

EXHIBIT A

[Excerpts of Deposition Transcript of Dr. Morris]

UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

-----)
EMMANUEL SERGENTAKIS) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff(s)) CASE NO.
-vs-) 3:20-cv-01021(CSH)
STEVEN DITRIA)
Defendant(s))
-----)

REMOTE DEPOSITION OF DR. ARTEMIS MORRIS

DATE: APRIL 8, 2021

HELD AT:

Woodbridge, Connecticut

Dawn C. Mahoney, CSR #142
COMPUTER REPORTING SERVICE
One Grandview Terrace
North Haven, Connecticut 06473
(203) 234-1144

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1 that. So currently they're at school.

2 Q Like I said before, my five- and
3 eight-year-olds are a bit of a handful when they're
4 being home-schooled.

5 A It's very difficult for young kids.

6 Q It is. They'll all be better at
7 technology after this, that's for sure.

8 I understand that you were previously
9 married to Mr. Sergentakis?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Are you presently married?

12 A No. We officially divorced on July 23rd
13 of 2019.

14 Q How did you meet Mr. Sergentakis?

15 A His family knew my family, and while I was
16 vacationing in Crete, in Greece -- it was many
17 years ago -- I met him through the family.

18 Q And how long were you married to
19 Mr. Sergentakis?

20 A Seventeen years.

21 Q Seventeen years?

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q Do you know what he does for employment,
24 if anything?

25 A During the divorce he was given one of my

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1 medicine, and I also am a licensed acupuncturist.
2 I have my master's in acupuncture and I do that as
3 well.

4 Q All right. I'm going to have to pick your
5 brain on the nutrition aspect of things. COVID
6 hasn't been great over here.

7 A I wrote a book on how to stay well during
8 the pandemic. I'm happy to share that with you.

9 Q What's the name of that book?

10 A "Naturopathic Doctor's Guide to Wellness
11 for Immune Support." It's on the Amazon. That was
12 my project when things closed down. I tried to
13 figure out how I'm going to help my patients and my
14 community and that came out of it.

15 Q Very interesting. In terms of some more
16 background questions, I understand you have two
17 children?

18 A I do.

19 Q And they're nine-year-old twins?

20 A They are.

21 Q Are they presently home-schooled? Or, how
22 has that whole thing been working out for you?

23 A I have to say that Beecher School in
24 Woodbridge has done a wonderful job. They've been
25 mostly in person and they've done a great job of

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1 Q Okay. I understand you're testifying from
2 your home in Woodbridge?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q I also understand that you work as a
5 naturopathic doctor over here in Milford,
6 Connecticut?

7 A Yes, I do.

8 Q How long have you been doing that for?

9 A Twenty years.

10 Q Have you always worked in Milford or have
11 you worked in other areas of the state?

12 A I owned Wellness Center in New Haven, I
13 was the Director of Integrated Medicine at Masonic
14 Hospital, and I had a couple of other offices,
15 another one in New Haven, another one in
16 Wallingford, and I worked briefly as an
17 acupuncturist in Pennsylvania.

18 And my other hat is I also am a professor
19 of nutrition and the Co-Academic Director of a
20 master's program in Bethany.

21 Q Okay. I'll avoid asking questions about
22 the acupuncture part because I personally do not
23 like needles. I'm trying to figure out how that
24 whole area works. It's one that I stay away from.

25 A I have a lot of patients that don't like

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1 businesses. So I assume that he is -- he has
2 retained that business.

3 Q Is that the Wellness Center located in New
4 Haven?

5 A Yes, that's Revive Wellness Center. He
6 was given that during the divorce. So I imagine
7 he's managing it but I don't know.

8 Q In terms of his employment background,
9 aside from being involved in the Wellness Center,
10 do you know anything else about his employment
11 background?

12 A I know he learned computer science in
13 college. I know he would sell things, you know,
14 online sometimes, furniture, work for his friends.
15 That's about it. I'm not sure.

16 Q He has at least some degree of IT-type
17 background?

18 A He has an IT background and he did the
19 operations management and some insurance billing
20 for the business. He has an IT background. Him
21 and his brother, actually. Yeah, he's very skilled
22 in IT.

23 Q Okay. I know I asked you if you had given
24 any prior deposition testimony before, but a few
25 more background-type questions. Have you ever

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1 the business, the primary bread winner. I worked
2 all day, took care of the kids full time, and then
3 would come home and be yelled at and threatened and
4 abused.

5 Q All right. In terms of some of what you
6 had just described, that took place over a period
7 of time leading up to basically the October 2017
8 filing?

9 A Correct.

10 Q You mentioned ways that you were verbally
11 abused by Mr. Sergentakakis, but I believe you also
12 mentioned physical abuse; is that right?

13 A There was not a lot of physical abuse, but
14 there was, you know, one incident where I did have
15 to file a restraining order. During the time that
16 I filed for divorce, and I actually got a divorce,
17 there were -- I was in the house with him and I
18 feared for my life and the safety of my children on
19 a daily basis.

20 Q That was while the divorce was pending?

21 A Yes. That was from October 31, 2017. I
22 mean, in some ways there is still a little vestige
23 of that. But once he got out of the house and once
24 there was an official dissolution in 2019, I felt a
25 little better but there are still things that

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1 Q I'm going to ask you some questions about
2 your relationship with Mr. Sergentakis leading up
3 to divorce. Okay?

4 A Okay.

5 Q And I don't mean to pry or ask anything
6 overly personal, but your relationship with
7 Mr. Sergentakis, or at least your previous
8 relationship, is somewhat relevant to what's been
9 going on in connection with this lawsuit involving
10 my client, Detective Ditria, and Mr. Sergentakis.

11 A Certainly.

12 Q Could you tell me what caused you to file
13 for divorce in October of 2017?

14 A Yes. I was being verbally abused and
15 physically abused and Manny was yelling at me in
16 front of the kids after I worked full days, calling
17 me a slob in front of the kids. Basically, I love
18 myself and I deserve to be happy and I didn't want
19 to have my kids think that it was okay to see
20 verbal abuse and to be in a verbally abusive
21 situation. I had to divorce him.

22 And also, he was physically abusive. I
23 never knew where he was. I never knew what he was
24 doing. He refused to tell me anything about the
25 finances, even though I was the primary owner of

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1 out money on a personal line of credit, over
2 20,000. I'm still dealing with some of those
3 financial issues.

4 He, in front of the kids, threatened to
5 send me to jail for taxes, even though he did all
6 the taxes, which made my kids cry. He stole over
7 \$53,000 that the Court awarded me back during the
8 arbitration, which was in February. No. March of
9 2019. But it still did not account for all of the
10 money he stole from me. So I'm still dealing with
11 some of the financial abuse.

12 Q Now, you mentioned during the divorce
13 proceedings you pursued a restraining order against
14 Mr. Sergentakis?

15 A Yes.

16 Q The time period I have on that is roughly
17 November 2018. Would that sound about right?

18 A Yes.

19 Q I know you may have described a little bit
20 of this, but what led you to pursue that
21 restraining order at that time?

22 A I mean, as I mentioned, when he was in the
23 house I feared for my life. He threatened me every
24 day. I feared for the safety of my children on a
25 daily basis. So up until the -- one of the

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1 stipulations, which was in August of 2018, he was
2 in the house and so we each had a month to get our
3 stuff. He threatened, stalked me during that time.

4 One day my mom was watching the kids while
5 I was working and he just showed up. He threatened
6 my mother's life. He had his hands in his pockets.
7 I knew he had guns. My mom almost had a heart
8 attack. So that incident happened. And then one
9 day my son was sick and he refused to tell me where
10 my children were. He got an apartment somewhere.
11 I had no idea where my kids were for a month. My
12 lawyer had to find out where my kids were. And I
13 was awarded full legal and physical custody of the
14 children by the Court, and that was in 2019.

15 When I went to go pick up my son, and he
16 goaded me to come to the office, which, you know,
17 was given to him in the divorce, and there I saw
18 that he had stolen some of my inventory. When I
19 attempted to go get it, he blocked me and I felt
20 very threatened. He was -- he assaulted me on that
21 occasion where I had some bruises and cuts on my
22 hands. So there was that incident and leading up
23 to the daily threats, the threat to my mother's
24 life, the fact that I knew he had guns.

25 And also, when I went to Pennsylvania to

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1 coattail of him threatening my mother's life
2 shortly before and I was very scared.

3 Q In terms of the reference to going to
4 Pennsylvania, that was so you could secure any of
5 the belongings that you had left in that house?

6 A Yes. That was a house we were -- that was
7 the kids' first house. That's where I lived. I
8 drove back and forth for years there. But I had
9 lived there and that's where my things were. I had
10 30 days to get them out and he had prevented me
11 from going there.

12 As I mentioned, he sent me threatening
13 texts, you know, as well that made me fear for my
14 life and my safety. I didn't know what to do and
15 that's why I reached out to Steven, to Detective
16 Ditria, to see, you know -- I mean, even just to
17 know that someone else knew where I was going in
18 case something happened. I didn't know what else
19 to do.

20 Q Okay. You referenced some concerns about
21 Mr. Sergentakis owning or possessing guns, right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q All right. Did you seek information or at
24 least confirmation perhaps as to Mr. Sergentakis's
25 owning of firearms?

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1 Q All right. What was your purpose for
2 reaching out to Detective Ditria when you did?

3 A I feared for my life and I feared for the
4 safety of my kids and I didn't know what to do. So
5 I reached out to him because I thought maybe he
6 could help. I didn't know what -- I had no one who
7 I knew who could protect me against me ex-husband's
8 violence. So that's why I reached out.

9 Q And you knew Detective Ditria was a
10 detective with the Seymour Police Department,
11 right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What information were you provided or did
14 you ask of Detective Ditria during some of the
15 times that you reached out to him and spoke with
16 him and things of that nature?

17 A So I basically reached out to him and I
18 said -- I asked him, you know, what I should do to
19 protect myself in that situation, what my rights
20 were. I wasn't sure. And I wondered if I should
21 call the police when I got to Pennsylvania. I just
22 reached out in general to see if he had any general
23 advice as to what my rights were and how I could
24 protect myself.

25 That was also in addition -- like on the

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1 How did you construe that text message?

2 A I construed it as he was threatening to
3 kill me, he was threatening to hurt me, he was
4 threatening to do me harm, and without any regard
5 to my safety or the future of our children. And he
6 had sent me other messages in the past that said
7 he, you know, was threatening me and would rather
8 -- was using our children as pawns to threaten me.
9 He didn't care who he hurt as long as he hurt me.
10 So I was definitely threatened by that text
11 message.

12 Q And that's one of things that caused you
13 to pursue the restraining order through the court
14 system, right?

15 A There were multiple incidents but that
16 absolutely was another one of -- leading up to the
17 point, he was becoming more and more dangerous, he
18 was becoming more and more unpredictable, and I did
19 fear for my safety and the safety of my children.
20 Yeah.

21 Q Around that time frame, and I understand
22 you're an acquaintance of Detective Ditria, but I
23 also understand that you have reached out to
24 Detective Ditria; is that right?

25 A Yes.

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1 A I knew that Manny had multiple firearms.
2 He would show them off when there were parties in
3 Pennsylvania. He would carry when he was at
4 Revived Wellness Center. He would kind of show it
5 off to his buddies. He had multiple guns. He had
6 gun safes in Connecticut and Pennsylvania. He
7 tried to show the kids how to shoot. It was -- he
8 was very into guns.

9 I also found, you know, information --
10 this was another issue why I filed a restraining
11 order. He had IDs. He had aliases. He had an
12 alias Arnold Chisam (phonetic) where he took out a
13 fake Social Security card, a fake driver's license
14 to buy -- to illegally purchase guns in New York
15 with.

16 Considering his moral character and how
17 some of the guns may have been unregistered, I
18 didn't know, I was very concerned about the fact
19 that he would send these threatening text messages,
20 the way he threatened my mother's life, and going
21 up to Pennsylvania to get my stuff I didn't know
22 what was going to happen. I don't know if I
23 answered your question, but I just kind of --

24 Q That's fine. In terms of the guns, any
25 idea how many guns Mr. Sergentakakis had owned around

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1 that time of 2017, 2018 or so?

2 A I'm going to guess a dozen but I don't
3 know. I know he had illegal bullets at one point
4 that he would show off to his friends. He did have
5 some illegal firearms and bullets that he would
6 show off at parties to his buddies.

7 Q You referenced a concern of possible fake
8 identification or aliases and you mentioned a name
9 but I didn't catch it. What was the name that you
10 had mentioned?

11 A It's Arnold, A-r-n-o-l-d -- let's see. I
12 have them. This is a different -- that was a
13 different alias. This alias -- he had a couple.
14 This one was Michael, M-i-c-h-a-e-l, last name
15 S-e-r-g-e-v-i-k. So he had a fake driver's license
16 registered under Michael Sergevik at 1405 Avenue Z,
17 Apartment 622, Brooklyn, New York 11235, and that
18 was in 1995. And he also has a pistol license with
19 that alias. And he had a Falcon 5227 -- I have the
20 serial number here if you want it, and a Glock E52
21 underneath that alias.

22 And I showed these to the police but they
23 didn't do anything about it when I filed the
24 restraining order.

25 Q All right. But, obviously, you were

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1 concerned that maybe there were some weapons that
2 were not linked or registered directly to his name;
3 is that right?

4 A Absolutely. And he also -- I'm sorry if
5 I'm getting ahead of myself. After I filed a
6 restraining order, he refused to give up his guns.
7 I still don't know if he has them. That's why I'm
8 still concerned.

9 Q We'll get there in a minute. In terms of
10 your contacting Detective Ditria, was part of your
11 concern the fact that Mr. Sergentakis had some of
12 these aliases and also had several firearms I guess
13 linked to those aliases, so to speak?

14 A Yes. I knew that my ex-husband had
15 firearms. I knew he had no regard for social or
16 moral code. He had aliases and he had guns
17 registered under aliases. He verbally abused and
18 threatened me. He threatened to kill my mother.
19 He stalked me. He broke into the -- later on this
20 will come up. He would break into my emails. He
21 violated my privacy. That's how this case actually
22 came about, by violating my privacy with my
23 Facebook.

24 With that text message that I got that you
25 won't like the outcome, there's broken glass, I

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1 can't guarantee your safety, you know, I was very
2 scared and didn't know what happened. I had to go
3 up and get my things. I wanted to get some of the
4 kids' things that I know -- like I still -- this is
5 years later. There's videos of my daughter walking
6 for the first time that I may never have access to.

7 Q It's okay. Take a quick minute. I know a
8 lot of this isn't easy and I thank you for doing
9 your best today.

10 A That's why I reached out to Detective
11 Ditria, just to, you know, reach out to see how I
12 could have my -- I just wanted to have someone to
13 reach out for my safety and just to know where I
14 was going and to see what I should do once I get
15 there. Because, you know, I was going to have to
16 go to another state to get my things and it was
17 court ordered that I could do so. But like I said,
18 he was very unpredictable.

19 Q Understood. You mentioned what you
20 believed to be a violation of your privacy
21 involving your Facebook. What did you mean by
22 that?

23 A As far as I know, the reason for this case
24 even being here is because my ex-husband violated
25 my privacy by -- in which he did multiple times

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1 throughout our marriage. I don't know if he's
2 still bugging me. Basically, I had my own
3 Facebook. He was never a friend. He was not
4 associated with it. He looked at my Instant
5 Messages and somehow found out that I had reached
6 out to Detective Ditria. I think that's what this
7 case is about where he's -- you know, he tried to
8 hurt him in any way.

9 This is what my husband did, he violated
10 my privacy. He was posing as me during the bank to
11 steal my any bank account; he stole over 20,000.
12 I'm still dealing with some of that credit card
13 fraud and some of that debt. He stole money out of
14 my mailbox in Milford and he deposited it into
15 accounts. He took some of my accounts out of hold
16 during the divorce. So he absolutely, you know,
17 has been violating my privacy. I believe he also
18 did so for this case, which shocks me.

19 I don't understand how there could be a
20 case against someone that's, you know, using
21 information that was illegally obtained. That is
22 just so shocking to me that the Court and the law
23 allows someone who has no social or moral compass
24 like my ex-husband to manipulate the law and to use
25 it in order to hurt innocent people like myself and

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1 Detective Ditria who was just trying to help me
2 out.

3 Q Now, I understand in terms of the Facebook
4 message and the information that you believe that
5 your husband accessed that was sent to you from
6 Detective Ditria, that information was what? It
7 involved his name, confirming his background
8 information, and his ownership of potential
9 firearms? Is that what it was?

10 A Yes. I have it right in front of me. The
11 only thing that Detective Ditria shared with me was
12 information I already knew. It was information
13 that he had a gun registration. It was information
14 I already knew. That was it.

15 Q Is it fair to say that it confirmed for
16 you that he, in fact, did have weapons and perhaps
17 registered to at least his name as Mr. Sergentakis?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What, if anything, did you do with that
20 information that was shared privately with you?

21 A I didn't do anything with the information.
22 It wasn't anything new for me. Nothing was done
23 with it. I basically forgot about it and went to
24 Pennsylvania. There was nothing done with that
25 information. It was confidential information. It

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1 was not shared.

2 The only person who shared that
3 confidential information by breaking into my
4 Facebook and breaking into my privacy was Emmanuel
5 Sergentakakis. So the fact that there's a violation
6 of that privacy, he violated my privacy to find
7 this information and utilize that in order to hurt
8 a detective that was trying to help me because I
9 was being abused and, you know, a victim of
10 domestic violence. So the only person who actually
11 violated this information was Emmanuel Sergentakakis.

12 Q Understood. You mentioned a refusal by
13 Mr. Sergentakakis to give up his guns. Now, I
14 understand there was the restraining order from
15 November of 2018, and I also understand
16 Mr. Sergentakakis was arrested on or about November
17 19, 2018, apparently by New Haven Police.

18 What is your understanding of his arrest
19 at that time?

20 A After I filed for a restraining order, he
21 refused to give up his guns. I felt extremely
22 un -- I feared for my life and the safety of my
23 kids even more, because not only was he out there
24 and restraining order on him but he refused to give
25 up his firearms. So he threatened my mother, he

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1 understanding that the violation of the restraining
2 order was related to his refusal to give up his
3 weapons; is that correct?

4 A It absolutely was related to his refusal
5 to give up his weapons. That arrest was because he
6 refused to give up his weapons after a restraining
7 order. If the arrest was 11/19, the restraining
8 order was 11/14. There was a period of time where
9 he was very unpredictable.

10 Q I take it from some of your earlier
11 testimony to be that you're still concerned
12 somewhat for your own safety with regard to your
13 ex-husband; is that correct?

14 A Yes. I still don't know if he has guns.
15 I don't know where he has them. He hasn't been
16 communicative about the children. I have full
17 legal and physical custody. Yeah, he has no social
18 and moral compass. Yeah, I still do feel that
19 there is a risk.

20 Q Just give me one moment, if you don't
21 mind. I just want to look through one thing.

22 MR. BUTURLA: If everyone would like
23 to take a five-minute break, that's fine
24 with me.

25 THE WITNESS: Okay.

1 CERTIFICATION

2

3 STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
4 DISTRICT OF NEW HAVEN) ss. East Haven

5

I, DAWN C. MAHONEY, Court Reporter and Notary
6 Public within the State of Connecticut, duly
commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that
7 pursuant to Notice, Dr. Artemis Morris, the deponent
herein, was by me first duly sworn to testify to the
8 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth of
her knowledge touching and concerning the matters in
9 controversy in this case; that she was thereupon
carefully examined upon her oath and her examination
10 reduced to typewriting by me; and that the
deposition is a true and accurate record of the
11 testimony given by the witness.

12 I further certify that I am neither attorney or
counsel for, nor related to or employed by, any of
13 the parties to the action in which this deposition
is taken, and, further, that I am not a relative or
14 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
parties hereto or financially interested in the
15 outcome of said action.

16 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my notarial seal this 29th day of April,
17 2021.

18 (My commission expires April 30, 2026)

19

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23 _____
Dawn C. Mahoney, Notary Public, CSR #00142

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