

<p><b>DISTRICT COURT</b> <b>BOULDER, COLORADO</b></p> <p>1777 6th St. Boulder, CO 80302</p>	
<p>In re the Marriage of:</p> <p>Petitioner:</p> <p><b>CHARLES BELL</b></p> <p>and</p> <p>Co-Petitioner:</p> <p><b>ALYSON BELL</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲</p> <p>Case Number:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2022DR30458</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Courtroom M</b></p>
<p>For Petitioner: Charles Bell, Pro Se</p> <p>For the Co-Petitioner: Carol Glassman, Esq., R/N. 11321 Carol Glassman, PC 4845 Pearl East Circle Suite 101 Boulder, CO 80301 Phone: (720)773-6668</p>	
<p>The matter came on for hearing on June 11, 2025, before the HONORABLE TIMOTHY JOHNSON, Judge of the District Court, and the following proceedings were had.</p>	

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1 BOULDER, COLORADO; JUNE 11, 2025

2 (Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.)

3 THE CLERK: We're on the record.

4 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, folks. My name  
5 is Magistrate Timothy Johnson. It is Wednesday, June 11th,  
6 2025. It's just a couple minutes after 2:00 -- 2:00, that's me  
7 wishing it was the afternoon -- 9:00 in the morning. The Court  
8 was allowing the parties to get things ready. I'll go ahead  
9 and call the case, and we'll get introductions, and then Mr.  
10 Bell had some questions. Court's going to call Case 22DR30458.  
11 This is In re the Marriage of Bell.

12 Mr. Bell, let me have you introduce yourself. Just  
13 your first and last name, please.

14 MR. BELL: Yeah. My name is Charles Bell, and I'm  
15 appearing as pro se.

16 THE COURT: Thank you so much.

17 MR. BELL: Sure.

18 MS. GLASSMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Carol  
19 Glassman, attorney registration 11321. I appear on behalf of  
20 Co-petitioner Bell, who is with me at counsel table. We are  
21 ready to proceed.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Glassman.

23 Good morning, Ms. Bell.

24 MS. BELL: Good morning.

25 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bell, go ahead, if you

1 would like to.

2 MR. BELL: Yeah. I'd like to present, just for bench  
3 only, just for reference --

4 THE COURT: I don't know what you're asking.

5 MR. BELL: -- a document. It's kind of -- it's -- I  
6 want to read this right. It's really to allow us to litigate  
7 with any -- without any misconduct, and that I can reference  
8 it. They'll have it. You'll have it.

9 THE COURT: Well, I was going to say, so --

10 MR. BELL: Yeah.

11 THE COURT: What --

12 MR. BELL: It's bench only. It's not evidence or  
13 anything like that. It's just a guide.

14 THE COURT: Do you have a copy for Ms. Glassman?

15 MR. BELL: Hum?

16 THE COURT: Do you have a copy for Ms. Glassman?

17 MR. BELL: Yeah. Of course.

18 THE COURT: Go ahead and give it to her, and I'll  
19 take a look at it and see what you have.

20 All right. The Court notes this is an eight-page  
21 document.

22 MR. BELL: Now, hopefully, I won't reference it.

23 THE COURT: All right. And so with regards to this  
24 hearing, Mr. Bell, I know that you are pro se. You've been  
25 through a hearing before; is that right?

1 MR. BELL: Yeah. The last time.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And so I just want to make sure  
3 you kind of see how I run things. I run things a little bit  
4 differently.

5 MR. BELL: Okay.

6 THE COURT: And the main reason I do that is, I have  
7 a view of family law, and family law is kind of -- the whole  
8 goal of it is to do what's in the best interest of the child.  
9 And so because of that, a lot of the hallmarks of our  
10 adversarial system I try to remove from the courtroom.

11 So for example when we -- or when you will present  
12 witnesses, when you will make objections, opening statements,  
13 closing statements, I don't require people to stand at the  
14 lectern. And the reason I don't is, it's kind of this -- it  
15 creates this dynamic of the person at the lectern versus the  
16 person at the witness stand. We don't need to do that. If  
17 you're comfortable doing that, you absolutely can. But what  
18 I'm inviting folks to do is, if you want to make an objection,  
19 feel free to stay seated, and you can make an objection.

20 The main reason for that, we learned during COVID, is  
21 that our audio recordings really are -- were iffy back in the  
22 COVID days. And if you stood up and made an objection, you're  
23 like a foot and a half away from the microphone and you're  
24 talking over the microphone. And so the sound quality actually  
25 goes down. So feel free to make an objection from a seated

1 position. You can ask questions from a seated position. I'll  
2 still have people come up to the witness stand and give their  
3 testimony from there. But other than that, I try to relax  
4 things a little bit.

5 In this particular hearing, I'm going to divide time  
6 roughly equally. This is a full-day hearing, each morning and  
7 afternoon session. We have approximately two and a half hours  
8 to work with, which is 150 minutes. And so I'll give each side  
9 150 minutes. I keep track of that up here, to the best of my  
10 ability. And when I say to the best of my ability, there are  
11 times in which I might forget to turn it off immediately, or  
12 I've taken morning breaks, and the timer just keeps going.  
13 I'll note that, and I'll jot down add 15 minutes, add 2  
14 minutes, subtract 5 minutes, whatever it is. But if you need  
15 to have a time check, just ask. And I'm happy to tell you what  
16 each side has used up until that point in time.

17 The way I'll run the hearing is we'll begin with  
18 opening statements. Opening statements are often not  
19 necessary, because you've done a pre-hearing statement that  
20 you've submitted. And I've reviewed those. I'm familiar with  
21 the case and the dynamics, that's what's going on. But you do  
22 have the right to make an opening statement. An opening  
23 statement is not evidence. So if you say things in the opening  
24 statement, you're going to have to repeat it if you want it to  
25 be considered factually during any testimony that you want to

1 present. Does that make sense? Okay.

2           And then for cross-examination, cross-examination in  
3 my experience has -- or it can be pretty confrontational. And  
4 so what I tell litigants to do, especially pro se litigants, is  
5 after you ask the question, make sure you have the tail end go  
6 up at the end so you're done with your question.

7           And then what I ask for witnesses is to kind of take  
8 a beat, take a breath after you hear that final up on the  
9 question, and then answer. And then for the person answering  
10 the question, again, take a breath before you ask your next  
11 question. It doesn't need to be like TV, that's very well  
12 scripted when they go back and forth as quickly as they can. I  
13 take notes as we go. And so it is more difficult for me to  
14 keep up if you're going at rapid fire paces.

15           After you finish your case-in-chief, Ms. Glassman  
16 will have an opportunity to call witnesses. You'll have an  
17 opportunity to cross-examine those witnesses. And then if  
18 there's any kind of rebuttal case that you need to put on, we  
19 can do that at the end of the evidence presentation.

20           After the conclusion of evidence, we'll do closing  
21 arguments. Closing arguments, again, are not evidence. So if  
22 you start introducing new facts at that point, I can't consider  
23 that for substantive issues. I can only take the facts that  
24 are presented during the case itself and use that as my factual  
25 basis when I make any kind of ruling. Does all that make

1 sense?

2 MR. BELL: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: Can I answer questions for you?

4 MR. BELL: No, I think we're good.

5 THE COURT: All right. And I know that there are  
6 accommodations that you've been provided.

7 MR. BELL: Yeah.

8 THE COURT: Again, I try my best to watch over and  
9 make sure that those are being observed. If you need  
10 additional time, if you need something explained, if you need  
11 to take a break, just tell me. I'm more than happy to be  
12 accommodating to that as well. I just need to kind of know  
13 from you when we reach a particular point, if you need to have  
14 that additional time, if you need some kind of additional  
15 explanation as to what's going on or otherwise. All right?  
16 Okay.

17 And then Ms. Glassman, I'm looking. There were three  
18 motions that were filed, I think all of them on June 4th --  
19 sorry, there are four of them. There's an objection to  
20 Petitioner's exhibits, a supplemental -- objection to  
21 supplemental exhibits, a objection to second notice of  
22 supplemental disclosure, and a objection to Petitioner's third  
23 notice of supplemental disclosures. And so I think those are  
24 the pre-trial issues that I have for me this morning to  
25 address. Are there other pre-trial issues that we need to

1 address?

2 MS. GLASSMAN: I think the Court, with its ruling  
3 yesterday, declined to -- that Mr. Bell's witnesses will be  
4 able to testify, so.

5 THE COURT: Right. They were disclosed late.

6 MS. GLASSMAN: So I think that's taken care of.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MS. GLASSMAN: And other than that, I have nothing  
9 else.

10 THE COURT: All right. And Mr. Bell, I wanted to  
11 give you --

12 MR. BELL: Yeah.

13 THE COURT: I'm sorry. I wanted to give you an  
14 opportunity, if you wanted to, because these were all filed on  
15 June 4th, the ability to address the objections to the various  
16 exhibits. And I'm happy to go through them one at a time to  
17 kind of address some of the issues. And let me kind of frame  
18 what I'm looking for today, just so you're --

19 MR. BELL: Yeah.

20 THE COURT: -- you're clear. There is a theory in  
21 the law, which, and especially as a magistrate, that I need to  
22 follow. And that is called the law of the case. The law of  
23 the case is kind of -- if you look at it in a metaphorical type  
24 of sense, it's kind of like a river. The river has its  
25 starting point, and it meanders down through the valleys on its

1 way to emptying into whatever body of water it's going to empty  
2 into. It takes a pretty significant course, and it's a  
3 deliberate course. It could be around rocks. It could be up  
4 and down various valleys, whatever it is. But it cuts this  
5 path. And what I have to do is basically start where that  
6 river is. I can't go back to its headwaters. And the reason  
7 for that is, as a magistrate, I lack the ability to basically  
8 look at other people's work and say, you know, I disagree with  
9 this, and because I disagree with this, I'm going to reconsider  
10 what a prior judicial officer did. And so there are certain  
11 things along the way on the legal sense which kind of bind me  
12 to these prior findings.

13           So the first and foremost, with the permanent orders,  
14 the permanent orders that were done in this case were done by a  
15 district court judge. That district court judge heard  
16 evidence, and that evidence I know that you disagree with, but  
17 heard evidence as to what that judge felt the value of -- or  
18 the income and the various assets of the parties were, and  
19 based on that, made a decision as to maintenance and child  
20 support. And so that was kind of a significant marker in that  
21 river.

22           As the river kind of kept flowing, there's a couple  
23 of events which took place, which again allowed the Court to  
24 reexamine what had happened. One was the appeal. And what the  
25 appeal did, from what the Court has read -- and again, we

1 haven't received the mandate yet, and so it's still not  
2 official official. But what it comes down to is, they're  
3 affirming what the trial court did, which means that they're  
4 saying what the trial court did was proper, with the exception  
5 of the calculation of attorney fees. And so that's being sent  
6 back, when the mandate happens, for a recalculation. I'm not  
7 here to do anything with the attorney fees, because the narrow  
8 scope that I have today is child support and maintenance.  
9 That's all I'm looking at.

10           And so I have a point in time where a court has found  
11 this is what the maintenance is, this is what the child support  
12 is. Where I am now in that river is, based on your motion  
13 pursuant to 1410122, I need to look at some factors. One, is  
14 there a support order in place? Yes. I don't need to address  
15 that anymore. Two, has there been a significant and ongoing  
16 change that's made that support order unfair? And there is  
17 case law that defines each of those. But that's the simple  
18 thing that I need to look at today.

19           And so I know that there's a separate branch of this  
20 river that's appearing in front of Judge Collins right now, and  
21 that's on that Rule 60(b) issue. And Judge Collins has that.  
22 And so I don't touch any of that. That's his part of the  
23 river. And that's kind of -- that's -- don't fish there, is  
24 kind of what I look at. Because nothing that I can do can  
25 affect what Judge Collins is doing.

1           And what Judge Collins's role is ultimately going to  
2 be, is once I issue a ruling in this case, he has the ability  
3 to review that pursuant to a magistrate review, which is a  
4 separate rule that allows you to basically take an appeal of  
5 what I do, not to the court of appeals, but to the district  
6 court. Does that make sense?

7           MR. BELL: It totally does, yes.

8           THE COURT: Okay.

9           MR. BELL: Thank you.

10          THE COURT: And so for today -- and I know that when  
11 I go through the various exhibits and everything that you're  
12 looking to have admitted, some of these are things which I look  
13 at, and say the description is financial documents between July  
14 and August of 2023. And what I will tell you, without making a  
15 specific ruling at this point is, I'm not sure how that's  
16 relevant to what your income is now. Because what I'm looking  
17 at is, what is your income now? Because all I have to do is,  
18 as I look at here's your income now, here's what the judge  
19 found in permanent orders.

20          And then the question I need to ask is, is that a  
21 significant and ongoing change which makes the current support  
22 orders unfair? That's it. So I don't go back and say, well,  
23 maybe the judge should have calculated this differently, or  
24 maybe this expert was wrong. It doesn't matter. I can't even  
25 crack into that. That's like that hard rock in the river that

1 is not going to be moved, and it is not going to be affected by  
2 the water. The water rushes around it.

3 Now I'm downstream. And what I need to look at is,  
4 has there been a change that will then cause me to act where I  
5 can then affect the river at the point that I'm at. Make  
6 sense?

7 MR. BELL: Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And so any questions I can answer  
9 for you, kind of on the framing of the issues today?

10 MR. BELL: No. I just have a short statement.

11 THE COURT: Well, before you do your statement, let  
12 me go ahead and address the objections, the pre-trial issues.

13 MR. BELL: Well, that was part --

14 THE COURT: Oh, well, go ahead. If you'd like to go  
15 ahead and address those. Which one would you like to address  
16 first?

17 MR. BELL: Yeah. Well, what I've done is, because of  
18 my ADHD in this environment, is that I've typed everything  
19 up --

20 THE COURT: Um-hum.

21 MR. BELL: -- and I'm totally good with you ruling on  
22 the written, as far as the objections go back and forth, if  
23 that's okay, because I wrote them out.

24 THE COURT: Sure. So I'm not sure exactly what  
25 you're asking me to do. So try to --

1 MR. BELL: Well, I --

2 THE COURT: -- let me know what you're --

3 MR. BELL: -- I responded to Ms. Glassman's  
4 objections.

5 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

6 MR. BELL: And that's what is in section A.

7 THE COURT: Oh okay.

8 MR. BELL: Oh, 1. I'm sorry.

9 THE COURT: Oh, okay. In the written --

10 MR. BELL: Yeah.

11 THE COURT: -- it's in the sheet that --

12 MR. BELL: In the book.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. BELL: In my book. Everything is there.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 MR. BELL: And we can go through them, and I can  
17 answer questions. But I tried to make it really clear --

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 MR. BELL: -- to everybody.

20 THE COURT: Well, let me go ahead and let me pull up  
21 the first motion, which is the objection to the Petitioner's  
22 exhibits. And I'll just go through those very briefly. And so  
23 the first one that is listed is that AVB-022. And again, this  
24 is a community profile of Ms. Bell December 28th, 2022. And so  
25 again, you know your document much better than I do --

1 MR. BELL: Um-hum.

2 THE COURT: -- because it's eight pages, and I  
3 haven't had a chance to really absorb this. Can you tell me  
4 why that's something that's going to be relevant?

5 MR. BELL: It's relevant because if they try to  
6 downplay Alyson's role and the economics of the impact that  
7 it's -- her leaving our business is why. Because it states  
8 very clearly her role.

9 THE COURT: All right. And so this is something that  
10 you'd be able to ask her questions on on cross-examination as  
11 to what her role would have been --

12 MR. BELL: Yes.

13 THE COURT: -- in the company?

14 MR. BELL: Yeah.

15 THE COURT: All right. And so Ms. Glassman, do  
16 you -- I expect I'm going to allow at least some kind of cross-  
17 examination as to if there is an impact on his company because  
18 of that departure.

19 MS. GLASSMAN: I think that to that extent, there's  
20 some relevance.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MS. GLASSMAN: Other than that, I think the document  
23 is irrelevant to the matters --

24 THE COURT: The document itself is probably  
25 irrelevant, but --

1 MS. GLASSMAN: -- to the matters before the Court.

2 THE COURT: -- but the information about her

3 leaving --

4 MS. GLASSMAN: I think that --

5 THE COURT: -- might be relevant.

6 MS. GLASSMAN: -- that's fair for cross-examination.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Next one that I'm looking at is  
8 JJQ. And again, this is a ledger. And this is again payment  
9 and expert-related billing discrepancies. Do you think that  
10 that's going to be relevant to anything that I need to do today  
11 Mr. Bell?

12 MR. BELL: I apologize.

13 THE COURT: That's okay.

14 MR. BELL: Give me a second.

15 THE COURT: No. Again, that's why we have the day  
16 set aside for the hearing.

17 MR. BELL: Of course, I didn't bring my guide. Can  
18 you describe it again?

19 THE COURT: Sure. It's JJQ.

20 MR. BELL: Um-hum.

21 THE COURT: And it is -- the description I have is a  
22 Glassman ledger payment --

23 MR. BELL: Oh.

24 THE COURT: -- and expert-related billing  
25 discrepancies.

1 MR. BELL: Again, I don't know. It's relevant only  
2 if Mr. Friedberg (phonetic) is allowed to testify.

3 THE COURT: And why is it relevant if he testifies?

4 MR. BELL: Because it speaks to timing and accuracy  
5 of --

6 THE COURT: Of which document?

7 MR. BELL: Of the financial statement --

8 THE COURT: Which one?

9 MR. BELL: -- and it's origin.

10 THE COURT: Which one?

11 MR. BELL: The only one that -- the current one.

12 THE COURT: JJ or the one back in 2022-2023?

13 MR. BELL: Well, the new one references the old one.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. BELL: If that makes sense.

16 THE COURT: But again, is this attacking the basis of  
17 the old one or the new one?

18 MR. BELL: That's a good question. I would  
19 definitely say the old one. Yeah.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. BELL: So that's fine.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. BELL: And I'm good with that.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So the Court's not going to allow  
25 Exhibit JJQ.

1           Next one is DRJL. This is letter from Dr. Jordan  
2 Logan regarding ADHD diagnosis and executive functioning  
3 summary. And so the concern about this one is, it's a  
4 statement by someone who's not testifying today. It's a  
5 statement by someone who may be considered an expert, who again  
6 is not testifying today. And so there's issues as to hearsay  
7 as well as an undisclosed expert. Did you want to respond to  
8 that?

9           MR. BELL: Yeah. Well, he's already -- he's already  
10 filed in the court his diagnosis, and it's only going to  
11 supporting that document and the extension of it to more  
12 current times.

13           THE COURT: Okay. And so let me kind of explain one  
14 of the rules, just so you kind of understand what I'm looking  
15 at, what I can consider and not consider. There's a real  
16 hallmark rule that we have to address as attorneys and the  
17 court, and that's something called hearsay. And hearsay is an  
18 out-of-court statement. And an out-of-court statement is  
19 anything that is done which is not taken from this witness  
20 stand and so a statement from anyone that's reduced to writing,  
21 which is being offered to prove the truth.

22           So a diagnosis, an eyewitness account of a shooting,  
23 anything like that, is going to be considered a hearsay  
24 statement because it's being offered for the truth. And so  
25 unless I have that witness here who can testify about it, it's

1 a hearsay statement. And that hearsay statement is typically  
2 not allowed unless there's an exception to the hearsay.

3 And the other issue here is it was made by someone  
4 that has expertise that typical people don't have; they're a  
5 doctor, they're an engineer, they're a forensic accountant.  
6 And those type of skills are necessary in order for someone to  
7 make an expert opinion. And it sounds to me that this is an  
8 expert opinion because it's going to your diagnosis with  
9 regards to your ADHD.

10 MR. BELL: He speaks -- again, he's already  
11 diagnosed. That's already a part of the record. What he  
12 speaks to is my -- is to his experiences with me and the  
13 progress I've made or the digression. So it just speaks to --  
14 but I'm fine with that.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. BELL: I mean -

17 THE COURT: And those are things that you can testify  
18 to.

19 MR. BELL: Yeah, absolutely.

20 THE COURT: Because --

21 MR. BELL: And they're supported by them.

22 THE COURT: And again, it's not so much you  
23 testifying that Dr. Logan said this and this and this. It's  
24 more you testifying and going, I know how my ADHD works, and  
25 this is how it works.

1 MR. BELL: Yeah.

2 THE COURT: And I know for the last year, this is  
3 what's been going on with my ADHD, and it's affected me this  
4 way. Because those are personal experiences that you've had,  
5 that you can then testify about. And in fact, the doctor  
6 wouldn't be able to testify about that necessarily, because  
7 that doctor is relying on information from you. You're the  
8 only one that can kind of testify as to your own experiences.

9 MR. BELL: I do understand. And I'm good, like, if  
10 we need to exclude those things. And I'm fine with that, sir.

11 THE COURT: And again, the only reason I'm doing  
12 this, Mr. Bell, is that I could tell in the pre-trial motions  
13 that there was a disconnect between my communication and your  
14 communication and what you can understand. And what I have  
15 found, and this is pretty universal, when people talk over  
16 email, when people talk over texting, people lose that face-to-  
17 face interaction to see if you're understanding something or  
18 not. And so what I want to make sure is that you're  
19 understanding the rulings that I'm doing so that you're not  
20 left out going, why in the world did the magistrate do this?  
21 Or I don't understand this. And so I want to take the time  
22 upfront to kind of go through those, instead of just having you  
23 kind of surprised and not understanding why I'm either  
24 considering or not considering something.

25 MR. BELL: Can I have a sworn -- would a sworn

1 affidavit -- this is more curious.

2 THE COURT: Um-hum.

3 MR. BELL: Would that -- would that in person  
4 testimony?

5 THE COURT: Great question. And so what I have kind  
6 of go back to, and you can tell me kind of how fair or unfair  
7 you think this is. Let's say, for example, that Ms. Bell has a  
8 whole bunch of documents that she wants to introduce, say,  
9 financial information from doctor -- or Mr. Friedberg.  
10 Friedberg, is that the gentleman's name? And they're all sworn  
11 affidavits saying that his calculations are correct and that  
12 you're making \$20,000 a month.

13 MR. BELL: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: Do you think that would be fair?

15 MR. BELL: No.

16 THE COURT: Right. So kind of flip the roles there.  
17 The idea is that you want to be able to cross-examine someone  
18 and test their testimony. Because if you disagree with it, you  
19 want to be able to have the court see their credibility on the  
20 stand, to see how they react to questions. And if it's just a  
21 piece of paper that's there, man, that can do a lot of damage.

22 And you think about it just in the civil context. A  
23 lot of my background is in the criminal context. And I can  
24 only imagine what a defendant standing on trial who might be  
25 facing ten years of prison, and the DA just traipsed in a whole

1 bunch of pieces of paper of sworn statements going, here you  
2 go. He's guilty. And that poor defendant, not having the  
3 ability to really do anything in their own defense. So that's  
4 why we have that tradition. And I refer to it as an oral  
5 tradition here in court.

6 MR. BELL: Are we able -- am I able to reference  
7 those or no?

8 THE COURT: No.

9 MR. BELL: No?

10 THE COURT: Because again, what you're trying to do  
11 is, you're trying to say, I'm offering this for the truth, that  
12 it stands for this. And because that person isn't there to  
13 kind of test that truth, it's something that you can't rely on.

14 MR. BELL: Yeah, I get it.

15 THE COURT: All right? All right.

16 MR. BELL: That's fine.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Next one is a similar one. This  
18 is a letter from Dr. Sophie Oliver. This is exhibit DRSO. The  
19 same kind of issues there.

20 MR. BELL: Yeah, we can strike all the -- and I'm  
21 assuming the character letters as well?

22 THE COURT: Right.

23 MR. BELL: All right. That's all right.

24 THE COURT: The next one I have is EMAV, and this is  
25 an August 1st, 2023 mail that says, please send your

1 counteroffer. And let me kind of talk about that really  
2 quickly, just so you kind of have an idea as to that rule.  
3 That rule is important enough that they actually have a  
4 separate rule of evidence. It's not hearsay or anything else  
5 like that. It's actually any evidence of any kind of offer and  
6 acceptance to resolve a dispute. And the main reason for this  
7 is as follows, just so you have an idea.

8           Let's say that you are involved in a car accident,  
9 and the other driver is suing you for a million dollars because  
10 of the damages that happened. And you're upset by this, and  
11 you're saying, listen, I wasn't responsible for the crash. But  
12 there's such a high level of risk that you have -- let's say  
13 that you go into mediation thinking, maybe it's better for me  
14 so I'm not in for a million dollars, I'll offer to settle for  
15 \$100,000, even though I don't think I'm guilty of anything.

16           And you make that offer. And let's say they reject  
17 it, and then you go to trial. Do you think it's fair for that  
18 other driver to then be able to present evidence that -- and  
19 again, let's say your defense is still, I'm not responsible for  
20 any of this. I'm not responsible for any of the damages. They  
21 were the bad driver. But that other driver at trial that says,  
22 you know what, Mr. Bell offered me \$100,000 to settle this, so  
23 clearly he knew he was at fault. Can you see why that would  
24 not be fair?

25           MR. BELL: I do, Your Honor. And my point with some

1 of this stuff, because I knew it was -- I didn't want to say I  
2 was pushing --

3 THE COURT: Um-hum.

4 MR. BELL: I understood the law. I wanted it  
5 submitted, I think, for my children --

6 THE COURT: Um-hum.

7 MR. BELL: -- more than anything. So that there was  
8 no -- they represent who I am.

9 THE COURT: Okay. And I appreciate that.

10 MR. BELL: Yeah.

11 THE COURT: But you understand why I can't  
12 consider --

13 MR. BELL: Oh, absolutely.

14 THE COURT: -- any kind of offers of compromise or  
15 anything else like that?

16 MR. BELL: Well, I have one question about that,  
17 though. If on -- I think I can address it in cross-  
18 examination.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. BELL: I think I can address it, so I think we're  
21 fine.

22 THE COURT: Okay. The next one that I have is titled  
23 "CANNA", C-A-N-N-A, 001, cannabis industry contractual summary  
24 2021 to 2024 metrics and efforts.

25 MR. BELL: That's my statement.

1 THE COURT: Right. And so again, it's a statement  
2 that you did in a report. And so because we don't do  
3 written --

4 MR. BELL: Well --

5 THE COURT: -- things, it's something that may or may  
6 not be relevant. I mean, for example, right now, nationally,  
7 we're going through this really odd time where we suddenly have  
8 these trade barriers that are up that are affecting small  
9 businesses.

10 MR. BELL: Sure.

11 THE COURT: And let's say that your business relied  
12 on imports from another country. You would be able to testify,  
13 saying, listen, I used to sell widgets, and they only cost \$10,  
14 and I sold them really well. But all the material components  
15 that are subject to these tariffs. And so now instead of  
16 selling them for \$10, I've got to sell them for 15. And  
17 because my prices went up, my sales have gone down. Because my  
18 sales have gone down, I've had to fire a couple of employees.

19 Those are experiences that you've gone through that  
20 you can testify directly about. And so that's something which  
21 would be admissible if you testified, if that was somehow  
22 relevant to what we're doing here today.

23 MR. BELL: Well --

24 THE COURT: The issue is, is that if you're doing  
25 like full market analysis, that's something that requires

1 expert testimony. You need to be qualified as an expert in a  
2 particular area, because it's something which you're learning  
3 from other sources, which are typically hearsay sources. I  
4 talked to the CEO of company A, and I talked to the chief  
5 financial officer of company B, and I reviewed all of these  
6 records that were published in Bloomberg's Cannabis Today.  
7 Whatever it is, the problem is, is that all these are coming  
8 from sources which the Court can't examine as to the  
9 credibility of those. And so I can't have someone that's  
10 relying on those give me some kind of expert opinion unless  
11 they themselves are an expert. And --

12 MR. BELL: Yeah, I'm fine. Yeah, I understand.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. BELL: Again, but the one thing I was going to  
15 tell you is that --

16 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

17 MR. BELL: -- I had a lot of stuff in writing.  
18 Right?

19 THE COURT: Um-hum.

20 MR. BELL: And this is one of them. Right? In order  
21 to convey and clear my thoughts. I mean --

22 THE COURT: Um-hum.

23 MR. BELL: -- I consider myself, when it comes to the  
24 cannabis industry, pretty much of an expert.

25 THE COURT: Um-hum.

1           MR. BELL: But it's my experiences and -- and again,  
2 I'm fine with that.

3           THE COURT: And so --

4           MR. BELL: And I understand that, so.

5           THE COURT: And so what you can do, Mr. Bell -- and  
6 again, I know that you rely a lot on the writings that you  
7 have. Ideally in court, I want people -- and I've said this,  
8 too. Because this is a family law case. I don't need -- what  
9 you read from here is not as important as what you tell me from  
10 here.

11          MR. BELL: That's the -- that -- that --

12          THE COURT: But the issue is that you know your case.  
13 You know what the issues are, and you can testify about those.  
14 With these written documents, I'm going to allow you to come up  
15 to the witness stand with them, but my rule is, is that you  
16 keep them face down so you're not tempted to look at them.

17                 But if you get to a point in your testimony where  
18 you're like, I want to make sure I've covered everything, I  
19 want to make sure that I've hit point A, point B, point C,  
20 point D, can I look at my notes and review them, I'm going to  
21 say absolutely you can. And so you'll be able to flip those  
22 over, go through and say okay I've talked about this, I've  
23 talked -- oh, I forgot to talk about this. Turn your notes  
24 back over and say, I forgot to talk to you about the  
25 marketability of marijuana, now given this market issue. And

1 you'll be then able to testify about that.

2 MR. BELL: Yeah. I'm saying that with my -- with --  
3 under ADA --

4 THE COURT: Um-hum.

5 MR. BELL: -- I always -- CRCP Rule 121 --

6 THE COURT: Yep.

7 MR. BELL: -- 1 -- yeah -- is that the written word  
8 allows me to communicate better than I can verbally.

9 THE COURT: Um-hum.

10 MR. BELL: And it's -- it better depicts. And the  
11 stuff that I want to read is really -- it'll avoid confusion,  
12 it'll allow me to speak to allegations or just questions about  
13 my business up front. And I have no issues after those  
14 statements are read for Carol to ask as many questions as they  
15 want.

16 THE COURT: So --

17 MR. BELL: And I'm just asking to keep them simple --

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 MR. BELL: -- and not try to confuse me. That's  
20 the -- that's where --

21 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell --

22 MR. BELL: -- I worry about.

23 THE COURT: -- here's what we'll try.

24 MR. BELL: Okay.

25 THE COURT: Because what I want to do is, I want to

1 hear from you. I don't want to hear from the pieces of paper  
2 that you've prepared.

3 MR. BELL: But they are me.

4 THE COURT: Well, they are, and they aren't. And so  
5 I want you -- what I want you to do is, is when you're  
6 testifying, I want you to try to testify just as you. And  
7 again, if you need to look at your notes to refresh your  
8 recollection, you absolutely can. You know what's in here  
9 because you wrote it. And so you know what it says. And if  
10 you look at the first two words of a sentence and you're like,  
11 oh, yeah, that's what I was talking about. And you turn it  
12 over and say, as I was saying about this.

13 And again, if I have questions or I don't understand  
14 your testimony, I'm pretty good at asking questions, because I  
15 want to make sure that what I get from you, I understand fully.  
16 Because it's important to me to write that down in a written  
17 order.

18 MR. BELL: There lies the problem --

19 THE COURT: Um-hum.

20 MR. BELL: -- for me, is that I can't rely in this  
21 environment --

22 THE COURT: Um-hum.

23 MR. BELL: -- with cognitive dissonance. And the  
24 things that this courtroom experienced with me before --

25 THE COURT: Um-hum.

1 MR. BELL: -- is that -- that's why they're there.

2 And as long -- if you're okay with me being able to revert to  
3 those if I feel I'm --

4 THE COURT: Yeah. If you close up and you're not  
5 able to do it.

6 MR. BELL: Even if, again --

7 THE COURT: Yeah. We'll cross that bridge when we  
8 get to it.

9 MR. BELL: Okay. Thank you.

10 THE COURT: So but again --

11 MR. BELL: Yeah, that's fine.

12 THE COURT: -- Mr. Bell, I am much more interested in  
13 hearing from you directly --

14 MR. BELL: Of course.

15 THE COURT: -- than what you've written. And again,  
16 I've read everything that you've submitted, that you've been  
17 allowed to submit. All right. And so we just finished  
18 Canna01. Job001. Again, can you tell me a little bit about  
19 what you think this is?

20 MR. BELL: Well, in the filing, Ms. Glassman accused  
21 me of being voluntarily unemployed, and that really speaks to  
22 the amount of jobs I applied for.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And so it's something that you'll  
24 be able to testify about.

25 MR. BELL: Absolutely.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. BELL: Yeah.

3 THE COURT: And so again, that's an important and  
4 relevant thing for you to testify. I've applied for all these  
5 particular jobs.

6 Ms. Glassman?

7 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, I just want to be clear  
8 that to the extent exhibits we're now discussing may be relied  
9 on or an attempt to admit them, I still want to reserve my  
10 opportunity --

11 THE COURT: Absolutely.

12 MS. GLASSMAN: -- to object.

13 THE COURT: And that's why I said I'm more interested  
14 in hearing from him directly --

15 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: -- saying I've applied for at least 100  
17 different jobs in all these other areas or I've tried to get  
18 work in all these other areas.

19 I'll have you testify about that. If you need to  
20 refer to documents, again, just ask to do so.

21 MR. BELL: Yeah, absolutely.

22 THE COURT: And just let us know what you're looking  
23 at when you're doing that.

24 MR. BELL: Yeah, absolutely. It's with cross-  
25 examination, with the confusion that I've experienced in the

1 past --

2 THE COURT: Um-hum.

3 MR. BELL: -- I want this -- I want to make sure that  
4 when I walk out of this room that I'm not -- there's no regrets  
5 over what I said and that my truth was heard.

6 THE COURT: Sure. And again, we're all looking --

7 MR. BELL: And that's --

8 THE COURT: -- for the truth.

9 MR. BELL: -- that's my only goal.

10 THE COURT: Yeah.

11 MR. BELL: Okay.

12 THE COURT: And so again, if you need to look at  
13 something to refresh your recollection, you can ask that. So  
14 if Ms. Glassman says, so you testified that you applied for 120  
15 jobs during this period of time. And you can make statements  
16 where it's like, I think that's the right number, but can I  
17 look at my notes. And if Ms. Glassman doesn't want you to at  
18 that point, because it's cross-examination --

19 MR. BELL: That's fine.

20 THE COURT: -- you -- well, hang on. So because you  
21 have an opportunity in redirect to go back saying, Ms. Glassman  
22 wanted to move on from this point, but I wanted to go back and  
23 tell you that, yes, it was 120 jobs, because I was able to  
24 reference my notes. So you have an opportunity. Attorneys  
25 call it batting cleanup, where you basically go through a

1 direct and cross-examination, and this is your chance to kind  
2 of clear up any kind of confusions that are there. All right.

3 MR. BELL: Yeah. I think I'm good with most of the  
4 other stuff.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. BELL: Outside of --

7 THE COURT: Yeah. I was going to say --

8 MR. BELL: Yeah.

9 THE COURT: -- for 9, 10, 11 -- 9, 10, and 11 are all  
10 letters, and so those would be considered hearsay.

11 MR. BELL: Yeah.

12 THE COURT: So I'll go ahead and exclude those. And  
13 then the CRBB -- all right. And so it's -- are these  
14 interrogatories that you have done for Ms. Glassman?

15 MR. BELL: Which one was that one again?

16 THE COURT: This is the last one on that first  
17 motion. It's CRBB. Interrogatories numbers 5 and 6, finance  
18 and Tool Studios operations for ease of use. And so the  
19 objection there is not to the main document. It's to an  
20 appendix that you added to it.

21 MR. BELL: Oh.

22 THE COURT: About eight pages.

23 MR. BELL: Oh, it's not the JJQ?

24 THE COURT: No.

25 MR. BELL: Oh, it's not the TIM, T-I-M? Okay.

1 THE COURT: No. This is CRBB.

2 MR. BELL: I think, again, I -- if I don't have it in  
3 my book, then I'm fine with it not --

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. BELL: -- not being in.

6 THE COURT: All right. Let me go through the others  
7 kind of quickly. Supplemental exhibits. This is the second  
8 one that was filed. On this one, there is JJQ. And again,  
9 this is the billing from August of 2023. And you've kind of  
10 heard me on that as not being relevant.

11 The next one is JJQUR, unredacted billing entries  
12 from July of 2023. So again, you see how that's not  
13 necessarily relevant.

14 MR. BELL: Yeah. I think the JJ series, I'm -- yeah,  
15 again -- yeah. I'm fine.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. BELL: Like you said.

18 THE COURT: And so the third one, JJQA, that's this  
19 wire transfer that happened again back in 2022 or 2023. JJQUR,  
20 this is an affidavit that you did. And again, the affidavit  
21 isn't admissible because it's an out-of-court statement being  
22 offered for the truth. But you have the ability to testify, if  
23 it's relevant, to issues in any kind of affidavit that you've  
24 done. So as long as it's relevant to what we're talking about  
25 today, you'd be able to testify about it.

1           This particular affidavit, again, because it is  
2 dealing with issues back in 2023, I don't know if it's going to  
3 be relevant, and it doesn't look like it. But at least for the  
4 exhibit, you understand why I can't admit that?

5           MR. BELL: Yeah, that's fine.

6           THE COURT: Okay. Next one is Exhibit TIMJJQ.  
7 Again, this is a timeline between July 12th and 17th of 2023.  
8 And I don't --

9           MR. BELL: Yeah. The JJ series, I'm okay --

10          THE COURT: All good?

11          MR. BELL: Yeah. I'm fine.

12          THE COURT: Well, I was wondering if that was the JJ  
13 series, because that was a TIM series.

14          MR. BELL: No. Again, they were presented just to  
15 make sure that Alyson and Carol and my kids knew --

16          THE COURT: Gotcha.

17          MR. BELL: Yeah.

18          THE COURT: All right. The next two are EMAV and  
19 EMAV-SUP. Again, these are it looks like counteroffers and  
20 requests for counteroffers for negotiations. And so we run  
21 into that Rule --

22          MR. BELL: Yeah.

23          THE COURT: -- 408 issue there. All right. Next one  
24 is RR. It's a debt-to-income analysis, mortgage assumption  
25 feasibility for Alyson Bell. And so why don't you go ahead and

1 tell me a little bit about this? It looks like an expert-type  
2 analysis that's being done.

3 MR. BELL: No. It was just something I put together.

4 THE COURT: But things that you'd be able to ask Ms.  
5 Bell about on --

6 MR. BELL: Again --

7 THE COURT: -- cross-examination?

8 MR. BELL: -- this is -- yeah.

9 THE COURT: If it's relevant?

10 MR. BELL: Yeah. This is all referencing Mr.  
11 Friedberg's -- and again, it may be helpful if we could rule on  
12 that then. And then I'll issue --

13 THE COURT: Well, I think I've ruled on Mr.  
14 Friedberg. And so basically, the -- and so let me kind of  
15 summarize on that issue. It sounds to me that the report that  
16 he did was submitted through the E-service only --

17 MR. BELL: Serve only, yeah.

18 THE COURT: -- to the parties.

19 MR. BELL: Yeah.

20 THE COURT: And the way I read Rule 16.2 and Rule 26,  
21 that's the way that it should be done unless -- and the only  
22 time an expert report should be filed with the court is if it's  
23 part of, like, a motion saying, we need to strike this because  
24 it's not reliable. And so I'm not seeing anything wrong with  
25 the way the reports were disclosed or the timing of the

1 reports. Did you want to comment on that?

2 MR. BELL: Well, if I can read this, if that's okay  
3 on this one.

4 THE COURT: I don't know what you're reading, but go  
5 ahead.

6 MR. BELL: Yeah. Well, it's my objection.

7 THE COURT: Oh, okay. Go ahead.

8 MR. BELL: So grounds for exclusion. Untimely  
9 filing. But again, you've made that clear.

10 THE COURT: Right. I've said it's 56 days.

11 MR. BELL: Right. Yep.

12 THE COURT: And that's the rule.

13 MR. BELL: And you've addressed it with the CRCP  
14 16.21(b) and 26(a) to (c).

15 THE COURT: Right.

16 MR. BELL: Right. Noncompliance with Rule 26(a) to  
17 (b). Lacks signed declaration --

18 THE COURT: It looks like --

19 MR. BELL: -- compensation statement, methodology,  
20 and materials relied upon it.

21 THE COURT: And so those are going to be issues for  
22 any kind of cross-examination. And so I'm not showing that  
23 those items weren't disclosed. What I'm --

24 MR. BELL: Well, I'm --

25 THE COURT: Go ahead.

1 MR. BELL: The Court should have them, then, correct?

2 THE COURT: No. It's only exchanged between the  
3 parties.

4 MR. BELL: No.

5 THE COURT: And the reason for that, Mr. Bell, just  
6 so you know, is, for example --

7 MR. BELL: No, that's fine.

8 THE COURT: -- if it's an issue about selling a home  
9 and I see a report from an expert that says this is how much it  
10 is, and it lands in my inbox, the temptation of me looking at  
11 that ahead of time --

12 MR. BELL: Yeah.

13 THE COURT: -- and preforming an idea before I even  
14 hear the evidence, that's just wrong.

15 MR. BELL: Yeah.

16 THE COURT: I shouldn't do that. And so I'm --

17 MR. BELL: Well --

18 THE COURT: -- that's why with Mr. Friedberg's stuff,  
19 I'm happy it's not there, because I want to hear from him. I  
20 want to see his demeanor on the stand. I want to see how he  
21 acts under cross-examination and direct examination. Because  
22 that's how I determine one's credibility.

23 MR. BELL: Okay. So the next thing -- I have two  
24 more.

25 THE COURT: Go ahead.

1 MR. BELL: The foundation of reliability.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. BELL: Under CRE 602 and 603 --

4 THE COURT: Um-hum.

5 MR. BELL: -- the expert appearance was compelled by  
6 a -- by subpoena.

7 THE COURT: And why is that --

8 MR. BELL: And I'm confused by that.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. BELL: Experts can't just show up? They always  
11 have to be subpoenaed?

12 THE COURT: Well, kind of. I mean, so here's the  
13 issue.

14 MR. BELL: No, I -- yeah.

15 THE COURT: If an attorney is crossing all their Ts  
16 and dotting all of their Is, they're going to give a subpoena  
17 to all of their witnesses. That way, let's say, for example,  
18 that that witness is a no-show at trial, and the Court is faced  
19 with a motion to continue. And that attorney stands up and  
20 says, this is an essential witness, they're my expert. And the  
21 judge says, well, did you put them under subpoena for this  
22 hearing? And if the attorney says no, the judge could say,  
23 listen, if it wasn't so important that you didn't do a  
24 subpoena, why should I grant a continuance, and could deny the  
25 continuance.

1           If, on the other hand, they issue a subpoena -- and I  
2 put that in air quotes because oftentimes when you have a  
3 cooperative witness, they're willing to accept a subpoena and  
4 sign a release saying -- or sign a waiver saying, I've been  
5 served. It's fine. I don't need to worry about this. And so  
6 that way, you kind of cross your Ts and dot your Is.

7           And so subpoenas are done all the time if you're an  
8 attorney that's careful making sure that they're -- the rock  
9 wall that they're building has all the mortar in between the  
10 stones so it holds together. Because otherwise, it can fall  
11 apart. And if it falls apart, it can bring the whole thing  
12 down.

13           MR. BELL: And I know you've made statements about --  
14 going back, there's two reports, right?

15           THE COURT: Uh-huh.

16           MR. BELL: The second one relied on the first one.

17           THE COURT: Um-hum.

18           MR. BELL: So in cross-examination, will I be allowed  
19 to ask questions in regards to the construction of it?

20           THE COURT: So here's the issue.

21           MR. BELL: And that's -- it's like --

22           THE COURT: Um-hum.

23           MR. BELL: -- okay.

24           THE COURT: So as it came for the determination of  
25 the first amount --

1 MR. BELL: I get it.

2 THE COURT: -- it doesn't matter. As it came to the  
3 determination of the current amount, that's what I'm interested  
4 in. And so if you -- like, let's say for example, he made a  
5 math error where he flip-flopped two numbers --

6 MR. BELL: Um-hum.

7 THE COURT: -- and it made the whole difference,  
8 because once you put those numbers into the calculation, it  
9 balloons the amount so much that it becomes unwieldy. The  
10 issue isn't so much, and because you entered those bad values  
11 in 2023, you came up with this amount. That's not relevant.

12 What's relevant is, you relied on this amount, and  
13 that's what you're saying my 2025 income is, and isn't it true  
14 that's totally wrong. That's the bigger issue, is what it is  
15 right now. I'm not sure what's doing that.

16 MR. BELL: Yeah. No. That's fine. Like I said, I  
17 was hoping that --

18 THE COURT: It sounds like it's coming from my  
19 speakers. Hang on for one second. I'm going to -- how funny.  
20 It was my Webex that was doing it. I had it open just in case.

21 Sorry, Mr. Bell. I had cut you off.

22 MR. BELL: No. Yeah.

23 THE COURT: But do you understand how, if you're  
24 asking questions about him figuring out the 2023 values, not  
25 relevant. If you're asking him about how the numbers that he

1 has now leads to the 2025, if you want to attack this value  
2 because he flip-flopped numbers or whatever else, that's going  
3 to be relevant for me.

4 MR. BELL: Yeah. Yeah.

5 THE COURT: Make sense?

6 MR. BELL: Absolutely.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And so that's that debt-to-income  
8 analysis issue also. And again, you'll be able to -- if  
9 there's relevant cross-examination. The exhibit isn't going to  
10 be coming in, but the information, if it's somehow relevant.  
11 I'll wait for an objection as to the relevance issue, or if  
12 it's a lack of authenticity or if it's calling for an expert  
13 opinion or if it's hearsay.

14 HHAA, the timeline of procedural misrepresentation,  
15 concealment, and financial fraud. And again, what I have is  
16 May 31st through August 25th of 2023. So again, what I'm  
17 looking at is, it's not going to be relevant to what I need to  
18 address today.

19 MR. BELL: No, that's fine.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. BELL: Look, I'll save us some time.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. BELL: And let's just go with the content and the  
24 testimony, and --

25 THE COURT: All right.

1 MR. BELL: -- and we'll go from there.

2 THE COURT: And I'm fine to do that.

3 MR. BELL: Yeah.

4 THE COURT: And so what I'll do is, I will go ahead  
5 and then grant the rest of the motions for the exclusion.

6 MR. BELL: Yeah. I think, let me just -- I want to  
7 double-check.

8 THE COURT: Go ahead and check.

9 MR. BELL: I think we're good.

10 THE COURT: All right. And Mr. Bell, again, I'm not  
11 trying to force you down a certain path. I want to take the  
12 time so you understand what's going on. So that again, when  
13 you leave here today, regardless of whether I issue a ruling  
14 from the bench or I take it under advisement, again, you leave  
15 here going, I was given an opportunity to be heard, and that's  
16 what I needed for my due process today.

17 MR. BELL: Yeah. I think the frustration for me is  
18 that for a month and a half I've been asking for this  
19 information, when it could have been cleared up two months ago.

20 THE COURT: I understand. All right.

21 MR. BELL: It is what it is. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Ms. Glassman, any other pre-trial issues  
23 that we have?

24 MS. GLASSMAN: No, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bell, did you want to

1 give any opening statement?

2 MR. BELL: No. I think I covered my -- yeah. If  
3 it's okay.

4 THE COURT: Of course.

5 MS. GLASSMAN: So just for clarification, Your Honor,  
6 have you granted the objections?

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

9 (Pause)

10 MR. BELL: I haven't seen my son in six months, and I  
11 live five miles away from him. And the only time I've seen him  
12 is when I've sat in the audience of his play. And I get --  
13 this -- I would like to pursue a healthy relationship with you,  
14 which will never happen while you continue pursuing legal  
15 action instead of typing -- instead of trying to better  
16 yourself and have a healthy, normal lifestyle, in which you  
17 could have a relationship with your son. That breaks me. And  
18 to have my children walk this earth based on something that  
19 they shouldn't even know.

20 And so my point is, is that I'm not trying to get out  
21 of anything. I'm not trying -- here to try to -- Glassman and  
22 Alyson, they all know my opinion about things. And that's  
23 fine. And I'm not trying to get out of anything. I'm not  
24 trying to -- anyway. I just want the Court to know that I'm  
25 here because I want a relationship with my children.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 MR. BELL: And until we settle this -- so.

3 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Bell.

4 Any opening statement?

5 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, we will rely on our trial  
6 management certificate for our opening.

7 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

8 Mr. Bell, would you like to call your first witness?

9 MR. BELL: I guess it would be me.

10 THE COURT: All right. If you'd like, take the time  
11 that you need to gather your notes and come up to my witness  
12 stand. I will warn you that my courtroom is much smaller than  
13 the one that you were in before.

14 MR. BELL: Oh, you want me on the witness stand,  
15 right?

16 THE COURT: Yeah.

17 MR. BELL: I mean, I'm going to read these  
18 statements.

19 THE COURT: That's what I said.

20 MR. BELL: Yeah.

21 THE COURT: Go ahead and bring up all the notes that  
22 you have. And then if you come up around the back side, that's  
23 the easier way. But watch your feet because that TV sticks  
24 out --

25 MR. BELL: I got it.

1 THE COURT: -- a little bit.

2 MR. BELL: I got it.

3 THE COURT: And then before you sit down, let me have  
4 you look at me and --

5 MR. BELL: Yeah.

6 THE COURT: -- and raise your right hand.

7 CHARLES BELL, PETITIONER, SWORN

8 THE COURT: Thank you. Go and have a seat. And once  
9 you're seated -- and just so you understand why I'm doing this,  
10 Mr. Bell, because I think to an outside observer, I appear like  
11 a crazy man. I know exactly who you are, but I need to have  
12 you tell me who you are from the witness stand so if a  
13 transcriptionist comes, they can type in your name. So just  
14 tell me your first and last name again, please.

15 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, to the extent that Mr.  
16 Bell may be relying upon some notes, for whatever reason, I  
17 think that I am entitled to see his notes.

18 THE COURT: I agree.

19 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

20 MR. BELL: You have them. You have them in front of  
21 you.

22 THE COURT: Is that that eight-page document that  
23 you're looking at?

24 MR. BELL: Yeah. No, it's business changes, is what  
25 you're looking at. No, it's number 2.

1 MS. GLASSMAN: So Your Honor, am I to understand --

2 MR. BELL: I'm sorry.

3 MS. GLASSMAN: -- that the book that is the first  
4 page, Petitioner's Bench Copy Index, are not exhibits but  
5 rather notes that he may --

6 MR. BELL: Well, they're kind of --

7 MS. GLASSMAN: -- want to refer to?

8 THE COURT: That he's going to refer to. That's what  
9 it sounds like --

10 MS. GLASSMAN: Okay.

11 THE COURT: -- to me.

12 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Right?

14 MR. BELL: Yeah. Is that okay, or is there  
15 clarification on this?

16 THE COURT: Well, I was going to say, and so Mr.  
17 Bell, you kind of heard what I said is, I'd much rather have  
18 you speak from here than from the pages in front of you. I  
19 absolutely understand that you're going to need to reference  
20 your notes because of kind of just the way you work, and that's  
21 fine. But again, I'm much more interested in hearing directly  
22 from you than I am hearing from what you've written down. I'm  
23 sure it's fine, but you telling me this rather than you reading  
24 is what's important for me to help determine your credibility.

25 DIRECT EXAMINATION

1 THE COURT: But again, I'll have you start where you  
2 think you need to start. Typically, what I ask you to do is  
3 the following, because there's some things that I need to know.  
4 So first off, and I know this is -- sounds like I'm crazy.  
5 Tell me your first and last name again.

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah. It's Charles Bell.

7 THE COURT: All right. And so who is Alyson Bell?

8 THE WITNESS: My ex-wife.

9 THE COURT: All right. And do you have any children  
10 together?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 THE COURT: All right. And so tell me who your  
13 children are that you had with Ms. Bell?

14 THE WITNESS: My 37-year-old son, that was from my  
15 first marriage. And then I have a 21-year-old son, and then I  
16 have a --

17 THE COURT: And tell me his name.

18 THE WITNESS: His name is Julian -- or June, I call  
19 him.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 THE WITNESS: And then Cam is my 15-year-old son.

22 THE COURT: All right. And what's Cam's birthday?

23 THE WITNESS: October 8th.

24 THE COURT: And what year?

25 THE WITNESS: I knew you were going to ask me this.

1 I done this a million times.

2 THE COURT: That's okay. So he's 15 now?

3 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 THE WITNESS: I just picture his face going, October  
6 8th.

7 THE COURT: It's okay.

8 THE WITNESS: I think it's 9 --

9 THE COURT: 2009?

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah, that's it. 2009.

11 THE COURT: Perfect.

12 THE WITNESS: I knew it had a nine in it.

13 THE COURT: And right now, I know you said during  
14 your opening statement that you haven't seen Cam in the last  
15 six months.

16 THE WITNESS: Yep.

17 THE COURT: Are you exercising any parenting time  
18 right now?

19 THE WITNESS: Again, it's been every time we -- yeah.  
20 We had a reunification specialist.

21 THE COURT: Um-hum.

22 THE WITNESS: And the reunification specialist cut  
23 things off because --

24 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection. Hearsay.

25 THE WITNESS: Okay. It --

1 THE COURT: And so --

2 THE WITNESS: It ended.

3 THE COURT: -- what I'll do is, I'll allow him to say  
4 it, but I'm not doing it for the truth of the matter, just the  
5 effect that it had on him as to why he thinks it ended it. Go  
6 ahead.

7 THE WITNESS: My opinion of how it -- why it ended --

8 THE COURT: Well, so I don't want to hear your  
9 opinion, Mr. Bell.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay. Just --

11 THE COURT: Just why do you think it ended?

12 THE WITNESS: No, it -- it ended because people were  
13 not participating.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: And -- and then I filed a motion to  
16 have it reconsidered with the DM, and he decided that -- I -- I  
17 didn't want him to go to Cam, because I wanted the parents  
18 first to figure things out before Cam. Because, for reasons I  
19 understand, but -- and then he -- he made a decision against my  
20 wishes, and very sound psychological wishes, and my son then  
21 accused me of forcing him into therapy. Which anybody that  
22 knows reunification knows that's not a forcible offense. It's  
23 like -- and so that became very difficult for me.

24 And then I filed another motion to have a HCPC put  
25 into place. And that was objected by Ms. Glassman and Ms.

1 Bell. And reunification has been objected by Ms. -- so I have  
2 no -- there's no neutral party. And the DM did come back and  
3 rule. You know, he said there was no alienation. I just read  
4 you the statement that is the definition of alienation. So --  
5 so --

6 THE COURT: So kind of --

7 THE WITNESS: So again --

8 THE COURT: -- a long answer to my short question is,  
9 you just haven't had any parenting time?

10 THE WITNESS: I haven't.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 THE WITNESS: And -- and that leads to my --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 THE WITNESS: I mean, you want to hear from the  
15 heart. It's -- it's --

16 THE COURT: Yeah. And I appreciate you telling me.

17 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I -- I -- I just know that my  
18 family needs outside help.

19 THE COURT: Um-hum.

20 THE WITNESS: Because I know they carry opinions  
21 about me that aren't fact based.

22 THE COURT: Yeah.

23 THE WITNESS: So anyway.

24 THE COURT: So let me have you go ahead and turn to  
25 what you want to tell me about today, which is talking about

1 finances.

2 THE WITNESS: Yep.

3 THE COURT: So start where you think I need to know  
4 things.

5 THE WITNESS: If you look at the history of our  
6 business that we've -- it's been up and down, up and down. And  
7 we had an incredible year in 2020. And it happened to be this  
8 one client in cannabis. And it was in the middle of the  
9 pandemic when they were opening up a store a week, and all of  
10 the sudden no one could go into their stores. And I happened  
11 to be at the right place at the right time to build their  
12 remote system. And it was 18 months -- I think \$1.4 million.  
13 And I worked incredibly well. And it allowed us to pay off a  
14 lot of debt from the past. It allowed us to have some sort of,  
15 you know, savings account. And then -- but it -- it depleted  
16 me, for sure. But it also -- the -- the -- pool of, you know,  
17 people to call on. And I did have, you know, half a dozen  
18 clients.

19 But once that one -- you know, we got -- I don't want  
20 to say let go, but we parted ways. And then it was, you know,  
21 a decline. The next -- the following two years were down --  
22 both were down. And then '20, '21, '22 -- and then '23, I  
23 got -- 2023 was actually a pretty good year, because of this  
24 one client that actually happened to be a referral from the  
25 same company, the same man that gave me the other one. And it

1 was a lot different. It was a medical thing. And I think  
2 it -- it was not -- not anywhere close to that, but it was,  
3 like, I think 360 or something like that. And then we had some  
4 other clients. But it was thinning out.

5           And then in the middle of all this, the divorce hit.  
6 And in part, I saw the decline coming. And then I didn't  
7 expect the ruling that happened. And I was given two weeks to  
8 move out. And anybody that knows me knows that I -- I never  
9 neglect my work.

10           But anyway, so then all of a sudden the cannabis  
11 client started to back off. And -- and before I knew it, I was  
12 left with really no clients. And -- and I never -- so -- I  
13 went to -- it wasn't right. There was a lot of stuff in my  
14 mind and my, you know, this RSD thing that you're experiencing  
15 right now with me is just something that really affected me.  
16 And I went to North Carolina because my cousin had just  
17 inherited a farm. My kids were all pissed at me because of  
18 something that I -- it is what it is.

19           But I never stopped working. I went there, and I  
20 tried to hustle and in -- in -- in the midst of it, you know, I  
21 did get a couple calls and a couple small clients, and I'm  
22 not -- so then in '24, it was just not -- and again, I can test  
23 that the decline in my business in '24 and '25 really to my  
24 mental state, you know, understanding the trauma that I had  
25 gone through, understanding the marriage that I was coming out

1 of and the amount of therapy that I put in, you know.

2           People have tried to portray this, you know, mom and  
3 pop shop as this, like this company that can just, no problem,  
4 pay me \$16,000 a month. It was wrong from the beginning. And  
5 I don't -- I don't -- it is what it is. And I know, I have my  
6 truth about it all and -- and I don't -- it really. Do I -- do  
7 I, you know, and this is what the hard part with me about  
8 the -- having somebody tell you, you have to make \$200,000  
9 knowing that, yes, there was a couple years, but it's been --  
10 it's been -- it's been positioned by Mr. Friedberg, Ms.  
11 Glassman, you know, as this escalated number. But there's no  
12 factual basis for it. And -- or it's excluding something like  
13 taxes. You know, it's like 2023, oh great year, but I got  
14 stuck with a \$50,000 tax bill.

15           So it's like, I have to believe that I understand  
16 innately because of the patterns that we've discussed, that I  
17 can feel where my company is shifting and the world of agencies  
18 is they just don't exist anymore, like they are.

19           MS. GLASSMAN: Objection.

20           THE WITNESS: All right. That's my opinion, at least  
21 the -- at least the --

22           THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection as to it seems  
23 to be you're kind of analyzing the markets and everything.

24           THE WITNESS: No, I'm saying for me, it's again,  
25 okay, I'll rephrase that. For me, business really declined.

1 In the heyday, is that we had, you know, 20 clients, you know,  
2 and they were wanting new websites and new logos and all that.  
3 Now, you know, you can create a logo in, you know, 30 minutes.  
4 That's pretty good. And so with that whole downturn and it's  
5 -- it's look, it's -- it's not.

6 Look up -- yeah, so anyway, so the 197 was really the  
7 really hard part. Right. It's like all of a sudden somebody  
8 said you got to make this money and you have to -- you can do  
9 it, you know, you did it before, you know. And I started  
10 looking for jobs thinking that, okay. But I already knew that  
11 I -- I'm ADHD, I'm 63 years old. There's not a \$200,000 job.  
12 It's like -- especially doing what I do, which is it just  
13 doesn't exist. And -- and so that was very stressful.

14 But I want some stability. But, you know, I'm big  
15 emotions. You know, it's like if I don't have my kids, then it  
16 affects -- and trauma and PTSD, you know, for me, it's just --  
17 it sucks. And so it's affected my business. But -- but I'm  
18 hopeful and I try to go into everything optimistically. And --  
19 and I've never not taken a call. And, you know, I did go to  
20 the East Coast and I spent three months on the farm, and every  
21 day I was wheeling and dealing with my cousins, built a website  
22 for them, you know, trying to talk them into building an Airbnb  
23 because I thought that would be really cool. I had my kids at  
24 the time we were talking. They flew out, which was great.

25 And then my sister had breast cancer, and she finally

1 gave me the call to come up. And I went up there and -- and  
2 she wasn't doing so good. You know, she was my crazy sister,  
3 but she had a boyfriend that didn't take care of her very well.  
4 And so she's a big -- she was a big wheeler dealer, and she,  
5 you know, her and I would sit and watch MSNBC and we would  
6 strategize about, you know, who are we going to hit up for  
7 business? And she would be on the phone trying to get me some  
8 business.

9 And I took, you know, several meetings, you know,  
10 with artists because my sister was a huge collector of art.  
11 And so but I still had some other clients I secured, you know,  
12 two new ones that I'm working on today. And so again, I stayed  
13 with her not to run away like I've been accused of. It's  
14 because it was the right thing to do, and I -- I, you know, and  
15 the day she died, I got in my car and I drove home.

16 THE COURT: I'm sorry for your loss, Mr. Bell.

17 THE WITNESS: It was Aly's too. So, anyway, so when  
18 you start from a foundation that's unstable and you have people  
19 tell you that you need to make this money, and you have court,  
20 for whatever reasons, it's irrelevant, but, yeah. So, and I,  
21 you know, I've attempted a couple things. Right. I really  
22 wanted to get into it.

23 And you know, this Court stuff, you know, with AI has  
24 been really an incredible learning ground. I did learn some  
25 stuff today which already which is good, but at the same time,

1 it allows my brain to fire again and it allows me to problem  
2 solve. And, you know, the things that I've discovered and, you  
3 know, Judge Collins is dealing with, you know, that was me  
4 alive again. That was me wanting to create something.

5 And -- and I, like I said, I know I'm doing all the  
6 right things. I know I have therapists every, you know, week.  
7 I know I exercise every day, I know I don't smoke, I don't  
8 drink, I eat healthy, and I'm just trying to get my body and my  
9 mind, you know, so that I can get back to something.

10 And I don't know if I -- look, my opinion is, is that  
11 I never want to make -- I knew what making 197,000 did to me.  
12 You know, my -- Aly got the kids, I didn't, I didn't, I was  
13 working and I -- man, if I could take that back.

14 So, anyway, so that's really the -- where my business  
15 is. But anybody that knows me knows that I always talk  
16 business. And you know, I'm always looking for some  
17 opportunity. But it's a new frontier, you know. And AI is  
18 like just transformational in what I do. You know, anybody in  
19 this room can go and build a website, you know, in a day. And  
20 so it's like the things that I considered a craft are now  
21 readily available. So but -- but there's hope. So that's --  
22 that's my business.

23 THE COURT: Well and tell me what you actually do?  
24 Because again, you've told me what your business is. But it  
25 sounds like you build websites.

1           THE WITNESS: You know, I do what -- you know, I  
2 started out by doing, like, branding and development and  
3 websites, and that was a majority of it. And we did  
4 traditional marketing, you know, direct mails. And I'm the  
5 kind of a creative director in that, I'm a big picture guy. I  
6 lack the details. And you know, it's like I said, that's a  
7 trait -- a character trait of ADHD. And so web development,  
8 brand development websites.

9           But I did have a client recently tell me something  
10 that I thought was really -- it really made me feel good. It  
11 was like, he said, I don't hire you to build websites. I hire  
12 you for your thinking. And that was kind of cool. And -- and  
13 I do, I do -- once I get a little more confidence in myself,  
14 then I like the idea of a consultant, you know, more of that.

15           And for now. You just -- you can't take somebody's  
16 money when you're not, at least I can't, when you're not  
17 running it 100 percent. And so I think that's a big part of  
18 me.

19           And -- and then the last thing, as far as the  
20 business goes. As dysfunctional as our relationship was,  
21 Aly -- we were two pillars, right? I was the creative guy,  
22 sales guy, you know, doing whatever. And Aly took care of  
23 fucking everything else. And -- and she was masterful at it.  
24 And she is. And I've never negated that. I've never, ever  
25 tried to take away from what she did. But you know, not having

1 that, like, I pulled the 2025. I hadn't been in QuickBooks in  
2 a long time. And then I pulled the numbers and I was like, oh  
3 God, it's horrible. So anyway. And so I don't want to negate  
4 that, but trying to figure that one out has been a little  
5 challenging for me.

6 I've tried some personal assistants and I've tried, I  
7 think, like the QuickBooks person. And this is going to be a  
8 weird thing, but it's like. If you watch something, if you  
9 feel there's an unjust with me. Right? If there's something  
10 that just doesn't seem right. And I realize the two big things  
11 in the last, you know, ten years, one has been about Aly and  
12 one has been about this divorce. And it's debilitating to  
13 somebody with ADHD and that suffers from RSD. It's -- and  
14 again I want resolution and that's what I'm fighting. You know  
15 part of me is fighting for that. I'm not being frivolous about  
16 anything or, you know, I'm trying. I see, you know, it's my  
17 beauty and it's also my demon. So anyway.

18 THE COURT: I was going to say, before we switch  
19 topics, I wanted to hear about your new clients.

20 THE WITNESS: This guy, he had an auto dial system,  
21 which I thought was kind of interesting. And he's, like, 70  
22 years old, and he -- I don't even know what he kind of -- his  
23 business, if you look at his website, it's kind of confusing,  
24 but he -- he's dealing with these natural gas little hubs that  
25 are in these little small towns, like, they service like 300

1 clients. And this guy owns, like six of them, I think. And he  
2 hired me to build each one a website.

3           So we built the foundation, which I love doing. And  
4 then we started -- we -- each one, we cloned the next. And  
5 so -- and I've learned a lot because right now, with money  
6 being so tight, I try not to outsource what I used to, and I'm  
7 trying to teach myself certain things, and that way the money  
8 stays with me. But he's a really good client, and I really  
9 like him.

10           And but you know, I think I have, like, probably over  
11 the next couple of months, probably, I don't know, 10,000 --  
12 15,000, maybe. And then the other one that I kind of feel bad  
13 about is Bill Bilk (phonetic). He came to me. He's a client  
14 that was with me, I don't know, 15 years ago. And he  
15 boomeranged, and he had a really cool concept to build a job  
16 board. And you know, I got a budget out of him like three  
17 months ago of, like, \$25,000, but it's going to take us six  
18 months, and I think I've gotten 8,000 from him. So that's kind  
19 of been difficult.

20           But I also know that, like I said, at the foundation  
21 of, you know, if I had to say what mentally, how are you  
22 working? I'm probably a 50 percent maybe, you know, with --  
23 with -- the Court stuff, I'm kind of like, you know, and I have  
24 my moments, right? I have my moments.

25           And then NOBO, which is the client that just eats at

1 me. I built their whole brand, and they are really growing.  
2 And they're one of the exceptions in the cannabis industry,  
3 but --

4 THE COURT: They're called Nova?

5 THE WITNESS: NOBO, N-O-B-O.

6 THE COURT: NOBO, okay.

7 THE WITNESS: And they're Boulder-based company. And  
8 they hired me in the beginning. I think that was probably  
9 2008. I don't remember. But there's somebody that, you know,  
10 and I shared with, you know, Ms. Glassman, you know, a really  
11 great proposal that I really thought I was going to get. It  
12 was not -- the 16,000, that's what. But it was a good one.  
13 And it was -- it would allow me not to stress so much, and it  
14 would allow me to, you know, do what I love to do.

15 And so anyway, so I wrote this proposal from a whole  
16 new perspective, and I introduced AI into it, and  
17 unfortunately, they went with another company, but recently  
18 they have another guy. And you know, tomorrow I get to write a  
19 proposal because I don't want to make the mistake I made  
20 before, like, try to, you know, panic and try to get as much  
21 money as I can from them. And so you know, yeah.

22 So those are the clients. And I have, you know,  
23 these little ones, right? You know, the -- the way it was  
24 portrayed, you know, that this million-dollar client, you know,  
25 was occurrence every 5 or 6 years. It wasn't, you know; a

1 \$200,000 company is maybe every 5 or 6 years. And I don't -- I  
2 haven't seen, you know, outside of that 2023, that TelyRx one.  
3 Yeah.

4 So again, I don't know. I know that if I have to do  
5 books and look at all that crap, I know that -- that just  
6 frustrates me, but it is what it is. You know, but like.  
7 Yeah, I think -- I don't want to try to overextend or have  
8 somebody tell me what I am. My doctors and myself, it's -- I'm  
9 healing from something that, you know, is ongoing. And so I'm  
10 allowing myself to do that. And I'm not the same person I was,  
11 you know, when I got divorced. I'm not the same person I was,  
12 you know. And I want my kids to know who I am. Not the person  
13 that their mother paints me as.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Well, and again, I  
15 wanted to hear about your new clients, but I kind of threw you  
16 off track. You were about to refer to your notes.

17 THE WITNESS: No, no, no.

18 THE COURT: Just to see kind of where you were going.

19 THE WITNESS: It's -- like I said, it's okay. And  
20 then the other thing is that the financial toll. Right. It's  
21 like, so you're going through this divorce, right? You know,  
22 how much money you have in the bank. And then at the end of  
23 the year, you're like, oh, shit. And you're like, looking at  
24 the, you know, the largest benefactor. No offense, Ms.  
25 Glassman, but you were the largest company expenditure. Or the

1 top? Yeah. I don't want to say the largest. No, you were.  
2 It's insane to me, and it's insane too.

3           So anyway, so what I was getting at is that you have  
4 this reserve capital, right? And you have all this money in  
5 the house, which is, you know, the nest egg and the savings  
6 account, right? And then all of a sudden, you know, your ex-  
7 wife decides to hire this attorney and just come at you like  
8 nobody's business. And you know, for somebody with, I don't  
9 even know what RSD was until I -- this happened.

10           Anyway so you're dealing with the financial right and  
11 big emotions, and I'm really struggling. And then all of a  
12 sudden I'm, you know, under the pressure of that. Right? And  
13 again, I just -- for me, I just \$16,000 a month. It's like  
14 what it's like to do that consistently. It's never been done  
15 in my company consistently. Never. It's never done, and it's  
16 always like, and if you can look at it in a funnel, right?

17           And -- and I'm looking forward to Ms. Glassman's  
18 cross-examination because I know the first time I was not good.  
19 I was not -- I didn't know what was going on with me. And  
20 so -- so the financial part of it and it really, it depleted.  
21 And when I moved back here, you know. I mean, like I said, I  
22 literally kissed my sister's corpse and got in my car and drove  
23 back to Colorado. And you know, and I got a place. I bought  
24 two bedrooms, you know, oh, that'd be cool. It was this new  
25 place, and I got three months free. And you know, I probably

1 overextended whatever, but it was hopeful, right? I was like,  
2 oh, yeah. So yeah, I don't know. It gets dark with me. It  
3 gets really dark.

4 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, I'm having a hard time  
5 hearing him. If he could get closer to the mic.

6 THE WITNESS: I said, it gets dark with me. It gets  
7 very dark.

8 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, just so we -- I want to make  
9 sure I get a good record, too. If you want to just either pull  
10 that microphone --

11 THE WITNESS: No, I'm sorry. I'll sit up. I'll sit  
12 up.

13 THE COURT: You can sit back where you were, if you  
14 just want to pull that microphone up. That's all we need.

15 THE WITNESS: No, I don't want -- I don't want to get  
16 into the rambling because I think, just to sum up the business,  
17 you know, for now, the business is me, I guess. And if I'm not  
18 functioning, it struggles. And -- and I guess I'm asking the  
19 Court to, you know, you know, consider that, you know. I  
20 deserve, you know, a chance and that I'm not sitting here going  
21 cut child support, right, I never have. I've just, you know --  
22 yeah.

23 So anyway, that's -- I think that's my business. And  
24 we can go. I can go section by section if that's easier. Or  
25 Ms. Glassman, if you want to ask business questions.

1 THE COURT: And actually, this is your time to tell  
2 me --

3 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I get it.

4 THE COURT: -- kind of what you need to tell me. And  
5 then Ms. Glassman will have a chance to do cross-examination.

6 THE WITNESS: All right. Well, I'd like to -- I'd  
7 like to answer some Q and A. And on my business that I kind  
8 of, I want to address so that I'm on the record as these are  
9 the questions I would have for myself and that I know they've  
10 been put to me by Ms. Glassman indirectly and directly.

11 THE COURT: I was going to say, you go where you need  
12 to go; if there's an objection, we'll --

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. All right. So I'm just going to  
14 read -- I'm going to read some stuff here and --

15 THE COURT: And actually, let me have you not read,  
16 let me have you look at it. And Mr. Bell, here's the deal.

17 THE WITNESS: No, that's okay. I get it.

18 THE COURT: Well, no, no. Here's what here's my  
19 observations are. We've been going for about 40 minutes or so.

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah, too long.

21 THE COURT: No, no, no. The issue is you spoke from  
22 the heart the entire time, you looked down at your notes once.  
23 And I noted it in my notes when you did.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay.

25 THE COURT: And you're doing fine. And so this, you

1 know, you had said before, I want to build confidence. I want  
2 to do this.

3 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

4 THE COURT: You've got it. You know, what I'm trying  
5 to tell you is that you know what you need to say. If you need  
6 to look at your notes just to kind of remind you of, oh, yeah,  
7 I need to talk about this part of my business. You know it.  
8 And so like, for example, if there's a cue for the question of  
9 how does my business work and you go into it, you're going to  
10 be able to answer it.

11 THE WITNESS: No, no, you're -- you're right. It's  
12 what I -- what I fear is Ms. Glassman, that's what I fear. And  
13 that's why I have questions and that's why I have answers.

14 THE COURT: Sure. But here's what I want you to do.

15 THE WITNESS: But I'm going to try your way.

16 THE COURT: Is that -- is somewhere down the road --  
17 it's going to come, but it's somewhere down the road for right  
18 now. You're blazing your own path, and you're better doing it  
19 the way you're going to do it than being tied to a piece of  
20 paper.

21 THE WITNESS: All right. But I'm going to respect  
22 you, too, Judge. So I think I explained, you know, that Tool  
23 Studios, you know, I have Partners in Bell (phonetic), which  
24 has been, you know, kind of an interesting concept. And when I  
25 was dealing with all the legal stuff, and I found a real need

1 for it, and I went down to the court system and I met the  
2 Sherlocks (phonetic) and I thought they were just awesome. And  
3 I loved that they were helping and -- and -- and I thought, oh,  
4 how cool would it be to, you know, build a company that, you  
5 know, I could be the, you know, legal person and use AI and try  
6 to help, you know, with other.

7 But then I started, you know, reading about  
8 investigators and strategists and I thought, oh, you know what?  
9 I bet I could, you know, I always say that the ultimate pairing  
10 would be an attorney that would let me work with them versus  
11 one I piss off. But so Partners in Bell is just it's been the  
12 thing that I've used in communicating with everybody in the  
13 legal system with -- and really I probably slipped a few times,  
14 but Tool Studios is still -- is still there and -- and oh,  
15 Partners in Bell was the other thing about -- was consulting as  
16 well, it was that I thought -- that's really when it started, I  
17 think is what I want, and I think even Aly can attest to that.  
18 That was something we talked about a long time ago.

19 So that's an answer there. And I explain how I do  
20 have -- still have clients and that, you know, I'm taking the  
21 phone calls. You know, it's -- I do have, you know, the agency  
22 model. You know, people after pandemic, the young designers  
23 don't want to go to an office anymore.

24 THE COURT: Objection.

25 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay. I'm saying my experience.

1 THE COURT: I'll overrule for now, I think he's just  
2 setting up as to where he's going.

3 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

4 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Bell.

5 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I was saying that from my  
6 experience, you know, the people that, you know, worked in the  
7 office, you know, and two in particular, Jessica (phonetic) and  
8 Tara (phonetic), you know, that worked for me for I think, one  
9 five and one nine. You know, once they got the taste of  
10 working at home, it's like, forget it. And that for a  
11 collaborator and a creative like me, I'm an over-the-shoulder  
12 guy. And I always have been. And it's been challenging.

13 So that -- so as far as scaling goes, look, I -- if  
14 the phone rings and or if I run into something, then I'm sure I  
15 can, you know, I'm pretty creative, you know, put some people  
16 and I definitely in the past, you know, especially with, you  
17 know, the projects that are over 200,000 maybe that I've had in  
18 my career. You know, I have freelance developers and I even  
19 outsource in Sri Lanka. And you know. And I'm too  
20 controlling. That's the other part. Yeah. So that was the  
21 other thing I was going to.

22 Look, finance has never been my -- my -- my thing.  
23 I've gotten better at it. You know, I wouldn't be here. I'd  
24 be bankrupt if it wasn't for my sister who left me some money.  
25 And that's what I'm living off of and providing, you know, Aly

1 and Cameron (phonetic) with. And I wish it didn't have to go  
2 to. I mean, look, I'm here, sitting here out of necessity.  
3 Like I said, I explained the travels and again, you know.  
4 People can try to, you know, paint it however they want. All  
5 right.

6 So that's about it for the business. All right. So  
7 I'm just going to, you know, in Ms. Glassman's document that  
8 she filed with the Court, I had some issues with it. And you  
9 know, very misleading.

10 THE COURT: Which document are you referring to?  
11 Just so I know.

12 THE WITNESS: The -- the -- the main -- the main, you  
13 know, when I filed for maintenance, it's what they file in  
14 response.

15 THE COURT: The response. Okay.

16 THE WITNESS: The response, yeah. The response is  
17 what I'm referring to. And yeah, and so there was one claim  
18 that, you know, 17 to, you know, 608,000 annually. And I'm  
19 like, I went through the books and I was like, where the hell  
20 did that number come from? Right. You know what I mean? And  
21 it was -- it was a little misleading. At least it was the way  
22 it was presented.

23 And so again, you know, to say, you know, husband's  
24 income. Do you know what I mean? I mean, maybe, you know,  
25 maybe I'm misunderstanding something and she can correct for

1 me, but you know, gross. You know, definitely we had a few  
2 years over that, but that's not my income, husband's income  
3 ranged. And it's like, yeah. So again, that's something that  
4 just irks me.

5           Yeah. Look, people that sit from the outside, be it  
6 Friedberg or Glassman or anybody that feels that they can tell  
7 a mom and pop shop how much they should make, I have issues  
8 with them. I just ask if, you know, I don't like people making  
9 allegations if they can't back them up with facts. And I just  
10 ask the Court to do that. Ms. Glassman, would you cross-  
11 examine me?

12           So 2023 and Mr. Friedberg's report and in Ms. -- you  
13 know, it left out certain variables. It left out the \$50,000  
14 tax bill. It left out the high cost of legal expenditures. It  
15 left out, you know, the depletion of, what do you call it?  
16 Working capital. It left out a lot of stuff in order to paint  
17 a picture that was beneficial, you know, benefited only one  
18 person.

19           And again, my whole thing about anybody that comes in  
20 from the, you know, these third-party experts, and again, I  
21 understand it is what it is, but if you've never interviewed me  
22 or never met me or I never gave you any financials, and yet you  
23 determine my company, I have issues with that. So that's my --  
24 probably my biggest objection.

25           Cannabis was a big part of me, and it was a model.

1 What -- what cannabis was for me is -- I was able to take  
2 something and rapidly deploy it. And so one cannabis company I  
3 could make a lot more profitability with, because I had done it  
4 so many times. And I've built infrastructures that, you know,  
5 when these clients come along, then it allows me to. And  
6 that's why that -- that industry was such a hit for me is  
7 because I lost the high profitability clients, not necessarily  
8 cannabis, you know, because it could have been anybody that I  
9 applied that model to, but it was built for the cannabis  
10 industry, if that makes sense. And it was built out of the  
11 2020. You know, there's still things, you know that, but you  
12 don't have the need for all the drive-up window stuff, you  
13 know, then it's like.

14 One of the things I'm dealing with as far as the  
15 cannabis as far as ADHD in business, when you think about  
16 rejection sensitivity disorder, it's like anybody that rejects  
17 you, it has a -- it has this innate feeling --

18 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection to --

19 THE WITNESS: And again, I'm talking my feelings.

20 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection to his reference to anybody.  
21 If he wants to describe his own experience. I think that would  
22 be more appropriate.

23 THE COURT: And I agree, and so --

24 MR. BELL: I agree with that too.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And so yeah, I mean, just again,

1 tell me your experience.

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah. For me, I didn't understand it,  
3 you know, but I would get really upset when somebody didn't  
4 hire me. And I thought, oh, I did everything I was supposed to  
5 do. And you know, and I realized with, you know, how I think  
6 and how I process is that I realize that I see things that  
7 other people don't. And where I used to like, you know, it was  
8 a little egotistical probably about it, but you know, and I'm  
9 sure my kids picked up on that. No, actually, I know my kids  
10 did.

11 So coming to terms with that has been difficult, but  
12 I still -- rejection is still just, as little as somebody  
13 cutting you off, you know, in a car or whatever. So it affects  
14 me in my business. And I think anybody that knows me, it's the  
15 passion, you know, that makes me want to please. But it's also  
16 can be a hindrance as far as that goes.

17 So ADHD look, you're executive functioning I like, I  
18 lose my keys all the time. I don't, you know, it's like people  
19 have to-do lists. My -- my friend Susan (phonetic) over there  
20 has -- she was like, if I don't tell her.

21 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection, relevance.

22 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. All right. I'm sorry.  
23 Calendars. People use calendars. Sorry. People that use  
24 calendars, I don't even comprehend.

25 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection.

1 THE COURT: And so Mr. Bell, I want to make sure that  
2 we stick to the relevant issues.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay. Well, I was trying.

4 THE COURT: Well, and again, I understand about the  
5 use of calendars, but here's what it comes down to, is you told  
6 me that you put yourself out there for your clients or your  
7 prospective clients, and then when you get rejected, you -- it  
8 has this big impact on you.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

10 THE COURT: What I'm trying to understand is you told  
11 me it has a big impact. Tell me how it affects your work.  
12 Tell me how it affects your -- your ability to run your  
13 business.

14 THE WITNESS: Focus is a really big one. Cognitive  
15 dissonance is -- is something that I at least understand for  
16 myself in that when I'm over, when -- when somebody's coming at  
17 me or when I'm rejected or whatever, it confuses me a lot. It  
18 confuses me. And in the past, I would lash out and I would get  
19 angry. And that was just the, you know, fight or flight.

20 But I, you know, so that in business or everyday life  
21 is a really struggling. It's a really difficult thing to  
22 manage and it affects your business because if you had a bad  
23 day or somebody really rejected you like the NOBO contract, you  
24 know, I'm literally curled up. I'm like, I can't. You know,  
25 if I don't get out and walk and so that's my point there.

1           So I'm going to move into mental health some. My  
2 sister was bipolar. She was brilliant.

3           MS. GLASSMAN: Objection, relevance.

4           MR. BELL: Okay. Okay.

5           THE COURT: And I will sustain that. So talk about  
6 you.

7           THE WITNESS: I'm trying. So it's real important.  
8 Sometimes if you give me just a minute, I'll bring it back to  
9 me. It's just how I process, but okay. I'll try. I was  
10 always worried about bipolar, and I had a doctor at one point  
11 that thought I was.

12          MS. GLASSMAN: Objection, hearsay.

13          MR. BELL: Okay. Okay. I thought I was sir. I'm  
14 sorry. You're okay? I thought I was --

15          THE COURT: Go ahead.

16          THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

17          THE COURT: You're okay.

18          THE WITNESS: I thought I was bipolar. People told  
19 me I was bipolar.

20          MS. GLASSMAN: Objection. Hearsay.

21          THE WITNESS: I see. Okay. Sorry.

22          THE COURT: It's okay.

23          THE WITNESS: I'm getting the wording down. And  
24 there was a lot of things during my marriage that I didn't  
25 really understand. And I do now.

1 THE COURT: Objection, relevance.

2 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm sorry. All right. I do.  
3 Okay.

4 THE COURT: I was going to say I'll overrule because  
5 he's getting to a point as to where he is now. And that's what  
6 I'm more interested in.

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah, yeah. All right. So full circle  
8 is that the expression, if I only knew then what I know now.  
9 If I only knew then what I know now, my life would be very  
10 different. You know, being late diagnosed with ADHD is  
11 difficult in regards to your self-worth, your -- your  
12 insecurities and -- but I -- I kind of -- I'm hopeful. Right.  
13 For myself, you know, and I guess I can't really, you know.  
14 So. Being diagnosed with ADHD brought some relief and, you  
15 know, the RSD part of it, that was -- that was the thing I  
16 didn't -- that was the thing that caused me the most damage in  
17 my past and in my relationships and in my children.

18 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection, relevance.

19 MR. BELL: Okay.

20 THE COURT: Sustained.

21 THE WITNESS: All right. So -- and I'm trying to end  
22 this on a positive note because I have to. So I found some  
23 medication that really, it didn't cure -- it doesn't cure it,  
24 but it gives you the moment to predict it. It gives you -- it  
25 gives you the pause. So now when I used to just lash out

1 because I was all confused, I now can pause, and I know I have  
2 tools and you know -- but you know, as I understand PTSD and  
3 some of the other, you know, trauma stuff that I was  
4 experiencing in my relationship, I'm learning to understand and  
5 I'm learning to recognize that it's going to take time. Right.  
6 You know, it's like -- and it's not like -- like a week or  
7 whatever. My sisters wanted -- wanted me to go to -- away and  
8 I --

9 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection, relevance and hearsay.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay. I wanted to -- I wanted to go  
11 away somewhere. But you get, you know. So I looked -- it all,  
12 you know, to me, it all matters. I guess that's the thing.

13 I guess the last thing I'm going to say and then I'll  
14 let Carol ask her questions, but -- is that this environment  
15 is -- as much as it doesn't make sense to a lot of people, you  
16 know, you're -- if you're -- I don't know what the expression  
17 is, but you're biting the hand that feeds you or whatever it  
18 is, but it's like -- and I've tried so hard to end it and, you  
19 know, multiple proposals, multiple requests for mediation.

20 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection.

21 THE WITNESS: It's my --

22 MS. GLASSMAN: Four -- 408.

23 THE COURT: And so that's -- that's the problem that  
24 we're running into is --

25 MR. BELL: Okay.

1 THE COURT: -- you're talking about that idea of  
2 offer and acceptance to try to resolve the matter.

3 MR. BELL: Okay.

4 THE COURT: That's that 408 objection.

5 MR. BELL: Yeah, the 408 objection.

6 THE COURT: So I can't have you talking about --  
7 well, we tried to do this in negotiations, or I made this  
8 offer, or this was rejected in this counteroffer was -- I can't  
9 hear any of that, at this point.

10 MR. BELL: This is -- I have a question for you,  
11 though, right? It's like, you know, and I read a lot about,  
12 you know, with ADA, right, with the guidelines and you know,  
13 that allows me to process things, right? And there's no  
14 question this environment, just the linear, you know, hard line  
15 stuff is hard for me. And so I'm trying to -- I'm trying to  
16 conform. And I mean no ill will, right?

17 THE COURT: Mr. Bell, I'll tell you this. Probably  
18 about 85 percent of the people that appear in front of me are  
19 without lawyers. And so what you're going through is what  
20 everyone else goes through as well. They try to bring in  
21 things that happen at mediation. They'll talk about things  
22 which are clearly hearsay. Because they're doing, like you,  
23 the best that they can.

24 MR. BELL: Yeah.

25 THE COURT: The fact that Ms. Glassman is objecting,

1 she has an obligation to do that because she's trying to  
2 protect the record that's before the Court and kind of keeping  
3 us on track.

4 MR. BELL: Yeah.

5 THE COURT: And so I don't fault her for objecting.  
6 I don't fault you for trying to tell your story. The issue is,  
7 is that there are times in which if you slide out of bounds,  
8 she's going to say something or I'm going to say, now let me  
9 have you talk more about this. And it's not to cut you off or  
10 tell you that you've done something wrong. It's trying to get  
11 to the material that I need to hear in order to address the  
12 request that you've made. That's all it is. And so if after  
13 an objection, and again you're apologizing, which you don't  
14 need to do, but after an objection, if you need a moment under  
15 your ADA accommodations to take a moment and recenter yourself.  
16 You can. It's fine.

17 MR. BELL: Yeah, I just -- before -- if I can say  
18 this. I'm doing better than I did the last time I was in a  
19 courtroom. And you know, I just ask Ms. Glassman to just, you  
20 know, ask me simple questions, and I absolutely will answer  
21 them 100 percent honest.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. BELL: Okay. That's it.

24 THE COURT: Before we get there, and let me ask you  
25 just a couple of questions --

1 MR. BELL: Sure.

2 THE COURT: -- because I need to be able to make some  
3 findings at the end of this as well. And so I'm looking back  
4 on May 21st, you filed a sworn financial statement. Do you  
5 remember doing that?

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

7 THE COURT: Do you have a copy of that?

8 THE WITNESS: I do. I do.

9 THE COURT: So let me have you pull that up, because  
10 I always take judicial notice of my file. And so things that  
11 are filed where there's an admission of this is how much I'm  
12 making or this is what I'm doing, I'm able to at least talk  
13 about that a little bit.

14 THE WITNESS: I -- yeah, I -- I'm glad you brought  
15 that up. My -- my snapshot of my financials, they're horrible.  
16 And I'm not asking the Court to rule on the financials. I'm  
17 saying, you know, I've always offered, you know, I don't know  
18 if I'm going to get the joint expert that conducted the  
19 original evaluation of my income and Alyson's income had me at  
20 115 with a --

21 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection, relevance.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry. All right.

23 THE COURT: And again --

24 THE WITNESS: I know, I'm trying.

25 THE COURT: The issue is, is that I understand where

1 you're coming from. Remember, that's already been found. And  
2 so what I'm looking at now is how have things changed?

3 THE WITNESS: Well, I was leading to the thing that  
4 I'm willing to -- I was using that as a benchmark to say, no  
5 less than \$100,000 is all I'm asking. You know, as far as my  
6 income goes.

7 THE COURT: Well, and let's kind of go ahead and talk  
8 about that.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay.

10 THE COURT: So I'm looking at page 1 right now of  
11 your sworn financial statement. And you've listed a gross  
12 monthly income just short of about \$5,000 -- or \$4,888 is what  
13 you have.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 THE COURT: And so what I'd like to hear from you is  
16 how you calculated that.

17 THE WITNESS: Darts, is the honest answer.

18 THE COURT: Just kind of throwing darts and --

19 THE WITNESS: Yeah. And I'm not taking it, so I'm  
20 not -- I think I've not taken a paycheck for a while, so I  
21 don't have an income, but I wanted to put something down, you  
22 know, because I was spending, you know, I spent, I guess, you  
23 know, like I said and I was -- I don't want to say I'm not  
24 spending because -- I'm sorry. I've been paying myself. I  
25 can't totally say, but I know I have this auto thing on Chase

1 that it transfers two grand into my Chase account a month. And  
2 so I think that's the last thing I paid myself recently.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And so -- so the four -- 4888,  
4 again, it was just a guess that you had. And so what I need to  
5 understand. So you list yourself as the creative director of  
6 Tool Studio. But that's your business, right?

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah, 100 percent. Yeah.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And so you're the owner and  
9 operator of that. And so when you have money needs, one of the  
10 things that you can rely on is kind of going to the company and  
11 getting money to help pay bills if you need to.

12 THE WITNESS: No. I mean, I used -- I guess, I've  
13 always looked at it, they're intertwined, right? And I know  
14 I -- I've never run our company traditionally I've, you know,  
15 and it's just one big lump sum. Right? And that's all I can  
16 say about that. And so right now, the company doesn't have a  
17 lot of money. I think it has less than 20,000. And yeah --  
18 and I think I'm down to whatever these numbers. Yeah. So --

19 THE COURT: Okay. And so let me kind of go to the  
20 next page. You don't have any other income other than what  
21 you're taking from an inheritance, it sounds like. Is that  
22 right?

23 THE WITNESS: No, like I said, my sister left me  
24 \$100,000. I have -- I have to pay tax on that. And you know,  
25 I have a lot of debt.

1 THE COURT: Okay. And so on the second page, you're  
2 not deducting anything right now for taxes or anything because  
3 it sounds like you're not taking a formal pay check. Is that  
4 right?

5 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Yeah. I'm not -- I'm not --  
6 again, I -- I can't totally say when the last time I took a  
7 paycheck was, I pay -- I still pay my staff from payroll ADP.

8 THE COURT: And tell me about your staff right now.

9 THE WITNESS: Well, okay. 1099 people. Okay.  
10 Sorry.

11 THE COURT: No. That's fine. Again, it's --

12 THE WITNESS: They used to be my staff.

13 THE COURT: Yeah. There's a difference between  
14 independent contractors and employees.

15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, yeah.

16 THE COURT: But I appreciate your clarification.

17 THE WITNESS: Yeah, 1099. I don't have any  
18 employer's employees. I think my only commitment right now to  
19 anybody is Kathy (phonetic). And she's been kind of helping  
20 with a little stuff, but I only pay her \$500 a month.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And so on the second page, it  
22 talks about some monthly expenses. It has your rent. It has  
23 your gas and utilities, your telephone, cable, internet, trash,  
24 sewer, water, groceries, eating out, and then some medical.  
25 Are all those pretty accurate month to month?

1 THE WITNESS: I tried to -- I really wanted to be  
2 accurate with all this. I try to use the Citibank Costco, is  
3 like, that's why that payment is so high. Is because --

4 THE COURT: Which one are you talking about?

5 THE WITNESS: I'm looking at the debt. Oh, no.

6 THE COURT: Oh, no. Let me have you focus on page 2  
7 still.

8 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

9 THE COURT: That's okay. And so do you know the old  
10 adage, you know, how do you eat an elephant? You ever heard  
11 that joke before?

12 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I know. One bite at a time.

13 THE COURT: There you go. And so I'm just on page 2.

14 THE WITNESS: All right. I know rent is -- I just  
15 canceled my YouTube, so. Well, no, I think they're still  
16 within, I don't know, maybe 100 bucks.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: My insurance. Yeah. Because I have --  
19 I have two things. Yeah. My med, my meds are a little higher  
20 than that.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And I was going to say, and you  
22 had testified and it reflected in your sworn financial  
23 statement that you're seeing a therapist right now.

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I have.

25 THE COURT: How often do you see your therapist?

1 THE WITNESS: Sophie is weekly.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 THE WITNESS: And she's -- I'm on a sliding scale  
4 with her, so she charges \$100. I think I have 400, right?

5 THE COURT: You do. Has that been helpful?

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

7 THE COURT: All right. Page 3. Transportation  
8 costs. There is a note about education expenses in the amount  
9 of \$250. I wasn't sure what that was. If you can touch on  
10 that.

11 THE WITNESS: Where is that one?

12 THE COURT: Under F, it says children's expenses and  
13 activities. You have listed other, and it says --

14 THE WITNESS: The 257? No.

15 THE COURT: No.

16 THE WITNESS: F, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

17 THE COURT: It says --

18 THE WITNESS: Oh --

19 THE COURT: -- Cameron and Julian.

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So Cameron gets an automatic  
21 allowance at 50, and then Julian, I haven't paid him in a  
22 couple of months. But I would try to -- oh, I know what it  
23 was. He -- he hits my card.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 THE WITNESS: So that's part of that. And then, you

1 know, like, Cam, I just I gave \$100 to just when they went to  
2 North Carolina, and then Julian, I try to --

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So again -- again, probably if  
5 you look at the year and maybe -- maybe it's a little -- lately  
6 it's been a little less.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And again, I just wasn't sure what  
8 it was. So I figured --

9 THE WITNESS: Yep. That's where it was.

10 THE COURT: Before you get asked some questions.

11 THE WITNESS: Yeah. No, it's fine.

12 THE COURT: I noticed that there's no education  
13 expenses with the maintenance, again, showing that you're  
14 paying 3000 a month in maintenance and 1283 in -- in child  
15 support.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

17 THE COURT: And then there's miscellaneous expenses,  
18 and that's mostly blank, which is fine. I just want to make  
19 sure that you're not selling yourself short because you just  
20 talked about having YouTube premium thing. And yes, this form  
21 is a little old when it talks about movie and video rentals,  
22 since I don't think either of those exist anymore. But was  
23 there any other miscellaneous that you wanted to talk about?

24 THE WITNESS: I'd like to believe one day I'll be  
25 able to be 100 percent accurate with finances.

1 THE COURT: It's okay.

2 THE WITNESS: But --

3 THE COURT: I think, you know, a lot of people have  
4 challenges with.

5 THE WITNESS: I try to -- and I'm not frivolous. You  
6 know, I would say that, you know, I did get a truck last year.  
7 I turned in my -- and took on a \$14,000 debt. I don't regret  
8 that. I don't regret that.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let me kind of go back. So  
10 nothing else to add to page 3. Page 4 talks about your debts.  
11 And again I look at this and there's substantial debt that you  
12 have here.

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: And so the taxes are a big chunk of this.  
15 There's a Bank of America card that you're paying extra to, it  
16 looks like. I wasn't sure with the \$2100 a month payment.

17 THE WITNESS: I have to keep it under the 40 grand.

18 THE COURT: Got you. And so with all of this, is it  
19 fairly accurate that you're paying that 66, 55, 89 each month  
20 to kind of stay afloat on all the debt that you have going  
21 there? The question I'm getting at is, is this what you're  
22 actually paying every month or is it different? So like for  
23 example, I see David Black as your accountant, \$250. My guess  
24 is you're paying them every month.

25 THE WITNESS: No, I'm not, actually.

1 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

2 THE WITNESS: They, like, I owe him. I'm just  
3 freaked right now. I'm just freaked.

4 THE COURT: No, again, I'm not passing judgment on  
5 that at all, Mr. Bell.

6 THE WITNESS: No, I want to make sure that no one  
7 thinks I'm --

8 THE COURT: Yeah.

9 THE WITNESS: -- trying to slide anything.

10 THE COURT: No, I just want to -- I just want to make  
11 sure that what this has is something that's accurate and kind  
12 of like you said, with your other one. It's like it's within a  
13 couple hundred dollars.

14 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

15 THE COURT: If that's what you're looking at here and  
16 it's something similar, that's fine. I just need to kind of  
17 get an idea as to what money is coming in and what money is  
18 going out and how it's going out. So I understand because when  
19 I look at the rest of this page, it tells me again, your total  
20 income is \$5,000. Your monthly expenses are \$9,000. Your debt  
21 servicing is another \$6,700. So in total, your minus is  
22 \$10,000 a month.

23 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

24 THE COURT: And so what I need to find out is, first  
25 off, is that accurate? And secondly, how are you paying for it

1 right now?

2 THE WITNESS: I've been paying. Aly paid me a  
3 equalization payment, and I drew off of that for a long time,  
4 and then I -- before my sister's inheritance came, I was  
5 probably was paying myself from the company on that part of it.  
6 But I've been trying to -- yeah. So that's where I'm paying  
7 myself, is from my -- from my sister's, you know. Yeah.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And you said you had \$100,000 from  
9 that, but there was some tax.

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I can't remember what it was.  
11 But yeah, I -- I think it's like 15 or 20 percent, I can't  
12 remember.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 THE WITNESS: But I haven't done the taxes yet.

15 THE COURT: Even if I keep it at \$100,000, the fact  
16 that you are spending, according to your sworn financial  
17 statement, about \$10,000 over what you're bringing in that  
18 particular fund is not going to last forever, is that --

19 THE WITNESS: No, it's already down below 80.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Through your assets, I'm not as  
21 concerned about this area. You talked about the truck, and  
22 that's on page 5 of 7 that you got that last year. And so is  
23 that a loan that you're paying right now?

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I have 14,000.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 THE WITNESS: Or a little under that, I think. And  
2 then -- then I'm -- I actually, last week I emailed my landlord  
3 and asked if they -- if they --

4 MS. GLASSMAN: I'm sorry.

5 THE COURT: Sorry. Speak a little bit louder.

6 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I emailed my landlord last  
7 week to see if I could get into a one bedroom. But you know,  
8 that's hard for me because it's like -- it's my kid room, you  
9 know?

10 THE COURT: Okay. And Ms. Glassman, thank you for  
11 speaking up. I --

12 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

13 THE COURT: -- could hear him okay, but I -- thank  
14 you for letting me know that you couldn't.

15 Your cash on hand. So the first checking account, it  
16 sounds like that that might be the inheritance account or the  
17 account that the equalization payment came from. Tell me about  
18 that. That's that 1909 account.

19 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I think that's the one that holds  
20 all of it.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 THE WITNESS: Hold on, let me look.

23 THE COURT: That's okay.

24 THE WITNESS: Or is that debt. I'm sorry. I'm  
25 trying to look at.

1 THE COURT: It's okay. Page 5 is where I am.

2 THE WITNESS: Yep, 1909.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS: And this is a -- I don't remember the  
5 date on this one.

6 THE COURT: That's -- well, I was going to say the  
7 date on this sworn of financial statement, I think, is May  
8 21st, so fairly recent.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So that's probably what it is.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Probably ten grand less.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And so you have listed some other  
13 furniture and things like that. No stocks or bonds, no  
14 pensions.

15 THE WITNESS: I had an IRA I thought I'd put in  
16 there.

17 THE COURT: You do at the very -- under H. You have  
18 miscellaneous assets.

19 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Yeah.

20 THE COURT: I see that there. Thank you for pointing  
21 that out.

22 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

23 THE COURT: All right. And so I have a good idea as  
24 to your financial situation here. Is there anything else you  
25 wanted to talk about with regards to that?

1 THE WITNESS: No, I think I'm -- yeah.

2 THE COURT: All right. And then I'll ask, is there  
3 anything else you want me to know during your direct testimony?

4 THE WITNESS: No.

5 THE COURT: All right. I think it's probably a good  
6 time for a break. I know we went over, but I wanted to kind of  
7 take advantage of the Q&A that we're doing.

8 So Mr. Bell, you're done with your initial testimony.  
9 You are free to stand up, stretch, walk around. We're going to  
10 take a 15-minute break. So we'll come back at 11:17, and then  
11 when that time comes around, I'll have you come back up to the  
12 witness stand, and we'll start cross-examination.

13 All right. We'll be a 15-minute recess. Thank you  
14 folks.

15 (Recess from 11:02 a.m. until 11:17 a.m.)

16 THE COURT: All right. Folks, I apologize for being  
17 a little bit late. We are back on the record. The Court is  
18 going to continue in Case 22DR30458, In Re: The marriage of  
19 Bell. The parties and counsel are present.

20 Mr. Bell, why don't you come on back up to the  
21 witness stand. And just a reminder, you're still under oath.  
22 All right.

23 Ms. Glassman.

24 CROSS-EXAMINATION

25 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

1           Q     Mr. Bell, I'm going to be asking you a series of  
2 questions, and I would like for you to focus on my question,  
3 and please respond to what I'm asking. Can we agree to that?  
4 You have to give me an audible yes or no, Mr. Bell.

5           A     You can assume.

6           THE COURT: Before you continue, Ms. Glassman. So  
7 Mr. Bell, this is kind of --

8           MR. BELL: Like, can I object to a question?

9           THE COURT: You may object.

10          MR. BELL: Yeah, that's what I meant.

11          THE COURT: Now here's -- here's the issue just,  
12 again, so you know, the purpose of cross-examination is -- at  
13 the end, Ms. Glassman's going to run it the way that she wants.  
14 When I was a practicing lawyer, I would often get questions  
15 that were just yes and nos.

16          MR. BELL: Okay.

17          THE COURT: And there's sometimes where you feel, I  
18 really can't answer that one hundred percent yes, one hundred  
19 percent no. The idea is that you want to answer the best of  
20 your ability, as directly as you can, the question that's being  
21 asked. What I will tell you is that once she is done with her  
22 questions, we go back to you for something called redirect,  
23 which is where you can say, Ms. Glassman asked me this --

24          MR. BELL: Oh, I see.

25          THE COURT: -- and I answered, yes, but there's a

1   qualifier to that, and this is the qualifier. Does that make  
2   sense?

3           MR. BELL: Totally makes sense.

4           THE COURT: Okay. And I just want to make sure you  
5   understand that while the rules of cross-examination -- when  
6   you're in the midst of it, sure might seem unfair. What it  
7   comes down to is you get the last say, and so you'll have a  
8   chance to explain any answers on redirect examination that you  
9   want to.

10          MR. BELL: So would an acceptable answer -- yes, no,  
11   I'm not sure?

12          THE COURT: Well, I was going to say answer the best  
13   that you can. And again, Ms. Glassman might ask you an open-  
14   ended question where she allows you to talk longer, but to the  
15   best that you can when she's -- she's going to say, isn't it  
16   true you're wearing a blue sweater today?

17          MR. BELL: I got it.

18          THE COURT: And you might say yes and then realize,  
19   well, this really isn't a sweater; it's more like an athletic  
20   thing. You can talk about that later.

21          MR. BELL: Let's give it a shot.

22          THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Ms. Glassman.

23   BY MS. GLASSMAN:

24           Q    Mr. Bell, I'm going to be referring to exhibits in  
25   the black notebook in front of you. They are marked with

1 letters. So when I refer you to a lettered exhibit, please  
2 turn to that tab, okay?

3 A Okay.

4 Q Mr. Bell, you have owned and operated Tool Studios  
5 since 2001, is that correct?

6 A Yes, it is.

7 Q And please speak up.

8 A Yes, it is.

9 Q And for the past 24 years, that company has provided  
10 financial support for your family, hasn't it?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Tool Studios, you described -- it's a brand and web  
13 development company, correct? Mr. Bell?

14 A I'm going to get you the answer. I'm going to answer  
15 it honestly. Yes.

16 Q And you are, as you stated, the creative director of  
17 that company, correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q You have described your strengths to include creative  
20 problem solving, isn't that right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And design expertise?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Associated with Tool Studios, you have a foundation  
25 of past clients and professional contacts, is that right?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q You stated in your discovery responses that doubling  
3 down on your own enterprise, Tool Studios stands as the most  
4 viable path to financial and continued professional growth,  
5 isn't that correct?

6 A That is a correct statement.

7 Q Self-employment, working your own business, Tool  
8 Studios, it suits your working style, doesn't it? Let me help  
9 you. As opposed to working for someone else.

10 A I like the idea of working for somebody else. Is  
11 that an honest answer? So mentally right now, yes, it does  
12 serve me.

13 Q Thank you. Your income from Tool Studios is project  
14 based, isn't that right?

15 A Well, my personal income or --

16 Q The income of --

17 A -- the company.

18 Q -- Tool Studios is project based?

19 A Yeah. Yeah.

20 Q And your income from Tool Studios has varied from  
21 year to year. I believe you testified to that on your direct  
22 examination.

23 A That is a true statement.

24 Q So your income is not consistent year to year. And  
25 income variability is just a known characteristic of your self-

1 employment. There are good years and there are bad years,  
2 isn't that correct?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q So at the time of the divorce, the Court used income  
5 averaging to determine your earnings, isn't that right? Yes or  
6 no, Mr. Bell?

7 A No.

8 Q From November 2023 to August 2024, you did not reside  
9 in Colorado, did you?

10 A Yeah, I think I left -- yeah, two weeks -- yeah, in  
11 November, and I came back in August, yeah. November to August,  
12 yeah. Yeah.

13 Q So November 2023 to August '24 you were out of state?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And you made that choice to leave Colorado, isn't  
16 that correct?

17 A Yes, I did.

18 Q Mr. Bell, can you speak into the mic, please?

19 A Yes, I did. Yes, I did. Yes, I did.

20 Q And during that time when you were out of state, you  
21 devoted significant attention to assisting family, isn't that  
22 right? Mr. Bell, you need to respond to the question.

23 A I know I need -- ask it one more time.

24 Q During the time that you were out of state, we've  
25 just established from November of 2023 to August of 2024, you

1 devoted attention to assisting your family.

2 A I -- I definitely gave attention to my -- to my  
3 family.

4 Q Thank you. You lived rent free at your cousin's farm  
5 in North Carolina, isn't that correct?

6 A Labor.

7 Q And the farm was located near your mother's  
8 residence, isn't that correct?

9 A An hour away, yeah.

10 Q So you then visited your best friend in Charleston,  
11 South Carolina?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Is that a yes?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And after that, you vacationed in Miami with an old  
16 friend, correct?

17 A Weekend in Miami, yep.

18 Q You then spent five months in New Jersey helping your  
19 sister, correct?

20 A Amongst other things, yes.

21 Q You set up a home office above her garage, isn't that  
22 right?

23 A Yep.

24 Q And during that time in New Jersey, you split your  
25 efforts between working and caring for your sister, correct?

1 A I'm going to answer this.

2 Q Do you need to refresh your memory, Mr. Bell?

3 A No. I'm going to answer the question, but I'm going  
4 to take notes on the way I answer.

5 Q Mr. Bell.

6 A I heard you.

7 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, I would ask that he not  
8 relies on his notes.

9 THE WITNESS: I'm getting a piece of paper.

10 THE COURT: He's writing on that.

11 THE WITNESS: I'm getting a piece of paper. Sorry.

12 THE COURT: So he -- and so I'll allow the  
13 accommodation for him to jot out his thoughts --

14 MS. GLASSMAN: Of course.

15 THE COURT: -- so he can talk about this. And, Ms.  
16 Glassman, I'm very conscious of the time that you have, and  
17 we'll make accommodations because of the wait that we have too.

18 A All right. Answer the question, and we'll go from  
19 there. Sorry.

20 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

21 Q So the question was, during the time that you were in  
22 new Jersey at your sister's, you split your efforts between  
23 working and caring for your sister, isn't that right?

24 A Yes.

25 Q I'm sorry?

1 A Yes, ma'am. Yes.

2 Q You voluntarily reduced your working hours for  
3 personal reasons --

4 A No.

5 Q -- isn't that right?

6 A No.

7 Q You provided us with an exhibit this morning,  
8 which --

9 THE WITNESS: Can you excuse me, Judge?

10 THE COURT: Actually, I am actually having my legal  
11 assistant bring in not only a pen, but also notepad for you.  
12 So just stand by for a minute. So if you want to get ready on  
13 your next question, you definitely can.

14 MS. GLASSMAN: Do you want me to keep going or do  
15 I --

16 THE COURT: I was going to say it as long as it works  
17 with you, if you kind of just put a tab on that question you  
18 haven't asked and keep going and then circle back, I think that  
19 might be the best use of time.

20 THE WITNESS: Do you want me to reference something  
21 in my book?

22 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes. Thank you. If you would  
23 reference your tab number eight.

24 And Your Honor, do you have this tab number eight?

25 THE COURT: I do. It looks like it's a chart that

1 starts company date, LinkedIn?

2 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Yes, I have that.

4 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

5 Q Mr. Bell, this is a chart that you provided that is a  
6 list of submissions for employment, is that right?

7 A Correct.

8 Q It doesn't show any clear industry or role focus,  
9 does it? Yes or no?

10 A If you know how to read URLs, it does, but --

11 Q The chart --

12 A -- I can understand what you're saying. Go ahead.

13 Q I'll go on. It's a spreadsheet of clicks or  
14 applications, right? Is that correct?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Thank you.

17 A And there's screenshots of the company.

18 Q The chart starts in May 2024, does it not?

19 A Yep.

20 Q And it ends in October 2024, does it not?

21 A Yep.

22 Q And 96 applications were submitted across six months,  
23 is that correct?

24 A Yes, that's the math.

25 Q And doing the math. That's fewer than four

1 applications per week, isn't it?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q Speak up please.

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q You would agree that this was a casual rather than a  
6 determined approach to finding a job, would you not?

7 A I would not agree.

8 Q There is no documentation that you have provided of  
9 job search efforts for the past seven months, is there? Does  
10 this chart reflect any job search efforts after October 2024?

11 A No.

12 Q And you have not provided any other documentation of  
13 job search activities in 2025, have you?

14 A No.

15 Q Yes or no?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q You would agree that the gap from October 2024 until  
18 now supports that your job search efforts stalled, if not  
19 stopped. Agree? Yes or no?

20 A No.

21 Q You returned to Colorado in late August 2024,  
22 correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Upon returning, you shifted your business focus,  
25 isn't that right?

1 A After I returned, I shifted my business focus?

2 Q Yes, sir.

3 A No.

4 Q Your current business focus is developing Partners in  
5 Bell, is it not?

6 A No.

7 THE COURT: Ms. Glassman, if you could just pause for  
8 just one second. Thank you. Mr. Bell --

9 THE WITNESS: I really appreciate it.

10 THE COURT: There's that, and then that will work.  
11 Thank you, Ms. Glassman, I appreciate that -- the pause.

12 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

13 Q Partners in Bell is a multidisciplinary firm  
14 specializing in forensic investigations, is it not?

15 A I'm trying to answer the question because I change --  
16 I change it out. I've changed it a couple times.

17 Q Mr. Bell, please turn to Exhibit S in the notebook.  
18 S like in Sam, page 1.

19 A Yeah.

20 Q This is your mission statement about Partners in  
21 Bell, is it not?

22 A Yeah. What --

23 MS. GLASSMAN: Move to admit Exhibit S.

24 A -- the date. You didn't ask me the date. And I'm  
25 saying no. The answer to your question is no.

1 THE COURT: So can you give me a time frame as to  
2 when this came into being?

3 MS. GLASSMAN: Sorry?

4 THE COURT: Can you give me a date? Ask Mr. Bell as  
5 to the date on this.

6 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

7 Q Mr. Bell, you produced this with your discovery  
8 responses in February of 2025, did you not?

9 A I will -- I'm going to say probably, yes.

10 Q And you identified this as a Partners in Bell's  
11 mission statement, did you not?

12 A In February? Yeah. I mean, obviously this is --  
13 yes. Yeah.

14 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, any objection to Exhibit S  
15 now that we have the date and where it came from?

16 MR. BELL: If it's not relevant anymore, does that  
17 matter?

18 THE COURT: Well, it's close enough in time. It's  
19 not something in '22, 2023. This is three months ago.

20 MR. BELL: Okay. I got it.

21 THE COURT: Court will admit Exhibit S.

22 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit S admitted into evidence)

23 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

24 Q And Mr. Bell, in February of 2025 when you produced  
25 this document. First line -- it says Partners in Bell is a

1 multidisciplinary firm specializing in forensic investigations.

2 Is that what it says?

3 A It says that, yep.

4 Q Partners in Bell currently has no clients, correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Partners in Bell has generated no income, does it --  
7 to date?

8 A It's yet to be seen. Yes. No. No.

9 Q You have spent over 40 hours per week working on  
10 Partners in Bell, haven't you?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. Mr. Bell, please turn to Exhibit TT. These  
13 are your answers to interrogatories that you provided to me.  
14 It's an email dated April 13th, 2025. Do you see that on page  
15 1?

16 A Which number am I looking at?

17 Q You're looking at TT.

18 A Yep.

19 Q Two T's.

20 A I'm on TT.

21 Q This is an email.

22 A I'm on page 1.

23 Q Good. And so do you see the date on top, Sunday,  
24 April 13th, 2025?

25 A Yes.

1 Q This is when you provided that email, correct?

2 A Yep.

3 Q Okay. Please turn to page 2, eighth paragraph down  
4 on the page. You state, "I think it is presenting itself for  
5 the past 60 days, well over 40 hours a week, on two of another  
6 20 to 30 on my other clients."

7 A I think it's presenting itself for the past 60 days.

8 Q Do you see that?

9 A Yeah, I'm looking right at it.

10 Q Great. So that was in -- "Please respond to the  
11 question. How many hours per week have you spent on this new  
12 venture since you have started working on it?" And you say,  
13 "Over 40 hours a week for the past 60 days." That's what you  
14 said, wasn't it, Mr. Bell?

15 A Yes, it is what I said in this context, yes.

16 Q You have been devoting time to what you call forensic  
17 investigations, haven't you?

18 A I've been working this case, yes.

19 Q You have been engaged in this since you have been  
20 representing yourself, isn't that right?

21 A Yes, it is.

22 Q And you are working on your own case, correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Between March 14th and April 15th, you filed over 80  
25 pleadings, motions, and exhibits with this Court, isn't that

1 correct?

2 A I don't know the number.

3 Q That's what this Court found in one of its orders.

4 Any reason to disagree with what the magistrate concluded?

5 A I'm just --

6 Q Mr. Bell, yes or no?

7 A I don't know, but I'll say if he said 80, then I  
8 guess it's 80. I don't remember that. Sorry.

9 Q You have continued to file pleadings in this case  
10 since April 15th, have you not?

11 A Yes, I have.

12 Q As part of your forensic investigations, you've gone  
13 to the Boulder Police Department and filed a complaint against  
14 me, have you not?

15 A No.

16 Q You filed a complaint and supplemental complaint  
17 against Mr. Friedberg to the Colorado Board of Accountancy,  
18 haven't you?

19 A Is that Dora (phonetic)?

20 Q Yes, sir.

21 A Yes, I have.

22 Q You filed grievances against me to the Colorado  
23 Attorney Regulation Counsel, correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q You filed a civil lawsuit against Mr. Friedberg, Ms.

1 Neufeld (phonetic), and me, 2025CV80, in the Boulder County  
2 District Court; isn't that right? That should be easy for you,  
3 Mr. Bell.

4 A I'm just thinking it through, Carol. Please allow me  
5 to process it, and then I'll get you your answer.

6 MS. GLASSMAN: The Court can take judicial notice of  
7 the --

8 THE WITNESS: I want to --

9 MS. GLASSMAN: -- file.

10 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, here's what I'm going to do.  
11 I'm going to take judicial notice of the fact that 25CV80 is  
12 filed. I know that you're processing this, and I'm going to  
13 allow you to take a break before you go on redirect  
14 examination, but if you want to talk about that in your  
15 redirect examination, you absolutely can, okay?

16 MR. BELL: I don't -- if I have an attorney. I  
17 don't -- I wasn't expecting this line of questioning, which is  
18 fine, but I have counsel, so I don't know if it's appropriate  
19 for me to answer the question.

20 THE COURT: Well, it's not so much you're not talking  
21 about the case itself. You're talking about whether or not you  
22 filed a case. And again, what I'm going to --

23 MR. BELL: Yeah, I'm just so torn --

24 THE COURT: Mr. Bell, here's what I'm going to do at  
25 this point. I'm taking judicial notice of the fact in 25CV80,

1 this was filed pro se, which means you filed it as just  
2 yourself, that it was filed where you're the named plaintiff.  
3 Mr. Friedberg, Ms. Glassman, and Ms. Millfield are named as  
4 defendants. And so the Court has taken judicial notice of  
5 that. If you want to talk about it in redirect examination,  
6 you can. You don't need to, but you are given that  
7 opportunity.

8 Go ahead, Ms. Glassman.

9 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

10 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

11 Q You have spent endless hours investigating the  
12 whereabouts of Ms. Millfield, haven't you? Yes or no?

13 A No.

14 Q You have spent endless hours investigating the  
15 whereabouts of Eric Six (phonetic)? Yes or no?

16 A Hours?

17 Q You have investigated the whereabouts of Mr. Six?

18 A Yes, that's true.

19 Q You have investigated the whereabouts of Ms.  
20 Millfield?

21 A Yes.

22 Q You have issued five subpoenas pro se, by yourself,  
23 self represented for production of documents in the civil case,  
24 correct?

25 A Yes. True.

1 Q You have utilized AI to assist you in drafting  
2 numerous legal motions and responses?

3 A That's true. Yes.

4 Q You have written numerous emails related to the  
5 investigations of the lawyers, police departments, and  
6 regulatory agencies, haven't you?

7 A Yes, I have.

8 Q It's fair to say that you have been extensively  
9 involved in these investigative efforts; is that correct?

10 A That is absolutely correct.

11 Q These activities have diverted your time and focus  
12 from Tool Studios designing web designs, haven't they?

13 A No.

14 Q Despite your investment of time to your new venture,  
15 Partners in Bell, you have not produced any income in that  
16 entity, have you?

17 A I have not generated any income yet.

18 Q Mr. Bell, do you recall Judge Salamoni? She was the  
19 presiding judge in the divorce case.

20 A I do.

21 Q In her permanent orders, she stated that with respect  
22 to your income, your credibility is hampered by your strategic  
23 incentive to underestimate. Do you recall that?

24 A I do not.

25 Q Turn to Exhibit WW.

1 THE COURT: And Ms. Glassman, just to make it clear,  
2 so you don't have to admit it, I will take judicial notice of  
3 the file, including the pleadings, as well as the orders.

4 MR. BELL: Yeah. I'll assume you were asking that.  
5 So yes. Yes.

6 THE COURT: Go ahead, Ms. Glassman.

7 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

8 Q However, you testified at trial that Tool Studios was  
9 doing really bad in 2023. Do you recall that?

10 A I do not recall that, but -- but I would say at --  
11 what was the month? It was November of --

12 Q So Mr. Bell, if you would testify -- excuse me, if  
13 you would turn to Exhibit BBB. And if you would turn to page 3  
14 of BBB, this is an excerpt of your testimony from the trial.  
15 This is the trial transcript. Let me know when you're there.  
16 BBB, page 3.

17 A Okay.

18 Q And on line 10, this was your attorney, Ms. Goff.  
19 "Question: No one has looked. None of the two experts that we  
20 heard this morning looked at the books for 2023. How is the  
21 company doing? Answer: Really bad. We're really bad." Do  
22 you recall saying that, Mr. Bell?

23 A I do recall it.

24 Q Great. Please turn to Exhibit O, page 1.

25 A We're going to hold for a second. I just got to take

1 some notes.

2 Q Mr. Bell, let me know when you're at the exhibit,  
3 Exhibit O, page 1.

4 A Okay. Which section, ma'am?

5 Q We're back to Exhibit O, page 1.

6 A Okay, go.

7 Q Tell me when you're there.

8 A I'm there.

9 Q This is Tool Studio's tax return for 2023; is it not?

10 A Is it double O or just O?

11 THE COURT: Just O.

12 THE WITNESS: Just O. Sorry. All right.

13 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

14 Q You know, excuse me. I'm going to have you turn to  
15 Exhibit P. Whoops. How about Exhibit R? I see my -- yeah,  
16 Exhibit R. My mistake. That's the corporate tax return.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Sorry. Flip to Exhibit R.

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah. My -- my comment is I'm looking  
19 for my --

20 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

21 Q Wait. No comments. No comments, Mr. Bell.

22 A Okay.

23 Q We're just looking -- my apologies.

24 A And which -- no, sorry. Which one?

25 Q I didn't mean any confusion. Exhibit R.

1 A Okay. All right. I'm there.

2 Q Thank you.

3 A You're welcome.

4 Q Exhibit R is your corporate tax return; is it not?  
5 Look at the first page. It's form 1120(s) U.S. income tax  
6 return for an S corporation. Company name is Tool Studios,  
7 LLC. So again, the question is, is this your corporate tax  
8 return for 2023?

9 A It appears -- yes, it looks like it is.

10 MS. GLASSMAN: Move to admit Exhibit R.

11 THE COURT: Any objection?

12 MR. BELL: Can I object if my signature is not on it?  
13 That's what makes me nervous. That's why I'm looking for it,  
14 and I do not --

15 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, I will help Court --

16 MR. BELL: I'm sorry.

17 MS. GLASSMAN: -- and say that this is not a signed  
18 tax return. This is what Mr. Bell produced to me. It was  
19 prepared by David Black, his accountant.

20 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, this is again one of those  
21 where the question that came from Ms. Glassman is give me your  
22 business 2023 tax return, and this is what was provided. And  
23 so are you arguing --

24 MR. BELL: Okay. So this is what I provided? I  
25 don't have record of that, but I'm assuming --

1 THE COURT: This is the only way that she's getting  
2 it, is through you, right?

3 MR. BELL: Okay.

4 THE COURT: I was going to say.

5 MR. BELL: Sorry.

6 THE COURT: I was going to say we still have rules in  
7 the IRS, but the Court is going to overrule any objection. I'm  
8 going to find this as an --

9 MR. BELL: Yeah, that's fine. That's fine.

10 THE COURT: But it's admitted. Go ahead.

11 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit R admitted into evidence)

12 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

13 Q Mr. Bell, please turn to page 1 of Exhibit R, and  
14 look at line 7. The lines are numbered.

15 A I'm looking.

16 Q Line 7 lists compensation to officers. That's you,  
17 correct -- of \$84,083; is that right?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q And then I'll have you look at line 22. That's  
20 described as the ordinary business income, and that's \$181,920,  
21 is that correct? Line 7.

22 A I'm looking. I'm looking.

23 Q Excuse me. Line 22.

24 A I'm looking right at it. I'm reading every word.

25 Ordinary business income. Is this a personal tax return or a

1 business one?

2 Q We've just established --

3 THE COURT: Look at the very top, Mr. Bell.

4 A U.S. income tax. U.S. income tax as a corporation.  
5 Oh, so it's the business -- corporation. Yes, that's what I  
6 see there. Ordinary business income.

7 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

8 Q So if we add together line 7 and 22 -- I've done the  
9 math for you. That's a total of \$266,003 in earnings for 2023.  
10 Do you agree with that? There's a calculator on the witness  
11 stand, if you want to check my math.

12 A Ask the question one more time.

13 Q Your total earnings. Line 7, \$84,083 in compensation  
14 to officers, and then line 22, ordinary business income of  
15 \$181,920. Add those two numbers together, and your total  
16 earnings for 2023 were \$266,003.

17 MR. BELL: I object as it's misleading the way you're  
18 asking the question.

19 THE COURT: All right. So I will overrule the  
20 objection. This is, again, something you can bring up on  
21 redirect --

22 MR. BELL: Okay.

23 THE COURT: -- and talk about why you believe it's  
24 misleading. But the Court will take judicial notice of the  
25 fact that when those two numbers are added together, it does

1 equal the \$260 --

2 MR. BELL: That wasn't the question. That wasn't the  
3 question, though, is what I'm getting at.

4 THE COURT: I thought it was.

5 MR. BELL: It wasn't. That's why I wanted you to ask  
6 it --

7 THE COURT: Go ahead and read. I was going to say I  
8 thought that was your question.

9 MS. GLASSMAN: That's exactly the question.

10 MR. BELL: Can you ask it again, please?

11 MS. GLASSMAN: No. I think we can move on.

12 MR. BELL: See, this is --

13 THE COURT: Yeah. And so -- well, again, so here's  
14 the issue, Mr. Bell. On redirect you can talk about it, if you  
15 want to.

16 MR. BELL: Okay.

17 THE COURT: Go ahead.

18 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

19 Q So \$266,003, that's what the Court finds those two  
20 numbers add up to. That's an average of \$22,167 a month. Just  
21 take that number and divide it by 12. Equals \$22,167 per  
22 month, correct? There's a calculator right in front of you,  
23 Mr. Bell.

24 MR. BELL: You're not -- I object to the questioning  
25 because it's misleading.

1 THE COURT: Again, I'll overrule the objection.

2 MR. BELL: Okay.

3 THE COURT: So I'll have you answer the question, but  
4 if you want to address it on redirect, you can.

5 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

6 Q \$22,167 a month, correct, Mr. Bell? Yes or no?

7 A I need you to ask the question appropriately, Ms.  
8 Glassman.

9 THE COURT: So I'm going to go ahead -- Mr. Bell, at  
10 this point, I need to have you answer the question. Either you  
11 agree or disagree. If you -- and again, I can take the numbers  
12 and divide it and figure out what it is. There's a calculator  
13 in front of you, if you want to check it. But I can also take  
14 judicial notice of it. So I'll have you answer yes or no. And  
15 depending on your answer is depending on what I do next.

16 THE WITNESS: No.

17 THE COURT: The Court will take judicial notice of  
18 the fact that \$266,000 -- I'll leave off the three extra  
19 dollars -- when divided by 12, gives a result of \$22,166 point  
20 and then 666667.

21 MR. BELL: That wasn't the question.

22 THE COURT: It was. The Court will take judicial  
23 notice of that fact.

24 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Go ahead, please.

1 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

2 Q Additionally, in 2023, Mr. Bell, Tool Studios paid  
3 some of your personal expenses as business expenses, did it  
4 not?

5 A Yes.

6 Q That included gas, health insurance, therapy, legal  
7 fees, correct?

8 A In 2023?

9 Q Yes, sir.

10 A I don't have -- I don't have --

11 Q But do you agree that you -- that the business did  
12 pay personal expenses on your behalf? You just said you did.

13 A Yeah, I -- yeah.

14 Q And those personal expenses were not added to your  
15 monthly income of \$22,167, were they? Yes or no?

16 MR. BELL: Your Honor, can I ask a question or no?  
17 Because I'm really confused over these questions.

18 THE COURT: Sure. And again, because of the --

19 MR. BELL: No --

20 THE COURT: Hold on, hold on. Because of the ADA  
21 accommodations, I'll allow you to ask the question. Go ahead,  
22 sir.

23 MR. BELL: When you use the word income, it implies  
24 that somebody is paying somebody. That is not applicable in  
25 this case because 186 was not an income number. It was a

1 business line item. It's not anything. It was not an income,  
2 and that's why.

3 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, I understand what you're  
4 telling me.

5 MR. BELL: Yeah, okay.

6 THE COURT: What I will tell you is, to the best of  
7 your ability, you can answer yes or no. So it sounds to me  
8 that you're saying no to this, and if you want to follow up in  
9 your redirect as to what you just told me so it's part of the  
10 record, you can do that.

11 MR. BELL: And I want to take notes. Okay. Thank  
12 you.

13 THE COURT: Go ahead, Ms. Glassman.

14 MR. BELL: Thank you.

15 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

16 Q So Mr. Bell, contrary to your trial testimony -- and  
17 I'll remind you, you said, 2023 really, really bad -- 2023 was  
18 not a really bad year financially for Tool Studios, was it?  
19 Yes or no? Mr. Bell, I'm waiting for you to respond. Do you  
20 need more time? Mr. Bell, do you need more time to respond to  
21 my question?

22 A Ask it one more time.

23 Q I'm sorry?

24 A Ask it one more time, please.

25 Q Contrary to your trial testimony where you testified

1 under oath that 2023 was a really bad year when asked about how  
2 the company was doing in 2023, so it turns out 2023 was not a  
3 really bad year, was it? Mr. Bell, are you going to answer the  
4 question, or should I move on it?

5 A It -- it --

6 Q I'm going to move on, Mr. Bell.

7 A Okay. Thank you.

8 Q Your 2024 tax return is currently on extension; is  
9 that right?

10 A I think so.

11 Q Your business tax return -- that includes your  
12 business tax return being on extension, correct? For 2024, you  
13 have not filed a business tax return, have you?

14 A No, I have not.

15 Q And as of today, you've not filed your personal tax  
16 return either, correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q So you have not provided any verified proof of your  
19 2024 income other than your W-2, your 2024 W-2? Yes or no?

20 A For what year?

21 Q 2024.

22 A I provided balance sheets and -- and --

23 Q No, we're talking about verified proof to the IRS.

24 A Oh, verified proof. Oh, no. Okay.

25 Q And you would agree, would you not, that your W-2

1 income from your S Corporation is not your only source of  
2 income? You have pass-through income as well, correct?

3 A What is -- can you explain that to me what a pass-  
4 through income is?

5 Q Well, I think if you look at Exhibit R, Mr. Bell, you  
6 can see ordinary business income on line 22 would be described  
7 as your pass-through income. So in addition to your W-2 wages,  
8 which are line 7, \$84,083, you also have pass-through income or  
9 loss, which would be on line 22, correct?

10 MS. GLASSMAN: I'll ask the Court to take notice of  
11 the way his income is paid to him by virtue of his business  
12 entity.

13 THE COURT: The Court will take judicial notice of  
14 the income tax return, specifically showing a net flow of  
15 ordinary business income, a positive amount of \$181,920,  
16 whereas the officer of Tools Studios, he would have access to.

17 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

18 Q So your W-2 income in and of itself does not paint  
19 the whole picture of your compensation, does it?

20 A No.

21 Q Now, Mr. Bell, you testified on your direct testimony  
22 that you just haven't been able to take any money out of the  
23 company, that there's an auto transfer of \$2,000. Do you  
24 recall that?

25 A Absolutely.

1 Q Yes. So please turn to Exhibit U. And if you look  
2 at pages 2 through 21, those are the Bank of America, account  
3 4382, account statements for Total Studios, LLC, from January  
4 2nd, 2025 to April 11th, 2025. Do you see that, Mr. Bell?

5 A I'm getting there.

6 Q Look at page 2 so you can see the bank statements.  
7 I'll remind you that you produced these for me.

8 A Okay.

9 Q You just produced them --

10 A I'm there. I'm there. I'm there.

11 Q -- in May.

12 A Got it. I'm there.

13 Q Okay.

14 MS. GLASSMAN: Move to admit Exhibit U.

15 THE COURT: You any objection to Exhibit U?

16 MR. BELL: Nope.

17 THE COURT: Exhibit U is admitted.

18 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit U admitted into evidence)

19 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

20 Q So on page 1 of Exhibit U, we have a summary of money  
21 that has been transferred out of Tool Studios, LLC to you. So  
22 between January 2nd, 2025, and April 11th, 2025, there were  
23 payroll checks in the amount of \$16,440. Do you see that, Mr.  
24 Bell? And the page number is --

25 A I see it. I see it, but I -- ask your question, if

1 you don't mind.

2 Q Between January 2nd, 2025, and April 11th, 2025, ADP  
3 payroll checks in the amount of \$16,440 were issued to Charles  
4 Bell, correct?

5 A Incorrect. That's -- it's not my account. That's --  
6 anyway. It's employees. I mean, 1099 people I paid through --  
7 I pay through ADP. It's not to my account. Sorry. I gave you  
8 my personal accounts too, so you should be able to see if there  
9 was \$16,000 deposited, and there wasn't. Go ahead.

10 Q In addition, Mr. Bell, from January -- well, first  
11 off, you testified that you're paying a 1099 person \$500 a  
12 month, correct? That was your testimony.

13 A That's not a -- I don't know, actually --

14 Q Yes or no, Mr. Bell? Is that what you just testified  
15 to? You said \$500 is what you're paying your 1099 because you  
16 don't have staff -- your 1099 contractor.

17 A I've never issued a 1099 to the \$500 --

18 Q In addition to the ADP transfers, you've made  
19 distributions from January 21st, 2025, through April 15th,  
20 2025, each month around the 14th or 15th of the month, \$2,000 a  
21 month, correct?

22 A That is correct. Page 1 of U. Those are accurate  
23 numbers.

24 Q Mr. Bell, did you say it was correct or not?

25 MR. BELL: Your Honor, I object. This is very

1 misleading. The bottom graph I provided. I did not provide  
2 the top graph.

3 THE COURT: So -- and this is on page 1 that you're  
4 referring to, correct? So page 1, this is what's called a  
5 summary --

6 MR. BELL: Yeah.

7 THE COURT: -- exhibit. And so this is something  
8 that you didn't create. This is something that was created by  
9 Ms. Glassman. And what it's referring to is it basically has  
10 the date that the transfer happened, an amount that was  
11 transferred, and the page number. And so that's just to help  
12 me. Instead of reading 20-plus pages of bank statements and  
13 trying to organize it, that's more to help me than anything  
14 else. And so what I've heard is for the top chart, you're  
15 saying that those transfers happen, but you're saying that  
16 those weren't paid to you; they were paid to other people?

17 MR. BELL: Correct.

18 THE COURT: The question before you right now is the  
19 bottom part where it says on the 14th or 15th of each month,  
20 did you pay yourself \$2,000?

21 MR. BELL: Yeah, I transferred it. Yes, I did.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. BELL: That is true.

24 THE COURT: And so I'll overrule the objection.

25 MR. BELL: Thank you.

1 THE COURT: Go ahead.

2 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

3 Q And so a point of clarification, Mr. Bell. You said  
4 that other people receive the ADP money, but I'll ask you to  
5 turn to Exhibit Y now. And tell me when you're there.

6 A I am there.

7 Q And turn to page 11, please.

8 A Wait, which section are we on? Y, right?

9 Q We're in Exhibit Y, page 11.

10 A It only goes seven, eight.

11 Q Exhibit Y, page 11 on the bottom, the typed page  
12 number.

13 A Okay. Go ahead.

14 Q And then you'll see on that page on January 31st,  
15 2025, this is your Merrill Lynch personal account, last entry  
16 for deposits.

17 A Right. I got it.

18 Q You see, \$3,676, Mr. Bell, was deposited into the  
19 account?

20 A I got to look through this stuff. Hold on.

21 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, may I approach?

22 A You, ma'am. I'm just -- I'm making -- I'm looking  
23 for the account number.

24 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

25 Q The account number -- this is the account you have

1 with your son. He's payable on death -- your son, Julian. Go  
2 to page 11.

3 A I've never seen this.

4 Q Okay. You produced these to me just in May -- these  
5 statements. Do you see the deposit from Tool Studios directly  
6 to you, \$3,676? This is the total deposits. Do you see that?

7 A Again, let me go back one page.

8 Q Do you see the deposit?

9 A I see it.

10 Q Thank you.

11 A But it's not my account. Sorry. I don't --

12 Q And that matches, does it not? If you go back to  
13 Exhibit U, you can see on January 31st an ADP check of \$3,676.  
14 Money came out of Tool Studios into the personal account of  
15 Charles Robert Bell. It's what the papers reflect.

16 A And so I'm really -- I want to answer these questions  
17 really honestly, and again -- but I also don't -- I also have  
18 some issues with the way questions are asked. It confuses me.

19 THE COURT: So let me try something just so -- because  
20 I see the point that you're getting at.

21 THE WITNESS: Yeah. And I'm not trying to be --

22 THE COURT: So here's what I'd like to have you do.  
23 Do you have your sworn financial statement in front of you?  
24 That's what you and I went through. That's one from May 21st.  
25 So that shouldn't be in any exhibit, Mr. Bell.

1 THE WITNESS: Bear with me. Again, I'm looking  
2 for --

3 MS. GLASSMAN: It's --

4 THE COURT: Well, here's what I want you to do with  
5 that. I want you to pause on Exhibit 1.

6 THE WITNESS: Okay.

7 THE COURT: And I want you to look at your sworn  
8 financial statement.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay.

10 THE COURT: And just put it off to the side there  
11 because I'm going to have you look at page 5, and I'm going to  
12 show you what I'm looking at.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay.

14 THE COURT: And then I'm going to show you what  
15 Exhibit Y, I think, shows me.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay.

17 THE COURT: So tell me when you're at your sworn  
18 financial statement.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm there.

20 THE COURT: All right. Let me have you go to page 5.  
21 Page 5 starts off asking about your assets. Just tell me when  
22 you're there.

23 THE WITNESS: I see my assets.

24 THE COURT: Do you see on that first line under C, it  
25 says Bank of America personal? And do you see where you have

1 the account number? It says 1909.

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah. And that's what I was looking  
3 for here.

4 THE COURT: And you see -- I'm looking again, page  
5 11. And this is what Ms. Glassman is showing you. The upper  
6 right-hand corner -- I'm looking at an account number that says  
7 1909. And so it appears to me that these are the same accounts  
8 that you are each referencing, and I'm just asking you if you  
9 agree with me on that.

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Okay. I'm not trying to be  
11 avoidance. I'm trying to just make sure I answer the  
12 question --

13 THE COURT: Sure.

14 THE WITNESS: -- accurately. There appears to be a  
15 payment into that account from the Tool Studios' account.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 THE WITNESS: And but again, I'm going back to the --  
18 yeah, so it does appear that way.

19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Bell.

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So that's all I can --

21 THE COURT: And the Court is satisfied that there's a  
22 payment --

23 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

24 THE COURT: -- from Tool Studios through ADP into his  
25 personal account, in addition to the \$2,000.

1 THE WITNESS: Well, it doesn't say ADP, though.

2 THE COURT: Go ahead.

3 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

4 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

5 Q So looking back at the page 1 of Exhibit U. Mr.  
6 Bell, page 1 of Exhibit U.

7 A Page 1. All right. Ask your question while I get  
8 there.

9 Q Well, I'll wait for you to get there.

10 A Here we go.

11 Q Between January 15th, 2025, and April 15th, 2025,  
12 \$8,000 was distributed by you from Tool Studios; is that  
13 correct?

14 A Absolutely. That one's the bottom one.

15 Q Yeah.

16 A Most likely. I don't have my -- if I gave you that  
17 chart, then yes, because I do remember giving you a chart.

18 Q And then, Mr. Bell, if you would turn to Exhibit V,  
19 like in Victor.

20 A Hold on. All right. Where are we going now?

21 Q Exhibit V, like in Victor.

22 A All right. I'm there.

23 Q This was a document that you produced for me, and it  
24 shows the \$8,000 in \$2,000 increments. Actually, it shows  
25 \$10,000, but \$2,000 of it was in December of 2024. And then do

1 you see where it says year to date, net PAR roll, \$11,679?

2 A Jesus Christ.

3 Q So Mr. Bell, our numbers may be slightly different,  
4 but you would agree that contrary to your testimony, you have  
5 been distributing money from Tool Studios in 2025, including  
6 payroll? Yes or no?

7 A No.

8 Q Okay.

9 A And but --

10 MS. GLASSMAN: I'll move to admit Exhibit V.

11 THE COURT: Again, this is an adoptive admission as  
12 it was produced by Mr. Bell to Ms. Glassman. The Court finds  
13 that it is a statement by a party opponent, and the Court will  
14 admit V.

15 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit V admitted into evidence)

16 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

17 Q So going back to page 1, Exhibit U -- Mr. Bell, I  
18 need for you to get there, and let me know when you're there.

19 A All right.

20 Q So again --

21 A I got it. I got it.

22 Q -- Exhibit U, page 1. Are you there?

23 A Hold on. All right. Where am I going?

24 Q You're back on Exhibit U, page 1. So in addition to  
25 the -- my number \$16,440 that was paid in paychecks, top grid,

1 in addition to the \$8,000 of distributions, as of that same  
2 period of time, mid-month, April, there was \$36,097 in the  
3 bank. And that's on page 19, if you want to verify that.

4 MR. BELL: Objection. Misleading.

5 THE COURT: I'll overrule the objection. She  
6 indicated a page number if you want to verify if there was  
7 \$36,097.

8 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

9 Q So Mr. Bell, if you would turn to page 19.

10 MS. GLASSMAN: And Your Honor, may I approach?

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

13 Q Page 19. We're looking at the page numbers here.

14 A I got it. Getting there. Here we go.

15 Q Okay. So these are your daily ledger balances. As  
16 of April 15th, you had \$36,097.81; you see that?

17 A This is the business account.

18 Q Still the business account, Mr. Bell.

19 A Yeah. That's correct.

20 Q Okay. So for a three-and-a-half-month period,  
21 January 1st to April 15th of 2025, your available cash was  
22 \$60,537; was it not?

23 A Okay. Ask the question one more time because we're  
24 looking at the business account. We're good here.

25 Q We're looking at the business account.

1 A We're good here. \$36,000.

2 Q Right.

3 A Okay.

4 Q In addition, there was \$16,440. I understand you can  
5 test that. That came out in payroll. \$8,000 that came out in  
6 distributions. Those three numbers total \$60,537. So  
7 available cash over a 3.5 month period for the first three and  
8 a half months of 2025, \$60,537.

9 MR. BELL: Objection. Misleading.

10 THE COURT: At this point, it's either a yes or no.  
11 So I'm going to overrule the objection.

12 MR. BELL: Okay.

13 THE COURT: You can testify on redirect --

14 MR. BELL: Okay.

15 THE COURT: -- as to what you believe that is.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay. Then, no. Thank you.

17 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

18 Q And if we take \$60,537 available cash, and we divide  
19 that by three and a half months, that's \$17,296 a month. You  
20 agree with that math?

21 A Say the math again, Carol.

22 Q I'm sorry?

23 THE COURT: He asked you to repeat the question.

24 MS. GLASSMAN: Oh.

25 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

1 Q So \$60,537 divided by three and a half months --  
2 that's January through April 15th of 2025 -- equals available  
3 cash, \$17,296 a month.

4 A No.

5 Q Mr. Bell --

6 MS. GLASSMAN: So Your Honor, I'm moving to admit --  
7 I don't know if I did Exhibit U. I think I did. Yes.

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 MS. GLASSMAN: Exhibit V the Court accepted.

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MS. GLASSMAN: And also the personal bank account  
12 statements, that's Exhibit Y.

13 THE COURT: Y was not offered yet, so with regards to  
14 Exhibit Y, which are the Bank of America accounts now owned by  
15 Merrill Lynch, the -- that was 22 pages -- 38 pages, any  
16 objection to Y? These are, again, bank statements that you  
17 have provided.

18 MR. BELL: I'm assuming that bank statements are  
19 accurate.

20 THE COURT: Okay. The Court will admit Exhibit Y.

21 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit Y admitted into evidence)

22 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

23 Q Mr. Bell, you were diagnosed with ADHD in 2021; is  
24 that correct? Or maybe it was 2020.

25 A I don't -- I don't remember, to be honest with you.

1 I think --

2 Q But it predated --

3 A -- it was right around then, yeah.

4 Q It predated the divorce by several years. You take  
5 Adderall, correct?

6 A No. I take -- I forget what it's called. It's  
7 something different. I don't have the name of it. It begins  
8 with an amp or something.

9 Q This medication for your ADHD helps you organize your  
10 thoughts, correct?

11 A I've never been asked that question. It helps slow  
12 me down.

13 Q And it helps you focus; isn't that right?

14 A It slows -- it slows me down.

15 Q Yeah. And that helps you focus; does it not?

16 A What -- helps my focus --

17 Q That's what you have told Dr. Logan. It helps you  
18 focus. Adderall helps you focus, is what you have repeatedly  
19 told the person who prescribes you your Adderall.

20 A I don't remember telling him that, but okay. If you  
21 have it in writing, then --

22 Q You stated in your responses to interrogatories that  
23 your ADHD drives the unique skills like hyperfocus,  
24 innovations, and relentless problem-solving that have been the  
25 key to your successes. Do you remember saying that?

1           A     But I didn't associate it with drugs. That's ADHD.  
2     Sorry.

3           Q     I -- the question was that your ADHD drives the  
4     unique skills like hyperfocus, innovations, and relentless  
5     problem solving that have been key to your successes. That's  
6     what you said in your responses --

7           A     I absolutely agree with that. Sorry.

8           Q     You consider your hyperfocus a strength or  
9     superpower, don't you?

10          A     Yes, I do.

11          Q     You would agree that sustained attention is  
12     beneficial in creative work like brand development and web  
13     design; isn't that right?

14          A     That's not how I would word it, but no. I would say  
15     no, it's not correct.

16          Q     You have managed your business for many years since  
17     your ADHD diagnosis. Isn't that a fact? Yes or no, Mr. Bell?

18          A     Okay. Since when?

19          Q     For many years you have managed this business since  
20     your diagnosis of ADHD.

21          A     I had a role in it. There was two people.

22          Q     In 2020 --

23                   MS. GLASSMAN: Strike that.

24     BY MS. GLASSMAN:

25          Q     Tool Studios has served multiple industries over the

1 years; isn't that correct? A variety of clients?

2 A Yes. Variety of different disciplines, yep.

3 Q When the cannabis industry became a significant  
4 market, you pivoted to focus on serving clients in that  
5 industry, correct?

6 A Say it one more time.

7 Q When the cannabis industry became a significant  
8 market --

9 A Yep.

10 Q -- you pivoted to focus on serving clients in that  
11 industry, correct? Please respond to the question.

12 A I did not. Okay, one more time with the question,  
13 Carol.

14 Q When the cannabis industry became a significant  
15 market, you pivoted to focus on serving clients in that  
16 industry?

17 A No pivot, no.

18 Q Over the years, you have demonstrated an ability to  
19 change and to explore new business opportunities; isn't that  
20 right?

21 A I know I'm not supposed to answer a question with the  
22 with a question, so the question one more time, Carol.

23 Q Over the years you have demonstrated an ability to  
24 look at new business opportunities? It's not a trick question,  
25 Mr. Bell.

1           A     Well, it actually is, Carol. I've never looked.  
2 They look at me.

3           Q     Okay.

4           A     So -- so --

5           Q     Should I just move on?

6           A     No.

7           Q     Are you going to answer the question, Mr. Bell?

8           A     Will you allow me to answer it honestly and give you  
9 the --

10          Q     It's really just a yes or no. Either you have or you  
11 haven't. And then you -- Judge has explained to you, you have  
12 lots of opportunity for --

13          A     Yeah. Again --

14          Q     -- redirect.

15          A     Okay.

16          Q     You've explored new business opportunities over the  
17 years; yes or no?

18          A     I am going to give you -- say yes, I've explored --  
19 yeah, okay.

20          Q     And that flexibility, the ability to serve diverse  
21 industries, that's been a key factor in the success of Tool  
22 Studios, hasn't it been?

23          A     The eclectic nature, yes, that is true.

24          Q     In your February 6th, 2025 discovery responses, you  
25 indicated that you've taken on new clients, and that's what you

1 testified to on your direct, correct?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q And that includes that oil and gas company that you  
4 described?

5 A Yep.

6 Q And you're using AI in your new projects?

7 A I'm not using AI in those new projects.

8 Q If you turn to Exhibit 00, page 16.

9 A Define -- go ahead.

10 THE COURT: Go to where she's asking.

11 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

12 Q And the page numbers are typed on the bottom. So  
13 look at the page numbers that are next to the exhibit.

14 A I'm there. I'm there. Go ahead.

15 Q Okay.

16 A What number?

17 THE COURT: So page 16.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. All right. I'm on  
19 the backside of 16. Okay. Executive function. All right.

20 What am I reading here, Carol?

21 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

22 Q Bottom of the page where it states, "I have a small  
23 email marketing job that will allow me to test AI with the  
24 support of one of my designers." Do you see that?

25 A I absolutely see it.

1 Q And then above that, you say, with respect to Cali  
2 (phonetic), I helped him with a nonpaying project utilizing AI  
3 to access the viability of a business acquisition.

4 A So then ask your original question, and then I'll  
5 answer.

6 Q And then further up, do you see it says, "The shift  
7 towards AI driven marketing and automation is ongoing." So the  
8 question is, you are using AI in new projects, correct?

9 A That wasn't your original question. That is a  
10 correct question -- that is a correct answer. I do explore it  
11 any time I can.

12 Q And you're certainly using AI to assist you with  
13 Partners in Bell, aren't you?

14 A I'm using it in every aspect of my life.

15 Q With respect to large clients, in your deposition  
16 dated July 6th, 2023, you stated in response to the question,  
17 "Do you expect to get more clients like TelyRx?" -- you  
18 responded, "I look at my career, 21 years. I've gotten maybe  
19 six or seven clients like that." Do you remember saying that?

20 A That's a loaded question. All right. I'm going to  
21 answer this one.

22 Q If you need to refresh your memory, I have the  
23 deposition available for you to read it.

24 A Do you have the whole part of it or just the isolated  
25 part?

1 Q I have the whole part of it.

2 A All right. So can I answer the complete question?

3 Q No. The question is my question, Mr. Bell. You have  
4 to respond to my question.

5 A Okay. I hear you. I hear you.

6 Q So the question is, did you say that, Mr. Bell? Do  
7 you recall saying that? Do you need to read it to refresh your  
8 memory?

9 A No. Again --

10 Q So yes or no? Did you say that? That was your  
11 testimony at your deposition. In the interest of time, Mr.  
12 Bell, would you like to look at your deposition? I can get you  
13 right there. Would you like me to help you refresh your  
14 memory?

15 A What I'm going -- what I'm going to say is that that  
16 is the context. That is what I said --

17 Q Thank you.

18 A -- in that deposition.

19 Q Thank you, Mr. Bell. You have plenty of time on your  
20 redirect --

21 A And again --

22 Q -- to expound upon that, if you need to.

23 A Thank you.

24 Q So you would agree that getting six or seven clients  
25 like that over 21 years is about an average of every three

1 years, correct?

2 A Read me the deposition again -- what I said.

3 Q What you said --

4 A Verbatim.

5 Q "Question: Do you expect to get more clients like  
6 TelyRx?" "Answer: I look at my career, 21 years. I've gotten  
7 maybe six or seven clients like that." So I just divided 21 by  
8 7, Mr. Bell, and I'm asking you if that's an average of about  
9 every three years.

10 A I answered the question at the time correctly.

11 Q You would expect down periods as a normal part of  
12 your business fluctuation, wouldn't you, Mr. Bell?

13 A Absolutely, yes.

14 Q Mr. Bell, Ms. Bell left Tool Studios in August of  
15 2023; is that correct?

16 A I was trying to figure that out. I think it was  
17 actually -- I just checked this. September 4th is when she  
18 was -- exited QuickBooks.

19 Q Thank you.

20 A Thank you.

21 Q You were critical of her bookkeeping skills, weren't  
22 you?

23 A No, I was not. I don't I want to say. I know where  
24 you're going with this. Was I critical?

25 Q Where you or weren't you, Mr. Bell?

1 A Probably, yes.

2 Q You instructed her on how to pay the accounts payable  
3 and when to pay them; isn't that true?

4 A Ask the question again.

5 Q You instructed her on how to pay accounts payable and  
6 when to make the payments?

7 A I sent her payroll.

8 Q You kept spreadsheets for everything while she was  
9 the bookkeeper?

10 A No.

11 Q You told her what to do and when you wanted her to do  
12 it?

13 A No.

14 Q And if she were to say that you did these things,  
15 would she be inaccurate?

16 A If she said what?

17 Q If she said that you instructed her on how to pay the  
18 payables and when to pay them -- if she said that you kept  
19 spreadsheets for everything, that while she was the bookkeeper,  
20 you told her what to do and what you wanted, would she be  
21 inaccurate?

22 Let me move on. So contrary to your testimony of what Ms.  
23 Bell's asserting is true, you really had quite a handle over  
24 the financial aspects of Tool Studios, didn't you?

25 A I always knew what the bank account was. Yes, that's

1 true.

2 Q I'm sorry?

3 A I said I always knew within whatever, a couple  
4 thousand dollars, how much money was in the bank, but that was  
5 about it.

6 Q The Court found that Ms. Bell's role as a bookkeeper  
7 was not unique or irreplaceable; is that right? It's in Judge  
8 Salomone's order in her permanent order. It was the finding of  
9 the Court.

10 A If that's what she found.

11 Q And since Ms. Bell's departure from the company  
12 September 2023, you have hired support staff, correct?

13 A I have definitely hired people, yeah -- 1099s and  
14 then QuickBooks, yeah. Yeah. 1099 people, yes, I've hired  
15 them.

16 Q So in terms of the pillar and the two of you and Ms.  
17 Bell being irreplaceable, the Court found she was not, correct?  
18 And in fact, you have hired support staff to assist you with  
19 QuickBooks, correct? Mr. Bell, please answer my question.

20 A I have hired people to do QuickBooks.

21 Q Thank you. In March 2025, you received an  
22 inheritance?

23 A Correct.

24 Q It was a monetary inheritance, wasn't it?

25 A I don't know what that means.

1 Q It was cash? It was money?

2 A Yeah, wired to my account.

3 Q It was \$100,000?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Please turn to Exhibit Y. Again, that's your  
6 personal checking and savings accounts.

7 A Okay.

8 Q Are you there?

9 A I'm here.

10 Q Please turn to page 17.

11 A All right.

12 Q On March 3rd, 2025, a wire came in in the amount of  
13 \$100,000, correct?

14 A Correct.

15 Q You have not invested this money in an investment  
16 account, have you?

17 A Nope.

18 Q You have kept the inherited funds in this regular  
19 checking account, haven't you?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And since March, you have spent over approximately  
22 \$10,000 a month from that account, correct?

23 A Yeah. Well, I think the judge came up with that.  
24 Yeah, that's what my thing says.

25 Q You have used that account for rent, have you not?

1 A Yeah, absolutely.

2 Q You have continued to pay \$4,283 per month in child  
3 support?

4 A Yes, I have.

5 Q You've made those payments on or about the -- on  
6 March 5th, April 7th, and May 5th, correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q You have not paid --

9 A I'm -- I'm -- I'm behind right now.

10 Q You have not paid despite having money in the bank.  
11 You have not paid your June child support or maintenance  
12 obligation, have you?

13 A I told Ali why, but okay. Absolutely not. Yeah.  
14 It's true.

15 Q So nearly \$13,000 in support payments has come out of  
16 this one account?

17 A I think it's all come out of all this account. This  
18 is my personal account, so yeah. All --

19 Q You've made monthly tax payments from this account in  
20 the amount of \$500 to \$1000 a month, haven't you?

21 A That's a good question. I don't know.

22 Q You have continued to pay multiple reoccurring  
23 charges, including YouTube? You said you just canceled that.

24 A I did.

25 Q Google G Suite, correct?

1 A Yep.

2 Q You've paid Sophie Oliver for therapy?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q One hundred dollars on multiple occasions in March  
5 and April from this account, correct?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q You have used these inherited funds not just for  
8 support, rent, and taxes, but also for entertainment, correct?

9 A I pay bills with it, yeah.

10 Q You've used it to pay your credit card bills?

11 A Yes, I have.

12 Q And for your personal services, correct?

13 A Personal services?

14 Q Like Ms. Oliver?

15 A Yeah, absolutely.

16 Q You've continued this pattern of spending across all  
17 the months that you have received this inheritance since March?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And you intend to continue to use these funds to meet  
20 your expenses going forward, don't you?

21 A Absolutely. Yes.

22 Q If you turn -- so in addition to this \$100,000 that  
23 you received from your sister when she passed, you stated on  
24 your direct testimony that you're willing to be imputed with  
25 \$100,000 of income; is that correct?

1           A     I thought that was reasonable, and I -- yeah, I  
2 thought it was reasonable, ma'am.

3           Q     Please turn to Exhibit M -- M like in Mary.

4           A     I'm there.

5           Q     This is your sworn financial statement.

6           A     Okay.

7           Q     On page 1, you stated your income was \$4,888 a month,  
8 but your cash flow, as we painstakingly discussed, has been  
9 substantially greater than that, hasn't it been?

10          A     Say that again.

11          Q     Your cash flow has been substantially greater than  
12 \$4,888 per month?

13          A     Cash flow. Oh, man.

14          Q     I'll move on.

15                MS. GLASSMAN: I'm almost done, Your Honor.

16                THE COURT: No worries. Thank you.

17 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

18          Q     Please turn to page 5 of the exhibit, and it will  
19 be --

20                THE COURT: Page 5 of Exhibit M?

21                MS. GLASSMAN: Yes.

22                THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

23 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

24          Q     Are you there, Mr. Bell?

25          A     Yeah. Which section? Sorry.

1 Q We're on Exhibit M, page 5. And again, it's the  
2 number that's typed next to the exhibit marker.

3 A All right. M. I'm there.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Oh, this is my thing.

6 Q Sworn financial statement. I'm asking you to turn to  
7 page 5, please.

8 A Okay.

9 Q I'm looking at Section C, that's your cash on hand.  
10 As of May 2025, your personal checking account had held over  
11 \$80,000?

12 A That's true, yeah.

13 Q Your business checking account held another \$27,858?

14 A Absolutely.

15 Q Altogether, you listed that your available cash,  
16 liquid cash assets, was \$128,000?

17 A Yep. 1545 -- 48.

18 Q I'm sorry, Mr. --

19 A Yeah, you -- no --

20 Q \$128,015.48, yes?

21 A Yeah, that's correct.

22 Q You have significantly more liquid assets in 2025  
23 than you had in August of 2023?

24 A What month?

25 Q I'm sorry?

1 A Ask the question again, Carol.

2 Q You have significantly more liquid assets in 2025  
3 than you had in August 2023. Mr. Bell, if you would turn --

4 A Again, you're -- you're --

5 Q Mr. Bell, turn to Exhibit N, like in Nancy. This is  
6 your sworn financial statement dated August 14th, 2023.

7 A There was more money in the bank account.

8 Q The one that you submitted at the time of the  
9 divorce. And if you would turn to page 6, it's that same  
10 category, C, cash on hand. On page 6 you listed you had  
11 \$838.79. You see that?

12 A I don't know what was in my savings. You're --  
13 you're -- you're saying liquid assets --

14 Q It's right there, savings -- savings. It says \$100.

15 A You didn't say --

16 Q Chase savings \$31.79. This is your sworn statement.

17 A Again, you have to ask the question correctly, Carol.

18 Q Well, I think I am, Mr. Bell.

19 A I don't think you -- okay.

20 THE COURT: The Court will take judicial notice --

21 THE WITNESS: I'm --

22 THE COURT: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait.

23 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, sir.

24 THE COURT: The Court will take judicial notice of  
25 Exhibit M, which was a previously admitted exhibit in the

1 permanent orders indicating that the amount that he has cash on  
2 hand now reflected in Exhibit M is significantly greater than  
3 Exhibit N.

4 Go ahead, Ms. Glassman. All right. Thank you.

5 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

6 Q In addition, your housing expenses in 2023, when you  
7 were paying a mortgage are more than they are now when you are  
8 renting your apartment in Longmont, correct?

9 A I don't -- I don't recall. I'm sorry.

10 Q Well, your housing expenses on Exhibit N were \$2,870  
11 a month.

12 A Okay.

13 Q So that's more money than the amount you're paying in  
14 rent now. So your housing expenses have decreased, correct?

15 A Well, just read those numbers again.

16 Q Well, they're your numbers, Mr. Bell, from your --

17 A No, what you're comparing it to, Carol, is what I'm  
18 asking -- those numbers.

19 Q \$2,870 in mortgage payment, housing payment.

20 A I don't know that number.

21 Q Okay.

22 A I'm going to assume that --

23 Q Fair enough, Mr. Bell. Turn to page 2 of Exhibit N.  
24 This is your August 2023 sworn financial statement. Your total  
25 housing costs were \$2,899 a month.

1           A     I agree with that.

2           Q     You're paying less money in rent than you were paying  
3 in August 2023 for housing. In 2023 you were paying legal  
4 expenses, correct?

5           A     Yes. That is correct.

6           Q     As of May 2025 -- or excuse me, as of March 2025, you  
7 were representing yourself without any -- incurring any legal  
8 fees, correct?

9           A     Not correct totally.

10          Q     Your legal expense burden has dropped to zero, has it  
11 not?

12          A     No.

13          Q     As of as of 2025, you've been making your support  
14 payments, \$3,000 in spousal maintenance, \$1,283 in child  
15 support, and until June, you've been current in your payments,  
16 correct?

17          A     Correct.

18          Q     And despite those monthly obligations, you've amassed  
19 \$128,000 in liquid assets, correct?

20          A     I inherited \$100,000. I didn't amass.

21                MS. GLASSMAN: Nothing further.

22                THE COURT: All right. Thank you. All right. We  
23 went a little bit long because, again, I wanted to make sure we  
24 got through everything so that Mr. Bell has an opportunity to  
25 prepare for redirect. And so we're going to go ahead and take

1 our lunch break. Let me go --

2 MR. BELL: Can I -- what I have in my head?

3 THE COURT: Well, I think everyone else kind of needs  
4 a break, too. I understand kind of where you're looking at,  
5 Mr. Bell, but I want you to be able to review your notes and  
6 kind of go from that. And so what I'll ask the parties -- I'm  
7 flexible on time. We were scheduled to restart at 2:00. I can  
8 keep that time. If you all need a little bit more for lunch,  
9 we can do that as well.

10 MS. GLASSMAN: No.

11 THE COURT: Is 2:00 all right, Mr. Bell?

12 MR. BELL: Yeah. That's fine.

13 THE COURT: All right. So we'll go ahead and go for  
14 our lunch recess. It's 12:50 right now. We'll come back at  
15 2:00 pm.

16 Go ahead, Ms. Glassman.

17 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, Mr. Friedberg is going to  
18 be prepared to testify. Would the Court object to me calling  
19 him out of order so that we don't have a professional waiting?

20 THE COURT: That's absolutely fine.

21 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you. So I'd like to call --

22 THE COURT: And out of order -- calling him out at  
23 2:00?

24 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Sure. That's fine.

1 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: And so Mr. Bell, I'll just kind of  
3 explain kind of how things work with this. There are times in  
4 which the Court will make allowances to allow a witness to go  
5 out of order. The only reason for that is to help accommodate  
6 either schedules or to reduce fees or anything else like that.  
7 The Court -- and I will do this for any kind of expert that is  
8 brought in, regardless of the case. Knowing that their  
9 schedule might be stacked with other things, I'll allow folks  
10 to be called out of order. I don't know how long his  
11 anticipated testimony is going to be.

12 MS. GLASSMAN: I think his direct testimony would be  
13 maybe 40 minutes.

14 THE COURT: All right. And so that still gives us  
15 enough time. And so we'll go ahead and start back up at 2:00.  
16 We'll have Mr. Friedberg go at that point. We'll do cross-  
17 examine Mr. Friedberg, and then Mr. Bell will be able to finish  
18 his --

19 MR. BELL: Your Honor, can I object to that? This is  
20 the stuff that just --

21 THE COURT: Sure.

22 MR. BELL: -- it just so confuses me is that you jump  
23 around, and with all due respect, this is the -- the stuff that  
24 just -- it's -- it's so unhealthy for me.

25 THE COURT: I absolutely understand.

1 MR. BELL: And again, you know, we're all  
2 professional anyway.

3 THE COURT: So here's what I can --

4 MR. BELL: Sorry.

5 THE COURT: No, no. You -- again, you don't need to  
6 apologize. You're letting me -- I asked you to tell me if you  
7 have specific needs for accommodation. So I understand that  
8 kind of in your head that this is kind of jumping around, and  
9 so what I want to try to do is to help facilitate that. The  
10 issue comes down to, I want to make sure that you have enough  
11 time under the time allotment that I've provided that you can  
12 do both things. And so right now I have your time, just you,  
13 at about an hour and 22 minutes, which means that you have  
14 until two and a half hours. So you have an hour and eight  
15 minutes left.

16 MR. BELL: To do this and cross-examine?

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MR. BELL: Is Aly -- oh, okay. Never mind.

19 THE COURT: And then any kind of cross-examination of  
20 Ms. Bell as well. And so I want you to be able to manage your  
21 time well. And so tell me what you think -- what's the best  
22 way to do that, and where do you think it's most important to  
23 ask questions. And the reason I say that is I don't know if  
24 you're contesting Ms. Bell's income, what she said that she's  
25 earning.

1 MR. BELL: No, my questions for Ms. Bell is very  
2 limited.

3 THE COURT: Okay. So really we're left with these  
4 two areas.

5 MR. BELL: Yeah. And then what I'm proposing,  
6 though, is that -- I'll try to get these comments based on Ms.  
7 Glassman's cross-examine. I'll try to make those really just  
8 statements to the Court. Does that work?

9 THE COURT: And so what kind of time do you think you  
10 need for any kind of redirect?

11 MR. BELL: Oh, no. Not long.

12 THE COURT: Well, "not long" in lawyer speak could be  
13 a day. Not to be critical of our profession, but I need a  
14 little bit better of an idea. And what it comes down to is if  
15 what we're doing is delaying Mr. Friedman (sic) by 15 minutes,  
16 I'll have you finish your testimony. If what you're thinking  
17 is it's going to take an hour, we've got to figure out  
18 something else.

19 MR. BELL: Well, I'll try to make it, like, less than  
20 a half hour on my part, if whatever -- and then you're  
21 saying -- so I'm sorry. You're asking me to --

22 THE COURT: No, no, no.

23 So Ms. Glassman, this is kind of what I'm looking at.  
24 I think it's important to have Mr. Friedman (sic) on and off  
25 because of the cost that that will be for you. It is five

1 minutes until 1:00 right now. I don't know what you all have  
2 planned.

3 MS. GLASSMAN: We all come back earlier?

4 THE COURT: That's what I was thinking.

5 MS. GLASSMAN: Maybe 1:30?

6 THE COURT: I was going to say, I'm happy to take a  
7 half hour lunch and do it that way.

8 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

9 MR. BELL: I like that idea.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. BELL: And then I'll do my thing. I'm glad we  
12 came to an agreement.

13 MS. GLASSMAN: Perfect. And Your Honor, I know that  
14 the Court initially said 150 minutes each side. This went  
15 considerably slower because of the ADA accommodation.

16 THE COURT: And so I'm making a (indiscernible).

17 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you. Because Judge LaBuda --  
18 I'm always reminded.

19 THE COURT: I am not as strict as Judge LaBuda. She  
20 had her flair. I have my own flair.

21 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes, she did. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: So we'll go ahead and be in recess until  
23 1:30. That will give everyone 35 minutes for lunch. We'll  
24 come back. We'll finish Mr. Bell's testimony, and then we will  
25 launch into Mr. -- oh, shoot. Is it Freiburg?

1 MS. GLASSMAN: Freiburg.

2 THE COURT: Freiburg. Sorry about that. All right.  
3 Folks, thank you for your presentation this morning. We'll see  
4 you in about 30 minutes. Court will be in recess.

5 (Recess at 12:55 p.m., recommencing at 1:30 p.m.)

6 THE COURT: All right. The Court is back in session.  
7 We'll continue the hearing in the Bell matter. This is Case  
8 22DR30458. Parties and counsel are back.

9 Before we begin, Mr. Bell, is there anything that we  
10 need to address before we restart your redirect? What I'm  
11 asking is, are there any legal issues we need to address or  
12 scheduling issues?

13 MR. BELL: No, no. No.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Glassman, anything we need to address  
15 before we start?

16 MS. GLASSMAN: No, Your Honor.

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18 THE COURT: All right. So Mr. Bell, you're still  
19 under oath. Why don't you go ahead and start with your  
20 redirect examination. And again, let me know what you think I  
21 need to know.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay. So one of the things with how I  
23 process things is that I can analyze a million things at once.  
24 And why I'm so specific with the way Ms. Glassman used her  
25 wording is because it sometimes in the past has proven to be

1 used kind of against me. I'll give you a good example -- is  
2 that she said I can assume when I ask for a definitive answer  
3 she will --

4 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection. Relevance.

5 THE COURT: I'll overrule the objection. Go ahead.  
6 Sorry.

7 THE WITNESS: Then when -- in this case, something  
8 that happened earlier today is that she pointed out different  
9 directions she used -- I'll use these numbers because it was  
10 kind of pretty straight up -- where she had a total payroll  
11 number, but then she stacked -- then she had total payroll  
12 \$11,000 but then \$8,000 in single entries. But she grouped it  
13 all into my income where it really was only \$8,000 mine and  
14 \$11,000 in W2.

15 THE COURT: So I think that's Exhibit V.

16 THE WITNESS: V. Thank you. It is.

17 THE COURT: So was that your document that you  
18 forwarded?

19 THE WITNESS: No. Actually it was my bottom part and  
20 her top part. And that's when -- you know, that's when it  
21 says --

22 THE COURT: Mr. Bell, let me take a look because I  
23 was told that Exhibit V, as in Victor, was the one that you had  
24 provided as a response to discovery requests, and so let me go  
25 ahead and get that just so I can kind of finalize that issue.

1 THE WITNESS: Yeah --

2 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, if I just may make a  
3 clarification to the Court. Exhibit V was provided by Mr. Bell  
4 as part of his updated financial disclosures.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MS. GLASSMAN: And those came -- I asked for them 21  
7 days before the hearing. We exchanged updated sworn  
8 financials, bank statements, credit card statements, and this  
9 was part of what he --

10 THE COURT: But this is what he provided?

11 MS. GLASSMAN: This is his document.

12 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. You're saying that this document  
14 is what I gave you or just the bottom part, Carol? And again,  
15 I want to be real honest. This is where you get me confused.

16 THE COURT: So you can't ask questions.

17 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm making a statement.

18 THE COURT: Here's what it comes down to. Let me  
19 have you go through --

20 THE WITNESS: Sure.

21 THE COURT: -- because it looks like you have year to  
22 date 2025. The first entry is not from 2025, but then the next  
23 four are, and I've seen those in the bank statements. And then  
24 I have this year to date net PAR roll, and I see this  
25 \$11,678.96. And I think that's the question, is what's that

1 number?

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I was referring to the little  
3 chart in the corner. Hold on. I've got to find it.

4 THE COURT: You're looking at it.

5 THE WITNESS: It's a little tiny one.

6 THE COURT: On page 1?

7 THE WITNESS: No. It's the one with the little thing  
8 in the corner.

9 THE COURT: That should be V.

10 THE WITNESS: Oh, sorry. My bad.

11 THE COURT: You're okay. There you go.

12 THE WITNESS: And so if you look at these numbers --  
13 net payroll, right? So when she referred to 2468 \$10,000,  
14 right, to mine -- to me. But then \$11,000 was -- was payroll,  
15 not to me. And she's --

16 THE COURT: And so this was a document that you  
17 provided.

18 THE WITNESS: Again, it says -- but this is where I'm  
19 getting it.

20 THE COURT: I see it. So you tell me what this  
21 document means.

22 THE WITNESS: Yeah. What this document meant, and if  
23 I looked at the email, it would -- it said, hey, I've been  
24 paying myself with Chase really up front with you, and then I  
25 probably added this year-to-date payroll because we were

1 looking at expenses, and she was asking certain questions. So  
2 again, she cherry picked this. And all I'm saying is that the  
3 \$11,000 is payroll and not my income, for the record.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 THE WITNESS: All right. That's all I'm saying.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 THE WITNESS: Pass through -- so you take the  
8 \$86,000, right, that I -- I guess, paid myself, right? And  
9 then the \$186,000, right -- the -- the -- right? And then  
10 LLC -- it's a pass through, but it's not income, right? It's  
11 not like I was paying myself that. It was actually adjusted.  
12 It took into account attorney's fees and a lot of other stuff  
13 because of the way it's structured, and you have to pass it  
14 through.

15 Then it shows that it's -- it's disproportionately to  
16 the amount of money that she said, and then she divides it by  
17 12 and confuses everybody to believe that I can make \$22,000 a  
18 month. That's the part that is misleading to the Court, and  
19 that's why I just wanted to point that out, if that makes  
20 sense.

21 AI is -- we're all using it, right? The judge, I'm  
22 sure, is using it. I'm sure everybody in this room is using  
23 it. For the record, I did say that I printed out AI -- used AI  
24 to generate something because Carol asked me, you know, some  
25 bunch of questions about what I was doing with this and that,

1 and I just generated a business outline. Partners in Bell I do  
2 not actively -- like, out marketing it. I put up a website,  
3 but it was really for something -- you know, none of this stuff  
4 is on the website. It's more of a statement for me. Tool  
5 Studios is the company that I spend most of my time.

6 Now, what's misleading, and I don't want to get  
7 anybody to confused. I work 80 hours a week, easily. I  
8 just -- I'm only by myself. And so I work all the time. And  
9 if there is work to be had -- let's say somebody calls me up.  
10 I just had a call, actually, while we're on break, right? And  
11 I immediately texted my friend Peter and said, Peter, can you  
12 jump on this? And so I always put the customers first. I  
13 never distract. You know, that's whatever.

14 The other part -- so does that make sense? That's --  
15 again, I don't want to confuse people. I've never not worked.  
16 I've never not taken a phone call. I've never not given  
17 everything I do one hundred percent, and I've never  
18 distracted -- you know, went off on not paying something if  
19 there was a pay opportunity. With that being said, Tool  
20 Studios -- I prided myself on this for a long time. I never  
21 marketed myself. I taught people how to market, but I never  
22 marketed myself. And that is what dried up the referrals and  
23 all that.

24 And then last thing, when I said 2023 was going to be  
25 a really bad year, at that time it was going to be a really bad

1 year until I got that new client. And so you asked something  
2 earlier in the year. So that's why I stumbled on that, because  
3 it implies to the Court that I was -- I was, you know, either  
4 lying or was contradicting something, and I just think that's  
5 just really unfair, you know.

6 And then one last thing, I promise. Ms. Glassman  
7 brought up 80 motions.

8 THE COURT: She actually -- 80 motions and/or  
9 exhibits.

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah, 80 -- yeah. Okay. I did this  
11 last night. If she conferred with me, answered simple  
12 questions like, is Jay going to show up, you know, because I  
13 was kind of concerned about that. Over half of those would  
14 never have had to been filed. And that's -- you know, makes me  
15 look bad. And the other part that -- you know, using of the  
16 word harassing or frivolous, you know, just to make me out to  
17 be somebody I'm not. And so look, it's hard for my brain to  
18 concept -- to accept that kind of thinking. And I think it's,  
19 you know, deception on the Court. So anyway, that's -- that's  
20 all I'm going to say about that.

21 THE COURT: Is there anything else that you wanted to  
22 go through on your redirect?

23 THE WITNESS: Let me just check one more thing. I'm  
24 sorry.

25 THE COURT: No, I appreciate you.

1 THE WITNESS: Just because my one account is a lot  
2 more -- oh, that was -- so what she was implying that I had a  
3 lot more cash now than I did in July in -- I forget what it  
4 was -- August, I think, 2023, right?

5 But what she was referring to was in my personal  
6 account. I had a lot more money -- I had a lot more money in  
7 the bank account -- in the business account. And I mentioned  
8 earlier that they interchange, and they always have been with  
9 me and without me too, for that matter. You know, we had a  
10 regular paycheck, but we took what we needed, so. Thank you,  
11 Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. When you're ready, you can go  
13 ahead. Well, actually leave that. I think the big black  
14 binder stays up there.

15 THE WITNESS: Oh, it does?

16 THE COURT: Yeah. You can take the other thing.

17 All right. And Mr. Bell, you don't have any other  
18 witnesses; is that right?

19 THE WITNESS: Huh?

20 THE COURT: You don't have any other witnesses; is  
21 that right?

22 THE WITNESS: No.

23 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Glassman?

24 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, at this time, I'm going to  
25 move the Court pursuant to CRCP(41) (b) (1) to dismiss the motion

1 to modify maintenance and child support on the grounds that  
2 upon the facts and the law, that Mr. Bell has shown no right to  
3 relief. He's failed to meet his burden. And we know that the  
4 case law has stated over and over again that it is a high  
5 burden of proof to establish a change of circumstance so  
6 substantial and continuing so as to make the existing terms of  
7 the maintenance and child support order unfair.

8 Mr. Bell has testified about his ADHD. It's well  
9 established that that condition existed before the divorce, and  
10 that there's no changed circumstance in that regard. He's  
11 provided some testimony about dwindling clients, but the law of  
12 the case here is that he's had variable income year to year.  
13 He admits that. So there's no change in his circumstances.

14 He's presented no financial documentation that would  
15 enable the Court to measure a substantial and changed,  
16 quantifiable difference between his cash or income now compared  
17 to what the Court found in 2023. The numbers stack up just  
18 about the same.

19 So on those grounds, I'd ask the Court -- the Court  
20 has just afforded wide discretion here with this request -- to  
21 grant the motion to dismiss, reserving Ms. Bell's right to  
22 testify as to her attorney fees.

23 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bell, what's being  
24 requested at this point is a request by Ms. Glassman and Ms.  
25 Bell to have the matter dismissed because there's been a

1 failure to present evidence supporting your allegation that  
2 there's been a substantial and ongoing change of your financial  
3 situation and that to continue the support payment, it would be  
4 then unfair to you. I want to give you an opportunity to  
5 respond to that argument. And again, if you need to take a  
6 minute to organize your thoughts, you may absolutely do that.

7 THE WITNESS: I -- I provided my bank -- bank  
8 accounts that she referenced. I have explained my ADHD and  
9 I -- I don't know if this is relevant, but it feels relevant to  
10 me, is that I feel this objection is coming at kind of an odd  
11 timing with Mr. Friedberg, and -- and it's concerning to me  
12 especially when she brought up her other allegations that, you  
13 know, make me out to be the -- anyway, so I don't know what to  
14 say.

15 I know that I've -- I know what my truth is. I  
16 know -- yeah. I don't -- you know, and I asked -- this is the  
17 part -- is I conferred and asked, you know, for certain  
18 people -- you know, there was a couple people that I felt  
19 really could help my case, but Ms. Glassman wouldn't disclose.  
20 I -- like I said, it's -- and what I proposed was giving me  
21 some break that I might be able to --

22 MS. GLASSMAN: Objection to a 408 reference.

23 THE WITNESS: All right. Okay.

24 THE COURT: And so yeah, just -- what the motion  
25 is -- and just so you're aware, Mr. Bell, this is in all civil

1 cases. There can be a request made either pursuant to Rule 41  
2 or Rule 50 for either a dismissal of the motion --

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 THE COURT: -- or denial of the motion pursuant to  
5 Rule 50 based on what's called a directed verdict. And so the  
6 idea is, is you had an obligation under 14-10-122 -- and I  
7 talked about this at the beginning -- to present evidence  
8 showing that there's been a substantial and an ongoing change  
9 of your financial circumstances that makes the current support  
10 payment unfair.

11 And so what Ms. Glassman has said is that you failed  
12 to produce evidence showing that there's been that substantial  
13 change. And so because of that, she's also saying that there's  
14 also been a failure to show that it's been unfair -- that the  
15 current payment would be unfair. And so the -- at this point,  
16 you're allowed to argue the opposite of that.

17 But I just wanted to kind of frame what the argument  
18 is so you have a better understanding kind of hearing it from  
19 me as to the fact, one, this is not unusual at all. And so the  
20 timing is --

21 THE WITNESS: Okay.

22 THE COURT: -- it's not suspicious because this  
23 happens in all cases where, when the party that has the burden  
24 finishes their presentation of their case and it's about to  
25 move over to the responding party --

1 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

2 THE COURT: -- the responding party often gets up and  
3 says, I'm moving to dismiss this because the side that was  
4 petitioning for this has failed to meet their burden, even in  
5 the light most favorable to them at this point.

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah, and I do understand that. And I  
7 guess with me is that, you know, I showed the bank accounts. I  
8 showed through my, you know, sworn financial statement that I'm  
9 running at a -- you know, if you look all my debts and my  
10 income, I think I'm like negative where Ms. Bell is over  
11 \$400,000 in net. So I'm not -- I'm not trying to go back, but  
12 I know my body and my mind are, and I -- like I said -- and  
13 then the last thing is that I'm asking the Court to let Mr.  
14 Friedberg -- because I think it's -- you know, I was told he  
15 was going to be here, and I was anticipating that. And because  
16 I do have some issues with some of his finances, and if his  
17 report that has me at \$197,000 is -- can be disputed, then I  
18 feel it's worthwhile while to let me.

19 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, I'm going to tell you this  
20 right now.

21 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

22 THE COURT: I don't have any report that's in  
23 evidence. I have no idea what he's going to say or what his  
24 opinion is because he hasn't been -- he hasn't taken the  
25 witness stand.

1 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

2 THE COURT: He hasn't been sworn in. He hasn't been  
3 qualified as an expert, and he hasn't been subject to cross-  
4 examination.

5 THE WITNESS: I guess that's -- well, okay. So --

6 THE COURT: So I'll tell you right now, I have  
7 nothing that says you're making \$197,000 a year from some  
8 expert report. I don't have that in evidence.

9 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay. So that was just Ms.  
10 Glassman that said that. Okay. That makes sense.

11 THE COURT: That's going to be --

12 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I understand.

13 THE COURT: -- something that she can present in  
14 response to your testimony and evidence.

15 THE WITNESS: I think the evidence is that if you  
16 look at my financial statement and you look at hers, there has  
17 been a drastic change since August of 2023, and yeah. I mean,  
18 look at the math. We can all -- you -- you -- Your Honor, at  
19 this pace, I will be out of money in, I think, it comes -- like  
20 eight months, if that. And anyway, that's all I can say, Your  
21 Honor.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 Folks, what I'm going to do, I'm going to take about  
24 a two-minute break just to pull my thoughts together with  
25 regards to the request at this point. So I'm going to go off

1 the record, just take a couple minutes to grab that, and then  
2 I'll come right back.

3 MR. BELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, folks. We'll take a quick  
5 recess.

6 (Recess taken)

7 THE COURT: All right. The Court is back in session  
8 on the Bell matter. This is case 22DR30458. Counsel and  
9 parties are present. At the conclusion of Mr. Bell's case, Ms.  
10 Bell has asked for a dismissal of the action. She cited to  
11 Rule 41. The Court has reviewed Rule 41, which addresses an  
12 involuntary dismissal and who is accountable for that. And  
13 under Rule 41(B)(2), it states actions not prosecuted or  
14 brought to trial with due diligence may be dismissed by the  
15 Court with prejudice after reasonable notice by the Court and  
16 in accordance with Rule 121, Section 1-10.

17 I don't think that Rule 41 applies, but I do believe  
18 that the motion was made specifically pursuant to Rule 50. The  
19 Court is going to read that rule. Pursuant to Rule 50, it  
20 states a party may move for a directed verdict at the close of  
21 evidence offered by an opponent or at the close of all the  
22 evidence. A party who moves for a directed verdict at the  
23 close of the evidence offered by an opponent may offer evidence  
24 in the event that the motion is not granted without having  
25 reserved the right to do so and to the same extent as if the

1 motion had not been made.

2           The motion for directed verdict, which is not  
3 granted, is not a waiver of a jury trial. Even though all  
4 parties to the action have moved for a directed verdict, motion  
5 for a directed verdict shall state specific grounds thereof.  
6 The order of the Court granting a motion for a directed verdict  
7 is effective without any assent of the jury.

8           The Court notes the following. This is a situation  
9 where there's been a request for the Court to dismiss this  
10 matter or enter a directed verdict, basically, at the end of  
11 the Petitioner's case, so before the Respondent has had an  
12 opportunity to present any evidence. With regards as to a  
13 motion for directed verdict, the trial court must view the  
14 evidence in the light most favorable to the party against whom  
15 the motion is directed.

16           So Mr. Bell, what this means is when Ms. Bell has  
17 filed -- has asked for this motion, what I need to do is  
18 basically view the evidence basically in your favor on  
19 everything.

20           MR. BELL: Of course.

21           THE COURT: And so when I do that, what I'm going to  
22 do is basically apply all inferences in your favor. And so for  
23 example, if there was a conflict between testimony, I would  
24 look at your testimony as being the controlling testimony. And  
25 there's a long list of citations.

1           The main citation for this is Gossard v. Watson, 221  
2 P.2d 353. It's a Colorado Supreme Court case from 1950. And  
3 Gossard goes on to say that every factual dispute supported by  
4 credible evidence must be resolved in the favor of the party  
5 against whom the motion is made. In order to grant the motion,  
6 a directed verdict is only proper when there are no factual  
7 disputes. A directed verdict may be granted only when  
8 disregarding conflicting evidence and giving the movant  
9 evidence all of the value to which it is legally entitled by  
10 indulging in every legitimate inference which may be drawn from  
11 that evidence. The result is a determination that the  
12 materiality to support a verdict in favor of the nonmovant if  
13 such verdict were given. And that's citing back to the Gossard  
14 v Watson.

15           So again, legally what that is saying is I take  
16 everything that you have said as true. I discount the  
17 inferences that were brought up by Ms. Bell. But I rule  
18 basically on what you have testified about. And so I'm going  
19 to do some just very brief orders with regard -- or findings  
20 with regards to this.

21           The Court -- again, had Mr. Bell testify first. Mr.  
22 Bell testified that he was married to Ms. Bell. He has two  
23 children that we talked about with Ms. Bell. The one that is  
24 in question here that is subject to a support order is Cameron.  
25 He goes by Cam Bell. Legal name on the Court's record is

1 Hudson (phonetic) Cameron Bell.

2 He had testified as to his business. He started out  
3 indicating that the history of the business is kind of up and  
4 down. He said 2020 was the peak. He indicated he had one  
5 client in the cannabis industry, and he was able to use that  
6 programming that he did, the product that he created for this  
7 client. He used this kind of as a template for other similarly  
8 situated clients. And so when he did this, it was something  
9 where he was able to take advantage of work he had already  
10 done, which helped the profits that he had.

11 He indicated that he was working a lot during this  
12 time. He was able to pay off debts. He indicated he had about  
13 a half dozen clients. And then he indicated from then there's  
14 been a decline for two years and that there are a couple of  
15 years that were down. In 2023, he indicated he had a good year  
16 just because of one client and that it was a medical thing, and  
17 it was -- and I wrote it down. It was 360 with pricing, and  
18 I'm assuming the 360 meant \$360,000. I assume that was what  
19 was meant, but there was a value that was attached to it, and  
20 that's why it made it a good year.

21 He indicated at that point that the divorce had  
22 started. He talked about how the divorce affected him. And  
23 Mr. Bell, I will tell you that I found your testimony to be  
24 credible as to the impact that all of this has had on you. I,  
25 again, have been doing this for a while now with the post-

1 decree work. And I will tell you, the one constant thing that  
2 I see is trauma, and trauma is felt by the parties that are  
3 involved in a divorce. They are felt by the children that are  
4 involved in a divorce. It is not something which is easy to  
5 get over, and it is greatly impacting to one's lives.

6 I think that the testimony that you gave was  
7 compelling when it talked about the impact that this has had on  
8 you and your relationship with Cam, and really this repeated  
9 trauma that you have been through -- and I heard that. I heard  
10 it loud and clear. And I say this to so many people that are  
11 in front of me. I'm so sorry that this has happened because it  
12 is a trauma. It is just like a wound would be. It is just  
13 like the trauma that you see in the TV shows and everything  
14 where you have the guy that's in the backyard grilling and  
15 suddenly there's, a backfiring car, and this person is  
16 transported to this traumatic event when they were serving in  
17 Vietnam or Korea, and they think they're back in this wartime  
18 thing. This kind of trauma stays with someone.

19 I am so happy to hear that you are seeing a therapist  
20 and that you have that regular routine. I am so happy to hear  
21 that you're on different medication, which is allowing you to  
22 focus better, but what we are learning now as a people is not  
23 only the impact of trauma -- and you refer to it as post-  
24 traumatic stress disorder. We just know that the after effects  
25 of trauma are significant. We are learning not only about

1 this, I think -- and we're learning it better.

2 But one of the things that is a big challenge now --  
3 excuse me -- is the effect of trauma on individuals who are  
4 neurodivergent because everything that is gone through by  
5 someone who is not neurodivergent has been, they address it and  
6 we can use EMDR, and we can do all this other kind of stuff.  
7 And folks that have neurodivergency, a lot of those treatments  
8 and ways of getting through trauma aren't available. And so  
9 I'm sorry because you're in that situation where you have  
10 suffered both.

11 And Ms. Bell, I'm not saying that you haven't  
12 suffered a trauma. I'm absolutely certain that everyone here  
13 that's involved in this case has suffered that at all. So I  
14 just wanted to make sure you knew I was not ignoring what was  
15 going on there.

16 The Court heard that -- or from Mr. Bell. He had  
17 indicated that the business was declining in 2024 and early  
18 2025, and he had attributed this to his mental state. He  
19 testified that he's upset that the courts and everyone thinks  
20 that he should be earning significantly more than he's seems  
21 that he's able to make right now because he feels that it is  
22 this real thing that is going through where he is just not able  
23 to afford what is happening.

24 He indicated that when things were good, that his  
25 creativity and everything else allowed it so that when he had

1 20 clients, he was not only making their websites, but he was  
2 also working on their logos and providing additional support,  
3 and he lamented that now people are doing it on their own, in  
4 large part because AI is kind of there doing it. He had  
5 testified that he wants some stability. He thinks that that is  
6 going to help with regards to him addressing his trauma and his  
7 PTSD.

8           Then he started testifying, because it came out, and  
9 I had asked the question of, tell me about these two new  
10 clients that he had. And so in his direct examination, he  
11 started talking about these new clients that he had, and one of  
12 them sounds fascinating, where he is doing website development  
13 for natural gas wells that are in small towns, and he feels  
14 that he'll be able to bring in some income. He estimated  
15 between \$10 and \$15,000 on that.

16           He talked about a second client that he had, which  
17 was a client from 15 years ago that has come back, and he wants  
18 him to build a job board, and he is -- he's indicated that he  
19 has a budget of about \$25,000 to work with but that the payout  
20 is over the six-month period of time, and he's only been able  
21 to get about \$8,000 from this client.

22           And then Mr. Bell looked at an assessment of himself  
23 saying that he is functioning at about 50 percent. He spent  
24 some time talking about the client that really helped  
25 everything, and that was NOBO, and I learned a little bit about

1 that. And he then indicated that he has, in his career, six or  
2 seven major clients, which have been kind of these prize  
3 catches, to use a fishing term, which I used earlier today and  
4 that he gets those every few years. He went on and talked  
5 about, again, some of the frustration that he has with regards  
6 to the financial toll that he has felt that he has taken, cost  
7 of attorneys, cost of litigating these particular cases. He  
8 indicated that his business is struggling and he just wants a  
9 chance, but then it was important that I heard him say -- he  
10 says he doesn't want to cut any kind of child support, and that  
11 was his testimony.

12           The Court heard about two businesses that he's  
13 running. One of them is an actual business that is bringing in  
14 income. That is Tool Studios. The other one is called  
15 Partners in Bell. The Court heard testimony as to what  
16 Partners in Bell is. It is a forensic-type of firm where he is  
17 wanting to use this as consulting. He's not marketing it right  
18 now, but he is doing things with it where he's using AI and  
19 other things to help address things that are happening in a  
20 court-type of setting. And this was something which again, the  
21 Court heard significant evidence as to Mr. Bell's creativity,  
22 his ability, because he says his mind is working at 1,000 miles  
23 an hour all the time where he's able to analyze things from all  
24 angles, and from that, that helps his creativity.

25           He talks about using freelance developers. He talked

1 about using 1099 employees with this company. He also admitted  
2 things, which I think cut against some of his testimony, but I  
3 will take his testimony again, as he had put it. He indicates  
4 that he is -- he likes being in charge. He likes being able to  
5 look at something and do what he feels is best about it, and he  
6 then went on and testified a bit about looking for other work.  
7 And when he was asked the question of would you rather be doing  
8 your own business or work for an employer, he went back and  
9 forth and finally said, I think it's better to be employed by  
10 an employer. And Mr. Bell, again, you're an adult. You got to  
11 make the decisions.

12 MR. BELL: Yeah.

13 THE COURT: And I will tell you that from everything  
14 that I've seen, everything that I have heard, the fact that  
15 you're able to come up with solutions for people when they need  
16 it, that was a surprising answer to me because I think --  
17 personally, I think you'd be miserable doing it --

18 MR. BELL: And I know that.

19 THE COURT: -- because being told by a boss, hey, I  
20 need to have you work on this, and you not being able to sit  
21 down and analyze the crud out of it and come up with your own  
22 solution, I think, would drive you crazy.

23 MR. BELL: Well, I wrote a proposal that NOBO -- that  
24 would have -- I wanted, you know, full control and help their  
25 marketing department, but --

1 THE COURT: Well, and again, that's what I tend to  
2 see you doing versus kind of taking orders, and so that's why  
3 the answer surprised me. Again, I'll go with what you said;  
4 that you wanted to be employed by someone else, but --

5 MR. BELL: No, I said sometimes I think that.

6 THE COURT: Sometimes --

7 MR. BELL: I think that.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And then again, Mr. Bell talked  
9 about things that happened after the decree was issued, how he  
10 left the state. He was out for a while. He relocated to the  
11 East Coast, temporarily lived with family. And again, hearing  
12 about the loss of your sister, again, I re-emphasized the fact  
13 I'm very sorry that you had gone through that. And again, it's  
14 just more trauma. Losing a parent, losing a sibling, close  
15 family members, it's a traumatic event.

16 MR. BELL: And children.

17 THE COURT: And children. It is very, very  
18 difficult. And yeah, I didn't mention that aspect of it, but  
19 the divide right now between you and Cam, it's terrible to hear  
20 all of that. And again, one of the things that you talked  
21 about is you talked about how you were -- you kind of put  
22 everything into your proposals, and how you put it all out  
23 there and that when you're rejected, you basically said at that  
24 point you kind of curl up. And the image that I had in my mind  
25 is that it's kind of like curling up on the bed in the fetal

1 position going, just don't talk to me. Leave me alone for a  
2 while --

3 MR. BELL: Sometimes.

4 THE COURT: -- which is an absolutely normal response  
5 to rejection. I'm not trying to say that you're overreacting  
6 or otherwise, but I can see how upsetting it would be when you  
7 put your all into something not getting a return out of it.  
8 You just get a no. And then when you're asking for, well, why,  
9 what else can I do, and everything else, and you're not getting  
10 an answer, how frustrating that can be, and especially for you  
11 when you're looking at all these angles and you feel that  
12 that's the best course, and they don't agree with you -- how  
13 difficult that can be.

14 You talked a little bit about mental health and some  
15 of the concerns that you had and that -- again, that you're on  
16 this new medication. I kind of stopped you at that point  
17 because you said, I'm done. I'm like, no, no, no, let's go  
18 ahead and talk about your sworn financial statement. And so we  
19 went through that.

20 One of the significant things that you told me is  
21 that when I asked about that \$4,888, you -- I asked, how did  
22 you come up with that? And you told me darts, and I didn't  
23 understand darts initially. And now -- I mean, when you said  
24 it, I was like, what? But it makes sense is -- what it sounded  
25 like to me is that you basically weren't sure how to do it, and

1 so you basically threw a dart at a dart board, and when it came  
2 up with the number, that's the number that you kind of used. I  
3 think that there was some thought behind it in a sense that you  
4 know about the \$2,000 that you were getting that you were  
5 pulling out as the automatic distribution.

6 And then the other evidence that the Court saw was  
7 that there were other payments that were being made from the  
8 checking account which were then going to benefit you and  
9 things that you had agreed to. On cross-examination for the  
10 Court did not have any kind of question as to is it conflicting  
11 or not, there were times in which you were paying for your  
12 credit cards from the business account and that you were paying  
13 things like gas and for the car and things like that through  
14 the checking account and the business checking account and that  
15 there was times in which -- when we went through the tax  
16 return, and the tax return showed that in 2023 you had this  
17 officer pay. So that's what you paid yourself through a normal  
18 salary. It was about 84 -- \$86,000.

19 MR. BELL: Yes. Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: And then there was additional funds that  
21 were part of the LLC, which because you were the sole owner of  
22 it, you do have access to. On top of that, the LLC then also  
23 paid for certain things that what I would typically look at  
24 when someone's employed by a W-2 employer, when I'm looking at  
25 things like, well, they've got to pay their rent, they've got

1 to pay their electricity, they've got to pay their food --  
2 people that own LLCs are often able to expense some or all of  
3 that through their tax returns, and it's a huge tax benefit --

4 MR. BELL: Yeah.

5 THE COURT: -- because you're able to lower your tax  
6 exposure. And when I reviewed the tax records over the lunch  
7 hour, that's what I saw a lot of, is that a lot of the expenses  
8 that a regular W-2 employee would have had, and would make  
9 things more difficult to pay, were, in fact, being either  
10 expensed through the company or were being used to reduce your  
11 tax liability, which in a way kind of helps bolster some of  
12 your income.

13 On cross-examination, what I learned is that you've  
14 been doing the Tool Studios since 2001 -- been doing it for 24  
15 years. And again, it sounds remarkably successful. You were  
16 asked a question. You admitted that your strengths are  
17 creative problem-solving and design expertise, and the Court  
18 agrees with that. You had indicated that you're the creative  
19 director of the company, that you do brand and web development,  
20 that you have a foundation of clients and contacts, and that's  
21 to be expected because you've run a successful business.

22 And while it has been up and down with that,  
23 periodic, this is when I get a big client, for the most part,  
24 you've been able to enjoy a good lifestyle while you were  
25 married. And since the dissolution, there's been a couple of

1 years, but the Court has to look at whether or not there's,  
2 again, been that ongoing and substantial change of  
3 circumstances.

4           Again, you talked about income varying from year to  
5 year. You had disagreed that the Court used income averaging  
6 during the permanent orders. I do take judicial notice that  
7 that fact is not in dispute because the Court did use that in  
8 order to determine your initial income. Again, you talked  
9 about leaving the state from November of '23 to August of '24  
10 and again, that you were able to work on the farm, which is  
11 great, get close to family again. And I think that that  
12 probably helped a little with the blow of the dissolution.

13           But then, of course, you were met with the  
14 realization that your sister had gotten sick. And so that,  
15 again -- any kind of benefit that you might have had working on  
16 a farm was probably erased by that. And again, you spent five  
17 months helping her kind of move to the end of her life.

18           MR. BELL: Yeah.

19           THE COURT: I heard that you had made a home office  
20 above her garage, and so you're trying to do work there. The  
21 Court heard that you had filed approximately 96 applications  
22 starting in May of 2024 but had stopped in at the end of  
23 October of 2024 and that you've stopped looking. And so based  
24 on that, and again, based on your testimony, the Court does not  
25 find that it's in dispute that you are looking to continue your

1 work with your current company, and again, kind of, and as Ms.  
2 Glassman said, pivoting. But I'd say more it's adapting to  
3 changes, because I can only imagine when you started in 2001 --  
4 I mean, again, we forget about what the internet was like back  
5 then, how it was like.

6 MR. BELL: There wasn't one.

7 THE COURT: Right. It was like, you know, like,  
8 bulletin boards and dial-up modems that we were still dealing  
9 with.

10 MR. BELL: Yeah.

11 THE COURT: So the fact, again, that you were able to  
12 change everything with your business and have that successful  
13 business says tremendous things about your ability to pivot and  
14 change with the times despite your hesitance to say so. The  
15 Court finds that it's clear from the evidence, and there is no  
16 dispute in that evidence that you were able to do that as part  
17 of your successful business.

18 I heard about Partners in Bell. And Mr. Bell, this  
19 is kind of what I have been seeing for the time that I've been  
20 on your case -- is I've seen this desire that you have to have  
21 this litigation, not this one in particular, but the concerns  
22 that you have about how the monetary figures were figured as  
23 part of the permanent orders. Your testimony and the  
24 statements that you made in your interrogatories that came out,  
25 which talked about how you work basically 80-hour weeks -- that

1 during those 80 hours you were working on with your clients,  
2 but you're also kind of dedicating your time towards your work  
3 on the Partners in Bell. As it comes to this case, you don't  
4 have other clients. You're really just working on this  
5 particular case.

6 MR. BELL: My one client.

7 THE COURT: Right. Is yourself. And I will tell you  
8 that the amount of filings is supportive of that admission that  
9 you have, that you're working a significant amount of time with  
10 the Partners in Bell. You had admitted in your April 13th,  
11 2025 interrogatory responses that you'd been working about 40  
12 hours in this new role. And then you also said that you're  
13 paying customers come first and that they are a very important  
14 thing for you to do, and I believe that both are true.

15 It came out in cross-examination of some of the  
16 things that you've been doing that I haven't seen directly.  
17 Filing -- there was allegations that you had filed a Boulder  
18 Police Department complaint against Ms. Glassman, that you had  
19 filed a DORA complaint against their expert, that you'd filed  
20 an OARC, Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel, filed an OARC  
21 complaint against Ms. Glassman and Ms. Milfeld, that you had  
22 filed this 25CV80 lawsuit that, honestly, I didn't know about  
23 until it was brought out on cross-examination today trying to  
24 find where Mr. Six has gone, find out where Ms. Milfeld is,  
25 that you have issued subpoenas. And so this work that you're

1 doing right now in the Partners in Bell seems to be a very  
2 full-time job in addition to the full-time job you're doing for  
3 your other company.

4 With regards to Exhibit O, which is the 2023 tax  
5 returns, the Court does find that it is not disputed that Mr.  
6 Bell, either directly or through his company, had an income of  
7 about \$266,000 that he had available to himself. The Court --

8 MR. BELL: Your Honor, can I object to something you  
9 said?

10 THE COURT: Sure.

11 MR. BELL: That year, though, I had a lot of tax -- I  
12 had -- I paid all the attorneys' fees.

13 THE COURT: I know, and so here's the thing that  
14 drives folks crazy, and I totally get you, Mr. Bell --

15 MR. BELL: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: -- is that when I look at what I have to  
17 determine, has there been a change of circumstance?

18 MR. BELL: Sure.

19 THE COURT: Oftentimes I'm looking just at income,  
20 because here's what it comes down to, and I think you'll  
21 probably agree with me on this. If the Court finds that you  
22 make \$200,000 a year, and because of that, you have to pay  
23 \$2,000 a month in child support and maintenance, without  
24 looking at expenses, someone might go out and bankrupt  
25 themselves saying, look, my expenses have gone up where I'm

1 spending \$400,000 a year, so I'm netting a negative \$200,000.

2 MR. BELL: Yeah.

3 THE COURT: And the reason the legislature has kind  
4 of removed that is to prevent that kind of actions by people if  
5 they realize, well, if they're taking both income and expenses  
6 into consideration, if I just increase my expenses, it will  
7 make it look like there's this ongoing change. And really, the  
8 ongoing change that I have to look at is that income side of  
9 things -- to look at your gross income, to say, has there been  
10 a significant and ongoing change as to your income? So I  
11 absolutely understand where you're coming from.

12 MR. BELL: Yeah, I understand.

13 THE COURT: I just have to look at what I need to do  
14 legally.

15 The Court has seen Exhibit R, which is the corporate  
16 tax return -- and again, seeing the amounts, they're both for  
17 the pay of the officer, which was Mr. Bell as well as the  
18 ordinary business income, which was the income above the listed  
19 expenses for 2023, and Mr. Bell admitted that some of his  
20 personal expenses were paid by the company. Gas, legal fees,  
21 or some legal fees were being paid through there as well, which  
22 did benefit him, and could be interpreted as part of his  
23 income. Mr. Bell had indicated that he has not filed his 2024  
24 taxes, which would have been due normally on April 15th of  
25 2025, but individuals can ask for -- and corporations can ask

1 for extensions for six months in order to do that, and so  
2 because of that, I didn't have evidence that was presented by  
3 Mr. Bell as to ongoing changes to his income.

4 MR. BELL: I thought you saw that. Okay. Sorry.

5 THE COURT: In addition, I didn't get an exhibit that  
6 had all of the -- I think you're on QuickBooks -- all the  
7 QuickBooks showing profit and loss -- what's going on and where  
8 that's going.

9 MR. BELL: There were --

10 THE COURT: And so I didn't get evidence that would  
11 support Mr. Bell saying that there has been a significant and  
12 ongoing change in his income. What I did see is I was able to  
13 see from his bank accounts that he was the beneficiary of an  
14 inheritance, and that inheritance is not income per se, but it  
15 is an economic circumstance that the Court can look at as to  
16 judging whether or not maintaining an order as is would be  
17 unfair to an individual.

18 Again, the Court looked at Exhibit U and V and did  
19 observe that at least one of the payments that was noted as an  
20 ADP, the payroll company, did go back into Mr. Bell's account,  
21 the 1909 account, in addition to the \$2,000 that he had gotten  
22 that month. So it did appear that there was some order that he  
23 be paid for, either work or something else that was done. He  
24 had testified that he does have some 1099 individuals. He pays  
25 an accountant, although he says he's behind on paying the

1 accountant.

2           The Court didn't hear any evidence as to specifics as  
3 to what employees that he has and what money that he has to pay  
4 out, but again, those are expenses which the Court doesn't need  
5 to dwell too much on showing whether or not there's been a  
6 significant and ongoing change of circumstances, which would  
7 require a modification of maintenance or child support.

8           We talked about what was in the bank accounts at the  
9 time. The Court does note, and it's unrefuted, there is not a  
10 difference of evidence that at the time of the divorce he had  
11 significantly less in liquid funds than he does now. The Court  
12 notes that he has kept his inheritance in a checking account.  
13 He has not moved it to an interest-bearing account but has it  
14 available where he is paying his monthly income, which is how  
15 he testified, in excess of any kind of payment that he's  
16 getting from his company.

17           Talked a little bit in cross-examination again about  
18 the ADHD, and I think I've covered that. When I was talking  
19 about it before, I mixed both the direct and cross-examination  
20 into that. He reiterated again that in the 24 years that he's  
21 been running the company, he's had these -- what he referred to  
22 as lifetime clients, six or seven of them and that he gets one  
23 every few years. It's not clear when it is, but the numbers  
24 work out where it's about one in every three or three and a  
25 half years that he might get one of these clients.

1           Mr. Bell talked about Ms. Bell's role in the company  
2 and the fact that he relied on her, and he made a statement,  
3 which I wanted to reiterate because it kind of -- it puts him  
4 in the position where he is now, and it puts a kind of a frame  
5 of reference on it, but he talked about how much he works and  
6 that he's done this for his family and that how Ms. Bell did  
7 every effing other thing.

8           And I took that as a compliment. It is not heard all  
9 the time in the position that I have in post-decree where a  
10 spouse or an ex-spouse will pay a compliment like that. And so  
11 I think he understood the contributions that were made not only  
12 to the company but also to the marriage.

13           Talked about -- more about how much he's  
14 approximately pulling out of his account every month, and it's  
15 roughly about \$10,000 right now as to what's going on. He  
16 talked in cross-examination about how he has reached out to his  
17 landlord looking for a one-bedroom place rather than a two-  
18 bedroom place, and that's upsetting to him, because that means  
19 that the place that he would have would not have a place for  
20 Cam should the two of them start to be involved again.

21           It came out that he admitted in cross-examination  
22 that he's continuing his pattern of spending as it is right  
23 now. He talked about purchasing a truck in 2024. It's not an  
24 extravagant expense by any means, but he talked about being  
25 able to do that. Again, talked about cash on hand.

1           And then on redirect examination, again, he  
2 reiterated a lot of the things that he talked about in the  
3 morning session, talked about the year-to-date payroll, how it  
4 appeared to be confusing, and again, reiterated that Tool  
5 Studios is what he spends most of the time on, again,  
6 estimating that he works about 80 hours a week. He always puts  
7 the customer first. He says he has always worked and he is  
8 always willing to take paid opportunities.

9           And then from the witness stand, he told me that even  
10 over lunch he got a call looking for work and how he asked his  
11 friend Peter to kind of get on this now. And so the Court has  
12 tremendous hope that Mr. Bell has that additional work coming  
13 in, even if it's a nominal amount. That little bit is going to  
14 help. And that reaches where we are right now.

15           So again, pursuant to 14-10-122, the moving party  
16 needs to be able to show the provisions of any decree  
17 respecting maintenance may only be modified only to  
18 installments occurring subsequent to the motion for  
19 modification and only upon a showing of changed circumstances  
20 so substantial and continuing as to make the terms unfair. And  
21 Mr. Bell, what I heard is that your business -- and this is  
22 undisputed -- it's not something where you normally get this  
23 amount of payment. It goes up and down, and there are good  
24 years and they're not so good years, and you have to kind of  
25 wait out the storm. It has been approximately two years since

1 permanent orders have happened, and the Court has not seen  
2 evidence that would demonstrate to a finding of proof by  
3 preponderance of the evidence, even in the light most favorable  
4 to the Petitioner, that there has been this substantial and  
5 ongoing change.

6 In addition, the Court can't make a finding that the  
7 current amount that is being paid is unfair. That's a very  
8 high burden, that was outlined in Ms. Glassman's joint trial  
9 management certificate -- is -- it's not that I would just  
10 recalculate what things are now, but there needs to be a  
11 showing that it is so unfair that it makes it unconscionable,  
12 and the Court did not hear evidence again, even in the light  
13 most favorable to the Petitioner, that would show that.

14 The Court has tremendous hope that Mr. Bell is going  
15 to continue with the course that he's on with regards to his  
16 business. It certainly appears that he has clients coming in  
17 based on his testimony here today. And again, whether there's  
18 going to be a large catch out there is yet to be seen, but the  
19 Court does not find, even in the light most favorable to the  
20 Petitioner, that has been shown that there is a substantial and  
21 ongoing change of circumstances and that the current payment is  
22 unfair being made.

23 And so for those reasons, the Court grants the motion  
24 to -- or for directed verdict under Rule 50. The Court finds  
25 that there's been insufficient evidence and does not need to

1 take additional evidence for its ruling, and the Court will  
2 deny the request to modify the maintenance and child abuse --  
3 excuse me -- child support. I'm not sure where that came from.  
4 I apologize. There's no child abuse.

5 MR. BELL: Your Honor --

6 THE COURT: Go ahead.

7 MR. BELL: You know, the one thing I wanted to bring  
8 to light was my relationship with my son. Is there anything,  
9 you know, the Court can do with that?

10 THE COURT: So Mr. Bell -- and so let me kind of tell  
11 you a little bit about where I am. The reason I knew how old  
12 your son was is he's the same age as my youngest son, and my  
13 youngest son right now, man, oh, man, he sent me a picture  
14 yesterday where he decided to be super smart to ride a bike  
15 without a shirt on, but he wore a helmet, and now he's covered  
16 head to toe in road rash. Not smart. Kids right now -- and  
17 you know this because you know yourself. Whether you're  
18 neurodivergent or not, your brain hasn't fully formed until  
19 you're, like, 25, and so you have a kiddo who is going to be  
20 turning 16 -- no -- yeah, turning 16 in the fall, and there's a  
21 lot of changes that are going on.

22 What I heard from you is that you're still showing  
23 support. You're providing an allowance to him still, is what  
24 you told me, and that shows that, again, from my view as a  
25 judicial officer, that you're still willing to show support for

1 him and that you want him to continue to have that. It's not  
2 like you've punished him saying, I'm cutting this off. In  
3 addition to that, you told me that you attend his -- and is it  
4 choir that he does, or is it -- you said concerts or  
5 performances, and I wasn't sure what he did.

6 MR. BELL: It's not -- I can't -- I'm too --

7 THE COURT: That's okay. You don't need to say  
8 anything, but it sounds to me that you said the only time you  
9 saw him is when you attended those things.

10 MR. BELL: It's not yet --

11 THE COURT: And so here's what I will tell you. The  
12 fact that you went shows me tremendous fact that you still love  
13 him, and you want to be with him. There are so many parents  
14 who sit where you're sitting right now who, when asked, they've  
15 stopped going. They've stopped trying. And you want to  
16 continue to try. Mr. Bell, have you read any books or learned  
17 anything about negotiated parenting time with teenagers?

18 MR. BELL: Yeah. Again, Your Honor, with all due  
19 respect, you know, we agreed in the parenting plan to work  
20 towards 50/50 custody, and I don't know. I know -- I don't  
21 know where the effort is on the other side. I know my child  
22 read me a thing that thinks I'm, you know, being --

23 THE COURT: I heard you read it --

24 MR. BELL: Yeah. And again, I --

25 THE COURT: -- and I saw it in the motions.

1           MR. BELL: Yeah. So again, I don't -- you know, and  
2 we agreed to a reunification specialist.

3           THE COURT: So Mr. Bell, let me tell you --

4           MR. BELL: Tell me what to do.

5           THE COURT: I'll cut to the chase.

6           MR. BELL: Yeah, cut to the chase.

7           THE COURT: When a kid reaches age of 16, it's really  
8 hard to make him do anything.

9           MR. BELL: Yeah.

10          THE COURT: Wearing a shirt while you're biking, for  
11 example. So here's what I suggest that you do. The resistance  
12 right now is they don't want to come over to your house. They  
13 don't want to do overnights, right?

14          MR. BELL: They don't want to talk to me.

15          THE COURT: Right. And so what you have the ability  
16 to do is you have the ability to every so often reach out with  
17 that olive branch, and you can say something, and I'll tell you  
18 that it's not unheard of, but you could say, hey, I know you  
19 don't want to spend the night, but I was thinking about  
20 getting -- whatever his favorite food might be, and I'm  
21 wondering if you want to join me just for an hour.

22          MR. BELL: Yeah.

23          THE COURT: And when he says no, don't take it as a  
24 defeat because the idea is if -- you know, he might say no, and  
25 then you just let it rest for a while, and then maybe a while

1 later you say, hey, I was going to grab breakfast tomorrow  
2 early. Do you want to meet and have this? Find something that  
3 might work, or if there's something that he enjoys doing, find  
4 something that might be an olive branch that he's willing to  
5 take.

6 I don't know what the relationship is between the two  
7 of you other than what I've read in the paperwork, but what I  
8 will tell you is that a kid who is almost 16 years old has a  
9 mind of their own, and they're going to make decisions, good or  
10 bad. But as long as you keep offering that olive branch, the  
11 worst that happens is he says no. The best that happens is he  
12 says, let's give it a shot. It's when you stop making those  
13 requests that you lose. And so I don't have a way to solve it.  
14 I don't have a way to force a 16-year-old to attend parenting  
15 time at all.

16 MR. BELL: No. That's not what I was asking the  
17 Court. I was asking -- I strongly believe and have the  
18 evidence to support it, and --

19 THE COURT: No, I know --

20 MR. BELL: But again, here me out.

21 THE COURT: I actually -- well, again, before we go  
22 there --

23 MR. BELL: Well, I was just going to say --

24 THE COURT: What do you believe has happened?

25 MR. BELL: Well, no. Tell me -- hire somebody. I'll

1 hire them, I guess, and tell me I'm not crazy. Tell me I'm  
2 crazy. That's all I care about.

3 THE COURT: And here's the thing, Mr. Bell. And  
4 without going too far into this --

5 MR. BELL: No, that's all right.

6 THE COURT: -- what I will tell you is that the most  
7 important thing that you have right now with Cam is your  
8 relationship with Cam. It doesn't matter what Ms. Bell is  
9 doing or not doing with this. Wait a minute. And this is why  
10 I say this. She can vilify you. She can say bad things about  
11 you to him. The issue is, is that during the marriage and up  
12 to the point of the divorce, he lived with you, and he knows  
13 the kind of person that you are.

14 And I will tell you that kids, and especially  
15 teenagers, are really hard to hoodwink, because when you say  
16 this person is the worst thing in the world, you know they want  
17 to see everyone hurt and in pain and otherwise. His 16, minus  
18 two -- 14, 13 years of experience is probably telling him  
19 otherwise. But there is a schism there, and I totally agree  
20 that there is an issue that needs to be resolved. It would be  
21 great if it happened through reunification therapy. It would  
22 be great. I wish that was a silver bullet in all the cases.

23 MR. BELL: It's not.

24 THE COURT: It's not. You're right. And so the  
25 issue is, okay, so that door is closed. What other avenues do

1 you have? And so if you're asking me for advice, not legal  
2 advice, advice of a parent, reach out. You can send him a  
3 text. Hey, I was just thinking about you. Love you. That's  
4 it.

5 MR. BELL: Every day.

6 THE COURT: Well, I was going to say --

7 MR. BELL: No, not even every day.

8 THE COURT: Don't do every day. Because that --

9 MR. BELL: No, I take that back.

10 THE COURT: -- can be smothering.

11 MR. BELL: No, that was smothering.

12 THE COURT: Yeah.

13 MR. BELL: Every other -- every couple of weeks. I  
14 mean, look, I totally -- look, you know, parents that refuse to  
15 even speak to each other -- not on my part -- you can't  
16 build -- you know what I mean? It's like, especially when you  
17 have a young child that, you know, is very protective of their  
18 mother, and rightfully so. And you know, it's just the two of  
19 them, and I understand that. I'm just looking for a movie  
20 night, you know, or something, and all I'm being told is I'm  
21 sick and I'm, you know -- and that I --

22 THE COURT: Does he know that you're seeing a  
23 therapist?

24 MR. BELL: He sees a therapist.

25 THE COURT: No, no, no, no. Does he know that you're

1 seeing a therapist?

2 MR. BELL: Absolutely.

3 THE COURT: Okay, good.

4 MR. BELL: He should. Again --

5 THE COURT: Make sure he knows. Make sure he knows  
6 that you're seeing a therapist.

7 MR. BELL: Yeah.

8 THE COURT: Make sure that you're working -- that you  
9 tell him that you're working on bettering yourself. Make sure  
10 that you tell him that you're bettering yourself because you  
11 want a relationship with him.

12 MR. BELL: No, it's okay.

13 THE COURT: Because when you see this over and over  
14 again, and someone trying to reach out, at some point, he might  
15 reach back. And that's why I said before, is if you don't do  
16 this, he's going to give up. But the fact that you haven't  
17 given up -- again, don't smother him. But the fact that you  
18 haven't given up is not -- I mean, is a positive to you and is  
19 a positive towards trying to reunify without formal  
20 reunification therapy.

21 MR. BELL: Yeah. Your Honor, like I said --

22 THE COURT: And again, you don't need to agree with  
23 me. You can tell me to go climb a tree.

24 MR. BELL: No, it's not. It's not --

25 THE COURT: You had just asked that question.

1 MR. BELL: No, I did. And I appreciate, Your Honor.  
2 You go -- I mean, I'm just --

3 MS. GLASSMAN: I appreciate the Court's willingness  
4 to so counsel the -- Mr. Bell and the nonlegal advice.

5 THE COURT: Right. The parenting advice of -- go  
6 ahead.

7 MS. GLASSMAN: Ms. Bell has claimed for attorney  
8 fees.

9 THE COURT: Oh, right. And so with regards to  
10 that --

11 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Do you want to take evidence as to that  
13 now?

14 MS. GLASSMAN: I think that would be -- we have the  
15 time.

16 THE COURT: We do.

17 MR. BELL: We're here. And I would like to present  
18 just that for the Court.

19 THE COURT: You may absolutely do so.

20 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you. I didn't mean to interrupt  
21 you, but --

22 THE COURT: You're totally good. I think Mr. Bell --  
23 he kind of heard what I had to say and wasn't in agreement with  
24 a lot of it, but --

25 MR. BELL: No, it wasn't -- it's not -- it's not that

1 I disagree.

2 THE COURT: It's okay.

3 MR. BELL: I just have my truth and you know, and  
4 it's like Mr. Friedberg got away, you know, like, well --

5 THE COURT: Well, again, Mr. Friedberg did nothing in  
6 this case.

7 MR. BELL: Again, he was here to support the income.  
8 That's what he was here -- that's what he was here to do.  
9 That's what I was told he was here to do.

10 THE COURT: Well, see, here's the thing. Mr. Bell,  
11 you could have called him as a witness. You could have had an  
12 analysis done.

13 MR. BELL: I tried. Okay.

14 THE COURT: But what the issue was, is I heard very  
15 little about your income, and that's in part why I directed the  
16 verdict.

17 MR. BELL: Like I said, I've learned my lesson, and  
18 that's fine. Like I said, I didn't -- it is what it is.

19 MS. GLASSMAN: Your Honor, Mr. Friedberg is here  
20 under subpoena, and we'd ask that he be released.

21 THE COURT: And I believe he is released. I don't  
22 have any reason to have him testify.

23 Thank you, Mr. Friedberg. I appreciate you being  
24 here today. All right.

25 And witness-wise, is it just Ms. Bell that you are

1 calling?

2 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Ms. Bell, why don't you come on up, and  
4 be extra careful because there are more trip hazards over  
5 there. And then before you're seated, if you raise your right  
6 hand.

7 ALYSON BELL, PLAINTIFF, SWORN

8 THE COURT: Thank you. Go and have a seat, please.  
9 Once you're seated, let me have you state your first and last  
10 name and spell both for me, because you have a unique spelling  
11 of Alyson.

12 THE WITNESS: Alyson Bell, A-L-Y-S-O-N B-E-L-L.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

16 Q Ms. Bell, in the black book, please turn to Exhibit  
17 III.

18 MR. BELL: Your Honor, I need a break. I'm having an  
19 anxiety attack.

20 THE COURT: Ten minutes okay, Mr. Bell? Let's do  
21 ten.

22 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes, of course.

23 THE COURT: Come back at 3:03. And Ms. Bell, you can  
24 get up and move around, if you'd like. You don't need to stay  
25 seated.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Court will be in brief recess.

3 (Recess at 2:53 p.m., recommencing at 3:05 p.m.)

4 THE COURT: All right. We are back on the record.

5 And again, this is case 22DR30458; counsel and parties are  
6 present. The Court has granted a request for a directed  
7 verdict pursuant to Rule 50, in favor of the Co-Petitioner, and  
8 against the Petitioner. Co-Petitioner is requested to have a  
9 short hearing regarding attorney fees, and the reasonableness  
10 of those fees; the Court has granted that request. The Court  
11 had sworn in Ms. Bell, and then we took a quick break, at the  
12 request of Mr. Bell, and so we are back.

13 Mr. Bell, are you ready to proceed?

14 MR. BELL: Yep.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Glassman, go ahead.

16 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

17 ALYSON BELL, CO-PETITIONER, PREVIOUSLY SWORN

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

20 Q Ms. Bell, are you at Exhibit III?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Is this my affidavit for attorney fees just  
23 associated with the motion to modify spousal support and child  
24 support?

25 A Yes.

1 MS. GLASSMAN: Move to admit.

2 THE COURT: Any objection?

3 MR. BELL: Which page? I'm sorry.

4 MS. GLASSMAN: AAA -- excuse me --

5 THE COURT: I.

6 THE WITNESS: I.

7 MR. BELL: III. Thank you. No III.

8 (Pause)

9 MR. BELL: I'm going to need time to, like, have it  
10 evaluated by a third-party. I'm just curious.

11 THE COURT: So the issue at this point is if -- what  
12 the Court needs to address is --

13 MR. BELL: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: -- the request for attorney fees.

15 MR. BELL: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Having it evaluated is something which  
17 sometimes there's an ability to do. And so what it comes down  
18 to is, if there is an objection, based on the reasonableness of  
19 fees, if the Court orders the award of attorney fees, the issue  
20 on reasonableness can be addressed.

21 MR. BELL: I do want to object to one thing. I see  
22 Friedberg's got a lot of line items in here, so I don't know --

23 THE COURT: Okay. So Ms. Glassman, normally, at this  
24 stage I'll hear evidence as to the reasonableness. I did not  
25 anticipate that we would be having a hearing on this,

1 necessarily, today. And so part of the issue that I have is,  
2 there hasn't been a finding yet, pursuant to 13-17-102 or  
3 14-10-119, as to the award. I haven't done that yet, and  
4 clearly, I have the ability to do.

5           And what my plan was, before you had asked, is, I was  
6 going to basically issue a written order, and then make a  
7 decision as for attorney fees, thinking that there would be an  
8 argument from you saying, I would like to have attorney fees  
9 awarded. And so normally, what I would do at that point is  
10 then indicate, all right, let's go ahead and exchange, or have  
11 the attorney fees provided. I usually give two weeks for an  
12 objection to the reasonableness of those fees, and then if  
13 there is a request to have a hearing.

14           I see where Mr. Bell is, at this point, asking for  
15 the ability to look at the reasonableness of the fees. And so  
16 I'll kind of put it back on you as to what you feel the  
17 procedure that I should follow today, knowing what I need to  
18 find under 13-17-102(6).

19           MS. GLASSMAN: What I'm trying to accomplish in this  
20 case is minimal court hearings, minimal additional attorney  
21 fees. We have a remand coming. The fees have been eye  
22 watering high. And since we're here now, I'd at least -- I  
23 think it would be efficient to have Ms. Bell testify for the  
24 submission of the fees to be presented. And then, if Mr. Bell  
25 needs time to challenge the reasonableness, which I think would

1 be always available after the Court entered an award for fees,  
2 then we can proceed as the Court has described.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MS. GLASSMAN: But I'd like to take care as much as  
5 we can, since we're here.

6 THE COURT: And that initial part sounds absolutely  
7 fine with me, and I think the procedure is fine.

8 So Mr. Bell, this is what my thought is.

9 MR. BELL: Yeah. Well -- okay.

10 THE COURT: And so oftentimes, I will take some -- a  
11 matter under advisement. I'll issue a written order, because  
12 as a magistrate, all my orders have to be written out. And if  
13 I find that attorney fees are appropriate, what I would do is,  
14 I would say, I'm going to order attorney fees. And then I  
15 would say, and I'm going to give the prevailing party two weeks  
16 to file their affidavit for attorney fees. And then, once  
17 that's filed, I give two weeks for the other side to file any  
18 objections as to the reasonableness. Pursuant to one of the  
19 statutes, the reasonableness can then be attacked at a  
20 subsequent hearing. And again, I would have to have a hearing  
21 on that issue.

22 MR. BELL: Yeah.

23 THE COURT: I haven't awarded attorney fees at this  
24 point, so we're cart before the horse a little bit. What Ms.  
25 Glassman is asking to do is to lay the foundation for it, so I

1 can basically address the attorney fees at this point, saying  
2 -- remember what I said, file it in two weeks, and then I'll  
3 give you two weeks to respond? What we're talking about is,  
4 kind of, getting rid of that two-week period of time, having  
5 some limited testimony now as to what Ms. Bell is going to  
6 testify as to the fees that she's incurred defending this  
7 particular motion.

8           Once I hear that, you have the ability to  
9 cross-examine, if you want to, at this point; or you can  
10 reserve that, talk to an expert. And when you raise the issue  
11 of -- if you raise an issue if I award attorney fees, if you  
12 raise an issue of, I'm objecting to the reasonableness of  
13 those, that, again, is a hearing that we would have, where you  
14 would have the ability to again call Ms. Bell and have her  
15 testify, or otherwise.

16           MR. BELL: I like the idea -- I wasn't sure. I think  
17 I requested, in regards to Collins taking this all on. But  
18 with that being said, the appellate court submitted back legal  
19 fees that there wasn't enough evidence, that's why I was asking  
20 to review it, right? Because if we could do it all at one  
21 time, that would be great.

22           THE COURT: Sure.

23           MR. BELL: Right? Does that make sense? It's like,  
24 okay. What's wrong --

25           THE COURT: And Ms. Glassman, that issue, just so you

1 know, is being referred to the magistrate's division,  
2 because --

3 MS. GLASSMAN: The remand?

4 THE COURT: -- it's post-decree.

5 MS. GLASSMAN: All right. So Mr. Bell has misstated  
6 the --

7 MR. BELL: Sorry.

8 MS. GLASSMAN: -- appellate court's directive that  
9 will come -- their mandate that will come to the district  
10 court. It's a clarification from the district court judge --

11 THE COURT: Right.

12 MS. GLASSMAN: -- about under what statute the fees  
13 were ordered. It is not a statement of the affidavit being  
14 insufficient, which Mr. Bell has asserted numerous times.

15 THE COURT: Right. It's the source.

16 MR. BELL: No, it was the redactions.

17 THE COURT: Hang on one sec.

18 MR. BELL: Sorry.

19 THE COURT: It's the source under 13-17-102, or  
20 14-10-119.

21 MR. BELL: Yeah.

22 MS. GLASSMAN: Or 14-10-199. So those are very  
23 different considerations for the Court, compared to what we're  
24 talking about today.

25 THE COURT: But I think it makes sense, at least

1 until that mandate comes down, because there could be a change  
2 between now and then. I don't expect there to be, but there  
3 could be a change. If that is open to it, it would make sense,  
4 if there's an objection, and if I award attorney fees in the  
5 first place, that --

6 MS. GLASSMAN: We could maybe consolidate that.

7 THE COURT: -- do some kind of consolidated hearing.

8 MR. BELL: Yeah.

9 THE COURT: Bug again, that's a bridge down the road.

10 MS. GLASSMAN: I'm hoping that the mandate can be  
11 handled by the judge --

12 THE COURT: And that'll be by Judge Collins, for  
13 sure.

14 MS. GLASSMAN: -- and maybe no additional hearing  
15 will be necessary. We'll see how that plays out.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. BELL: Yeah, and I'd like to have counsel to help  
18 me with this, too.

19 THE COURT: And here's what I will say, Mr. Bell, is,  
20 I'm not ordering attorney fees at this stage.

21 MR. BELL: Yeah. Okay.

22 THE COURT: All we're doing at this point is the  
23 foundational piece to say, Exhibit III is what Ms. Bell  
24 believes that the attorney fees that are being requested are.  
25 They're not going to the reasonableness of the fee, or

1 otherwise, but this is that initial filing. And then you would  
2 take that filing, show it to your attorney, and whomever else  
3 you'd like, to with regards to the reasonableness side, if, and  
4 only if, I order attorney fees.

5 MR. BELL: Yeah.

6 THE COURT: And at that point, you'd be able to file  
7 an objection within the time frame that I give, again, assuming  
8 that I order attorney fees; does that make sense?

9 MS. GLASSMAN: Yeah, I think so.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. BELL: I'm just a little -- this has been a lot  
12 for me.

13 THE COURT: I totally understand, and that's -- well,  
14 and again, Mr. Bell, I hope you appreciate that I'm trying --

15 MR. BELL: You've been amazing, and I really  
16 appreciate you.

17 THE COURT: I wasn't looking for a compliment. I'm  
18 just trying to make sure that your ADA accommodations are being  
19 satisfied. And I know we took a ten-minute break just now; I  
20 overheard in the courtroom whether or not you've had anything  
21 to eat today, and I heard that was maybe a no. And so I want  
22 to make sure that you're okay understanding everything.  
23 Because after this long of the day, everyone's blood sugar is a  
24 little bit low, and we get a little tired.

25 MR. BELL: If there's any way just to put this off.

1 Again, I don't --

2 THE COURT: Well --

3 MR. BELL: -- mean anybody disrespect.

4 THE COURT: No, no, and there's no disrespect. The  
5 only thing that's going to happen with regards to this is the  
6 submission of this today, and the brief testimony as -- that  
7 Ms. Bell believes that this was necessary in order to defend  
8 against your motion. That's the only thing that's happening  
9 today.

10 MR. BELL: Yeah. And I just know -- you brought up  
11 the cross-exam part, that's the part hat --

12 THE COURT: If you want to reserve that --

13 MR. BELL: -- I'm not mentally -- yeah.

14 THE COURT: If you want to reserve that to having any  
15 objection, I'll allow you to do that.

16 MR. BELL: Okay. Thank you.

17 THE COURT: All right. So with that in mind, do you  
18 have any objection to the admission of III for the purposes of  
19 showing what Ms. Bell believes are the reasonable and necessary  
20 costs that were incurred in the defense of this motion? And by  
21 not objecting to it, I'm not -- you're not waiving your right  
22 to object to the reasonableness. All we're basically doing is  
23 getting over that first threshold.

24 MR. BELL: Yeah. Yeah. Yes, they're fine. That's  
25 fine.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So the Court will admit III. I  
2 will note that Mr. Bell is reserving his ability to object to  
3 the reasonableness of this, if the Court orders attorney fees,  
4 within the time frame that the Court allows for that review.

5 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit III admitted into evidence)

6 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Ms. Glassman, please proceed.

8 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

9 Q Ms. Bell, with respect to Exhibit III, does this  
10 exhibit, this affidavit and the flow of itemized charges behind  
11 it, reflect the attorney fees and costs that you have incurred  
12 from September 22nd, 2024, through May 24th, 2025, for the  
13 modification motion only?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And through May 25th, 2025, have you incurred  
16 attorney fees, including paralegal and legal secretary time, in  
17 the amount of \$53,268?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And through May 25th, 2025, have you incurred costs  
20 in the amount of \$2,262?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Through May 3rd, 2025, has Mr. Friedberg billed you,  
23 directly, an additional \$4,371?

24 A Yes.

25 MS. GLASSMAN: And Your Honor, that would have been

1 admitted through Mr. Friedberg's testimony, his invoices. So I  
2 would like to admit to the Court Mr. Friedberg's invoices,  
3 which are Exhibit FF. And there are one, two, three, four,  
4 five, six invoices that constitute Exhibit FF.

5 THE COURT: All right. And so with FF, Mr. Bell,  
6 this looks to be a --

7 MR. BELL: I've seen it.

8 THE COURT: Okay. I have not.

9 MR. BELL: Yeah.

10 THE COURT: I don't look at things ahead of time, the  
11 best that I can.

12 MR. BELL: Yeah.

13 THE COURT: Looks like it's a six-page exhibit. I  
14 know that you're wanting to object to the reasonableness of  
15 those fees, if the Court orders them.

16 MR. BELL: Yeah.

17 THE COURT: And so you'd be preserving that right --  
18 or I'm allowing you to preserve that right. The question is,  
19 is, are you all right with the entry of these, as these are  
20 costs that were incurred by Ms. Bell, as her -- as she's  
21 testifying for the defense of this motion?

22 MR. BELL: Again, I just know he showed up. And I  
23 don't know what -- \$4,000, is a lot of money, so I don't know  
24 what he did; you know what I mean? Does that make sense?

25 THE COURT: Sure.

1 MR. BELL: If, like, somebody wants me to pay for  
2 something, I at least should see a receipt or something.

3 THE COURT: Sure. And again, you're not agreeing to  
4 it, it's just --

5 MR. BELL: No, that's fine.

6 THE COURT: -- this is her testimony.

7 MR. BELL: Again, I get it. I get it.

8 THE COURT: All right. So the Court will admit  
9 Exhibit FF.

10 (Co-Petitioner's Exhibit FF admitted into evidence)

11 MS. GLASSMAN: Thank you.

12 MR. BELL: Yeah.

13 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

14 Q And so Ms. Bell, looking at the Exhibit FF --

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q -- they are in chronological order, starting in March  
17 of 2024.

18 A Uh-huh.

19 Q Did you receive a monthly statement from Mr.  
20 Friedberg for his services which are detailed on each invoice  
21 that makes up Exhibit FF?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And how do you pay Mr. Friedberg for his services?

24 A I pay monthly, with a credit card.

25 Q And how much do you pay him each month?

1 A Pay him \$100, because that's all I can afford.

2 Q Can you speak up just a little?

3 A I pay \$100, because that's what I can afford right  
4 now.

5 Q And while the Court can take notice of your sworn  
6 financial statement, are you experiencing a monthly deficit --  
7 even with the maintenance and child support, even after working  
8 full time at your primary job at Luminaria, even with two  
9 secondary jobs, are you experiencing a monthly deficit?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And does your sworn financial statement reflect it's  
12 about \$1,800 a month?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And how do you manage each month if you're having a  
15 deficit?

16 A Currently, I borrow from Peter to pay Paul, and I use  
17 credit cards. But I only use them in a way that I know I can  
18 pay them off in -- within three months.

19 Q So the \$100 month that you pay, Mr. Friedberg, is  
20 that the best you can do?

21 A Currently, yes.

22 Q And Mr. Friedberg was in court today, and prepared to  
23 come to court today to testify, and do you anticipate that  
24 there will be another invoice from Mr. Friedberg for his  
25 preparation and appearance here today?

1 A Yes, unfortunately, there will.

2 Q Has my hourly rate of \$400 per hour changed since I  
3 first began -- since the trial in July 2025?

4 MS. GLASSMAN: Or excuse me, strike that.

5 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

6 Q Since I first began representing you in 2023?

7 A No, you are still \$400 an hour, even though you now  
8 charge 450.

9 Q Okay. And is Ms. Milfeld's time charged at the rate  
10 of \$325 per hour?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And on your sworn financial statement, you have a  
13 debt of \$105,000, that is shown on the debt section of the  
14 sworn financial statement for attorney fees; is that accurate?

15 A That's accurate.

16 Q And so this affidavit reflects 53,000; what are those  
17 other fees that are still -- that make up that 105,000?

18 A Well, we've been going through these pleadings and  
19 motions since -- I mean, for two years after permanent orders.  
20 This is '25. We -- and permanent orders were August of '23.  
21 So even though Charles was gone for ten months, we still had an  
22 appeal, which was very costly. And I had to also get another  
23 attorney, an appellate attorney. And then we've had issues  
24 with the PCPM.

25 Q So did you still owe me money --

1 A Yes.

2 Q -- after the trial?

3 A Yes. Yes.

4 Q And then, after the trial, there's been this other  
5 work that you've just described -- the appeal, the flood of  
6 motions?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Separate and apart from Mr. Bell's motion to modify  
9 maintenance, which is the fees we're talking about for today?

10 A Correct.

11 Q So all in, you're at 105,000?

12 A Correct.

13 Q And growing?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you think the attorney hours that have been  
16 devoted to your case as reflected on Exhibit III have been  
17 reasonable and necessary?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And during the course of the pending motion, do you  
20 think that Mr. Bell's actions just related to this -- not to  
21 the multitude of other motions he filed, but just what we're  
22 doing today, do you think his actions in this case have  
23 increased your attorney fees and costs?

24 A Yes.

25 Q How so?

1           A     Well, he went through two attorneys with the Harris  
2 Law Firm. He then decided to self-represent. He didn't submit  
3 his discovery properly, and we had to compel. He withdrew his  
4 medical authorizations, not to mention the volumes of  
5 pleadings, and exhibits, and filings, and emails that we've had  
6 to go through; it's been daily. Yeah. So -- of course, yeah.

7           Q     And then, with respect to Mr. Bell's actions relative  
8 to Mr. Freedberg, has that increased your fees?

9           A     Yes. He's -- I don't know if it's appropriate to  
10 say, but he's been obsessed with Jay (phonetic) Friedberg's  
11 report. I feel he's been obsessed with Nelissa Milfeld, and  
12 where she is, and what she's doing, and that's been costly. I  
13 mean, numerous, numerous, numerous emails and filings to the  
14 Court, trying to figure that out. And I have to pay for all of  
15 that, you know, like, I don't have a choice. When these things  
16 are filed, I have to respond.

17          Q     And did Mr. Bell try to disqualify Mr. Friedberg, and  
18 bar the admission of his report to this Court?

19          A     Yes.

20          Q     And despite this Court's orders, did Mr. Bell  
21 continue pressing that very same issue?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     To your knowledge, did Mr. Bell comply with witness  
24 deadlines for this hearing?

25          A     No.

1 Q Did that create even more work to look and analyze  
2 his pleading, and file motions to strike his witnesses?

3 A Yes, it was a lot.

4 Q Did Mr. Bell comply with -- this morning the Court  
5 went through four pleadings, one of a witness -- excuse me,  
6 exhibits, and then supplemental exhibits, and denied the  
7 admission -- or granted the request to strike all of those  
8 exhibits; did that cost you money for me to file those  
9 pleadings?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Sum total, did all of this conduct increase your  
12 fees?

13 A Yes, exponentially.

14 Q And Ms. Bell is it your experience with me as your  
15 lawyer, that you receive copies of everything that comes  
16 through on your case that I read, that you then see?

17 A Absolutely.

18 Q So you know, firsthand, then, what the volume of work  
19 that has been done to field the various motions that Mr. Bell  
20 has filed on almost a daily basis?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Given the demands of the case, and Mr. Bell's  
23 actions, do you think the fees you have incurred were both  
24 necessary and reasonable, at the rates you've just described?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Between May 25th and June 11th, have you incurred  
2 additional fees and costs for the preparation for this hearing?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And so you received another statement on May 31st  
5 that wasn't prepared in time for Exhibit III?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you, now, considerably more money to me for that  
8 additional work?

9 A Yes.

10 Q In light of all of this, let's just -- is there a  
11 disparity -- based upon the Court's findings, which have not  
12 been modified, and your income, is there a disparity between  
13 your income and Mr. Bell's income?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Is it significant?

16 A I would assume so, yes. I mean, looking at the  
17 paperwork.

18 Q And looking at what the Court stated, Mr. Bell's  
19 income is in 2023 --

20 A Correct.

21 Q -- which the Court, today, has not revisited?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Based upon that disparity, and Mr. Bell's behaviors,  
24 are you asking the Court to award attorney fees, either based  
25 upon your disparity, under 14-10-119, or based upon his

1 behaviors, which this Court has found to be harassing,  
2 baseless, and groundless? Are you also asking the Court to  
3 consider your request for fees under Title 13?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And what are you asking this Court to award?

6 A I'm asking for all of my attorney's fees. I didn't  
7 ask for any of this. I wouldn't have to be here right now  
8 doing any of this, especially given the volume of pleadings,  
9 emails. I mean, it's just been overwhelming for me to have to  
10 deal with, and work a full-time job, and two part-time jobs,  
11 and keep my kids stable. And it's just -- I can't do it. I'm  
12 going to work until I die to pay attorney's fees, at this  
13 point. I -- I -- I can't afford it.

14 Q And with respect to your son, Cam, and the judge has  
15 spent a lovely amount of time discussing Cam today, in addition  
16 to the child support --

17 MR. BELL: Objection. Relevance.

18 THE COURT: I don't know what the question is yet,  
19 so I'm just going to hear what it is.

20 MR. BELL: It's my child's name.

21 THE COURT: Go ahead.

22 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

23 Q Does Mr. Bell contribute to medical expenses,  
24 uninsured medical expenses, or agreed upon extracurricular  
25 activities --

1 A No.

2 Q -- that Cam participates in?

3 A No. I pay for everything for him, and for Julian --  
4 helath insurance, medical, dental, car insurance, all  
5 extracurriculars.

6 MR. BELL: Objection.

7 THE COURT: The question --

8 MR. BELL: Okay. It's fine.

9 THE COURT: -- I find it relevant as it comes to the  
10 payment of fees, pursuant to 14-10-119, because again, that  
11 shows a disparity with income, as well as contributions. So  
12 there's relevance there, and so I'll allow the testimony.  
13 Again, it doesn't mean that you can't object --

14 MR. BELL: No, I understand.

15 THE COURT: -- if I order attorney fees to the  
16 reasonableness of those.

17 MR. BELL: Yeah, I understand.

18 THE COURT: Go ahead.

19 BY MS. GLASSMAN:

20 Q And so Cam is transgender, correct?

21 A Correct.

22 Q So does he see a therapist, a psychiatrist, and  
23 routinely have treatment at Children's Hospital?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And all of those uninsured expenses, about \$690 a

1 month, you shoulder those 100 percent?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And have you approached Mr. Bell for his  
4 contribution, his proportionate share of those expenses?

5 A I have. And I tried harder in the beginning, maybe  
6 once a quarter, but the answer was always the same. And I  
7 don't have the bandwidth to engage, I just don't. I'm too  
8 busy. I work seven days a week.

9 Q And then, with respect to Cam's extracurricular  
10 activities and involvements, I mean, he's a 15-year-old; is he  
11 socially active and involved in all kinds of things?

12 A Of course.

13 Q And although Mr. Bell goes to his extracurricular  
14 activity, his performances, does he contribute to those  
15 expenses?

16 A No.

17 Q Or the choir trips?

18 A No.

19 Q The travel he --

20 A We just did a Disney trip. We had a Thescon trip.  
21 We have -- you know, every choir he's in has a fee and an  
22 outfit. He was just in a play, and a -- and a musical, and  
23 those incur costs, and buying clothes for those, and shoes for  
24 those, and -- yeah, I mean, I take care of all of that.

25 Q And in part is that why you work two secondary

1 jobs --

2 A Yes.

3 Q -- in addition to your 40-hour --

4 A Yes.

5 Q -- full-time employment?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And even with that, you're still experiencing a  
8 deficit?

9 A Correct. Correct.

10 Q So if the Court is not inclined to award you a  
11 hundred percent of the fees, which the affidavit, as you  
12 stated, doesn't even reflect your last bill, or Mr. Friedberg's  
13 additional fees, or my time for today, what, at a minimum, are  
14 you requesting from this Court?

15 A At a minimum, at least 35,000.

16 Q And do you believe that Mr. Bell has the means to pay  
17 you?

18 A Yeah, I do.

19 Q I mean, does he have that money right in the bank?

20 A Yeah. Yeah.

21 MS. GLASSMAN: Nothing further.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 Did you want to do cross-examination now? Or did you  
24 want to wait to see, A, if I order attorney fees, and B, if you  
25 want to file an objection to that?

1           MR. BELL: I think I want to leave cross-examination  
2 to an attorney.

3           THE COURT: Okay.

4           MR. BELL: Yeah.

5           THE COURT: All right. Thank you. You can go ahead  
6 and stand down.

7           Any other witnesses?

8           MS. GLASSMAN: No, Your Honor.

9           THE COURT: All right. So the Court, again, has  
10 granted the request for the Rule 50, directed verdict. The  
11 Court did allow for the foundation to be laid as to the  
12 admission of Exhibits III and FF, which are the fees and costs  
13 that were incurred by Ms. Bell, in the defense of this hearing.  
14 The Court has not made a ruling as to whether or not it will  
15 award attorney fees. I'll take that matter under advisement.  
16 I will issue a written ruling.

17           Once that written ruling is done, there will be  
18 instructions, if I do order attorney fees, as to how long that  
19 you'll have to file an objection to -- based on the  
20 reasonableness of those fees. So between now and me doing  
21 that, I will give you -- I'd say you have the ability to  
22 consult with an attorney now, if you want to, to show them that  
23 document.

24           MR. BELL: Yeah, I've got -- I have -- yeah, I'm  
25 working with that. It should be a couple weeks.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Well, and the next thing I was  
2 going to ask, after I kind of said, you can start now if you  
3 want, Ms. Glassman, with regards to, kind of, finalizing fees  
4 and costs, how -- and it's the 11th of June right now. I  
5 assume that you run your fees at the end of the month; is there  
6 any opposition that I let you do that, to supplement? And at  
7 that point in time, I can issue the written ruling?

8 MS. GLASSMAN: No objection to that.

9 THE COURT: Okay. I have a hard deadline of July  
10 14th, getting out all my written orders.

11 MS. GLASSMAN: Right.

12 THE COURT: So I'll get to work on it as fast as I  
13 can. But what I wanted to do is to allow Mr. Friedberg, and  
14 yourself, until the end of the month to present a final  
15 billing --

16 MS. GLASSMAN: We will --

17 THE COURT: -- as it relates to this issue.

18 MS. GLASSMAN: Yeah, so --

19 MR. BELL: What, now?

20 MS. GLASSMAN: I'll let Mr. Friedberg know, and we  
21 will try to get that to the Court as soon as possible, so I can  
22 -- because this is such a separate billing from everything else  
23 that's going on.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MS. GLASSMAN: We'll see if we can't have the billing

1 service get you what you need as -- quicker, so that you have a  
2 little bit more time.

3 THE COURT: And let me put it out there, because,  
4 again, this is -- Mr. Bell's objection is all preserved on  
5 this. I'm just trying to -- I don't need people to jump  
6 through rings of fire for me on this. If I set a due date of  
7 July 7th, so you have an additional week from the close of the  
8 business month --

9 MS. GLASSMAN: Yes.

10 THE COURT: -- is that better?

11 MS. GLASSMAN: That would be enough time -- that  
12 would be sufficient for --

13 THE COURT: And that gives Mr. Bell --

14 MS. GLASSMAN: -- for me to wait until the end of the  
15 month, but --

16 THE COURT: -- more time, as well.

17 MS. GLASSMAN: -- if we can -- I know that the Court  
18 is under a deadline to get out its written orders, so I'll try  
19 and do it sooner.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MS. GLASSMAN: But appreciate until July 7th.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. BELL: And what -

24 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Bell.

25 MR. BELL: I was just going to say, I know we have --

1 still have Collins, right? That whole thing.

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MR. BELL: And I know we have -- the 20th is when  
4 the --

5 THE COURT: The mandates comes.

6 MR. BELL: Yeah, the mandate comes in. So I'm trying  
7 to, like, time all that stuff and understand, you know what I  
8 mean?

9 THE COURT: Sure. And so --

10 MR. BELL: Because they all tie together in their own  
11 way.

12 THE COURT: Right. And so my piece of this, I've  
13 done my oral ruling. I'll put it in a written format --

14 MR. BELL: Sure.

15 THE COURT: -- so everyone has that. And the main  
16 reason for that, Mr. Bell, is, everything that I do is  
17 immediately reviewable by the district court.

18 MR. BELL: Yeah.

19 THE COURT: And so you have that right, and that  
20 doesn't start ticking until I issue the written order. So it's  
21 not like it starts today, or anything else. And in all  
22 honesty, it probably is not going to start -- well, it depends  
23 on the reviewing judge as to whether or not the attorney fees  
24 need to be part of that, if we have a separate hearing on that.

25 MR. BELL: Well, that's what I -- like, I said, the

1 appeal -- I mean, forget the appeal.

2 THE COURT: But I'll look at the case law with  
3 regards --

4 MR. BELL: Yeah. Yeah.

5 THE COURT: -- to that, just so there's some  
6 finality. I know that here in this building, the district  
7 court judges have a differing opinion as to whether or not they  
8 can review the substantive issue without the attorney fees, or  
9 if everything needs to be together. Clearly, the court of  
10 appeals thinks everything needs to be together. And so I'll do  
11 a little bit of research with regards to that, on the  
12 magistrate order there.

13 MR. BELL: Yeah. And then -- yeah. And then, I'll  
14 check.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. BELL: All right. So then, once you rule, then I  
17 appeal it? Or do I -- how do I get the cross-examination in?

18 THE COURT: Oh, no. So again, this is how things  
19 will work. So I'm going to do a written order as to the Rule  
20 50 grant that I did.

21 MR. BELL: Okay. Got it.

22 THE COURT: In addition to that, I'm going to make a  
23 ruling as to attorney fees. The attorney fees isn't saying you  
24 owe this amount.

25 MR. BELL: Sure.

1 THE COURT: It is, the Court is going to basically  
2 indicate, I've received this amount. This is what is being  
3 requested. And I give you an opportunity to file an objection  
4 as to the reasonableness of those fees within a certain amount  
5 of time.

6 MR. BELL: Sure.

7 THE COURT: Normally, I do 14 days. You have the  
8 jump on us here because you have the exhibit now, and you'll be  
9 able to then go back and talk to an attorney about that aspect,  
10 as you're kind of preparing for it. So as soon as Ms. Glassman  
11 gets me those fees, I can then finalize my order as to whether  
12 I'm going to order attorney fees, what the amount of attorney  
13 fees, and whether there's an objection to a reasonableness of  
14 those attorney fees.

15 MR. BELL: Is that something -- one thing that came  
16 up, the 105,000 owed, and I know that went all the way back to,  
17 like, when I was married.

18 THE COURT: Separate issue. I'm just looking at this  
19 hearing.

20 MR. BELL: This one? Okay. I was just curious.  
21 Well, they brought it up, that's the only reason.

22 THE COURT: They did, just because it appears in the  
23 spring financial statement.

24 MR. BELL: Oh.

25 THE COURT: Ms. Glassman wanted to ensure that that

1 amount is different than this amount.

2 MR. BELL: Oh. Okay.

3 THE COURT: That's all that came out.

4 MR. BELL: Okay.

5 THE COURT: And so if you object within that time  
6 period that I give you, then I have to set it for a hearing,  
7 because that's what's required --

8 MR. BELL: Yeah.

9 THE COURT: -- under 13-17-102.

10 MR. BELL: Okay.

11 THE COURT: I don't need to set it for a hearing if  
12 I'm awarding it to -- pursuant to 14-10-119, because I've heard  
13 testimony as to people's financial situations --

14 MR. BELL: Yeah.

15 THE COURT: -- as to whether or not they're able to  
16 afford things. And so again, my order is going to have much  
17 more detailed information, but it'll instruct you, saying, you  
18 have to file any kind of objection within this amount of time.  
19 And then, the Court will either set it for a hearing, or deal  
20 with it on the motions. But if I do indicate that attorney  
21 fees are necessary, pursuant to 13-17-102, and there's an  
22 objection to the reasonableness, I have to set a hearing. And  
23 so just so you know, kind of, as things are moving forward.

24 MR. BELL: Yeah. Like I said, I'm not sure on the  
25 Collins thing, when he's going to rule on that. I had one more

1 thing to file, but --

2 THE COURT: Yeah. I don't know, either.

3 MR. BELL: I guess I can ask at my hearing.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Any other questions you have  
5 today, Mr. Bell?

6 MR. BELL: No. I appreciate you. Thank you, very  
7 much for your time today.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Glassman, any other questions, or  
9 anything?

10 MS. GLASSMAN: No. Thank you.

11 THE COURT: So folks, I don't know how you want to  
12 address things. In hearings, which I kind of view as it's a  
13 little contentious, I kind of let parties leave first, and  
14 otherwise. There's more of you than there is of Mr. Bell, but  
15 I'm happy to hold Mr. Bell here for a few minutes, to allow all  
16 of you to leave, or to go the other way.

17 MR. BELL: We can go fast.

18 THE COURT: Are you okay with that? All right. Mr.  
19 Bell, thank you for appearing today.

20 And folks, thank you for appearing for the support; I  
21 do appreciate you doing that. Take care, folks. Now, the  
22 Court will be in recess. I'll go off the record.

23 (Proceedings concluded at 3:41 p.m.)  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

*Sheri Feikert*

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SHERI FEIKERT  
Digital Court Transcriber

DATED and SIGNED this 2nd day of December, 2025.