

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION AT SANTA ANA  
HONORABLE DAVID O. CARTER, JUDGE PRESIDING

**CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	CASE NO. 2:25-cv-09149-DOC
	)	
ROBERT PAGE, in his capacity as	)	
Registrar of Voters for Orange	)	
County,	)	
	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	
_____	)	

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

9:25 A.M.

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1 **SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025; 9:25 A.M.**

2 **-oOo-**

3 THE COURT: United States versus Robert Page.

4 Nice to see both of you and have a seat for a second.

5 MR. GATES: Good morning, Your Honor.

6 Michael Gates with the Department of Justice, on  
7 behalf of the United States.

8 THE COURT: Pleasure.

9 MS. SHOAI: Good morning, Your Honor.

10 Senior deputy county counsel, Suzanne Shoai, on  
11 behalf of the defendant Robert Page.

12 THE COURT: For disclosure, I know counsel  
13 represented the plaintiff from your years with Huntington  
14 Beach and working together.

09:25:58 15 Nice to see you again, okay?

16 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: And congratulations on your  
18 appointment.

19 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor. It's good to  
09:26:01 20 be here.

21 THE COURT: And, Counsel, I know Page. I know  
22 you're county counsel, et cetera, and I know all your board.  
23 Now, I just disclosed that to both sides. I know your board  
24 members, each of one of them. So I wanted that on the  
09:26:18 25 record. I think sometimes over-disclosure is better than,

09:26:21 1 you know, no transparency, no disclosure. That way you can  
2 sort out where we are.

3 Okay. Your thoughts.

4 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

09:26:32 5 So the issue in this case really is voter roll  
6 maintenance and probably comes as no surprise, particularly  
7 with the news most recently about a pet being registered to  
8 vote with Orange County.

9 THE COURT: Yeah, I read that in the Register.

09:26:48 10 MR. GATES: So many jurisdictions that the  
11 United States is dealing with refuse to acknowledge that  
12 there are issues with voter role maintenance and as with  
13 Orange County oftentimes recalcitrant, obstinate, unwilling  
14 to cooperate. The United States is making a simple request  
09:27:09 15 and that is simply share your voter rolls which often  
16 jurisdictions do with Joe Public, right? So if an  
17 individual just writes to the county or the state and  
18 requests voter roll data, they often get quite a lot of  
19 data. But when the Department of Justice asks, suddenly  
09:27:26 20 there's an issue with privacy laws and other state laws that  
21 are preempted by the National Voter Registration Act and  
22 HAVA, the Help American Vote Act.

23 The attorney general -- Congress designated the  
24 attorney general specifically under HAVA, in 2002, after  
09:27:43 25 *Bush v. Gore* to ensure that voter maintenance occurs. There

09:27:48 1 is no private right of action under HAVA. Nobody can simply  
2 bring an action for redress or for a jurisdiction to correct  
3 its list maintenance. It's literally only the attorney  
4 general.

09:28:02 5 So the Attorney General rightfully in this case  
6 is, with the evidence of ineligible voters on the Orange  
7 County voter rolls, making demands of Orange County to make  
8 certain disclosures, not only for the list that they have,  
9 but also for records regarding list maintenance. And all of

09:28:22 10 that is spelled out in the federal statutes under HAVA and  
11 the NVRA. Orange County refused and they actually produced  
12 something that was heavily redacted, probably far more  
13 redacted than had I asked for them as Joe Public. And so  
14 we're here today because Orange County has refused to

09:28:42 15 cooperate with the Attorney General and list maintenance is  
16 something that needs to occur in every jurisdiction  
17 throughout our land. As I said, the Attorney General is  
18 squarely charged with ensuring that there is not only a  
19 voter registration program with each state but a list

09:29:02 20 maintenance program with each state. And so we're just  
21 doing our duty. It's as simple as that. We don't think --

22 It's a simple conflict. We don't think it really  
23 will take a lot of time. I reviewed our schedule. We  
24 probably could do it much faster with expedited discovery,  
09:29:20 25 but that's basically where we are right now.

THE COURT: Counsel, tell me about your case.

MS. SHOAI: Thank you, Your Honor.

So this is not an issue of what basically --  
excuse me. The Registrar of Voters did provide names, dates  
of birth, home addresses and other identifying information  
as to these registrants. But without a warrant or a  
subpoena, the Registrar of Voters could not provide personal  
identifying information -- excuse me, highly sensitive  
personal information under California law. That's a  
California Driver's License number, Social Security number  
and, importantly, images of registrants' signatures. No  
member of the public would get this information. This is  
considered sacrosanct under California law. Highly  
confidential information.

The way to get it: Issue a subpoena. Issue a  
warrant. That didn't happen here. In terms of compliance  
with HAVA and the NVRA, the Registrar of Voters has retained  
the driver's license and Social Security numbers of  
registrants as required by HAVA. Under the NVRA, the  
Registrar of Voters did produce information regarding voter  
maintenance activities while still maintaining -- still  
complying with California law by maintaining the  
confidentiality of that confidential personal -- highly  
sensitive personal information.

With respect to noncitizens, the Registrar of

09:30:54 1 Voters requires that all registrants attest under penalty of  
2 perjury that they are U.S. citizens. And when the Registrar  
3 of Voters receives evidence that that is not the case, it  
4 turns it over to the D.A. which is actually what happened in  
09:31:10 5 this case in the news regarding the dog.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Give me just one moment. I'll  
7 be right back with you.

8 *(Recess taken from 9:31 a.m. to 9:42 a.m.)*

9 THE COURT: Then we're back on the record.

09:42:22 10 All counsel are present. Thank you for your  
11 courtesy.

12 Because the motion for dismissal was not timely  
13 brought, perhaps, the first opportunity for this Court to  
14 rule on this case would be the motion for summary judgment;  
09:42:41 15 is that correct?

16 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, our plan is to file a  
17 motion for judgment on the pleadings --

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MS. SHOAI: -- 12(c).

09:42:48 20 THE COURT: That might speed up the process.

21 MS. SHOAI: Yes. And our hope is to get it on  
22 calendar and have the Court hear it by the end of October or  
23 maybe early November.

24 THE COURT: What do you need in terms of  
09:43:05 25 discovery? Is there any discovery needed?

09:43:07 1 A motion on the pleadings usually doesn't  
2 necessitate discovery, but I want to make sure it's fair for  
3 both sides.

4 What's needed?

09:43:16 5 MR. GATES: I appreciate that, Your Honor.

6 I think the County has already indicated that --  
7 or the Registrar of Voters have already indicated that they  
8 don't need any discovery for a MJP. I would probably agree  
9 with that. I think if we look beyond that we would request  
09:43:31 10 limited discovery. I don't know if you want me to get into  
11 that.

12 THE COURT: Yeah, I would for a moment. In other  
13 words -- one of the reasons is because the disagreement  
14 about the trial date between the two of you. And one of my  
09:43:46 15 concerns is that this case will have precedence potentially  
16 far beyond the lawsuit you brought. It may have precedence  
17 across the country. We've got a lot of elections coming up.

18 MR. GATES: I understand.

19 THE COURT: And the earlier we can sort this  
09:44:01 20 out -- and one of you will take [sic] an appeal, obviously,  
21 no matter what. Time is running out with your Registrar in  
22 a sense and the Government kind of in this situation where  
23 we can't give adequate precedence or advice and so I'm  
24 saying, the sooner, the better. But what brings finality  
09:44:24 25 and fairness also, if you need additional discovery -- and



09:44:26 1 I'm completely flexible about that. But right now, the case  
2 seems to be moving slowly and I'd like to speed that up.

3 MR. GATES: I would appreciate that, Your Honor.

4 Just so that we're all on the same page, the  
09:44:37 5 complaint that the United States filed seeks relief --  
6 *(Court Reporter requests clarification for the*  
7 *record.)*

8 MR. GATES: I'm happy to.

9 Just so that we're all on the same page, the  
09:44:50 10 complaint seeks HAVA and NVRA compliance with regard to list  
11 maintenance. That's the ultimate goal. To get there, we  
12 need certain disclosures.

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. GATES: I believe, based on representations  
09:45:01 15 from the Registrars, they're stuck on, *Well, you're not*  
16 *entitled to those disclosures.* So I'm not sure what the MJP  
17 is going to look like --

18 THE COURT: How do we get to a dispositive  
19 decision by the Court that acts as precedence and goes up to  
09:45:19 20 appeal and maybe even goes to the Supreme Court? My fear  
21 is, as we go through the procedural process, it doesn't  
22 answer for the Registrar or federal government what those  
23 guidelines are that you can operate by, and we have a lot of  
24 elections coming up.

09:45:36 25 MR. GATES: Well, I would suggest, Your Honor,

09:45:38 1 that HAVA --

2 THE COURT: Why don't you two just talk informally  
3 for moment. In other words, you may have the same desire on  
4 behalf of both of your clients. And I'm not sure -- is a  
09:45:47 5 judgment on the pleadings going to answer this question?

6 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor --

7 THE COURT: Why don't you two just talk informally  
8 for a moment. You don't have to like each other.

9 MR. GATES: She's pleasant. That's not the issue.

09:45:59 10 THE COURT: Why don't you just get up and see if  
11 there's some kind of an accommodation we can reach to speed  
12 this up, and I mean it in a dispositive way, okay? Because  
13 judgment on the pleadings, is that -- judgment on the  
14 pleadings is not going to give you a dispositive answer to  
09:46:13 15 this question, necessarily.

16 MR. GATES: Your Honor, alternatively, what we  
17 could suggest is that the United States brings an OSC for  
18 why the --

19 THE COURT: Exactly.

09:46:23 20 MR. GATES: So we'll --

21 THE COURT: Go talk for a moment. In other words,  
22 how do we get a decision as quickly as possible so that we  
23 can operate even when you're up on appeal?

24 MR. GATES: Understood. Thank you, Your Honor.

09:46:36 25 THE COURT: Okay.

09:46:36 1 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: That's the public good. You both want  
3 that. And I'm a little afraid of the judgment on the  
4 pleadings, different standard. I mean, what we're inviting  
09:46:45 5 is this case to drag along for a long time without the  
6 Registrar and the federal government being able to operate  
7 under any guideline. That doesn't serve either of your  
8 purpose. So a technical win could be bad for either of you.

9 MR. GATES: And a little bit more backdrop. There  
09:47:00 10 is a pretty exhaustive list of requirements under HAVA, and  
11 I think there's a disagreement about the statute, too.

12 THE COURT: Go talk to each other for just a  
13 moment. I'm going to call another case in a few moments,  
14 but you're my first priority until I call that case. So  
09:47:13 15 I'll take a recess. Just tell Karlen.

16 I really think -- by the way, your interests are  
17 the same.

18 Is Leon Page still your counsel?

19 MS. SHOAI: He is.

09:47:21 20 THE COURT: I get Page and Page, right?

21 MS. SHOAI: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Take your time and call over, because  
23 I'm really curious about these interim procedural motions,  
24 different standards and where that leads. I don't think  
09:47:32 25 that that answers this question. And I think for our

09:47:34 1 elected officials, I think they're going to absolutely be in  
2 limbo. And whoever prevails on this, so be it; but whoever  
3 loses can start that appeal process, right away. You can go  
4 to the Ninth Circuit. You can get it on with the  
09:47:49 5 Supreme Court, if you want to. And I'm afraid, motions like  
6 12(b)(6) is even with it, *Twombly* standard.

7 MR. GATES: Understood, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: So how do we get this in a dispositive  
9 decision making place for the benefit of the public as  
09:48:02 10 quickly as possible?

11 Now, you can continue on with your judgment on the  
12 pleading motion. Is that dispositive?

13 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, I believe it is. I  
14 believe it's dispositive from the complaint that's been  
09:48:20 15 filed.

16 THE COURT: You two go talk. Make sure. If  
17 you're satisfied, I'll follow your directions.

18 MR. GATES: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I'll be right back.

09:49:24 20 *(Pause.)*  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

09:49:24 1  
2 THE COURT: Let me share just a couple more  
3 thoughts while you're talking for just a moment. Take your  
4 time with this, but I want to go on the record.

09:56:15 5 Okay. I'm going to joke around with you just a  
6 little bit. Are you ready for this?

7 How many rulings have acted as precedence on a  
8 judgment on the pleadings?

9 Let me say that again. Could you imagine this  
09:56:39 10 Court citing one of my colleagues, for instance, as  
11 precedence on judgment on the pleadings?

12 Hold on. Let me just play with this for a moment.  
13 Look, let's just assume that you did prevail from your  
14 standpoint on judgment of the pleadings and you're anxious  
09:56:53 15 to bring this motion. I would think that the position of  
16 the plaintiff would be, *Judge, we would like to amend,*  
17 right? Absolutely. Thumbs up.

18 No, hold on. Let's walk through this, because  
19 there's the law and process and then there's -- where does  
09:57:14 20 our public end up? So now, hypothetically, you're anxious  
21 on the County to proceed on judgment of the pleadings. You  
22 get a temporary knockout blow. The Government comes back  
23 now and says, *We want to amend.* Granted.

24 Well, how much time has that taken? And what's  
09:57:32 25 our standard on judgment of the pleadings? Is that really

09:57:35 1 what you want is send it up to the Ninth Circuit and the  
2 Supreme Court? So it creates this procedural rasp that  
3 you're entitled to, but it absolutely lacks finality. It  
4 doesn't give you and the Justice Department, nor you or the  
09:57:51 5 County or other counties across the country any real  
6 precedence to rely on. *Hi, I'm a federal judge in Iowa. I*  
7 *just read that Judge Carter on judgment of the pleadings did*  
8 *X, Y and Z.* Could you imagine the federal court following  
9 that precedence? No. And I wouldn't follow that precedence  
09:58:10 10 either.

11 So, minimally, I would like to get to some kind of  
12 summary judgment stage, you know, with some finality and put  
13 myself in the best position to have a dispositive ruling and  
14 I think both of you would also. And that way it can go up  
09:58:25 15 to the Ninth Circuit on whoever's prevailing or not, and  
16 we're not wasting time. I'll repeat to you, I'm really  
17 worried about all the elections coming up.

18 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, you know, I spoke with  
19 Mr. Gates outside and my position is that this is really a  
09:58:38 20 legal issue and a motion for judgment on the pleadings would  
21 be dispositive for that reason. I do understand the Court's  
22 concern.

23 THE COURT: Just a moment. Dispositive? Motion  
24 to amend?

09:58:49 25 MR. GATES: Correct, Your Honor.

09:58:51 1 THE COURT: Absolutely. Now, granted --

2 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, I invited Mr. Gates -- I  
3 asked him, *Are you interested in amending?*

4 I spoke to him about the issues that I think are  
09:59:00 5 put at issue by his complaint, and I asked if he wants to  
6 amend --

7 (*Overtalking: Unable to report.*)

8 THE COURT: How much discovery, which is where I  
9 started this, do you really need to get to a summary  
09:59:10 10 judgment motion?

11 No, just -- don't answer that right now. Just  
12 think this out. Summary judgment, at least, has enough of a  
13 legal standard. It is a dispositive ruling by the Court.  
14 We cite each other on summary judgment motions, not on  
09:59:29 15 judgment on the pleadings. Trust me. It's ripe then for  
16 appeal. We haven't wasted time. We've given the public and  
17 the registrars across the country and the federal government  
18 some indication to take it up. And we don't need a lot of  
19 discovery. Why aren't we just moving to summary judgment  
09:59:50 20 motions, because I think you're inviting lack of finality.  
21 While you see a local win from your perspective, I see, even  
22 if you did an amendment, time, and everybody is running  
23 around, quite frankly not knowing what to do.

24 MR. GATES: May I, Your Honor?

10:00:05 25 THE COURT: Please.

10:00:05 1 MR. GATES: So I'm just going to read the tea  
2 leaves here, because this isn't my first rodeo. I  
3 anticipate that a motion for judgment on the pleadings by  
4 the Registrar of Voters is preferrable, because they don't  
10:00:18 5 want discovery. The fact of the matter is they have  
6 indicated that they have self-reported or self-identified 13  
7 individuals who are ineligible voters who they are now  
8 prosecuting with the D.A.'s office.

9 In a county with millions of voters, if you are  
10:00:36 10 doing list maintenance properly, Your Honor, you're not  
11 going to have 13 people. We're going to have hundreds of  
12 thousands of people that end up on the list because they're  
13 duplicates, because they were move-aways, because they  
14 happen to be leftovers. They're actually 130 years old who  
10:00:54 15 are registered to vote. So if you're doing proper list  
16 maintenance, Your Honor, you don't have 13 people.

17 The complaint set forth by the United States is we  
18 are holding Orange County's feet to the fire that they are  
19 actually conducting proper list maintenance, and we need  
10:01:10 20 just a small amount of discovery to prove it. And let the  
21 facts prove that they are. That's fine by us. If they are,  
22 then we're happy, and we'll announce that Orange County is  
23 in compliance with the NVRA and HAVA. But discovery shows  
24 they're not, then we would be requesting a court order to  
10:01:26 25 compel the County to engage in proper list maintenance under



10:01:30 1 HAVA. So that's the issue.

2 We would love to have discovery, and we can take  
3 it in chunks, Your Honor, so that we can expedite it. Give  
4 us a deposition or two of the persons most knowledgeable at  
10:01:42 5 the County about list maintenance and give us some of the  
6 documents. The point is, though, that they don't want that  
7 to happen, because it's going to show that their list  
8 maintenance is not working, and we know that. We know that,  
9 because among the 13 people that they self-reported who were  
10:01:58 10 ineligible to vote, the dog that made the news the other day  
11 was not among them. So there are more ineligible voters on  
12 the voter roles. They have a dog named Maya voting in two  
13 elections. And that wasn't among the 13 people that they  
14 had announced -- they self-reported that they removed.

10:02:13 15 So bear this in mind, Your Honor, as we proceed  
16 down this path, we're happy with discovery. We would do it  
17 on an expedited basis. We would love and welcome a motion  
18 for summary judgment. That's exactly what the County is  
19 afraid of. They don't want discovery.

10:02:31 20 MS. SHOAI: Your Honor, may I respond?

21 THE COURT: Go ahead.

22 MS. SHOAI: First, I think that he has  
23 misrepresented the County's voter maintenance protocols.  
24 Well more than the 13 identified -- actually, I think it was  
10:02:42 25 17 identified to the DOJ are taken off the voter rolls for

10:02:48 1 various reasons. But the DOJ asked for a very specific  
2 subset. It was a very specific subset of the number of  
3 registered -- voters registration records in Orange County  
4 canceled because the registrant did not satisfy the  
10:03:02 5 citizenship requirement for a specific period of time.  
6 That's different than our typical voter maintenance  
7 activities which take people off for having moved or having  
8 passed away. That happens constantly and that is, of  
9 course, a much bigger number.

10:03:17 10 Separate from that, my concern is that is the  
11 complaint, as I read it right now, does not identify any  
12 violation by the Registrar of Voters of HAVA or the MBRA.  
13 And my concern is that -- and for that reason, I think,  
14 you know, right now what I'm hearing from opposing counsel,  
10:03:36 15 is that federal law preempts California law regarding the  
16 redactions that the County -- that the Registrar of Voters  
17 included in its disclosure of records. That is the subject  
18 of this complaint.

19 Then there is a more general claim that the  
10:03:57 20 Registrar of Voters violated HAVA or violated the NVRA, but  
21 there are no facts pled to identify how that took place.  
22 Right now, the only apparent violation is the failure to  
23 provide these records without redaction. I think to the  
24 extent that the DOJ is claiming that the retractions violate  
10:04:21 25 HAVA or the NVRA, that's what's pled right now. And we can

10:04:25 1 do a motion for a judgment of the pleadings and the Court  
2 can determine whether the laws that the DOJ has cited  
3 in fact do preempt California law or do not preempt  
4 California law. That is a legal issue, and we're happy to  
10:04:39 5 have that conversation.

6 To the extent that this case is about something  
7 more, we need to know what that is. Facts need to be pled  
8 about what it is that the Registrar of Voters did that  
9 somehow violated federal law. We can't tell from the  
10:04:52 10 pleading what that is.

11 THE COURT: All right. I've expressed my concerns  
12 with transparency. We'll simply follow our inability to  
13 reach an agreement, okay? We don't have an agreement.  
14 Therefore, I'll go back to the process and procedure.

10:05:07 15 I'd like to get this resolved, though, as quickly  
16 as possible, so I'm going to put pressure on you. I'm going  
17 to adopt the Government's earlier dates, rather than the  
18 County's later dates so that we get some kind of resolution  
19 on behalf of the citizens of this County and maybe the  
10:05:30 20 country.

21 So, therefore, counsel, I believe the plaintiff's  
22 request was for a trial on March 31st, and I'm looking at  
23 page 6 of the scheduling conference, with a pretrial on  
24 March 9th of 2026; hearing on dispositive motions,  
10:05:55 25 January 26th of 2026; a cut-off date for all fact discovery

10:06:00 1 on December 1st, 2025. The deadline for settlement  
2 conference -- this isn't going to settle, is it?

3 MR. GATES: It depends on how discovery --

4 THE COURT: Well, just a moment. I don't want to  
10:06:13 5 know what your settlement discussions have been. Have  
6 you --

7 I think I read in the Register that there was some  
8 effort to settle the matter between the two parties, and I  
9 put the paper down. As soon as I recognized the case, I  
10:06:29 10 said, *Whoops*. And the other thing I will disclose to you I  
11 read someplace -- I think it's the Register or the Times,  
12 but I think the Register -- the other information. Oh,  
13 Todd Spitzer. Yeah, whatever edition that's in. I don't  
14 know if I had gotten the case by that time or just  
10:06:53 15 afterwards that Spitzer had made a statement that -- about,  
16 basically, local law enforcement could control the  
17 situation, for want of a better word, and he wasn't seeing  
18 that fraud. But that's the one thing; otherwise,  
19 recognizing this case I sat everything down in the papers  
10:07:11 20 that I take. I take both the Times and Register so you  
21 know, okay?

22 Okay. If you want, with that deadline settlement  
23 conference, I'll just follow your wishes, March 16th;  
24 initial expert disclosure, October 27th; rebuttal expert  
10:07:29 25 disclosure, November 10th. And I'll adopt the plaintiff's

10:07:32 1 requested dates. That will put pressure on all of us though  
2 to resolve it just as quickly as possible. That also  
3 doesn't preclude you from bringing a motion for judgment on  
4 the pleadings in any way. So you can bring that at your  
10:07:48 5 convenience. It just speeds everything up, so we're not  
6 deciding this in June or July so close to an election.

7 MR. GATES: And I just want to be clear,  
8 Your Honor -- and I appreciate the Court's position on this  
9 and we welcome any progress that can be made on this -- that  
10:08:01 10 discovery can occur, even though they're preparing an MJP?

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 MR. GATES: And Your Honor, the court clerk had  
13 asked us to make our appearances again and --

14 THE COURT: My apologies.

10:08:10 15 MR. GATES: Michael Gates with the Department of  
16 Justice, on behalf of the United States.

17 MS. SHOAI: And Suzanne Shoai for defendant Robert  
18 Page.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Then do you have anything other  
10:08:20 20 than me thanking you for your courtesy today?

21 MR. GATES: That's it, Your Honor. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you very much. I just implore  
23 you to get this case moving as just quickly as possible so  
24 we get a resolution, okay?

10:08:30 25 MS. SHOAI: Understood. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you very much.

*(At 10:08 a.m., proceedings were adjourned.)*

-oOo-

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 753,  
Title 28, United States Code, the foregoing is a true and  
correct transcript of the stenographically reported  
proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that the  
transcript page format is in conformance with the  
regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Date: November 23, 2025

/s/DEBORAH D. PARKER  
DEBORAH D. PARKER, OFFICIAL REPORTER

*Deborah D. Parker, U.S. Court Reporter*

MR. GATES: [27]  
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without [3] 6/6 11/5  18/23  word [1] 20/17  words [3] 8/13 10/3  10/21  working [2] 3/14 17/8  worried [1] 14/17  would [17] 6/12 7/14  8/8 8/9 8/12 9/3 9/25  13/15 13/16 13/16  14/11 14/14 14/20  16/24 17/2 17/16 17/17  wouldn't [1] 14/9  writes [1] 4/17 </p> <p>Y</p> <p> Yeah [3] 4/9 8/12 20/13  years [2] 3/13 16/14  Yes [3] 7/21 11/21  21/11  you [67]  you know [1] 18/14  you're [12] 3/22 9/15  10/23 11/14 12/17 13/3  13/14 13/20 14/3 15/20  16/10 16/15  your [53]  Your Honor [1] 21/8 </p>
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