Will you agree that Chrysler Group should
- 7 have more information than anyone in the world about
- 8 Jeep rear impact wrecks where the fuel -- where the
- 9 gas tank failed and there was a gas-fed fire and
- 10 someone was burned?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 11
- 12 question.
- A. I don't know how to answer your question.
- 14 "The world" is a pretty general statement.
- 15 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Shouldn't Chrysler Group keep up with that
- 17 information?
- 18 A. I think Chrysler Group does.
- Q. Well, my question was shouldn't Chrysler 19
- 20 Group keep up with that information?
- A. Yes. You qualified it by saying "in the
- 22 world," and I don't know whether it's true or not.
- 23 But certainly Chrysler Group should know, and it
- 24 does.
- 25 Q. All right. And shouldn't Chrysler Group,

A. I think Chrysler Group has all the

Page 32

- 2 requisite knowledge that it needs to have in
- connection with these incidents.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
 - Q. Isn't it the duty of an automaker to know
- more than anybody else about its own products?
- 7 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 8 question.
 - A. I think it's fair to say that Chrysler
- 10 knows probably more than most people about its own
- 11 products, yes.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. That wasn't my question, sir. My question
- 14 is broader than that.
- 15 Isn't it the duty of an automaker to know
- 16 more about its own products than anybody else?
- 17 MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 18 A. It builds them. It knows them. It knows
- 19 them well.
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Doesn't it have a duty to know them better 21
- 22 than anybody else?
- 23 A. I don't know that. That's a moral
- 24 statement. I don't know whether other people have a
- 25 right to know more than we do. I have no idea.

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- 1 since these are its products, know that information
- more than anybody else?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 3
- 4 question.
- A. It's possible. It certainly has a -- it
- 6 has all the information.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. No, the question wasn't wouldn't. The
- 9 question was shouldn't it, shouldn't Chrysler Group.
- 10 Since these are Chrysler Group products, shouldn't
- 11 Chrysler Group have more information about that than
- 12 anybody in the world?
- 13 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 14 question.
- A. I have tried to answer it. I think
- 16 Chrysler Group does have that information.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. That wasn't my question. I'll try one 18
- 19 more time.
- 20 As a matter of ethics and responsibility,
- 21 since these are Chrysler Group products, shouldn't
- 22 Chrysler Group have more information about Jeep
- 23 fires than anybody in the world?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 24
- 25 question.

- Page 33 Q. All right. Would you agree that an
- automaker ought to know more about the field
- performance of its automobiles in real world wrecks
- than anybody else?
- 5 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 6 question.

- A. I think Chrysler has all the requisite
- knowledge to make that evaluation.
- BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Will you agree that Remi's wreck is not 10
- 11 the first time that this has happened, a Jeep car
- with a rear gas tank got hit in the rear, the gas
- tank failed, there was a gas-fed fire, and someone
- 14 got burned?
- 15 A. Based on what I know, the answer is yes.
- 16 Q. Will you agree that that has happened many
- 17 times before?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 18 19 question.
- 20 A. It has happened before.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Will you agree that that has happened many 22
- 23 times before it happened to Remi?
- 24 MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 25 A. It's happened more than once, yes.

2

1 BY MR. BUTLER:

- 2 Q. Will you agree that it is going to happen
- 3 again in the future?
- 4 A. I have no knowledge.
- Q. Isn't it true, sir, that it is a dead
- 6 certainty that more Americans are going to burn in
- 7 Jeep's rear gas tanks that get hit in the rear in
- 8 the future after today, January 9, 2015?
- 9 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 10 question.
- 11 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that the only way to
- 14 keep more Americans from burning in the future after
- 15 today in Jeeps with rear gas tanks that get hit in
- 16 the rear is to take them all off the road?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 A. I have no way of answering that
- 20 suggestion.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Do you deny that many people have been
- 23 burned in these Jeeps with rear gas tanks just since
- 24 March 6, 2012, when Remi Walden got burned?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

40

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2

- 1 question.
- 2 A. I don't know about the term "many." As I
- 3 understand, there have been other incidents, as
- 4 you've shown me; but these apply to a variety of
- 5 vehicles. Jeep's is -- Jeep is a brand. It's not a
- 6 particular vehicle.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. They apply to Jeeps with rear gas tanks,
- 9 don't they?
- 10 A. No, but there are phenomenally different
- 11 architectures in vehicles. Jeep is not one car.
- 12 Jeep is a variety of models of cars.
- 13 Q. What is phenomenally different
- 14 architecture, sir? What are you talking about?
- 15 A. These cars are different, one from the 16 other.
- 17 Q. Which cars?
- 18 A. The Liberty is phenomenally different than
- 19 a Jeep Cherokee and a Grand Cherokee. They're
- 20 different cars.
- Q. They've all got a gas tank at the rear,
- 22 don't they?
- 23 A. No, but it's structurally different. The
- 24 architecture --
 - Q. They have all got a gas tank within

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1 11 inches from the rear, don't they?

A. I don't know whether --

3 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

4 question.

- 5 A. I don't know. But they are different
- 6 architectures.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. You know that they're different
- 9 architectures, but you don't know that every one of
- 10 these Jeeps with a rear gas tank has a gas tank
- 11 around 11 inches from the back of the car? You
- 12 don't know that?
- 13 A. I do not know that.
- 14 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that every one of
- 15 these Jeeps with rear gas tanks has a gas tank that
- 16 hangs five-and-a-half to six-and-a-half inches below
- 17 the bottom of the car?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 19 question.
- 20 A. I do not know that.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 22 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that every one of
- 23 these Jeeps with the rear gas tank is an SUV, and
- 24 the back of the car is higher off the ground than
- 25 the back of the car is in passenger cars?

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- 1 A. That's normally true of all SUVs.
 - MR. BUTLER: Off the video just a minute.
- 3 I want to grab a file.
- 4 (Off video record.)
- 5 MR. BUTLER: Let's go back on the video.
- 6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
- 7 video. You may continue.
- 8 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #74 marked)
- 9 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 10 Q. Sir, I want to show you a series of
- 11 photographs, Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 74.
- Do you recognize that as the 1993 through
- 13 1998 Grand Cherokee?
- 14 A. It looks like a 1993 to 1998 Grand
- 15 Cherokee. I do not have specific knowledge of this
- 16 vehicle. I wasn't here when the car was designed or
- 17 built, but it looks like a Jeep, and it looks like a
- 18 1993 to 1998.
- 19 Q. That's one of the vehicles for which
- 20 Chrysler Group, LLC, is responsible, is it not?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 22 question; calls for a legal conclusion.
- 23 A. It's one -- yeah. I mean, I don't know.
- 24 From a legal standpoint, I have no idea how to
- 25 answer your question.

1 BY MR. BUTLER:

- 2 Q. Do you deny that Chrysler Group, LLC, your
- 3 corporation, is responsible for that car --
- 4 A. I think it has --
- 5 Q. -- the 1993 through 1998 Grand Cherokee,
- 6 "yes" or "no"?
- 7 MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A. I think we've assumed product liability in
- 10 connection with these vehicles.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. Is that a "yes" or a "no"?
- 13 A. It's a yes the way I've answered it.
- 14 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #75 marked)
- 15 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 16 O. I'll show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 75.
- 17 Isn't this a photograph of the back of the
- 18 1999 through 2004 Grand Cherokee?
- 19 A. I have no way of knowing, but it looks
- 20 like a 1999 to 2004 Cherokee, Grand Cherokee.
- Q. Is this another Chrysler vehicle for which
- 22 Chrysler Group, LLC, your corporation, is
- 23 responsible?
- MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 25 A. As answered before, I think it's assumed

A. The same answer as before, I think it's

- 2 accepted product liability.
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. For this vehicle?
- 5 A. For this vehicle.
- 6 Q. Now, you said, and I quote, that these
- 7 vehicles were all "phenomenally different."
- 8 Do you see in each of these pictures, if
 - you'll spread them out in front of you, if you
- 10 would, sir, just humor me, and put them out so you
- 11 can look at all of them.
- 12 A. (Witness complies with request.)
- 13 Q. Do you see that the gas tanks are all
- 14 lo- -- are all circled in red?
- 15 A. Yes. Yes.
- 16 Q. Do you see the gas tanks are all at the
- 17 rear?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Do you see that all -- the gas tanks on
- 20 all of these vehicles are below the rear of the
- 21 vehicle?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Would you agree, sir, that if the gas tank
- 24 on one of these vehicles explodes in rear impact,
- 25 the automaker ought to look at the other vehicles

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- 1 product liability in connection with this car, this
- 2 vehicle.
- 3 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #76 marked)
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. I'll show you a picture of -- this is
- 6 Plaintiffs' Exhibit 76.
- 7 This is the 1993 through 2001 Cherokee.
- 8 Do you recognize that car?
- 9 A. It looks like a 1993 to 2001 Cherokee.
- 10 Q. Is this another vehicle for which your
- 11 corporation, Chrysler Group, LLC, has assumed
- 12 responsibility?
- 13 MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 14 A. It has assumed product liability for this
- 15 car, correct.
- 16 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #77 marked)
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. I'll show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 77.
- 19 This is a picture of the back of a 2002 to
- 20 2007 Liberty; correct?
- 21 A. Looks that way.
- Q. Now, is this another vehicle for which
- 23 your corporation, Chrysler Group, LLC, has accepted
- 24 responsibility?
- MS. OWENS: Same objection.

- 1 that also have similar rear gas tanks to see if they
- 2 have got a problem, too?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. I think that Chrysler has carried out
- 6 extensive analysis on the frequency of these events,
- 7 and it's determined, based on its analysis, which
- 8 has been shared with NHTSA, that the performance of
- 9 these vehicles is not distinguishable from what the
- 10 other automakers are providing into the marketplace.
- 11 These cars were all, at the time they were
- 12 designed and built, were either in conformity or in
- 13 excess of the safety requirements required under
- 14 U.S. regulations.
- 15 And our analysis -- which is the point
- 16 that we've made publicly, after I received this
- 17 letter on I think it was June the 3rd, that our
- 18 analysis of that data suggested these were
- 19 defect-free vehicles, and that they performed
- 20 exactly as the rest of the comparative class
- 21 performed in the marketplace at the time.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as totally unresponsive to anything that I asked.
- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. But, sir, I will assure you that we will

- 1 get to this morning every subject matter that you've
- 2 just touched upon.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. Let me ask my question again.
- 5 Would you agree, sir, that in the gas --
- 6 if the gas tank on one of these vehicles explodes in
- 7 rear impact, then the automaker ought to look at the
- 7 Teal impact, their the automater ought to rook at the
- $8 \hspace{0.1in}$ other vehicles that also have similar rear gas tanks
- 9 to see if they have got a problem also?
- 10 MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 11 A. I think Chrysler has looked at that
- 12 particular type of analysis, and it's carried out
- 13 pretty expensive -- extensive review of the tanks in
- 14 connection with the whole class of vehicles.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 16 nonresponsive.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Let me see if I can ask the question in a
- 19 different way.
- Would you agree with me that what happens
- 21 to one of these four vehicles that gets hit in the
- 22 rear ought to teach the automaker something about
- 23 what could happen to the other auto- -- other one of
- 24 these vehicles that also have rear gas tanks if it
- 25 gets hit in the rear?

- 1 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Not just me, but other people have a right

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- 3 to disagree with you as well, don't they?
- 4 A. Absolutely. I think everybody has a right 5 to disagree.
- 6 Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler Group is not
- 7 making and selling any passenger cars now that have
- 8 rear gas tanks?
- 9 A. That's probably true.
- 10 Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler moved the gas
- 11 tank in the Grand Cherokee away from the rear to the
- 12 midship's location for the 2005 model?
- 13 A. That's my understanding.
- 14 Q. Will you agree that for citizens to make
- 15 an informed decision whether those rear gas tanks
- 16 are safe, they first need to know the facts?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 A. I guess, yes.
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. What has Chrysler Group done to inform
- 22 people that the gas tank on the Grand Cherokee is
- 23 only 11 inches from the back of the car?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 25 question.

- 1 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 2 question.
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. Well, isn't that merely logical, that if
- 6 one of these gas tanks -- one of these vehicles --
- 7 strike that.
- 8 Isn't it merely logical that if one of
- 9 these four vehicles gets hit in the rear and the gas
- 10 tank explodes and people burn to death, then
- 11 Chrysler ought to be looking at whether or not that
- 12 might happen in one of these other four vehicles
- 13 that similarly have gas tanks at the rear in the
- 14 same location?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form.
- 16 A. I think it is one of the things that
- 17 Chrysler has and would look at, yes.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Will you agree, sir, that others have
- 20 every right to disagree with the opinion that you
- 21 have expressed that the Jeeps with rear gas tanks
- 22 are, quote, "absolutely safe," close quote?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 25 A. I guess you have a right, yes.

- 1 A. Your statement is visible. It doesn't
- 2 have to be -- I mean, as you indicated in the
- 3 picture, there is nothing to be highlighted.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. You think people should notice that?
- 6 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 7 question.
- 8 A. As they will look at any other attributes 9 of the car, yes.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- IU DI MR. DUILER:
- 11 Q. Do you think people are aware of where the
- 12 gas tanks are?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 14 question.
- 15 A. I don't know.
- 16 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 17 Q. Isn't it true that on the Grand -- on the
- 18 1999 through 2004 Grand Cherokees the gas tank is
- 19 hidden by a piece of plastic trim that Chrysler
- 20 Group calls the fascia?
- 21 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 22 question.
- A. I'm not sure it's hidden, but...
- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 25 Q. Well, have you ever walked --

Page 46 MS. OWENS: Excuse me. I'm sorry. Were

- 2 you finished with your answer?
- 3 THE WITNESS: I think so.
- 4 MS. OWENS: Okay.
- 5 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 6 Q. Have you ever walked around the back of
- 7 one of those Grand Cherokees?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Mm-hmm. Was it -- was the gas tank
- 10 readily visible?
- 11 A. I don't remember.
- 12 Q. Okay. We'll get to that in a minute.
- Has Chrysler Group ever warned the people
- 14 that, look out, now, this gas tank is only 11 inches
- 15 from the back of the car?
- 16 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 17 question.
- 18 A. No.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 20 Q. Has Chrysler Group ever warned people that
- 21 this gas tank on the Grand Cherokee is vulnerable to
- 22 rear impact?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Has Chrysler Group ever warned the people
- 25 that the gas tank on this Grand Cherokee, the 1999

- 1 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. You would expect the gas tank to be
- 3 crushed against the axle, would you not?
- 4 A. I --
- 5 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

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- 6 question.
- 7 A. -- I can't answer your question. I don't
- 8 know.
- 9 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 10 Q. Isn't it true that this wreck in which
- 11 Remi Walden died was an underride wreck?
 - A. I don't have enough knowledge.
- Q. What has Chrysler Group done to inform the
- 14 people of what the danger really is if a rear gas
- 15 tank on one of these Jeeps gets crushed?
- 16 A. It has carried out extensive discussions
- 17 with NHTSA. On this matter it has shared its
- 18 information. It has had intense dialogue with the
- 19 technical staff of NHTSA to try and determine
- 20 whether effectively this was a defect or not.
- 21 Our analysis suggests very clearly that
- 22 this is not a defect. It is a position that in this
- 23 particular case has been supported and shared by
- 24 NHTSA, which has come to the same conclusion that
- 25 Chrysler has that this is not a defect.

- 1 Grand Cherokee, is in a known crush zone?
- 2 A No.
- Q. Has Chrysler Group ever warned the people
- 4 that the gas tank on the 1999 Grand Cherokee hangs
- 5 six inches below the bottom of the car?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Has Chrysler Group ever warned the people
- 8 that if in a rear impact there is an underride, the
- 9 gas tank can be hit directly by the striking
- 10 vehicle?
- 11 A. No.
- Q. Now, will you agree with me, sir, that
- 13 that would be very bad if the gas tank got hit by
- 14 the striking vehicle directly?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 17 A. In principle, yes.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Well, you would expect an explosion then,
- 20 wouldn't you?
- 21 MS. OWENS: Objection --
- 22 A. No --
- MS. OWENS: -- to the form of the
- 24 question.
- 25 A. -- I would not.

- 1 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 2 nonresponsive.
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 4 Q. But in case that motion is overruled, sir,
- 5 isn't it true that all those arguments Chrysler
- 6 Group made to NHTSA were rejected by the
- 7 professionals of the Office of Defects
- 8 Investigation --
- 9 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 10 question.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. -- and that is why you got that June 3,
- 13 2013, letter?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 15 question.
- 16 A. To the best of my knowledge not.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that what caused the
- 19 administrator of NHTSA and his boss ultimately to
- 20 agree with you was a meeting you had with those two
- 21 in Chicago on June 10, 2013?
- 22 A. What are you -- I'm sorry. To agree what?
- 23 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true, sir, that the Office of
- 25 Defects Investigation said these Jeeps with the rear

4

1 gas tanks were defective?

- 2 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 3 question.
- 4 A. They had raised issues in their letter
- 5 that suggested that there were -- there were
- 6 problems with our vehicles, some of our vehicles,
- 7 yes --
- 8 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 9 Q. This says --
- 10 A. -- which was reflected in this letter of
- 11 June 3rd, 2013.
- MR. BUTLER: Let's go off video just a
- 13 minute.
- 14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're off.
- MR. BUTLER: Oh, here it is. No, go back
- 16 on. Here it is.
- 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're still on, sir.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. The professionals at the Office of Defects
- 20 Investigation didn't just suggest there may be
- 21 problems. Look at the second paragraph of this
- 22 letter.
- 23 A. On which page?
- 24 Q. Page 1.
- 25 A. Yes.

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- Q. They wrote that these Jeeps with the rear
- 2 gas tanks, quote, "contained defects related to
- 3 motor vehicle safety."
- 4 Isn't that correct?
- 5 A. That's what it says.
- 6 Q. All right. Look at Page 12 under
- 7 Conclusion.
- 8 A. (Witness complies with request.)
- 9 Q. Isn't it true that the professionals at
- 10 the Office of Defects Investigation wrote, quote:
- 11 "There is a performance and a design defect"?
- MS. OWENS: I'm sorry. Where are you?
- MR. BUTLER: Page 12, under the
- 14 Conclusion.
- 14 Conclusion.
- MS. OWENS: But where? Yeah, and there
- 16 is --
- 17 A. Where?
- MS. OWENS: -- which paragraph?
- MR. BUTLER: First paragraph, third line
- 20 down.
- MS. OWENS: Thank you.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. They wrote, quote, "In our tentative view
- 24 there is a performance defect and a design defect.
- 25 The performance defect is that the fuel tanks

Page 50

1 installed on these vehicles are subject to failure

Page 52

Page 53

- 2 when the vehicles are struck from the rear."
- 3 Did I read that correctly?

A. That's what it says.

- 5 Q. Well, Chrysler Group has admitted that's
- 5 true, has it not?
- 7 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A. I don't think so.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. Did you read the deposition of Mr. Judson
- 12 Estes taken 29 days ago?
- 13 A. No, I did not.
- 14 Q. Are you not aware of the fact that
- 15 Mr. Estes admitted that these Jeeps with the
- 16 Grand -- the gas tanks on these Jeeps are
- 17 vulnerable -- strike all that.
- Are you not familiar with the fact that
- 19 Mr. Estes on December 10, 2014, admitted that the
- 20 gas tanks on these Jeeps were, quote, "vulnerable to
- 21 rear impact," close quote?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form --
- 23 A. I have no idea --
 - MS. OWENS: -- of the question.
- 25 A. I have no idea who Mr. Estes is.

- 1 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 2 Q. Has anybody told you that he testified to
- 3 that?

7

- 4 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 5 question --
- 6 A. They may have. I don't --
 - MS. OWENS: -- to the extent it calls for
- 8 attorney/client communications.
- 9 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 10 Q. Has anybody told you that he testified to
- 11 that?
- MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 13 A. No.
- 14 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 15 Q. Have you read Mr. Estes' deposition?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Do you care what Mr. Estes said?
- 18 A. I don't know who Mr. Estes is.
- 19 Q. Is that a "yes" or a "no"?
- 20 A. If you tell me who he is, I might express
- 21 an opinion.
- Q. Under Conclusion, three lines down, the
- 23 Office of Defects Investigations also wrote, quote:
- 24 The design defect is the placement of the fuel tanks
- 25 in the position behind the axle and how they were

Page 54 1 positioned, including the height -- "their height

2 above the roadway. The defects --

A. I'm sorry, which paragraph are you on? 3

MS. OWENS: Same paragraph. The first 5 paragraph.

MR. BUTLER: Strike all that, and I'll 6

7 start all over.

4

MS. OWENS: Six lines down. 8

9 BY MR. BUTLER:

10 O. Let's see under Conclusion six lines down

11 the Office of Defects Investigation also wrote to

12 Chrysler Group, quote, "The design defect is the

13 placement of the fuel tanks in the position behind

14 the axle and how they are positioned, including

15 their height above the roadway. The defects present

16 an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety." They

17 left out the word safety.

Did I read that correctly? 18

19 A. Yes.

20 O. And then it said -- then the Office of

21 Defects Investigation said: "Because people in

22 model year 1993-2004 Jeep Grand Cherokees and the

23 model year 2002-2007 Jeep Libertys and in striking

24 vehicles have burned to death in rear impact

25 crashes."

Page 55

Did I read that correctly? 1

A. Yes, you have. 2

Q. All right. Now, has Chrysler warned the

4 people that if you're in one of these Jeeps with a

5 rear gas tank and your car gets hit in the rear, the

6 gas tank may explode?

MS. OWENS: Objection --

8

9 MS. OWENS: -- to the form of the

10 question.

11 BY MR. BUTLER:

Q. That is the danger, is it not?

13 A. Not in our view.

14 Q. You don't think there is any danger of gas

15 tanks on these Jeeps with rear gas tanks exploding

16 after rear impact?

A. Any, yes, it's possible. But it's not a

18 safety defect. And I think we've been absolutely

19 clear on this issue after having gone through an

20 incredibly thorough review of the underlying data

21 and having shared that data with NHTSA.

Q. Sir, isn't it true that you don't know

23 anything about that? You just know what other

24 people at Chrysler Group have told you.

A. Yes, I have people that report to me that

1 have done the work necessary for me to make the

2 assertion.

3 Q. But you don't know if your assertion is

true or not. You're just repeating what people have

told you; isn't that true?

A. I repeat what the information that has

7 been provided to me suggests is the case, yes.

8 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #42 marked)

9 BY MR. BUTLER:

10 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 42.

Isn't this the affidavit that you signed 11

12 in this case?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Doesn't it say over here in Paragraph 6,

15 starting the third line from the bottom: "I was not

16 involved in statistical performance testing or

17 design analysis related to the NHTSA investigation.

18 Other Chrysler Group, LLC, employees or former

19 employees have personal knowledge related to the

NHTSA investigation."

21 Isn't that what it says?

A. Absolutely. And it's absolutely true.

23 Q. Did you sign this affidavit?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. Why did you sign this affidavit?

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Page 56

MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the 1

2 question.

22

3 A. It's to provide this information to

whoever was interested in getting it. It's that 4

simple.

BY MR. BUTLER: 6

7 Q. Who was interested in getting it?

8 A. That it was in connection with this case,

as I understand it.

10 O. The Walden case?

11

12 Q. Who asked you to sign this affidavit?

MS. OWENS: Objection --13

14 A. Counsel.

15 MS. OWENS: -- to the form of the

16 question.

17 A. Counsel.

18 BY MR. BUTLER:

19 O. Who?

20 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

21 question.

22 BY MR. BUTLER:

23 Q. Give me the name of the counsel.

24 It's think it's Margie Loeb.

25 Q. Were you in Michigan when you signed it?

A. Yes.

1

- 2 Q. Did you understand that this -- they asked
- 3 you to give this affidavit because they didn't want
- 4 your deposition to be taken?
- 5 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 6 question to the extent it calls for attorney/client
- 7 communications.
- 8 THE WITNESS: Do I answer it, or?
- 9 MS. OWENS: Don't reveal any
- 10 communications you had with Counsel.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. Isn't it true that the reason you signed
- 13 this affidavit was in an attempt to avoid giving the
- 14 deposition that you are here today having to give?
- 15 A. No. I think it was simply to lay out the
- 16 facts of what I did know and what I did not know.
- 17 Q. Look at Paragraph 4 of your affidavit,
- 18 sir.
- 19 A. Yeah.
- Q. Now, you swore that the statements in this
- 21 affidavit were true; correct?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- Q. In Paragraph 4, it says: "I have been
- 24 informed that plaintiffs in this case wish to take
- 25 my deposition."

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- 1 Do you see that?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Wasn't this affidavit filed together with
- 4 a Motion for Protective Order filed by Chrysler
- 5 Group to prevent your deposition from being taken?
- 6 A. I don't know about a protective order. I
- 7 know that I filed -- this was filed in connection
- 8 with your request to hear me out.
- 9 Q. Your affidavit also says in Paragraph 4,
- 10 the last line on the first page: "I am not aware of
- 11 other case allegations and have no personal
- 12 knowledge of the facts or circumstances of the
- 13 accident."
- 14 A. True.
- 15 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 16 A. Yes
- 17 Q. Since you -- you signed this affidavit on
- 18 July 7, 2014; correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Since you signed this affidavit, have you
- 21 learned anything about the accident in which Remi
- 22 Walden was burned?
- 23 A. I was briefed yesterday.
- Q. By whom?
- 25 A. By counsel.

Page 58 | 1 O. What counsel?

- 2 A. Counsel in this room.
- 3 O. Which ones?
- 4 A. All four --
- 5 O. That would be --
- 6 A. -- the middle gentleman excepted.
- 7 Q. That would be Ms. Owens, Mr. Westenberg,

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- 8 Ms. Van Der Wiele and Ms. Loeb?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. All right. Where?
- 11 A. In Detroit; in Auburn Hills to be exact.
- 12 Q. You were in Auburn Hills yesterday?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Were all of these counsel there?
- 15 A. Yes
- 16 Q. Okay. Did you have a meeting with counsel
- 17 before this deposition?
- 18 A. No. Well, yesterday.
- 19 Q. Yesterday. How long was the meeting?
- 20 A. Two-and-a-half hours.
- Q. Morning, or afternoon?
- 22 A. Morning.
- 23 Q. Had you met with anybody other than
- 24 yesterday morning to prepare for this deposition?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Prior to yesterday morning, and since you
- 2 signed your affidavit on July 7, 2014, where you3 said you didn't know anything about the accident in
- 5 said you didn't know anything about the accident in
- 4 which Remi Walden burned, had you asked anybody
- 5 about that accident?
- 6 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 7 question.
- 8 A. No.
- 9 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Do you admit that Chrysler Group, LLC, is
- 11 responsible for the 1999 Grand Cherokee?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 13 question; it calls for a legal conclusion.
- 14 You may answer.
- 15 A. I think it's assumed responsibility for
- 16 product liability on those -- on those vehicles,
- 17 yes.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Isn't it true that you and Chrysler Group
- 20 accepted responsibility for that vehicle and told
- 21 the Bankruptcy Court in New York, the Congress and
- 22 the American people that you were responsible for
- 23 the 1999 Grand Cherokee and all these Jeeps with
- 24 rear gas tanks?
- MS. OWENS: Same objection.

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A. I'm not sure what you said is true, but...

- 2 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 3 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that you personally
- 4 signed an agreement that was filed in the Bankruptcy
- 5 Court in New York where Chrysler Group accepted
- 6 liability for product liability claims on cars made
- 7 before 2009 and involved in wrecks after 2009?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #44 marked)
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 44, sir.
- 12 Is this a court document filed in the
- 13 United States Bankruptcy Court in New York?
- 14 A. That's what it says, yes.
- 15 Q. Is it a Stipulation and Agreed Order
- 16 Approving Amendment No. 4 to the Master Transaction
- 17 Agreement?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Is it signed by you as Chief Executive
- 20 Officer of Fiat S.p.A.?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. Is that your signature?
- 23 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Isn't it true that by this Stipulation and
- 25 Agreed Order, Chrysler Group accepted liability for

1 A. Yeah.

- Q. Is that a "yes"?
- 3 A. I do see the letter, yes.
- 4 Q. All right. Had you seen this letter
- 5 before?
- 6 A. No, I have not.
- 7 Q. It's on Chrysler stationery; correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- Q. The first line indicates that it's written
- 10 on behalf of Chrysler Group, LLC; correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Now, if you look at the second
- 13 paragraph -- and before I read the part of this
- 14 letter that I want the jury to hear -- Old Carco,
- 15 the name Old Carco refers to what was formerly known

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- 16 before the bankruptcy as Chrysler, LLC; correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. All right. In the third paragraph, second
- 19 sentence, isn't it true that Chrysler Group
- 20 represented to Senator Durbin, quote, "We will
- 21 announce today that the company will accept product
- 22 liability claims on vehicles manufactured by Old
- 23 Carco before June 10 that are involved in accidents
- 24 on or after that date," close quote.
- 25 Did I read that correctly?

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- 1 product liability claims involving these Jeeps with
- 2 rear gas tanks?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. It accepted liability for whatever is
- 6 contained in this amendment.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
 - Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler Group told the
- 9 United States Congress that it was accepting
- 10 liability for these vehicles?
- 11 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 12 question.
- 13 A. I'm not aware of any communication with
- 14 Congress on this matter directly, but...
- 15 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 16 Q. Do you know John T. Bozzella?
- 17 A. I know Mr. Bozzella.
- 18 Q. Is he still with Chrysler Group?
- 19 A. No, he's not.
- 20 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #45 marked)
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- O. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 45, sir.
- 23 Isn't this a letter from Mr. Bozzella to
- 24 United States Senator Richard Durbin dated
- 25 August 27, 2009?

1 A. Yes, you did.

- Q. That would be June 10, 2009; correct?
- 3 A. That would be -- what would be June 10th?
- 4 I'm sorry.

- 5 Q. Well, he refers to June 10. He's
- 6 obviously talking about June 10, 2009; correct?
- 7 A. June 10th, 2009, was the day we came out
- 8 of bankruptcy.
- 9 Q. Yes, sir. And that's the June 10 he's
- 10 talking about?
- 11 A. Yes, it is.
- 12 Q. All right. Now, this letter to Senator
- 13 Durbin was also copied to Chairman Patrick Leahy?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Who's also a senator?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Senator Arlen Specter?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Senator Herb Kohl?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you know this letter had been sent?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. It was sent to other members of Congress
- 24 as well, was it not?
- 25 A. I do not know.

1 Q. Now --

- 2 A. But this decision was agreed with me. I
- 3 mean, this was not written without my consent. I
- 4 had no idea that the letter had been issued, but the
- 5 agreement on the subject matter had been reached
- 6 with my office before.
- 7 Q. And you agreed to this decision?
- 8 A. I agreed with that decision.
- 9 Q. All right. And is it true that the Walden
- 10 Grand Cherokee, which was a 1999 model, was made and
- 11 sold by Chrysler before June 10, 2009?
- 12 A. It was purchased -- it was built before
- 13 2009.
- 14 Q. Is that a "yes"?
- 15 A. Yes, I think so.
- 16 Q. Is it true the date that Remi Walden died,
- 17 March 6, 2012, is after June 10, 2009?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Isn't it also true that Chrysler Group
- 20 explicitly told the press and the American public
- 21 the same thing they told the Bankruptcy Court in New
- 22 York and the same thing they told the United States
- 23 Congress: That Chrysler Group would accept
- 24 responsibility for product liability claims on
- 25 vehicles made before June 10, 2009, that are
- Page 67
- 1 involved in wrecks after June 10, 2009?
- 2 A. I think we have made that position public,
- 3 yes.
- 4 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #46 marked)
- 5 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 6 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 46.
- 7 This is, in fact, a press release from
- 8 Chrysler, is it not?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. And it says the same thing, tells the
- 11 press the same thing; right?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Excuse me, sir?
- 14 A. Yes, it does.
- 15 Q. Okay. A press release goes to the press;
- 16 right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. That's the purpose of it?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- Q. Will you agree with me, sir, that when
- 21 Chrysler Group have -- and you, have told the
- 22 Bankruptcy Court in New York, and when Chrysler
- 23 Group has told the United States Congress and the
- 24 press and people that Chrysler Group will accept
- 25 responsibility for product liability claims on this

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- 1 1999 Grand Cherokee, then it is dishonest for
- 2 Chrysler Group to tell Judge Chason, the judge in

Page 68

- 3 this case, the exact opposite?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 5 question.
- 6 A. If the statement that Chrysler has made is
- 7 in contradiction of what this press release says,
- 8 the answer is correct. I don't think we have.
- BY MR. BUTLER:
- 10 Q. The answer is that would be dishonest,
- 11 wouldn't it?
- 12 A. If we --
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 14 question.
- 15 A. If we denied what we said in the press
- 16 release it would be dishonest, yes.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Thank you, sir.
 - Isn't it true, sir -- well, let me strike
- 20 that --

19

24

- MS. OWENS: Jim, are we at a place --
- MR. BUTLER: Shortly.
- MS. OWENS: -- to break?
 - MR. BUTLER: Shortly.
- 25 ///

- l (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #47 marked)
 blic. 2 BY MR. BUTLER:
 - 3 Q. Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 47.
 - 4 Have you seen that before?
 - 5 A. No.
 - 6 Q. Well, this is -- I didn't -- I didn't copy
 - 7 all of Chrysler Group's Motion for Summary Judgment
 - 8 in this case because the case has already been --
 - 9 we've killed enough trees already in this
 - 10 litigation. But this is the first page and the
 - 11 second page and the last page of the Motion for
 - 12 Summary Judgment that Chrysler Group filed before
 - 13 Judge Chason in this case.
 - 14 Have you seen that before?
 - 15 A. No.
 - 16 Q. Look, if you would, at Page 2, first
 - 17 paragraph.
 - 18 A. Yeah.
 - 19 Q. Do you see that first paragraph?
 - 20 A. Yes.
 - 21 Q. It says, quote, "The plaintiffs'
 - 22 negligence claims are predicated on the contention
 - 23 that Chrysler Group is liable as a
 - 24 successor-in-interest to the actual manufacturer of
 - 25 the vehicle, DaimlerChrysler Corporation. This

1 premise is false because the claims against

- 2 DaimlerChrysler Corporation are barred by bankruptcy
- 3 and the Chrysler Group did not assume liability for
- 4 the claims alleged here."
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. That's a false statement, isn't it?
- 7 MS. OWENS: Objection --
- 8 A. It is not --
- 9 MS. OWENS: -- to the form of the
- 10 question.
- 11 A. It is not false. You are now asking me to
- 12 go back to my legal days. But I think that the
- 13 statement refers to negligence claims. We accepted
- 14 responsibility for product liability under the
- 15 amendment of October 2000- -- 2009, and which is
- 16 what is contained in the press release.
- 17 This is a different statement. I think it
- 18 says something else. I don't think it denies or
- 19 contradicts anything other in the press release or
- 20 on the October 2009 Amendment No. 4 to the
- 21 bankruptcy proceedings.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true, sir, that in this case
- 24 plaintiffs have alleged product liability claims?
- 25 A. I have --

- 1 you very much.
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And we are off the
- 3 record. The time is 10:25.
- 4 (Recess 10:25-10:45 a.m.)
- 5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And we are back on the

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- 6 record. The time is 10:46. You may continue, sir.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. Sir, did you talk to Chrysler Group
- 9 counsel during the break?
- 10 A. Yes, I did.
- 11 Q. Did you talk to them about this
- 12 deposition?
- 13 A. No.
 - Q. Did you talk to them about this case?
- 15 A. No

14

- 16 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #4 marked)
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. I asked you earlier if you knew anything
- 19 about this wreck. I'm going to show you Plaintiffs'
- 20 Exhibit No. 4.
- 21 I'll represent to you that's a photograph
- 22 of the Waldens' 1999 Grand Cherokee in which Remi
- 23 Walden was a passenger, on fire, on March 6, 2012.
 - Had you seen a photograph like that
- 25 before?

24

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- 1 MS. OWENS: Objection.
- A. -- no idea whether they have or not.
- 3 You're just asking me to opine on this statement.
- 4 This makes reference to negligence claims. We're
- 5 talking about something else.
- 6 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Well, let's look at this statement at the
- 8 end here, quote, "Chrysler Group did not assume
- 9 liability for the claims alleged here," close quote.
- 10 Do you see that?
- 11 A. Yes, which is I think it's making
- 12 reference to the negligence claims in the opening
- 13 portion of that paragraph.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. I think --
- 16 O. So if --
- 17 A. -- it's factually true.
- 18 Q. -- if Chrysler Group were to tell Judge
- 19 Chason that it was not liable for product liability
- 20 claims in this case, that would be false; correct?
- 21 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.
- 22 Q. All right. Thank you.
- 23 A. Can we --
- MR. BUTLER: You want to take a break?
- 25 THE WITNESS: Can we take a break? Thank

- 1 A. Yes, I saw it yesterday.
- 2 Q. Had you seen it before yesterday?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Have you seen photographs of any other
- 5 Jeeps with rear gas tanks that had been hit in the
- 6 rear on fire?
- 7 A. I saw it today when you showed me the
- 8 last --
- 9 Q. Have you seen any other photographs from
- 10 other wrecks?
- 11 A. No, I have not.
- 12 Q. Will you agree with me, sir, that this,
- 13 that is what's depicted in that photograph -- let me
- 14 hold it up for the videographer so the jury will
- 15 know which one we're talking about.
- Would you agree with me, sir, that this
- 17 should not happen?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 19 question.
- 20 A. I think all incidents like this should be
- 21 avoided, yes.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true that fires like this can be
- 24 avoided by putting the gas tanks in the midship's
- 25 location instead of in the crush zone only 11 inches

7

22

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1 from the back of the car?

- 2 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 3 question.
- 4 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 5 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 6 Q. Will you agree that if this result, this
- 7 Walden Jeep on fire, is more likely with a rear gas
- 8 tank than with a midship's gas tank, the people have
- 9 a right to know that?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 11 question.
- 12 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 13 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 14 Q. Would you agree with me that -- would you
- 15 agree with me, sir, that if the midship's gas tank
- 16 location is safer, the automaker has a duty to tell
- 17 the people that?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 19 question.
- 20 A. I'm not sure how to answer your question,
- 21 because when this vehicle was built, it was in
- 22 conformity with the rules that were in place at the
- 23 time. And when we analyzed the data, including this
- 24 event, potentially in terms of distributions, we
- 25 have found that the likelihood of an event like this

- 1 question.
- 2 A. I have no way of answering that question.

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- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Has Chrysler told the people that a
- 5 midship gas tank location is safer than the rear gas
- 6 tank location?
- A. To the best of my knowledge not.
- 8 Q. Have you wondered why Chrysler moved the
- 9 gas tank away from the rear in these Jeeps with --
- 10 that used to have rear gas tanks?
- 11 A. I personally have not wondered, but the
- 12 issue has been discussed, yes.
- 13 Q. All right. Have you seen any documents
- 14 that discuss the safety of rear versus midship's
- 15 locations for gas tanks?
- 16 A. I have not.
- 17 Q. Have you asked anybody at Chrysler whether
- 18 Chrysler has got any documents that discuss the
- 19 relative safety of midship's gas tanks locations --
- 20 gas tank locations versus rear gas tank locations?
- 21 A. I have not.
 - Q. Have you asked anybody whether safety was
- 23 a reason Chrysler moved the gas tanks in these Jeeps
- 24 away from the rear?
- 25 A. No, I haven't.

- 1 is fundamentally not different than it would have
- 2 been for any other competitor car in that class.
- 3 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as not
- 4 responsive.
- 5 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 6 Q. But in the case the Judge doesn't grant my
- 7 motion, you said, quote, "we have found," close
- 8 quote. Who is "we"?
- 9 A. I spoke on behalf of Chrysler.
- 10 Q. Chrysler Group has found?
- 11 A. Chrysler Group.
- 12 Q. So, once again, you're just repeating what
- 13 people have told you?
- 14 A. Yes, which is, unfortunately, comes with
- 15 my role as CEO of the group, yes.
- 16 Q. Like you swore in your affidavit on
- 17 July 7, 2014, you haven't done any of this
- 18 investigation yourself, have you?
- 19 A. I have not done any of the statistical 20 analysis or interpretation of the data.
- Q. So let me ask my question again.
- Would you agree with me that if the
- 23 midship gas tank location is safer, the automaker
- 24 has a duty to tell the people that?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

- 1 Q. Are you aware that Chrysler Group --
- 2 Chrysler Group claims there are no documents at all
- 3 where safety is even mentioned as a reason that the
- 4 gas tank was moved away from the rear for the Grand
- 5 Cherokee?
- 6 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 7 question.
- 8 A. I wasn't aware of what you just said.
- 9 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 10 Q. Was not?
- 11 A. I am not aware.
- 12 Q. Do you find that to be believable?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 14 question.
- 15 A. If it came from Chrysler, the answer is
- 16 yes.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. How long have you been in the automotive
- 19 business?
- 20 A. 11 years; 12 to be exact.
- 21 Q. Well, are you familiar with John Olson who
- 22 is Chrysler's expert design engineer in this case?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Have you read his deposition?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Would you agree that moving a gas tank on
- 2 a vehicle from the very back of the vehicle to a
- 3 midship's location is a major design change?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Before you told the American people that
- 6 these rear gas tanks were, quote, "absolutely safe,"
- 7 close quote, did you ask anyone the question: Then
- 8 why did we move the gas tank away from the rear?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. When did Fiat last sell a passenger car
- 11 with a rear gasoline tank?
- 12 A. I do not know.
- 13 Q. Does Fiat sell any passenger cars now with
- 14 a rear gasoline tank?
- 15 A. I do not know.
- 16 Q. When did you become CEO of Fiat?
- 17 A. June 1st, 2004.
- 18 Q. In the last ten-and-a-half years as CEO of
- 19 Fiat, have you seen any Fiat passenger cars that had
- 20 a gasoline tank in the rear behind the axle?
- 21 A. I may have.
- Q. Do you recall any?
- 23 A. If it was, it was in either Latin America
- 24 or in India.
- Q. Do you recall seeing any, is my first

1 you may be right.

- Q. I've read a bunch of articles about you.
- 3 I thought you were a car guy, you were involved in

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- 4 the design of cars.
- 5 A. No, I'm not. I'm not an engineer.
- 6 Q. Do you know whether or not Fiat is selling
- 7 any car or passenger cars in this country that have
- 8 gasoline tanks at the rear?
 - A. Fiat as Fiat?
- 10 O. Yeah.
- 11 A. Or Fiat as Chrysler?
- 12 Q. Fiat as Fiat.
- 13 A. To the best of my knowledge, not.
- 14 Q. We already -- we've already established
- 15 that with Chrysler.
- Will you agree that if the rear gas tank
- 17 on a car is, quote, "vulnerable to rear impact,"
- 18 close quote, that is anything but absolutely safe?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 20 question.
- 21 A. No, I disagree.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Will you agree that if the rear gas tank
- 24 on a car is, quote, "vulnerable to rear impact,"
- 25 that is dangerous?

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- 1 question?
- 2 A. No.
- Q. Do you think that maybe Fiat is selling
- 4 passenger cars with rear gas tanks in Latin America
- 5 or India?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. Well, you mentioned that. There must be
- 8 some reason you mentioned it.
- 9 A. I said it's the only places where that
- 10 could have in fact have happened. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Why are those the only places where that
- 12 could have happened?
- 13 A. Simply because of the way in which the
- 14 portfolio is developed in Latin America
- 15 historically.
- 16 Q. What does that mean?
- 17 A. It's based on a standard architecture that
- 18 has been there for a long period of time.
- 19 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that Fiat sells no
- 20 cars with rear -- no passenger cars with rear
- 21 gasoline tanks?
- 22 A. I have no way of disagreeing with what you
- 23 said.
- Q. Well, can you agree with it?
- 25 A. I have no way of knowing, so I can't --

1 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

- 2 question.
- 3 A. No, I don't agree.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. Will you agree that if the rear gas tank
- 6 on a car is, quote, "vulnerable to rear impact," the
- 7 automaker has a duty to fix that?
- 8 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 9 question.
- 10 A. No, I don't.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 2 Q. Will you agree that if the rear gas tank
- 13 on a car is, quote, "vulnerable to rear impact," the
- 14 automaker has a duty to warn people about that?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 16 question.17 A. No, I don't. And I think I have tried to
- 18 explain that we do carry out extensive analysis to
- 19 determine whether effectively that we have what I
- 20 consider to be design defects or flaws in our
- 21 vehicles, and we carry out that analysis pretty
- 22 thoroughly and pretty extensively.
- 23 And our analysis suggested there has
- 24 been -- there is no defect, and it's a conclusion
- 25 that has been shared with NHTSA and with which NHTSA

1 has agreed.

- 2 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 3 nonresponsive.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. And, again, sir, we're going to get to
- 6 your deal with NHTSA, believe me.
- 7 MS. OWENS: Move to strike the colloquy.
- 8 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 9 Q. Will you agree that if Chrysler knew that
- 10 the gas tank on the 1999 Grand Cherokee would be
- 11 crushed in -- would be crushed in rear impacts, that
- 12 is anything but, quote, "absolutely safe," close
- 13 quote?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 15 question.
- 16 A. I disagree.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Do you deny that Chrysler knew that the
- 19 gas tank on the 1999 Grand Cherokee would be crushed
- 20 in rear impacts?
- 21 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 22 question.
- 23 A. I don't -- I don't know how to answer your
- 24 question. There certainly was information within
- 25 Chrysler that looked at these events and tried to

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1 tank will be crushed in rear impacts, then that

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- 2 means that car has a safety-related defect?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 5 question.
- 6 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 7 Q. That also mean -- will you agree that
- 8 means that car is dangerous?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. Will you agree that means that car
- 13 presents an unreasonable risk of injury or death to
- 14 occupants?
- 15 A. No. And, effectively, the rules that were
- 16 put in place by NHTSA in connection with fuel
- 17 systems did not reflect any of what you said.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 19 part as not responsive.
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 21 Q. Did you know that Mr. Estes' job at
- 22 Chrysler for the last 16 years has been, quote,
- 23 "problem solving," close quote?
- 24 A. We have a number of problem solvers inside
- 25 Chrysler, but I did not know that he had that

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- 1 understand them in the context of how the overall
- 2 population of cars or SUVs on the market would have
- 3 performed.
- 4 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 5 part as not responsive.
- 6 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 7 Q. You told us that you don't know who
- 8 Mr. Estes is, and you hadn't read his deposition.
- 9 Has anybody told you what he said about that?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 11 question.
- 12 A. No.
- 13 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 14 Q. Has anybody told you that Chrysler
- 15 engineer Judson Estes testified under oath on
- $16\;\;$ December 10, 2014, that Chrysler knew the gas tank
- 17 on the 1999 Grand Cherokee would be crushed in rear
- 18 impacts?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 21 A. No.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Will you agree that if the rear gas tank
- 24 on a car is vulnerable to rear impact, and is in a
- 25 known crush zone, and the automaker knows the gas

1 specific role.

- Q. Did you know that he's supposed to be in
- 3 Italy now?
- 4 A. On business, or on vacation?
- 5 Q. Did you know that Mr. Estes is supposed to
- 6 be in Italy having been transferred from Chrysler
- 7 Group to Fiat?
- 8 A. Doesn't make much of a difference now.
- 9 It's all part of one large entity, but...
- 10 Q. Did you know that?
- 11 A. I didn't even know who Mr. Estes was. I
- 12 told you that this morning.
- 13 Q. So you know nothing about Mr. Estes?
- 14 A. No; nor of his travel plans or where he
- 15 is.
- 16 Q. Would you agree with me, sir, that if an
- 17 automaker can design a vehicle so the gas tank at
- 18 the rear is not -- strike that.
- Would you agree with me, sir, that if an
- 20 automaker can design a vehicle so the gas tank is
- 21 not vulnerable to rear impact, then the automaker
- 22 has a duty to do so?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form --
- 24 A. No
- MS. OWENS: -- of the question.

1 BY MR. BUTLER:

- Q. Would you agree with me, sir, that the one
- 3 and only crash test at 50 miles an hour that
- 4 Chrysler ever did on a Grand Cherokee with a rear
- 5 gas tank proves that Chrysler knew that gas tank
- 6 would be crushed in rear impacts?
- 7 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A. I do not know.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. Have you read the crash test report for
- 12 the crash test run by Chrysler on November 18, 1999?
- 13 A. No, I have not.
- 14 Q. Have you talked to anybody about that?
- 15 A. No, I don't -- I haven't.
- 16 Q. Have you seen it?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. So you told the American people on more
- 19 than one occasion that these Jeeps with rear gas
- 20 tanks are, quote, "absolutely safe," close quote,
- 21 but you never even read or knew about the only crash
- 22 test where a Chrysler hit the back of one of these
- 23 Jeeps at 50 miles an hour; is that right?
- 24 A. True, we -- that was not -- that is not
- 25 the proper definition of what we consider to be

1 A. That's exactly why NHTSA set up

2 regulations to try and deal with positions of fuel

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- 3 systems and so on.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 5 nonresponsive.
- 6 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 7 Q. Let me repeat my question.
- 8 Isn't that why automakers, including
- 9 Chrysler, have tested cars to rear impacts at
- 10 50-miles-per-hour speeds because they know that's
- 11 going to happen in the real world?
- MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 13 A. I'm not sure how to answer that question,
- 14 but I would assume that's probably true.
- 15 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #15-A marked)
- 16 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 17 Q. Let me show you the crash test I'm talking
- 18 about. Let me show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit
- 19 No. 15-A.
- Now, this is a safety test vehicle crash
- 21 test letter. And you see at the top, it says,
- 22 "produced Subject to Protective Order, Walden versus
- 23 Chrysler Group, LLC."
 - Do you see that?
- 25 A. Yes. Sorry. Yeah.

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- 1 safety.
- Q. Would you agree with me that cars get hit
- 3 in the rear in real world wrecks all the time?
- 4 A. I have no idea, but I would assume they
- 5 happen with some frequency, yes.
- 6 Q. Would you agree with me that cars get hit
- 7 in the rear at 50 miles an hour --
- 8 A. I have no --
- 9 Q. -- with some frequency?
- 10 A. I have no idea.
- 11 Q. Would you agree with me that a car getting
- 12 hit in the rear at 50 miles an hour out there on the
- 13 roads is foreseeable to automakers?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 13 question.
- 16 A. I think we -- all automakers, including
- 17 Chrysler, will think that's a possible event. I
- 18 don't know how likely it is, but it's possible.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. All right. Well, isn't that why
- 21 automakers, including Chrysler, have tested cars to
- 22 rear impacts at 50-mile-an-hour speeds because they
- 23 know it's going to happen?
- 24 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 25 question.

Q. The test date is November 18, 1999;

2 correct?

24

1

- 3 A. Yeah, I'm looking for the date. Yeah,
- 4 yeah, the 11 -- yeah.
- 5 Q. I think I have highlighted what I was
- 6 going to ask you about --
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. -- to save us time.
- 9 A. The printing is a bit bizarre, but anyway,
- 10 yes.
- 11 Q. The target speed is 50.1 miles per hour;
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. Isn't it true that for this crash test at
- 15 50 miles an hour Chrysler put a cage around the gas
- 16 tank to reinforce it and put in a steel bumper beam
- 17 between the gas tank and the rear of the car?
- 18 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 19 Q. Well, I have highlighted it for you. Look
- 20 under Build Condition.
- 21 A. No, I can tell; but we're trying to
- 22 decipher the English that's written here.
 - Q. Well, do you see under Build Condition --
- 24 A. No, I understand, but it's called the
- 25 "structural mule," which is not a production car.

Q. Well, I think we can stipulate -- you may

- 2 know this. Do you know that what Chrysler was doing
- 3 in this test was trying to reinforce the rear gas
- 4 tank to see if that would be enough to still use a
- 5 rear gas tank for the 2005 model year Grand
- 6 Cherokee, which was to be the next generation
- 7 vehicle? Did you know that?
- 8 A. I have no idea.
- 9 Q. Okay. Did you know that after this test
- 10 Chrysler decided, well, for the next generation
- 11 Grand Cherokee we're not going to put the tank at
- 12 the rear, we'll put it midship? Do you know that?
- 13 A. The only thing I know is that it wasn't in
- 14 the back anymore in 2005. That's all I know. I
- 15 don't know any of the --
- 16 Q. Did you know that decision was made after 17 this crash test?
- 18 A. No, I did not.
- 19 Q. All right. Now, back to my original
- 20 question.
- 21 Look under Build Condition, first bullet
- 22 point. Doesn't it say, quote, "structural cage to
- 23 represent '04 model year concept," close quote?
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. And doesn't it talk about two different

- 1 Q. Yes, sir.
- 2 Isn't it true that Chrysler never warned

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- 3 anybody that for a 50-mile-an-hour rear crash
- 4 Chrysler had concluded the gas tank had to be
- 5 reinforced with a cage and a steel bumper beam?
- 6 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 7 question.
- 8 A. I don't think that that was Chrysler's
- 9 belief at the time, but it's -- I have no way of
- 10 knowing.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler Group has
- 13 never warned anybody that the engineers at Chrysler
- 14 concluded that before they hit the back of a 1999
- 15 Grand Cherokee at 50 miles an hour, they had to put
- 16 a cage around the gas tank and a steel bumper beam
- 17 behind the gas tank to protect it?
- 18 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 19 question.
- 20 A. I don't think there was an obligation to
- 21 do any of that.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. My question, sir, wasn't whether there was
- 24 an obligation to do any of that. My -- because
- 25 that, in fact, happened.

- 1 bracket reinforcements to the gas tank?
- 2 A. That's what it says.
- 3 Q. And then it says, "KJ body rear bumper
- 4 beam installed."
- 5 Do you see that?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. And then on the next page you've actually
- 8 got a picture of what Chrysler did to the 19- -- to
- 9 the 1999 Grand Cherokee before -- rear gas tank
- 10 before they hit it at 50 miles an hour.
- 11 MS. OWENS: Objection.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. You see that, don't you?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 16 A. I guess. I don't know.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Well, don't you see that steel cage around
- 19 the gas tank?
- 20 A. I see a steel cage, yes.
- Q. It's in green?
- 22 A. No, I can tell the green, yes.
- Q. And you see that what they called a rear
- 24 bumper beam in red, don't you?
- 25 A. That's what it looks like.

- 1 My question is, isn't it true that
- 2 Chrysler Group has never warned anybody that the
- 3 engineers at Chrysler concluded that before they hit
- 4 the back of a 1999 Grand Cherokee at 50 miles per
- 5 hour, they were going to put a cage around the tank
- 6 and a steel bumper beam to protect it?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 9 question.
- 10 A. But I can -- if I can just explain. There
- 11 are a number of tests that get carried out by the
- 12 Safety Office, and there are a number of structural
- 13 mules that are created as a car is built, and I can
- 14 tell you this on current production models. This is
- 15 not indicative of any solution that would ultimately
- 16 be adopted by anybody in the construction of
- 17 mass-produced cars.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the --
- 19 A. It is one -- it is one of the things that
- 20 happens within the development cycle.
- 21 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 22 part as nonresponsive.
- 23 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler Group never
- 25 sold a Grand Cherokee with those reinforcements?

A. I have no way of knowing.

- 2 Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler -- strike
- 3 that.
- 4 Isn't it true that the Waldens' 1999 Grand
- 5 Cherokee had none of those safety features?
- 6 A. I have no way of knowing that.
- 7 Q. Isn't it true that the only protection the
- 8 gas tank on the Waldens' 1999 Grand Cherokee had
- 9 from rear impact was a strip of plastic and some
- 10 Styrofoam?
- 11 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 12 question.
- 13 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 14 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #3 marked)
- 15 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 16 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 3.
- 17 Have you seen that photograph before?
- 18 A. No, I have not.
- 19 Q. Do you recognize that as the rear of a
- 20 1999 Grand Cherokee with the fascia -- the plastic
- 21 fascia trim removed?
- 22 A. It's possible, yes.
- Q. Do you see the fuel tank -- the gas tank
- 24 down there?
- 25 A. Yes, I do.

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- 1 Q. Does that gas tank look like it's
- 2 adequately protected to you?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. I have no way of expressing a view on
- 6 this.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. Isn't it obvious, sir, that a piece of
- 9 plastic trim and Styrofoam is no protection at all
- 10 for this Grand Cherokee in rear impact?
- 11 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 12 question.
- 13 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 14 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 15 Q. Isn't it obvious, sir, that a piece of
- 16 plastic trim and some Styrofoam is especially no
- 17 protection at all for this Grand Cherokee when it's
- 18 hit in the rear in an underride wreck?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 21 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Now, Chrysler has asserted in this case
- 24 that other automakers were also putting gas tanks at
- 25 the rear. Were you aware of that?

1 A. Yes

- 2 Q. And Chrysler appears to have claimed that
- 3 because other automakers put gas tanks at the rear
- 4 that it was okay for Chrysler to do it. Are you
- 5 familiar with that argument?
- 6 A. Yes.
 - Q. Isn't that just like a kid telling his
- 8 mama, "All the other kids were doing it, so it was
- 9 okay"?

7

- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 11 question.12 A. I'm not sure I understand the parallel,
- 13 but...
- 14 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 15 Q. That argument is not true, is it?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 18 A. I don't know whether it's not true. I
- 19 think it is accurate in the sense that it reflects a
- 20 fact that all automakers were adopting particular
- 21 solutions in the building of cars, which were
- 22 supported, approved, and in conformity with the
- 23 existing regulations in the United States, and that
- 24 the performance of our vehicles compared to the
- 25 overall class was not distinguishably different,

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- 1 and, therefore, there was no safety issue in
- 2 connection with these cars.
- 3 And it's a position that was detailed and
- 4 explained in -- pretty carefully to NHTSA. NHTSA
- 5 ultimately agreed with our conclusion.
- 6 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 7 part as nonresponsive.
- 8 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Sir, isn't it true that by 1999, even for
- 10 just SUV cars, the overwhelming majority of
- 11 automakers had moved the gas tanks away from the
- 12 rear and put them in the midship's location?
- 13 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 14 Q. Have you seen the tank road map document
- 15 that Chrysler Group itself produced to us in this
- 16 case?
- 17 A. No, I have not.
- 18 Q. Were you aware that even as of 1999
- 19 something like 31 SUVs manufactured and sold in this
- 20 country had midship's gas tanks, and only five had
- 21 rear gas tanks?
- 22 A. No, I do not know.
- Q. Isn't it true that in the letter from the
- 24 Office of Defects Investigation, ODI said that --
- 25 ODI -- you understand ODI means Office of Defects

1 Investigation?

2 A. Yes.

- Q. Isn't it true that ODI had done a survey
- 4 for the 2002-2003 model cars, not just limited to
- 5 SUVs, but including SUVs, pickup trucks, minivans,
- 6 full-size vans and passenger cars, and had found --
- 7 this is on Page 3, the same paragraph -- had found
- 8 that 65 vehicles had fuel tanks located ahead of the
- 9 rear axle; six vehicles had fuel tanks over the rear
- 10 axle; and only four vehicles had tanks located
- 11 behind the rear axle? Isn't that what they found?
- 12 A. That's what it says.
- 13 Q. Do you disagree with that conclusion?
- 14 A. I have no way of disagreeing.
- 15 Q. Now, of the four vehicles that ODI had
- 16 found that had rear gas tanks, isn't it true that
- 17 only two of them were SUVs whose gas tanks were
- 18 higher off the ground than passenger cars --
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 20 question.
- 21 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 22 Q. -- regular passenger cars?
- 23 A. I would assume based on my knowledge of
- 24 the Mustang and the Grand Marquis, I would assume,
- 25 yes.

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- Q. And those two were the Jeep Grand Cherokee
- 2 and the Jeep Liberty; correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Okay. Do you agree with the Office of
- 5 Defects Investigation that the height of the gas
- 6 tank off the ground is important?
 - A. For SUVs in general, yes.
- 8 Q. Well, the height -- if an SUV has a rear
- 9 gas tank, the fact that the gas tank is higher off
- 10 the ground is important with respect to the danger
- 11 that SUV might pose in rear impacts; do you agree?
- 12 A. I have no --
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the question.
- 15 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 16 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Well, isn't it merely logical that if the
- 18 back of the vehicle is higher off the ground and the
- 19 gas tank is in the back, then there is greater
- 20 danger of an underride collision?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 22 question.
- 23 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Aren't most vehicles on the road passenger

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1 cars, sedans or coupes?

2 A. I don't have the statistical information

3 to back up your assertion.

- Q. Well, if one of these Jeeps with a gas
- 5 tank in the rear, like is depicted on Plaintiffs'
- 6 Exhibit No. 3 -- and I'll ask the videographer to
- 7 look at that -- if one of these Jeeps with the rear
- 8 higher up off the ground and the gas tank hanging
- 9 down below the rear gets hit by a Chevrolet Impala
- 10 in the rear, isn't it likely that the striking car
- 11 is going to hit right into the gas tank?
- 12 A. I don't know the Chevrolet Impala.
- 13 Q. Isn't it more dangerous?
- 14 A. That's not a car I manufacture.
- 15 Q. Isn't it more dangerous if the striking
- 16 car in a rear impact actually hits the gas tank?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 A. No way of knowing.
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Have you seen pictures of the gas tank on
- 22 the Waldens' 1999 Grand Cherokee taken after this
- 23 wreck occurred?
- 24 A. No, I have not.
- Q. Did you know that the gas tank -- the rear

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- 1 gas tank on the Waldens' Grand Cherokee was crushed
- 2 up against the axle?
- 3 A. No, I did not know that.
- 4 Q. Did you know that the axle didn't move,
- 5 did not move?
- 6 A. Did not know that.
- 7 Q. Did you know that the area under the
- 8 Waldens' Grand Cherokee where a midship's gas tank
- 9 could have been located was undamaged?
- 10 A. No, did not know that.
- 11 Q. Did you know that Chrysler Group has
- 12 admitted in this case that it could have put the gas
- 13 tank on the Waldens' 1999 Grand Cherokee in the
- 14 midship's position?
- 15 A. I'm not aware of that.
- 16 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that there was a time
- 17 in the distant past prior to the 1970s where a lot
- 18 of cars had gas tanks located in the rear, but
- 19 automakers started moving them after the Pinto
- 20 controversy?
- 21 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 22 question.
- 23 A. That's a long, long time ago. I don't
- 24 have any recollection.
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

- 1 Q. Have you read anything about that?
- 2 A. No, not on -- not lately.
- 3 Q. Well, you said several times today things
- 4 to the effect that other automakers were using rear
- 5 gas tanks. Have you done any study of the history
- 6 of gas tank location on cars in the United States?
- 7 A. No, I have not.
- 8 Q. Okay. Well, then I gather that you would
- 9 not be able to disagree with the conclusions of the
- 10 professional engineers at the Office of Defects
- 11 Investigation who wrote on Page 5 of the June 3,
- 12 2013 letter that after Pinto, manufacturers began to
- 13 adopt designs in which fuel tanks were located in
- 14 less vulnerable locations than behind the rear axle.
- You can't disagree with that, can you?
- 16 A. No. But I think we've answered that
- 17 statement in the white paper that was issued by
- 18 Chrysler after the issuance of this letter.
- 19 Q. Isn't it true -- well, strike that.
- I guess it's also true that since you
- 21 haven't researched it yourself, you cannot disagree
- 22 with the conclusion that the Office of Defects
- 23 Investigation wrote about on Page 3 of their June 3,
- 24 2013, letter that Chrysler's decision to place the
- 25 Grand Cherokee and first generation Liberty fuel

- Page 104
- 1 benefits of placing the tank in front of the rear
- 2 axle," close quote? Do you disagree with that?3 A. I have no way of knowing.
- Q. You did read the letter?
- 5 A. Yeah. But, Mr. Butler, this letter was
- 6 answered in detail by -- by Chrysler. You make
- reference to this letter as being the definitive
- 8 view of the assessment of the technical office.
- And I think that NHTSA has also been
- 10 absolutely clear that the vehicle that we're
- 11 speaking about here was not -- didn't require any
- 12 adjustments, that it was effectively full -- fully
- 13 in conformity with the existing regulations, and it
- 14 performed exactly like all other vehicles in its
- 15 class did in the marketplace. And this is on the
- 16 record with NHTSA.
- 17 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 18 nonresponsive.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 20 Q. "Performed exactly like all other
- 21 vehicles." You know, sir, don't you, that's a false
- 22 statement?
- A. If you can give me access to the white
- 24 paper, I can make reference to a graph that has
- 25 been --

- 1 tanks aft of the rear axle contravene the industry
- 2 trends as well as Chrysler's practices in non-Jeep
- 3 vehicles to place fuel tanks in less vulnerable
- 4 locations.
- 5 You can't disagree with that either, can
- 6 you?
- 7 MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A. Where are you reading from?
- 10 MS. OWENS: (Indicating).
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. Last paragraph.
- 13 A. I have no way of disagreeing or agreeing.
- 14 But I think we've answered the statement with the
- 15 white paper that Chrysler issued.
- 16 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that Chrysler was
- 17 certainly aware of the safety benefits of placing
- 18 the tank in front of the rear axle before it put gas
- 19 tanks on these Jeeps behind the rear axle?
- 20 A. I have no way of knowing that.
- 21 Q. Can you disagree with the conclusion
- 22 reached by the engineers at the Office of Defects
- 23 Investigation and stated on Page 2 of this letter,
- 24 the last paragraph, second sentence, which reads,
- 25 quote, "Chrysler was certainly aware of the safety

- Page 105
- THE WITNESS: Do we have a copy of the white paper here?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Just...
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. Sir, Chrysler may -- Chrysler Group may
- 6 contend that it performed like other vehicles, but
- 7 the Office of Defects Investigation concluded that
- 8 that contention was fraud -- false, did they not?
- 9 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 10 question.
- 11 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 12 Q. Let me restate that.
- 13 Chrysler Group may contend that the Jeeps
- 14 with rear gas tanks performed like other vehicles,
- 15 but isn't it true that the Office of Defects
- 16 Investigation rejected that contention?
- 17 A. That is not true in connection with the
- 18 Grand Cherokee from this particular year. I think
- 19 NHTSA was absolutely clear that it exempted that car
- 20 from any type of treatment. They considered it to
- 21 be absolutely safe.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 23 nonresponsive.
- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 25 Q. Back to my question.

Page 106 When the engineers at ODI wrote, quote,

- when the engineers at ODI wrote, quote,
- 2 "Chrysler was certainly aware of the safety benefits
- 3 of placing the tank in front of the rear axle," they
- 4 quoted a Chrysler document, didn't they?
- 5 A. But Mr. Butler, you need to tell me what
- 6 page you're reading from.
- 7 Q. Same page, Page 2.
- 8 A. Yeah. But you didn't tell me. Please
- 9 tell me.
- 10 Q. All right. Let me -- I'll strike my
- 11 question and do it over again.
- 12 A. Sure.
- 13 Q. When the engineers at ODI wrote on Page 2,
- 14 the last paragraph, second sentence --
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 O. -- quote: "Chrysler was certainly aware
- 17 of the safety benefits of placing the tank in front
- 18 of the rear axle," close quote, they cited to a
- 19 Chrysler document, did they not?
- 20 A. They may have. There was an internal
- 21 memorandum, apparently, according to this.
- 22 Q. They cited to an August 24, 1978, Chrysler
- 23 internal memorandum written by Chrysler engineer
- 24 L. L. Baker; correct?
- 25 A. That's what it says.

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- 1 Q. Okay. 1978 was 37 years ago, was it not?
- 2 A. Thereabouts.
- 3 Q. Sir, isn't it just plain old common sense
- 4 that 11 inches from the back of the car -- of a car
- 5 is not a safe place to put a tank full of gasoline?
- 6 A. I have --
- 7 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A. -- no way of knowing.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. Sir, isn't it just plain old common sense
- 12 that in front of the rear axle in the midship's
- 13 location is a much safer place for a tank full of
- 14 gasoline?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form.
- 16 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Isn't it true that the Office of Defects
- 19 Investigation cited this wreck in which Remi Walden
- 20 died as an example of what's wrong with Jeeps with
- 21 rear gas tanks?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 23 question.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

- 1 O. Pardon?
- 2 A. I think it has. I don't know. I don't
- 3 remember exactly.
 - Q. Look at Page 8.
- 5 A. Yeah. All right.
- 6 Q. I think it's Page 8.
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. Don't you recognize that as a photograph
- of Remi Walden's Jeep on fire?
- 10 A. Now that I've seen the other picture, yes,
- 11 I do.
- 12 Q. To your knowledge, has Chrysler, or
- 13 Chrysler Group, ever defended a case in an actual
- 14 trial where a Jeep with rear gas tanks got hit in
- 15 the rear causing a fire and burn injuries or death?
- 16 A. I do not know.
- 17 Q. Have you asked?
- 18 A. No, I have not.
- 19 Q. Sir, isn't it probable that if the gas
- 20 tank in the Waldens' 1999 Grand Cherokee had been in
- 21 the midship's location, there would have been no
- 22 fire?

24

- 23 A. I have no --
 - MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 25 question.

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- 1 A. I have no way of knowing.
- 2 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true, sir, that if there had been
- 4 no fire, Remi Walden would not have died on March 6,
- 5 2012?
- 6 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 7 question.
- 8 A. It seems logical to me, but I don't have
- 9 the facts.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 O. Let's talk about this NHTSA issue now.
- MR. BUTLER: Go off the video just a
- 13 moment. Let me get my files in order.
- 14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And we are off the
- 15 video.
- 16 (Off video record.)
- 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And we are back on
- 18 video. The time is 11:24.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Sir, from whom did you learn in May of
- 21 2013 that a recall request was a possibility?
- 22 A. From Mark Chernoby and Doug Betts.
- Q. Where did they learn it?
- 24 A. I have no idea. I would assume from
- 25 either direct interfaces with NHTSA, or from people

Page 110 1 who had a direct interface with NHTSA.

- Q. How did you learn about that?
- A. They came into my office and told me. 3
- 4 Q. Where?
- 5 A. In Detroit, in Auburn Hills.
- (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #54 marked) 6
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. I'll show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 54.
- 9 Do you recognize that place?
- 10 A. To be honest, no.
- 11 Q. Have you ever been there before?
- 12 A. I -- if I don't recognize it, it's kind of
- 13 hard for me to tell what it is.
- 14 Q. Well, let me help you out. I'll get a
- 15 close-up.
- 16 A. Good.
- 17 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #55 marked)
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 55. 19
- 20 Does this help refresh your recollection?
- 21 Do you recognize it now?
- A. No. 22
- 23 Well, I'll keep trying.
- 24 Keep on showing me pictures, I might get A.
- 25 better.

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- 1 Q. Yep.
- 2 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #56 marked)
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 4 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 56.
- 5 Does that help refresh your recollection
- 6 and help you remember that building?
- A. That is probably more like it, yes.
- 8 Q. Do you remember going to that building?
- 9 I remember going to a building like this, A.
- 10 yes.
- 11 Q. You were there on June 10, 2013, were you
- 12 not?
- 13 A. It sounds right.
- (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #57 marked) 14
- 15 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Well, let me show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16
- 17 No. 57.
- 18 A. Okav.
- 19 Q. Have you seen this document before?
- A. No, because it was addressed to Jody, I 20
- 21 think.
- 22 Q. Nobody showed you that before?
- A. No. I think I was told about the contents 23
- 24 of this document here.
- 25 Q. Told?

- 1 A. I may even have been given a copy, but...
- 2 Q. Well, were you told verbally, or was this
- e-mail chain forwarded to you? 3
- 4 A. It could have been forwarded to me. I
- could have been told on the phone.
- Q. Do you have any e-mails about this meeting
- 7 you had in Chicago on June 10, 2013?
- 8 A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. Have you looked?
- 10 A. No, I have not.
- Has anybody asked you to look? 11
- 12 A.
- 13 You use e-mails a lot, don't you? Q.
- 14 I use some, yes.
- 15 Well, I read in one article, I have got it
- 16 here somewhere, that you and Mr. Elkann -- is that
- how you pronounce his name?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Pardon?
- 20 Yes. Α.
- Elkann, he's chairman of Fiat? 21
- 22 Yes, he is.
- 23 Q. That you and Mr. Elkann exchange dozens of
- 24 text messages and e-mails every day?
- 25 A. I don't think we ever used the term
 - Page 113
- "e-mails," but anyway. 1
- Text messages?
- 3 A. Yes --
- 4 O. All right.
- 5 A. -- which is not an e-mail.
- Q. Do you have any text messages about this
- 7 meeting that occurred in Chicago on June 10, 2013?
- 8 A. To the best of my recollection not.
- 9 Q. Has anybody asked you to look for any?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. So back to my question about this
- 12 Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 57, did anybody ever forward
- 13 this e-mail chain to you?
- A. They could have. I don't remember having 14
- 15 it. But it doesn't make any difference. I'm aware
- 16 of the meeting.
- 17 Q. Has anybody asked -- any of Chrysler
- Group's lawyers asked you to check your e-mails to
- 19 see if you got these e-mails between Ms. Trapasso
- and David Strickland? 20
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 21
- 22 question, calls for attorney/client communications.
- 23 I instruct him not to answer.
- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 25 Q. Has anybody -- are you going to answer the

1 question? You're supposed to say "no."

- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay. Has anybody asked you to provide to
- 4 Chrysler Group's lawyers any e-mails that you had
- 5 about this meeting in Chicago on June 10, 2013?
- MS. OWENS: To the extent it calls for
- 7 attorney/client communications, I will tell the
- 8 witness not to answer. If he can answer it by
- 9 referring to other communications from
- 10 non-attorneys, he may answer.
- 11 A. I may have -- I may have had an exchange
- 12 of e-mails about this with non-attorneys, and it
- 13 could have been Chernoby, it could have been
- 14 anybody, Doug Betts, Jody Trapasso. It could have
- 15 been anybody.
- 16 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 17 Q. Have you looked for them?
- 18 A. No, I have not. But even the change of
- 19 substance, I'm fully aware of the meeting. I'm...
- Q. We're talking about two different things
- 21 right now. We're talking about documents, and I
- 22 want to talk about the meeting now.
- 23 The meeting took place at the FAA regional
- 24 office about a mile from Chicago O'Hare Airport;
- 25 right?

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- 1 A. Yeah. Yes. Yes.
- Q. The location was arranged by David
- 3 Strickland; correct?
- 4 A. Yes, he did.
- 5 Q. David Strickland was then the
- 6 administrator of NHTSA; correct?
- 7 A. Yes, he was.
- 8 Q. He was the top guy at -- top person at
- 9 NHTSA; correct?
- 10 A. He was the head of NHTSA at the time.
- 11 Q. All right. The meeting on June 10th was
- 12 on a Monday; correct?
- 13 A. I don't know whether the -- that day was a
- 14 Monday. Yes, it does say here 4:00 p.m., Monday.
- 15 It must be Monday.
- 16 Q. Where did you come from to get to Chicago
- 17 for this meeting?
- 18 A. I flew in from Detroit.
- 19 Q. Pardon?
- 20 A. I flew in from Detroit, from Auburn Hills.
- Q. Now, the place where this meeting was
- 22 held, the 2300 building, is a building owned by the
- 23 United States Government; correct?
- 24 A. Yes, it is. It looks that -- I have no
- 25 idea whether it's owned. It's certainly occupied by

1 the FAA.

2 O. Did you have any business with the FAA?

- 3 A. To the best of my knowledge not.
 - Q. You were there at the FAA's government
- 5 offices on June 10, 2013, to meet with the
- 6 administrator of NHTSA David Strickland, and the
- 7 Secretary of the United States Department of
- 8 Transportation Ray LaHood; is that correct?
- A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Mr. LaHood was Strickland's supervisor;
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. I have no idea what the relation -- the
- 13 reporting relationship is between the two.
- Q. Secretary LaHood was a member of the
- 15 Cabinet of the United States: correct?
- 16 A. Yes

17

- Q. Both of these gentlemen were U. S.
- 18 Government officials; correct?
- 19 A. Yes, I guess.
- Q. Their job was to work for the people of
- 21 this country; correct?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 23 question.
- 24 A. I -- I guess.
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

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- 1 Q. Mr. Strickland flew in to Chicago to meet
- 2 with you from Washington, D. C., our nation's
- 3 capitol; correct?
- 4 A. I have no idea what his origin was that
- 5 day.
- 6 Q. You asked Mr. -- how do you pronounce her
- 7 name, Trapasso?
- 8 A. Trapasso.
- 9 Q. Trapasso. You asked Ms. Trapasso to
- 10 arrange this meeting; correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
 - Q. On June 6, 2013, Ms. Trapasso started
- 13 e-mailing Mr. Strickland to arrange a meeting with
- 14 you; correct?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. They talked, that is Mr. Strickland,
- 17 Ms. Trapasso, that very night, June 6th; correct?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 Q. Look at the e-mails, if you would, sir.
- 20 June 7, 2012, Jody's e-mail to Strickland.
- MS. OWENS: What page?
- MR. BUTLER: I didn't write down the page.
- 23 So it's back toward the back.
- 24 A. Yeah, it's on --
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

Q. June 7, 2013.

2 A. It's on Page 5. Yes, I read it, June 7th,

3 9:06 a.m. Eastern time.

- 4 Q. They talked that very night; correct,
- 5 June 6.
- 6 A. "Last night."
- 7 Q. Yeah.
- 8 A. June 6th; correct.
- 9 Q. June 6th was three days after the letter
- 10 from the Office of Defects Investigation to Chrysler
- 11 Group --
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. -- correct?
- 14 A. I guess, yes.
- 15 Q. The letter is June 13?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- MS. OWENS: June 3rd.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. June 3rd. I'm sorry. June 3rd?
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. Three days later Ms. Trapasso is calling
- 22 the head guy at NHTSA to arrange a meeting with you;
- 23 correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
- 25 Q. Had you met with Strickland before about

Page 118 1 "Sergio," close quote?

- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. Isn't it true that Secretary LaHood was
- 4 there at the June 10 meeting in Chicago only because

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- 5 he, Secretary LaHood, asked to be there?
- 6 A. I have no idea. But I was told that he --
- 7 that he wanted to be there, yes.
- 8 Q. Well, look at Exhibit 57 --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 O. -- Mr. Strickland's June 7 e-mail,
- 11 9:48 a.m. Isn't that what it says, that "the
- 12 Secretary wants to join us"? It's the top of
- 13 Page 5.
- 14 A. Okay. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Isn't that what it says?
- 16 A. That's what it says.
- 17 Q. Isn't it true that Mr. Trapasso told David
- 18 Strickland that you wanted the meeting to be just
- 19 the three of you, no one else there?
- 20 A. No, not really.
- 21 Q. Look at Exhibit No. 57, Strickland's
- 22 June 7, 10:31 a.m. e-mail.
- A. What page?
- 24 Q. I'll look it up. Page 4. The second
- 25 e-mail on that page.

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- 1 this investigation?
- 2 A. No, to the best of my knowledge not.
- 3 Q. By the very next day, June 7, which was a
- 4 Friday, the meeting had been arranged for the next
- 5 business day on Monday, June 10th; correct?
- 6 A. Yeah. Yes.
- 7 Q. That's pretty quick service, isn't it?
- 8 A. Possible.
- 9 Q. Isn't it true that Mr. Strickland and
- 10 Ms. Trapasso exchanged 23 e-mails on June 6 and
- 11 June 7 to set up that meeting?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Isn't it true that those e-mails indicate
- 14 that Ms. Trapasso and Mr. Strickland were on a
- 15 first-name basis; she called him David, and he
- 16 called her Jody?
- 17 A. "She" who? I'm sorry.
- 18 Q. Ms. Trapasso?
- 19 A. It's a Mr. Trapasso.
- Q. Jody is a Mr.? I'm sorry.
- He called him David, and he called him
- 22 Jody?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Both Mr. Trapasso and Mr. Strickland
- 25 referred to you in those e-mails as, quote,

1 A. Yes.

- 2 Q. David Strickland wrote to Mr. Trapasso
- 3 Friday, June 7, 10:31 a.m., quote, "The meeting
- 4 would only be with the Secretary and I, no other
- 5 staff, as Sergio wanted," close quote?
- 6 A. Yeah. And --
- 7 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 8 A. You read it correctly. If I can interpret
- 9 it for you, I was not bringing any technical people
- 10 with me to the meeting. It was me alone. So if
- 11 they wanted to bring an army of people, they were
- 12 welcome, but I was going to show up on my own.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike that entire
- 14 answer as nonresponsive.
- 15 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 16 Q. Isn't it true that David Strickland on
- 17 Friday, June 7 at 10:31 a.m. e-mailed Mr. Trapasso
- 18 and said, quote, "The meeting would only be with the
- 19 secretary and I, no other staff, as Sergio wanted,"
- 20 close quote?
- 21 A. That's what the e-mail says.
- 22 Q. All right. Did you tell Mr. Strickland
- 23 that's what you wanted?
- 24 A. I did not speak to Mr. Strickland. I
- 25 think it was Jody that did.

- 1 Q. Then Mr. Trapasso -- then the only way --
- 2 the only place Mr. Strickland could get that
- 3 understanding was through Mr. Trapasso; correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Did you tell Mr. Trapasso that you didn't
- 6 want any other staff there?
- 7 A. That I was not going to bring anybody else
- 8 at the meeting, yes.
- 9 Q. Did you tell Mr. Trapasso that you didn't
- 10 want any other staff there?
- 11 A. I could -- I would never tell NHTSA who to
- 12 bring to a meeting and who not to bring to a
- 13 meeting. I only told them that I would not be
- 14 bringing anybody from Chrysler.
- 15 Q. Well, were you surprised when you showed
- 16 up for this meeting and only Strickland and LaHood
- 17 were there for the government?
- 18 A. No, not at all.
- 19 Q. Now, after this meeting, didn't you have
- 20 four private telephone meetings with these two
- 21 gentlemen?
- 22 A. What's the difference between a private
- 23 and a non-private telephone meeting?
- Q. Well, let me put it this way. After this
- 25 meeting occurred, didn't you have four telephone

- 1 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Show the jury a document proving that the

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- 3 press was told about this meeting in advance of the
- 4 meeting.
- 5 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 6 question.
- 7 A. Was that a question?
- 8 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 9 Q. Yeah.
- 10 A. What was it?
- 11 Q. Do you have one? Do you have a document
- 12 proving that the press was told about this meeting
- 13 in advance of the meeting?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 15 question.
- 16 A. I -- the answer, I don't have one, and I
- 17 normally don't issue one when I meet government
- 18 officials.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Show the jury a document proving that any
- 21 of the auto safety groups that had asked NHTSA to
- 22 investigate the Jeeps were informed about this
- 23 meeting before it occurred.
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 25 question.

- 1 conversations in which the only participants were
- 2 you, Strickland and LaHood?
- 3 A. Yeah, I don't know whether both of them
- 4 were on the phone on all three occasions. I think
- 5 it was three phone calls or maybe four.
- 6 Q. But nobody else was on the phone; right?
- 7 A. Nobody else was on the phone.
- 8 Q. Do you deny telling Trapasso to tell
- 9 Strickland that you wanted the meeting to be limited
- 10 to three people?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Mr. -- let me finish my question --
- 13 Mr. Marchionne -- strike that. I mispronounced it.
- 14 Let me start over.
- Do you deny that you told Mr. Trapasso
- 16 that you wanted the meeting limited to three people:
- 17 Mr. Marchionne, Mr. Strickland and Mr. LaHood; "yes"
- 18 or "no"?
- 19 A. No
- Q. Now, the meeting that you had with these
- 21 two U. S. government officials was not only private,
- 22 it was also secret, was it not?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 24 question.
- 25 A. No.

- 1 A. I'm sorry. You told me to show the jury.
- 2 What jury?
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 4 Q. The jury that's going to be watching this
- 5 videotape, sir.
- 6 A. Oh, I see.
- 7 Q. Do you have a document that proves that
- 8 the auto safety groups that had asked NHTSA to
- 9 investigate these Jeeps were told about this meeting
- 10 in advance?
- 11 A. I have no -- no such thing.
 - Q. Did you ever instruct anybody to tell any
- 13 of the victims of these Jeeps with rear gas tanks
- 14 that you were going to have a private meeting with
- 15 two U. S. government officials about the NHTSA
- 16 investigation?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 A. No.
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Was anything done by you or Chrysler Group
- 22 to inform the parents of Remington Walden that you,
- 23 the CEO of Fiat and Chrysler Group, were going to
- 24 have this meeting with two U. S. government
- 25 officials about the NHTSA investigation?

1 A. No.

- Q. Isn't it true that by June 10, 2013, the
- 3 lawsuit filed by the parents of Remington Walden had
- 4 been pending for almost a year?
- 5 A. I would not know that, but based on what
- 6 you've told me today, yes.
- 7 Q. The purpose of the meeting that you had
- 8 wanted to arrange -- that you arranged with these
- 9 two U.S. government officials was for you to try to
- 10 get them to resolve the NHTSA investigation with no
- 11 finding of defect; isn't that true?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 13 question.
- 14 A. The objective of the meeting was to try
- 15 and find a resolution to their June 3rd letter that
- 16 was acceptable to Chrysler and acceptable to NHTSA.
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Sir, that's not a true statement, is it?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 20 question.
- 21 A. I'm sorry, but it is a true statement.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 23 Q. Look at your affidavit, sir, that you
- 24 signed on July 7, 2014.
- 25 A. (Witness complies with request.)

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 1 A. No, I was trying to resolve the issue.
 - 2 The operative word of the statement on the
 - 3 Paragraph 8 is that I was trying to find a
 - 4 resolution to the issue between NHTSA and Chrysler.

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- 5 Q. Isn't it true that you and LaHood and
- 6 Strickland cut a deal at that June 10, 2013, meeting
- 7 in Chicago?
- 8 A. Untrue.
- 9 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 10 question.
- 11 A. Untrue.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. Isn't it true that you convinced them then
- 14 and there to resolve the NHTSA investigation without
- 15 a finding of defect?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 17 question.

19

22

- 18 A. Untrue.
 - (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #61 marked)
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 21 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 61.
 - Have you seen that article before?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. You're familiar with the magazine
- 25 Automotive News?

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- 1 Q. Look at the last page first.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. That is your signature?
- 4 A. It is my signature.
- 5 Q. And it says over there that a Notary
- 6 Public named Kerry L. Rodriguez signed it and
- 7 stamped it; correct?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. And it says that this affidavit was
- 10 "subscribed and sworn to before me on this 7 day of
- 11 July, 2014"; correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Is that correct?
- 14 A. (Nods head affirmatively).
- 15 Q. Look at Paragraph 8 of your July 7, 2014,
- 16 affidavit.
- 17 A. I've read it.
- 18 Q. Okay. Doesn't it say that: I wanted to
- 19 meet with Mr. LaHood and Mr. Strickland to discuss
- 20 the possibility of a resolution of the dispute that
- 21 had no finding of defect and the potential
- 22 parameters of such a resolution?
- 23 A. Yeah.
- Q. Wasn't the purpose of your meeting with
- 25 them to avoid any finding of defect?

- 1 A. Yes, I am.
- 2 Q. Okay. This is an Automotive News article?
- 3 A. I guess it is, yes.
- 4 Q. It's dated June 21, 2013 --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 O. -- right?
- 7 A. Yes
- 8 Q. All right. Look at the sixth paragraph
- 9 down. Do you see that?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. It has Secretary LaHood being quoted;
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Apparently he told The Detroit News
- 15 newspaper certain things; correct?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And one of the things he's quoted as
- 18 saying is, quote, "We've pretty much reached an
- 19 agreement there," close quote.
- 20 A. But, Mr. Butler, I think you should read
- 21 the previous sentence. It says, "LaHood told the
- 22 news Marchionne didn't realize how serious this was,
- 23 how serious we were, and the thing was resolved
- 24 satisfactorily. We reached an agreement then to get
- 25 the issue resolved, given the seriousness of the

1 position taken by NHTSA."

2 That's what it says. It doesn't say that

- 3 we cut a deal that day.
- 4 Q. It doesn't say what you just said.
- 5 A. Yes, it does. I just read it.
- 6 Q. You added some stuff in there.
- 7 A. No, I didn't. That's what happened.
- 8 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 9 nonresponsive.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. Doesn't this article quote Secretary
- 12 LaHood as saying, quote, "We pretty much reached an
- 13 agreement there," close quote? Isn't that what it
- 14 says?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 16 question.
- 17 A. That's what it says.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Thank you, sir.
- MS. OWENS: I don't want to interrupt your
- 21 flow, Jim, but are we at a place where I can take a
- 22 break?
- 23 MR. BUTLER: Shortly.
- 24 MS. OWENS: Okay.
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

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- 1 Q. Isn't it true that because -- strike that.
- Isn't it true that as a result of your
- 3 request that the meeting be only with -- that the
- 4 meeting only include the three of you, no one from
- 5 the Office of Defects Investigation was invited to
- 6 the meeting?
- A. The only thing -- I don't know that,
- 8 because the only thing I said was that I was going
- 9 alone.
- 10 Q. Isn't it true that no one from the Office
- 11 of Defects Investigation was at the meeting?
- 12 A. That is true.
- 13 Q. In other words, none of the professionals
- 14 at ODI who had written that the Jeeps with rear gas
- 15 tanks had a, quote, "safety-related defect," close
- 16 quote, were invited to the meeting where what to do
- 17 about their finding was going to be discussed; isn't
- 18 that true?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the question.
- 21 A. I don't know how to answer your question.
- 22 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Let me break it down.
- Isn't it true that the ODI letter of
- 25 June 3, 2013, said that these Jeeps with rear gas

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1 tanks had a safety-related defect?

2 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

- 3 question.
- 4 A. It said a number of things. That may be
- 5 one of them, yes.
- 6 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 7 Q. All right. Isn't it true that the meeting
- 8 on June 10th was in response to that letter?
- 9 A. Yes, it is. Yes, it was.
- 10 Q. Isn't it true that nobody from the Office
- 11 of Defects Investigation was at the meeting?
- 12 A. Yes, I guess that's true.
- 13 Q. Who prepared your talking points for that
- 14 meeting?
- 15 A. Mr. Chernoby and Mr. Betts.
- 16 Q. Did you bring a copy of them with you?
- 17 A. There were no talking points. They were
- 18 only giving me the -- some graphs which were
- 19 included in the white paper that were issued.
- 20 O. There was no memo?
- 21 A. There was no memo.
- Q. No documents?
- 23 A. No documents.
- 24 Q. Nobody prepared anything in writing for
- 25 you to review before you went to this meeting?

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Page 132

A. No.

- 2 Q. Was the meeting with Mr. LaHood and
- 3 Mr. Strickland transcribed?
- 4 A. No, it was not.
- 5 Q. So there is no record of what was said;
- 6 correct?
- 7 A. There is no written record of what was
- 8 being discussed.
- 9 Q. Isn't it true that David Strickland now
- 10 works for a law firm that represents Chrysler Group
- 11 and Fiat?
- 12 A. I have no way of knowing that.
- 13 Q. You didn't know that Mr. Strickland went
- 14 to work at the Venable law firm?
- 15 A. I know that he's left NHTSA. That is the 16 only thing I know.
- 17 Q. Nobody's ever told you that?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You didn't have anything to do with
- 20 helping Mr. Venable get a job -- Mr. Strickland get
- 21 a job at Venable?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Do you dispute that the law firm where
- 24 David -- strike that.
- 25 Do you dispute that the law firm where

- 1 David Strickland is now a partner actually does work
- 2 for Chrysler Group?

A. I have no knowledge of that fact. 3

- 4 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #62 marked)
- 5 BY MR. BUTLER:
- O. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 62.
- 7 That document proves -- that's from
- 8 Venable's law firm website. That document proves
- 9 Venable is a -- that Strickland is a partner there,
- 10 does it not?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 11
- 12 question.
- A. I have no way of knowing. 13
- 14 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 15 Q. Well, it says that the --
- 16 It says on top that, it says a partner, Α.
- 17 yes --
- 18 Q. Okay.
- A. -- under his e-mail. 19
- 20 Q. Thank you.
- A. I have no idea that Chrysler or Fiat uses 21
- 22 Venable. I don't even know who they are.
- Q. Isn't it true that Venable actually does 23
- 24 lobbying work for Chrysler Group?
- 25 A. I have no way of knowing, and I do not

- (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #65 marked)
- BY MR. BUTLER:
- 3 Q. Show you an article from the New York

Page 136

- Times, Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 65.
- 5 Have you ever seen this article before?

7

- Q. Is there anybody at Chrysler Group in
- Auburn Hills, Michigan, who is supposed to provide
- you articles that appear in major American media?
- 10 A. Yes. We have a press office that screens
- 11 the press for relevant articles.
- 12 Q. But nobody sent you this one?
- 13 A. They may have sent it to me. I never read
- 14 it. I don't read them all.
- Q. All right. The article is dated March 30, 15
- 2014; correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. The title of the article in the New York
- 19 Times is, quote: "Carmakers' Close Ties to
- Regulator Scrutinized"; correct?
- 21 A. That's what it says.
- 22 Q. Look at Page 4 of the article.
- 23 A. (Witness complies with request.)
- 24 Q. I think it's the fifth full article --
- 25 full paragraph.

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- 1 know Venable.
- (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #63 marked)
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- O. Plaintiffs' 63. Exhibit -- Plaintiff's 4
- 5 Exhibit No. 63.
- Isn't that a lobbying disclosure for the
- 7 Venable law firm --
- A. Yes.
- Q. -- that lists Chrysler Group as a client
- 10 starting back in 2008 -- or 2009 for Chrysler Group,
- 11 going all the way through 2014?
- A. Yes, that's what it says.
- Q. Did you know on June 10, 2013, that
- 14 Strickland was going to be leaving Venable?
- 15 A. I had no idea.
- Q. Or leaving NHTSA? 16
- 17 A. I had no idea.
- Q. Did you -- were you aware that in fact 18
- 19 David Strickland's last day on the job with NHTSA
- 20 was the same day that NHTSA announced the final deal
- 21 with Chrysler on the Jeep investigation?
- 22 A. No --
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the 23
- 24 question.
- A. -- I had no idea. 25

Page 137 It says, quote, "Mr. Strickland's last day

- at the agency was January 17, the day the agency
- confirmed it had approved the trailer hitch remedy,"
- close quote.

1

- 5 Did I read that correctly?
- 6 A. That's what it says.
- Q. Did you know that Secretary Ray LaHood 7
- after the meeting in Chicago on June 10, 2013, also
- 9 went to work for a law firm?
- 10 A. No, I had no idea.
- 11 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #66 marked)
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 66. 13
- 14 Doesn't this indicate that Mr. LaHood has
- 15 gone to work for a law firm called DLA Piper?
- 16 A. That's what it says.
- Q. Does DLA Piper do work for Chrysler Group? 17
- A. I have no way of knowing. 18
- 19 Q. Now, isn't it true that Mr. LaHood went to
- 20 work for this law firm, even though he's not even a
- 21 lawyer?
- 22 A. I had no idea he wasn't a lawyer.
- 23 Q. Isn't this business of top U. S.
- 24 government -- strike that.
- 25 Isn't this business of top U. S.

- 1 government officials helping out a car corporation
- 2 really nothing new?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. I have no idea how to answer your
- 6 question.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. Have you ever heard the term, quote,
- 9 "revolving door," close quote, used with respect to
- 10 NHTSA?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Do you know what it means?
- 13 A. I know what a revolving door is.
- 14 Q. Isn't it true that one of Chrysler's
- 15 lawyers in this case is Erika Jones, who previously
- 16 was the chief lawyer at NHTSA?
- 17 A. I'm aware of both of those facts.
- 18 Q. What, my statement is correct, is it not?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Thank you.
- 21 MR. BUTLER: You want a break?
- 22 MS. OWENS: Yeah.
- 23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Stand by, please. We
- 24 are off the record. The time is 11:51.
- 25 (Recess 11:51 a.m. to 12:12 p.m.)

often was aften that meeting

Strickland and LaHood in Chicago?

2 A. I think we ultimately resolved the issue

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- 3 after -- yes, after that meeting.
 - Q. Isn't it true that a finding that these
- 5 Jeeps were defective would have hurt sales?
- 6 A. I don't know that.
 - Q. Isn't it true that a finding that the
- 8 Jeeps were defective would have constituted a
- 9 warning to the American people?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 11 question.

7

- 12 A. Yeah, I'm not sure that's true either.
- 13 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 14 Q. Isn't it true that in June of 2013 there
- 15 were roughly 2.7 million of these Jeeps with rear
- 16 gas tanks on the roads in this country?
- 17 A. I don't know the number.
- Q. Look at Exhibit 40, ODI's June 3, '13,
- 19 letter --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- Page 4.
- 22 A. Page 4. Yes.
- Q. Look at the -- under Data Analysis, the
- 24 third paragraph. The third sentence reads as
- 25 follows, quote: "Polk vehicle registration data

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5

- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Stand by, please. And
- 2 we are back on the record. The time is 12:12. You
- 3 may continue, sir.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that one of the
- 6 reasons you and Chrysler Group didn't want a defect
- 7 finding is because that would have hurt car sales?
- 8 MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 9 question.
- 10 A. Not at all. I think that our objection to
- 11 that determination was based on facts and our
- 12 analysis of the underlying data. And I think that
- 13 NHTSA, after thorough review of the information that
- 14 they had, and after comparison of their data with
- 15 ours, agreed with our view.
- 16 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 17 Q. Sir, isn't it true that what NHTSA finally
- 18 did came after your June 10, 2013, meeting with
- 19 Strickland and LaHood in Chicago?
- 20 A. I'm sorry. Could you rephrase the
- 21 question?
- Q. No, I'll reread it.
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. Sir, isn't it true that what NHTSA finally
- 25 did came after your June 10, 2013, meeting with

- Page 141 obtained by ODI shows that roughly 2.7 million of
- 2 the 4 million Liberty and Grand Cherokee vehicles
- 3 produced remained on the road in 2011."
- 4 Did I read that correctly?
 - A. That's what it says.
- 6 Q. All right. Do you dispute that?
- 7 A. No, I have no way of knowing otherwise.
- 8 Q. Isn't it true that all Chrysler agreed to
- 9 do was a recall limited to putting tow packages on
- 0 some of the Jeeps?
- 11 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 12 question.
- 13 A. I think the recall measure that was agreed
- 14 reflected what was considered to be necessary for
- 15 the -- for NHTSA.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 17 nonresponsive.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Isn't it true that all Chrysler agreed to
- 20 do was a recall limited to putting tow packages on
- 21 some of the Jeeps?
- MS. OWENS: Same objection.
- 23 A. That was the ultimate resolution of the
- 24 discussions with NHTSA, yes.
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

Q. Isn't it true, sir, that Chrysler has

- 2 refused to do anything for those citizens who own
- 3 1999 through 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokees?
- 4 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 5 question.
- 6 A. We're not required to do anything in
- 7 connection with those vehicles because there's been
- $8\!-\!no$ defect determined in connection with that class
- 9 of vehicles.
- 10 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 11 Q. In other words, Chrysler will not even put
- 12 a trailer hitch on the very Jeep Grand Cherokee in
- 13 which Remi Walden was killed; correct?
- 14 A. There is no defect in connection with
- 15 those cars.
- 16 Q. Was my statement correct?
- 17 A. Yes. There is no defect.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 19 nonresponsive.
- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler will not even
- 22 put a trailer hitch on the very Jeep Grand Cherokee
- 23 that Remi was in when he was killed?
- 24 A. It's not --
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the

- 1 Do you see that on the first page?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. All right. You see over on Page 233, the

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- 4 last page of this document --
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. -- Mr. Castaing's answer, quote: "Let me
- 7 finish. The tow package does not protect the tank.
- 8 The skid plate underneath only protects the tank
- 9 from stones from the ground."
- 10 Do you see that?
- 11 A. I did read it.
- 12 Q. Pardon?
- 13 A. I did read it.
- 14 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 15 A. That's what it says.
- 16 O. All right.
- 17 A. I have no idea what it talks -- which car
- 18 it's making reference to. But, yes, that's what it
- 19 says.
- 20 Q. Mr. Castaing was a Chrysler engineer, was
- 21 he not?

1

- 22 A. I have no knowledge, don't know him.
- Q. Wasn't he also president of Chrysler
- 24 International?
- 25 A. Don't know him.

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- 1 question.
- 2 A. It's not required.
- 3 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 4 Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler knew that a
- 5 tow package would not protect the people in these
- 6 Jeeps with rear gas tanks?
- 7 A. I have no way of knowing that.
- 8 Q. Isn't it true that Chrysler's former Head
- 9 of Engineering, Francois Castaing, has testified
- 10 under oath that, quote, "the tow package does not
- 11 protect the tank," close quote?
- 12 A. I have no knowledge.
- 13 Q. Are you familiar with Mr. Castaing?
- 14 A. I don't even know who Mr. Castaing is.
- 15 Q. Has anybody ever told you about his
- 16 testimony?
- 17 A. No, they have not.
- 18 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #72-A marked)
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 20 Q. And I'll show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit
- 21 No. 72-A.
- This is an excerpt from the sworn
- 23 testimony of François Castaing in a case called
- 24 Cline in New Jersey, and the testimony occurred on
- 25 June 14, 2011.

Page 145 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #72-B marked)

- 2 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 3 Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 72-B.
- 4 This is another excerpt from the same
- 5 deposition. And in the interest of time, if you'll
- 6 look at the last two pages of this marked as
- 7 Pages 16 and 17. Doesn't Mr. Castaing testify that
- 8 he was president of Chrysler International?
- 9 A. That's what it says.
- 10 Q. And that he was in charge of overseeing
- 11 and directing business of Chrysler outside of NAFTA
- 12 overseeing 47 countries?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. All right.
- 15 A. That's what he says.
- 16 Q. Now, would you expect that Mr. Castaing,
- 17 the head of engineering at Chrysler, would know
- 18 something about trailer hitches and tow packages?
- 19 A. I have no idea whether he was the head of 20 engineering.
- Q. Well, he said he was.
- 22 A. I couldn't find it here. Did I miss it?
- Q. Well, maybe I missed it.
- 24 A. No, I'm sorry.
- 25 Q. Did you know whether or not Mr. Castaing

1 knew something about tow packages?

- 2 A. I have no idea who Mr. Castaing is, and I
- 3 don't know where -- where is the reference to the
- 4 fact that he was the head of engineering?
- 5 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 6 nonresponsive.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. With respect to this trailer hitch idea,
- 9 isn't it also true that just last month Chrysler
- 10 announced that if a customer's rear end Jeep --
- 11 strike that.
- 12 Isn't it also true that just last month
- 13 Chrysler announced that if a customer's rear tank
- 14 Jeep was too rusty, Chrysler would refuse to even
- 15 provide the free tow package?

16 A. Yes; because in that case I think it would 17 be ineffective.

- 18 Q. Isn't it true that if the gas tank needs
- 19 protection in low speed impacts, it obviously needs
- 20 protection at higher speeds?
- 21 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 22 question.

23 A. I have no way of knowing.

- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't it true that when a rear gas tank is

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- 1 with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard does
- 2 not exempt a person from liability at common law?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 4 question.
- 5 A. It may.
- 6 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #78 marked)
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. Well, it does.
 - Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 78, isn't that
- 10 what it says?

9

- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. That's from 49 United States Code
- 13 Annotated 30103, for the record.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. Isn't it also true that the federal
- 16 standards are merely minimum standards?
- 17 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 18 question.

19 A. Don't know. They are required.

- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Isn't that expressly what the law says?
- 22 A. I have no way of knowing what the law
- 23 says.

1 2

- 24 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #79 marked)
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

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- 1 vulnerable to rear impact, it needs greater
- 2 protection at any speed?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 4 question.

5 A. I have no way of knowing.

- 6 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 7 Q. Now, you've made a reference today to the
- 8 federal standards, and I want to talk to you about
- 9 that. We've already established this, you are a
- 10 lawyer; correct?

11 A. I used to be a practicing lawyer a long

- 12 time ago.
- 13 Q. Well, you have a law degree; correct?
- 14 A. Yes; and I have been called to the bar.
- 15 Q. Isn't it true that merely complying with a
- 16 federal minimum standard is no defense at all?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 17 MS. OWENS. Object to the form of
- 18 question, calls for a legal conclusion.

19 A. Can't answer the question.

- 20 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 21 Q. Have you ever read the Federal -- the
- 22 U. S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act?
- 23 A. No, I have not.
- Q. Isn't it true that the Federal Motor
- 25 Vehicle Safety Act explicitly states that compliance

Q. Show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 79.

- This is 49 United States Code Annotated
- 3 Section 30102(a), General Definitions,
- 4 Subparagraph 9. Doesn't it state, quote: "'Motor
- 5 vehicle safety' standard means a minimum standard
- 6 for motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment
- 7 performance"?
- 8 Did I read that correctly?
- 9 MS. OWENS: I object to the form of the
- 10 question to the extent that it's an excerpt that's
- 11 incomplete.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 14 A. You did read it correctly.
- 15 Q. Now, isn't it true that in that June 3,
- 16 2013, letter from the Office of Defects
- 17 Investigation to Chrysler, ODI wrote -- and if
- 18 you'll look at Page 4, I think you'll see this --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- the second paragraph: "As NHTSA has
- 21 noted in the past, a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
- 22 Standard is a minimum standard for a motor vehicle
- 23 performance."
- 24 Did I read that correctly?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. ODI also wrote, quote: "The existence of
- 2 a minimum standard does not require NHTSA to ignore
- 3 deadly problems."
- 4 Did I read that correctly?
- 5 A. You certainly did. And NHTSA also went on
- 6 to say that the vehicle in question did not
- 7 provide -- did not have a safety defect.
- 8 Q. When did NHTSA say that?
- 9 A. In a later -- in their ultimate finding,
- 10 when they said --
- 11 Q. After June 10, 2013?
- 12 A. After June 10th.
- 13 Q. After your secret private meeting with
- 14 LaHood and Strickland; correct?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 16 question.
- 17 A. I'm not sure there was anything secret
- 18 about the meeting.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 20 Q. Who else knew about it besides --
- 21 A. Well, obviously Automotive News knew about
- 22 it because you showed me an article.
- 23 Q. That was after it happened, wasn't it,
- 24 sir?
- 25 A. Yeah, but normally we --

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- Q. Before the meeting happened, who knew
- 2 about that meeting except you and your staff at
- 3 Chrysler Group, Strickland, and maybe a couple of
- 4 people at NHTSA, and Mr. LaHood? Did anybody else
- 5 know about it?
- 6 A. I have no idea who else knew. But we --
- 7 Q. Did you tell anybody?
- 8 A. No. But we normally don't advertise
- 9 meetings with people, with the --
- 10 Q. Especially government officials; right?
- 11 A. We normally don't do that.
- 12 Q. It was meant to be a secret, private
- 13 meeting, was it not?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 15 question.
- 16 A. No. I think it was designed to be a
- 17 meeting between Chrysler and NHTSA, to which the
- 18 Secretary of Transportation showed up.
- 19 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Is it your position that merely complying
- 21 with the federal minimum standard is all an
- 22 automaker has to do?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 24 question.
 - A. No, I don't think so. And effectively in

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- 1 some cases we have intentionally gone beyond the
- 2 minimum safety standards.
- 3 MR. BUTLER: Move the last sentence --
- 4 move to strike the last sentence as nonresponsive.
- 5 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 6 Q. Isn't it true that for the Grand Cherokees
- 7 Chrysler did nothing but test for compliance with
- 8 the minimum standard?
- 9 A. I have no way of knowing that.
- 10 Q. Before you publicly stated that these
- 11 Jeeps with rear gas tanks were, quote, "absolutely
- 12 safe," close quote, did you read any of the warnings
- 12 sare, cross quote, ara you read any or are warmings
- 13 that Chrysler's own customers had given to Chrysler
- 14 about those vehicles?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Are you familiar with any of those
- 17 warnings?
- 18 A. I don't know what you mean by "warning,"
- 19 but the answer is no.
- Q. Well, did you see any of the letters that
- 21 Chrysler's own customers had written to Chrysler
- 22 about these Jeeps with rear gas tanks relating their
- 23 own experiences when their Jeeps with rear gas tanks
- 24 got hit in the rear?
- 25 A. No, I have not.

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- 1 Q. Have you ever heard of a fellow named
- 2 Howard Persinger?
- 3 A. No, I have not.
- 4 Q. Were you aware that Mr. Persinger has
- 5 testified that -- about a wreck that he was involved
- 6 in involving -- with one of these Jeeps with rear
- 7 gas tanks?
- 8 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 9 question.
- 10 MR. BUTLER: Strike that and let me --
- 11 strike that question, you're right.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. Are you aware that Mr. Persinger has
- 14 testified that his daughter --
- 15 MS. OWENS: Son.
- MR. BUTLER: Strike that. Go off video
- 17 just a minute and let me get organized here.
- 18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. We are off the 19 video.
- 20 (Off video record.)
- 21 (Off-the-record discussion.)
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're back on video.
- 23 The time is 12:27.
- 24 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 25 Q. Were you aware that Mr. Howard Persinger

- 1 has testified that his son narrowly escaped burning
- 2 alive in a Jeep with a rear gas tank that got hit in
- 3 the rear?
- 4 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 5 question.
- 6 A. Not aware.
- 7 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 8 Q. Have you ever seen a letter that Norma
- 9 Jane Friend sent to Chrysler on March 3, 1998?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #81 marked)
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 13 Q. Show it to you. Plaintiffs' Exhibit
- 14 No. 81.
- 15 Apparently Ms. Friend works for an
- 16 organization called Gianettino & Meredith, which is
- 17 an advertising company in New Jersey, according to
- 18 the letter; correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. The letter is dated -- excuse me, I've got
- 21 the date wrong. The letter is dated February 26,
- 22 1998; correct?
- 23 A. That's what it says, yes.
- 24 Q. And it indicates that two weeks prior to
- 25 that her daughter was stopped at a traffic light in

- Page 156 Q. Did you know that in this case Chrysler
- 2 Group has blamed Remington's parents for not knowing
- 3 that these rear gas tank Jeeps were dangerous?
- 4 A. I -
- 5 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 6 question.
- 7 A. I have no knowledge.
- 8 BY MR. BUTLER:
 - Q. Did you know that Chrysler Group has
- 10 blamed the Walden family for not knowing that their
- 11 Grand Cherokee was unsafe from reading about the
- 12 NHTSA investigation?
- MS. OWENS: Object to the form of the
- 14 question.
- 15 A. I have no knowledge.
- 16 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit #82 marked)
- 17 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 18 Q. Showing you Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 82.
 - Here, let me give you the official one.
- 20 That's got the official stamp on it.
- 21 A. Okay.

19

- Q. This is a copy of the first and 39th page
- 23 of Chrysler Group's Motion for Summary Judgment
- 24 submitted to Judge Chason in this case. And look at
- 25 what's the second page of this document, which is

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- 1 a 1997 Grand Cherokee and was hit in the rear -- and
- 2 her car was hit in the rear.
- 3 Do you see that in the second paragraph?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. How about the -- look at the fourth
- 6 paragraph.
- A. (Witness complies with request.)
- 8 Q. Quote: "However, in thinking about this
- 9 afterwards, I can only imagine how horrible a
- 10 situation it would be if a driver had to remove a
- 11 child from a car seat or could not get out of the
- 12 car within moments."
- Did I read that correctly?
- 14 A. That's what it says.
- 15 Q. Before you told the American -- before you
- 16 as CEO of Chrysler Group, LLC, told the American
- 17 public that these Jeeps with rear gas tanks were
- 18 absolutely safe, did you review any letters like
- 19 this that had come into Chrysler?
- 20 A. No; but I reviewed all the statistics in
- 21 connection with events surrounding the Grand
- 22 Cherokee and other Jeeps.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike the latter
- 24 part as nonresponsive.
- 25 BY MR. BUTLER:

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- 1 Page 39 from that brief that Chrysler Group filed,
- 2 the second full paragraph.
- 3 A. (Witness complies with request.)
- 4 Q. Quote: "Finally, the Waldens, likewise,
- 5 allowed their child to ride in the vehicle after
- 6 news and media coverage about the NHTSA
- 7 investigation into the subject vehicle."
- 8 Do you see that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that you and Chrysler
- 11 group were telling the American people and wanted
- 12 the American people to believe that those Jeeps
- 13 were, quote, "absolutely safe"?
- 14 A. And in our view, they still are.
 - Q. Let me repeat the question.
- 16 MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as
- 17 nonresponsive.

15

- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Isn't it true, sir, that you and Chrysler
- 20 Group were telling the American people, and wanted
- 21 the American people, to believe that those Jeeps
- 22 were, quote, "absolutely safe," close quote?
- 23 A. They are safe.
- Q. Isn't that what you're trying to convince
- 25 the people?

A. Yes.

- 1 You're trying to tell the people, there
- 3 was no reason to be warned about it; correct? Isn't
- A. I guess. I don't know how to answer your
- 6 question. I mean, other than the fact that I have
- 7 stated on the record, and I'll repeat it again, that
- 8 these vehicles are deemed to be safe by us and a
- 9 position that has been agreed with and understood by
- 10 NHTSA.
- Q. Is it your testimony here today, sir, that
- 12 there is no problem at all with these Jeeps with
- 13 rear gas tanks?
- A. I think that there are unfortunate events
- 15 surrounding the use of cars, and I find these
- 16 deplorable, I think it's unfortunate, and people
- 17 will suffer injury as a result of driving or riding
- 18 in vehicles. But I don't think that there is the
- 19 slightest evidence that Grand Cherokees or the class
- 20 that we're talking about here are defective.
- 21 I think we've made extensive analysis of
- 22 the underlying data. All this information has been
- 23 made public. It's been shared with NHTSA. And I
- 24 think their latest view, which, obviously, we concur
- 25 with, is that there is no defect in association in

 - Page 159
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as

1 conjunction with these cars.

- 3 nonresponsive.
- 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 5 Q. Let me repeat my question.
- Is it your testimony here today, sir, that
- 7 there is no problem with these Jeeps with rear gas
- 8 tanks, "yes" or "no"?
- MS. OWENS: Objection, asked and answered.
- A. There is no defect in asso- -- in
- 11 conjunction with these cars.
- 12 BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Do you agree with me that burning to death
- 14 is a horrible way to die?
- MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 15
- 16 question.
- A. Yes, I do.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Will you agree with me that the Walden --
- 20 strike that.
- Will you agree with the Walden family that
- 22 no one who knows what they know now would ever put
- 23 their child into one of these Jeeps with the rear
- 24 gas tank?
- 25 A. I --

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 - MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
 - 2 question.
 - 3 A. I have no way of knowing.
 - 4 BY MR. BUTLER:
 - 5 Q. If the jury finds that this car is
 - 6 defective, and that the defect caused Remington
 - Walden's death, will you agree that Chrysler Group
 - should be held responsible?
 - MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
 - question; calls for a legal conclusion; is
 - argumentative. 11
 - 12 A. I don't know how to answer your question.
 - 13 BY MR. BUTLER:
 - Q. You can say "yes" or "no."
 - 15 I know I could, but I don't know how to do
 - 16 that.
 - 17 What about my question is confusing?
 - 18 A. I don't know what answer you would like me
 - 19 to give you.
 - 20 Q. Whichever one you think is the truth.
 - 21 A. I don't know how to answer it.
 - 22 Q. Let me repeat it.
 - 23 A. I think we will follow whatever decision
 - 24 is made by the court.
 - 25 Q. Do you agree that if the jury finds this
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- 1 car is defective, and that the defect caused Remi's
- death, Chrysler Group should be held responsible?
- 3 MS. OWENS: Objection. Same objection.
- A. I don't know how to answer your question. 4
- 5 I'm sorry.
- BY MR. BUTLER:
- Q. Is your corporation willing to warn
- Americans that the Jeeps with rear gas tanks are
- vulnerable to rear impacts and may explode in
- 10 flames?
- 11 MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the
- 12 question.
- A. I think we are willing to do everything 13
- 14 that which has been agreed with NHTSA as a proper
- 15 solution to this problem going forward.
- MR. BUTLER: Move to strike as 16
- 17 nonresponsive.
- 18 BY MR. BUTLER:
- 19 Q. Is your corporation willing to warn
- 20 Americans that these Jeeps with rear gas tanks are
- 21 vulnerable to rear impacts and may explode in
- 22 flames, "yes" or "no"?
- 23 MS. OWENS: Same objection. And you don't
- 24 have to answer "yes" or "no" if you can't answer
- 25 "yes" or "no."

Page 162 Page 164 The following reporter and firm A. I don't know how to answer your question, disclosures were presented by me at this proceeding 2 and I think your statement is false. for review by counsel: REPORTER DISCLOSURES 3 BY MR. BUTLER: 4 The following representations and disclosures are made in compliance with Georgia Law. Q. Will you admit that these Jeeps with rear more specifically: Article 10 (B) of the Rules and Regulations of the Board Of Court Reporting (disclosure forms) gas tanks are not absolutely safe? OCGA Section 9-11-28 (c) (disqualification of reporter for financial interest) A. I will not agree to that statement. OCGA Sections 15-14-37 (a) and (b) (prohibitions 7 Q. If the jury finds that Chrysler Group is against contracts except on a case-by-case basis). I am a certified reporter in the State of Georgia. I am an employee or independent contractor of 8 liable for Remington's injuries and death, will you 9 commit today that Chrysler Group will accept the Tiffany Alley Global Reporting and Video ("Tiffany Alley Global"). 10 10 jury's judgment and pay the verdict? - I have been assigned to make a complete and 11 accurate record of these proceedings.
- I have no relationship of interest in the matter MS. OWENS: Objection to the form of the 11 12 on which I am about to report which would disqualify me from making a verbatim record or 12 question. That's absolutely improper, and I 13 maintaining my obligation of impartiality 13 instruct the witness not to answer. compliance with the Code of Professional Ethics. 14 BY MR. BUTLER: 14 I have no direct contract with any party in this action, and my compensation is determined solely by the terms of my agreement with Tiffany Alley Q. Are you going to follow that instruction? 15 15 A. I am going to follow instructions. 16 16 TIFFANY ALLEY GLOBAL REPORTING & VIDEO 17 MR. BUTLER: Let's go off the video just a FIRM DISCLOSURES - Tiffany Alley Global Reporting & Video was 18 18 moment. contacted to provide reporting services by the THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Stand by. We're off 19 noticing or taking attorney in this matter 19 There is no agreement in place between Tiffany Alley Global and any party or attorney in this 20 20 video. litigation that is prohibited by OCGA 15-14-37 (a) and (b). Any case-specific discounts are 21 (Off video record.) 21 automatically applied to all parties, at such MR. BUTLER: Back on the video. 22. 22 time as any party receives a discount.
Transcripts: The transcript of this proceeding as THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Stand by. And we are 23 23 produced by Tiffany Alley Global will be a true, correct, and complete record of the colloquies, questions, and answers as submitted by 24 back on video record. 25 MR. BUTLER: Those are all my questions. the certified court reporter. 25 - Exhibits: No changes will be made to the exhibits Page 163 Page 165 MS. OWENS: Let's go off the record and as submitted by the reporter, attorneys, or 1 off the video. - Password-Protected Access: Transcripts and 3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're off video record. exhibits relating to this proceeding will be The time is 12:36. 3 uploaded to a password-protected repository, to 5 (Recess 12:36-12:38 p.m.) which all ordering parties will have access. THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And we are back on the 4 record. The time is 12:38. You may continue. 5 8 MS. OWENS: Mr. Betts, do you have any questions? 8 10 MR. BETTS: No questions at this time. 9 11 MS. OWENS: And I have no questions at 10 12 this time. 11 13 MR. BUTLER: Thanks to everybody. 12 14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Stand by, please. This concludes this videotaped deposition. The time is 15 14 16 12:38. We are off the record. 15 (Deposition concluded at 12:38 p.m.) 16 17 17 18 (Signature is reserved.) 18 19 19 20 20 21 21 22 22 23 23 24 24 25

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	Page 166	Page 1	68
1	CERTIFICATE	1 TO: Diane Owens	
2	STATE OF GEORGIA:	2 Re: Signature of Deponent Sergio Marchionne	
	COUNTY OF FULTON:	3 Date Errata due back at our offices: 2/12/2015	
3			
	I hereby certify that the foregoing	4	
4	transcript was taken down, as stated in the caption,	5 Greetings:	
**		6 The deponent has reserved the right to read and sign.	
_	and the colloquies, questions and answers were		
5	reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the	Please have the deponent review the attached PDF	
	transcript is a true and correct record of the	7 transcript, noting any changes or corrections on the	
6	evidence given upon said proceeding.	attached PDF Errata. The deponent may fill out the	
	I further certify that I am not a relative		
7	or employee or attorney of any party, nor am I	8 Errata electronically or print and fill out manually.	
,		9	
	financially interested in the outcome of this	Ongo the Errote is signed by the dependent and notarize	a
8	action.	Once the Errata is signed by the deponent and notarized	
	I have no relationship of interest in this	10 please mail it to the offices of Tiffany Alley (below)	
9	matter which would disqualify me from maintaining my	11	
	obligation of impartiality in compliance with the		
1.0		When the signed Errata is returned to us, we will seal	
10	Code of Professional Ethics.	12 and forward to the taking attorney to file with the	
	I have no direct contract with any party in	original transcript. We will also send copies of the	
11	This action and my compensation is based solely on		
	the terms of my agreement with my employer.	13 Errata to all ordering parties.	
12	Nothing in the arrangements made for this	14	
	proceeding impacts my absolute commitment to serve	If the signed Errata is not returned within the time	
12			
13	all parties as an impartial officer of the court.	15 above, the original transcript may be filed with the	
14	This the 12th day of January 2015.	court without the signature of the deponent.	
15	1	16	
16	Maurica freemen		
	Millerguiner	17	
17		18 Please send completed Errata to:	
	MANDEDN KREINER GOD D 1250	_	
18	MAUREEN KREIMER, CCR-B-1379		
19	Notary Public in and for the	20 730 Peachtree St. NE, Ste 470	
20	State of Georgia. My Commission	21 Atlanta, GA 30308	
21	Expires August 14, 2016.		
22	<u> </u>	22 (770) 343-9696	
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1	Page 167	Page 1	.69
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