## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS,

CA No. 03-2006

Plaintiff,

v.

. Washington, D.C.
. February 4, 2009

FELD ENTERTAINMENT, INC.,

10:22 a.m.

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF BENCH TRIAL - MORNING SESSION - DAY 1
BEFORE THE HONORABLE EMMET G. SULLIVAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

## APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff:

KATHERINE A. MEYER, ESQ. ERIC GLITZENSTEIN, ESQ. TANYA SANERIB, ESQ. HOWARD CRYSTAL, ESQ. DELCIANA WINDERS, ESQ.

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Court Reporter:

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Proceedings reported by machine shorthand, transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

## PROCEEDINGS 1 2 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Civil action 03-2006, American 3 Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, et al versus Feld Entertainment, Inc. 4 5 Would counsel please identify yourselves for the record? 6 7 MS. MEYER: Yes. Katherine Meyer for the plaintiffs, 8 your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Good morning. MS. SANERIB: Good morning. Tanya Sanerib for the 10 11 plaintiffs. MR. CRYSTAL: Howard Crystal, your Honor. 12 13 MR. GLITZENSTEIN: Good morning, your Honor. Glitzenstein for the plaintiffs. 14 MS. WINDERS: Delcian Winders. 15 MS. SINNOTT: Michelle Sinnott. I'm just here to do 16 17 tech. THE COURT: You're very important. 18 MR. SIMPSON: Good morning, your Honor. John Simpson 19 for Feld Entertainment. 20 MR. SHEA: Good morning. Lance Shea for Feld 21 22 Entertainment. MS. PARDO: Good morning. Michelle Pardo for Feld 23 2.4 Entertainment. 25 MS. JOINER: Good morning, your Honor. Lisa Joiner

for Feld Entertainment.

MS. PETTEWAY: Kara Petteway.

MS. STRAUSS: Julie Strauss for Feld Entertainment.

MR. PALISOUL: Derek Palisoul.

THE COURT: I see the battle lines are drawn here.

You know, it's never too late to settle a case. I just wanted
to break the ice a little bit.

We're going to proceed. Just a couple of things. As you probably know, I just finished a jury trial, and the jury is deliberating. There has been one note this morning. They wanted to see some evidence, and there probably will be some other activity, so just keep that in mind because they're undoubtedly will be some interruptions in this case. I may have to bring the jurors in for instructions and maybe bring the lawyers in, but that's a work in progress, along with this case as well.

We had talked in the past about the duration of the trial day, how long will it last, when will it start and when will it end each day. We won't start before ten in the morning. Now, whether we sit until six or not is another question. I recognize that there are many witnesses who have come here from other parts of the country and indeed other parts of the world, and the Court certainly would make every effort to accommodate anyone's witnesses, even to call witnesses out of turn because this is a nonjury trial and I have the flexibility to do that,

with a witness or that a witness has to leave the city on a certain date or a certain time, and to the extent I need to accommodate that witness, I'll be more than happy to do so, again, even if it means calling the witness out of turn or in someone else's case. It's nonjury and I have that flexibility, so don't be reluctant to tell me.

There's one matter pending before the Court, and that's the appeal from Magistrate Judge Facciola's ruling. For all intents and purposes, I will affirm that ruling of his and I'll talk more about that at the appropriate time, but consider that ruling affirmed.

How many witnesses for the plaintiff today? How many witnesses do you anticipate calling today? I know you have your first witness that comes from another country and we certainly want to accommodate that witness. I believe that's the first witness.

MS. MEYER: Yes, your Honor. Yes. We have two. We have an expert witness and a fact witness scheduled for today.

THE COURT: Okay. And that will take us to five o'clock or thereafter with direct and cross-examination?

MS. MEYER: Depending on how long the cross-examination is, Judge.

THE COURT: All right.

One other matter. Counsel have boxes in the court.

You're more than welcome to leave your materials here overnight.

I'm going to tell you right now in no uncertain terms I'm not a
guarantor of anything, but you're more than welcome to leave
them.

My understanding also is that Mr. Snook and Ms. Gatski have made efforts to accommodate counsel with respect to ancillary rooms in the courthouse for their materials; is that right?

MR. SIMPSON: We're getting that worked out today, your Honor.

THE COURT: That's great. And to the extent -- I don't get involved in this: To the extent you have issues, then Mr. Snook is standing, he's the man of the hour right there. He's standing in the courtroom, and you've met Ms. Gatski, so don't hesitate to speak with them. To the extent they can accommodate you, believe me, they will.

And thank you very much, Mr. Snook, for everything you've done.

We probably have another note.

We're going to proceed with the opening statements. Let me just inquire of defense counsel, do you plan to make an opening statement immediately after the opening statement of plaintiff's counsel?

MR. SIMPSON: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. That's fine.

(There was a pause in the proceedings.)

THE COURT: Yes?

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MS. MEYER: Your Honor, for the opening statement I do have to discuss the rule on witnesses, because your pretrial order --

THE COURT: I will invoke the rule on witnesses. My recollection is that if I didn't say that it was my intent to allow experts to remain at counsel table, was that your inquiry?

MS. MEYER: There were a couple of points, your Honor. The pretrial order says the rule also applies to the opening statement, and several of the individuals who have been listed as witnesses for the defendant are representatives of the organizations that we represent, and so we would like to have them be able to stay in the courtroom pursuant to the exceptions for the rule on witnesses.

THE COURT: Are they potential?

THE WITNESS: Yes. They've been listed by the defendants, your Honor, but they're also representative of the parties, the organizational parties.

And the other thing, your Honor, is, Michelle Sinnott has also been listed as a witness just with respect to certain data but she may not have to be called, but we have stipulated with counsel for the defendants that she's an essential witness, that she can stay in the courtroom, so basically what we would like to do is make sure that Eric Glitzenstein, who has also

been listed as a witness by deposition for the defendants, can stay in the courtroom and essentially participate in this case, and we'd like to make sure that Tom Rider can stay in the courtroom. He's a named party that the representatives for the Animal Welfare Institute, which is Tracy Silverman and Katie Liss, can stay in the courtroom, and Nicole Pikett, who is the representative for the American -- the Animal Protection Institute, can stay in the courtroom, and that Lisa Weisberg, who is the representative for the ASPCA, can also be present.

MR. SIMPSON: We have no objection to Mr. Glitzenstein at counsel table. We have no objection to Mr. Rider. We have no objection for one corporation representative for any of the plaintiffs. We have two people for AWI that have both been named as witnesses, so Ms. Silverman and Ms. Liss, so they can choose one, and the other is to be excluded.

MS. MEYER: I think Ms. Liss has only asked if she can stay for today, and nothing that's going to be testified for today has anything to do with the reason you're calling her.

MR. SIMPSON: Your Honor, I would just stand by your pretrial order.

THE COURT: You should have brought this to my attention. Why don't you choose between one of those two. I think that's a fair compromise. I want to proceed with the trial, so one of those last two witnesses.

MS. MEYER: It will be Tracy Silverman then.

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THE COURT: That's fine. Are we ready?

MS. MEYER: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Let me just inquire of defense counsel, are there people you would like to have in the courtroom for the opening statements?

MR. SIMPSON: Ms. Julie Strauss is our corporate representative. I've already excluded her as a witness in your prior order, and that's the person we have here.

THE COURT: Is there anyone else you'd like to have sit in the courtroom?

MR. SIMPSON: No, your Honor, we don't.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. MEYER: Thank you, your Honor.

OPENING STATEMENT

The plaintiffs, the American Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Fund for Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, the Animal Protection Institute, and Mr. Tom Rider, who once worked for the Ringling Brothers Circus. This case involves the Asian elephant, a species that has been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1976.

THE COURT: You mentioned Mr. Rider. He's not seated at counsel table.

MS. MEYER: He's not here yet.

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THE COURT: All right. He's more than welcome to sit at counsel table because he is a party in this case.

MS. MEYER: He doesn't have to, does he?

THE COURT: No, I'm not going to make him.

MS. MEYER: Good. Just checking.

As I said, this case involves the Asian elephant, which is a species that has been enlisted an endangered in the Endangered Species Act since 1976. Defendant Feld Entertainment uses Asian elephants in its Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus, that it performs around the country every year. case is brought under the Endangered Species Act, which prohibits the "take" of any animal that is listed as endangered under the Act. Plaintiffs contend that defendant takes the endangered elephants in its care by keeping them chained for many long hours each day and by hitting them with bullhooks, a long club with a metal hook on the end of it. As the Supreme Court recognized in the 1995 case Babbott versus Sweethome Chapter, the term "take" in the statute is broadly defined in the broadest possible way to protect listed species, so in addition to acts that actually kill a member of the species, prohibited takes also include activities that harm, that wound, and that even harass the species, and the Fish & Wildlife Service has defined that particular term to mean actions that significantly disrupt the normal behavior patterns of the

species. The "take" prohibition applies to captive members of the species as well as those found in the wild. And the Fish & Wildlife Service has made clear that under no circumstances may a captive member of an endangered species be physically mistreated or otherwise treated inhumanely. Under the applicable case law, plaintiffs must demonstrate that the practices they challenge are likely to result in a take of the species by wounding, harming, or harassing it.

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Feld Entertainment currently operates three different units of the Ringling Brothers Circus: The Blue Unit, the Red Unit, and the Gold Unit. Although, as the record shows, the elephants and the handlers on those various units sometimes go from one unit to another and to other facilities owned by defendant, including its breeding facility in Florida which it calls the Center for Elephant Conservation or the CEC, the evidence will show that the circus, and particularly the Blue and Red Units, travel by railroad cars throughout the country each year for approximately 48 weeks of the year performing in more than 40 different cities every year. Therefore, the record will show that the elephants who travel with the circus spend an enormous amount of time on those railroad cars. This defining characteristic of the Ringling Brother Circus is in sharp contrast to the way Asian elephants are kept in captivity by other entities in this country, such as zoos. Where the elephants live in a stationery facility throughout the year.

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The record will also show and both defendant's 30(b)(6) witness, Mr. Gary Jacobson and Feld Entertainment's own CEO admit that whenever the elephants are on that train they are They are each chained by two legs with chains that look like this, your Honor (indicating). The chains are tied around one front leg and one back leg and then fastened to metal rings on the side of the train. We actually have a photograph we want to show that shows you what that looks like. These are two photographs that were taken at the inspection that was done that you allowed us, our experts, to do in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

These chains are not used in zoos? THE COURT: Some zoos use chains for some procedures, MS. MEYER: your Honor, but not to the extent, and the record will show, not to the extent the Ringling Brothers does, and as I explained, zoos do not travel around the country in railroad cars, so these particular chains you're looking at would not be used by zoos because these are the railroad car chains we're looking at.

The record will also show that the elephants are chained on extremely hard surfaces on the train and that they have very little room to move and certainly cannot turn around. We will show you video footage of the inside of one of these trains that will show you how the elephants actually live when they are on the trains, and you will hear eye-witness testimony from several former Ringling Brothers employees that will

describe the conditions of these trains, including that they are dark, narrow, and cramped, and that the elephants stand in their own feces and urine for long periods of time. They also have a clip of some video footage that we're going to show you that shows you the inside of the train.

THE COURT: These are exhibits that counsel plan to introduce in counsel's case in chief?

MS. MEYER: Correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: We can turn this -- are there objections to turning the screens on for the benefit of the public?

MR. SIMPSON: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: We can turn them on.

Carol, it might be helpful if John in the next day or so can bring up another screen.

Go right ahead, counsel.

MS. MEYER: I was showing this is a short clip of the elephants on the train.

And the record will also show that when the elephants are on the train week after week every year, and some of those elephants, your Honor, including one you will hear quite a lot about named Karen, have been traveling with the circus for more than 35 years. They are kept chained on those trains for many consecutive hours, often days at a time. In fact, defendant's own document called Transportation Orders, which we were able to obtain in discovery, show that the elephants are kept on the

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trains on average for more than 26 consecutive hours when they are traveling, and that they are often kept on the trains for 60 to 70 consecutive hours and sometimes as long as 90 to 100 consecutive hours. The record will also show that the elephants are kept on the train overnight before the train leaves a venue and that they are also kept on the train overnight when the circus arrives at a new city, and in fact, one of Ringling Brothers own long-time elephant handlers whose deposition I just took in November, Brian French, admitted that this is the normal procedure, to keep the elephants on the train overnight after they arrive at a new city until the compound is set up. again, your Honor, whenever those elephants are on that train they are in chains. The record will also show that even when the elephants get off the trains they are kept in chains for a huge part of the day, from at least the end of the last show until the next morning, which ranges from 9 to 16 hours a day and sometimes longer. And the record will show indeed Ringling Brothers' own elephant handlers testified that the young baby elephants who travel with the show do not travel with their In sum, the evidence will show that the elephants who travel on the road with the circus spend a huge part of their lives year after year in chains. Despite the fact that Feld Entertainment's own promotional materials touts what it calls its Center For Elephant Conservation, as an elephant playground of 30 acres of, quote, prime menno where elephants can roam and

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socialize to their heart's content, end quote, the record will also show that the elephants maintained at that facility, Feld Entertainment's breeding center, also spend the majority of each day chained on concrete. You will hear the testimony of defendant's own 30(b)(6) witness, Gary Jacobson, who runs that facility, admit that most of the adult female elephants are kept chained on concrete for about 15 to 16 hours each day and that at least two of the younger females currently spend 22-and-a-half hours every single day chained on concrete. will also hear Mr. Jacobson testify that none of the older males at the facility ever go out on grass, and that several of the younger male elephants spend a huge part of their days chained on two legs on a concrete slab. The record will also show that the baby elephants created at defendant's breeding facility are taken away from their mothers at a very young age to be trained for the circus and are not returned to live with their mothers. We will be able to show you videotape of one of barns at the CEC where the adult females are kept on chains for 15 to 16 hours each day, since this was part of the Rule 34 inspection that you allowed our experts to conduct, and we have a photograph of the inside of the barn for you to see what that looks like. plaintiff's motion that keeping these highly intelligent and social animals on concrete and other hard surfaces in chains for the majority of their lives takes them in violation of the Endangered Species Act because it harms them both physically and

psychologically by contributing to severe foot problems and leg injuries and other diseases and by denying them the ability to engage in their most basic normal behaviors, which are so essential to the lives of elephants, like being able to move around to explore their surroundings and to socialize with other elephants.

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You will hear testimony from Dr. Philip Ensley, a board certified veterinarian who worked with elephants at the San Diego Wildlife Animal Park and Zoo for almost 30 years, and as a result of two court orders issue by you, your Honor, was able to review every single record that has been produced in this case that in any way pertains to the medical condition of these elephants. It took Dr. Ensley over two years to obtain and review those records but they have proven to be extremely valuable information about the true condition of these animals. Dr. Ensley, who also attended both of the court-ordered inspections, one that took place on the road in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and the other that took place at the CEC in Florida, will tell you based on his review that keeping the elephants chained on concrete and other hard surfaces for so many hours over so many years has resulted in severe foot, leg, joint, and other musculoskeletal injuries to these animals. Dr. Ensley will also testify that these injuries occur not only in the older elephants who have been with the circus for many years, but even in the very young elephants who were born at Feld's

breeding facility.

Dr. Joyce Pool, one of the world's leading experts on elephant behavior, who has studied elephants in the wild for more than 30 years, and who also participated in one of the court-ordered inspections in this case, will explain to you that keeping elephants chained for so many hours of their lives is torturous for a species that needs to walk long miles each day to explore its surroundings and to socialize and communicate with other members of its species, and that such chaining practices clearly harm and harass the elephants by completely depriving these elephants of any semblance of a normal life of an elephant.

Dr. Benjamin Hart, who teaches at U.C. Davis, will tell you that because elephants are one of the most intelligent species on earth, this treatment is especially inhumane.

Based on all of this evidence, your Honor, plaintiffs believe they will have no trouble demonstrating that the chaining and confinement practices at issue here do in fact constitute the unlawful take of an endangered species.

Plaintiffs also contend that defendant's routine use of an instrument called a bullhook or ankus takes these Asian elephants in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The bullhook is a long club with a metal hook and point on the end of it and it looks something like this (indicating). The record will show that this instrument is routinely used by the elephant

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handlers employed by Feld Entertainment to discipline, correct, and punish the elephants when they do not do what they are told to do and do not behave as required.

We will present testimony from several former Ringling Brothers employees, including not only Mr. Rider who worked there for two-and-a-half years, but Mr. Frank Hagen, Mr. Gerald Ramos, Ms. Archele Hundley, Mr. Robert Tom, and Ms. Margaret Tom, who will describe the way this instrument is routinely used to hit, prod, jab, and even beat the elephants when they do not do as demanded of them and to keep them completely under the control of their handlers. We have a photo of the bullhook that we took at one of the inspections, or we didn't take, the photographer took it.

The record will also show that, although at the time this lawsuit was brought this instrument was universally referred to as a bullhook or an ankus by the circus. As the lawsuit has progressed and publicity about these practices has increased, defendant and others in the captive elephant industry began calling this instrument the more benign-sounding guide. However, regardless of what it is called, the evidence will show that the elephants used by defendant are routinely struck, prodded, jabbed and hooked by the bullhook on a daily basis and that this practice results in bloody lacerations and wounds on their bodies. You will hear deposition testimony from one of defendant's own long-time elephant handlers, Sunny Ridley, who

has been with the Ringling Brothers Circus for almost 40 years, he will testify that, quote, puncture wounds, end quote, caused by bullhooks are a common occurrence on the elephants, that he sees them three to four times each month, and you will also see that in sworn testimony to the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Ridley actually admitted that he sees hook boils, which are infections caused by bullhooks, an average of twice a week on the elephants. You will hear Feld Entertainment's own CEO acknowledge in his deposition testimony that elephants are struck and disciplined with bullhooks and that this is all, quote, part of their conditioning, end quote. And you will also hear him concede that lacerations on the elephants may in fact be caused by bullhooks.

We will also present internal documents that were produced to us only after you granted our motion to compel the elephant's medical records that discuss an elephant named Lutzi, one of the elephants with whom Mr. Rider worked, who was, quote, dripping blood all over the floor at the arena after being hooked. This was an internal document of Feld Entertainment and other documents from a veterinarian technician from Feld Entertainment stating that, quote, after this morning's baths, at least four of the elephants came in with multiple abrasions and lacerations from the hooks, end quote. Yet another internal Feld Entertainment document recounts that Tory Metzler, who is principally assigned to handling the young elephants, was seen,

quote, hitting the young elephant Angelica three times, end quote, while she was still chained on the train. Well also show you videotape of Mr. Metzler and other handlers hitting elephants with bullhooks.

We will also present the testimony of Sergeant Lanette Williams, a former San Jose police officer who observed multiple bloody wounds behind the ears of the elephants after they had been walked from the training to the arena and who also saw one of the Ringling Brothers' star elephant handlers, Mark Gabel, strike an elephant with a bullhook, causing it to bleed.

We will also present testimony from Elizabeth
Schwartz, who in Mexico City witnessed Gunther-Gabel Williams,
who for years was touted as the gold standard for Feld
Entertainment's elephant trainers, not only forcefully strike
elephants with bullhooks, but also whip a baby elephant in the
face with a whip. And we will show you videotape of these same
incident.

We will also present an official USDA investigative report that concluded that the use of a bullhook on a four-year-old elephant named Benjamin while he was swimming in a pond, quote, precipitated in his physical harm and ultimate death, end quote.

Another investigative record from the USDA that concludes that the handlers' use of a bullhook to hit a young elephant constitutes, quote, physical abuse, end quote, and yet

another USDA investigative report that concluded that the bullhook as well as pliers were used to correct baby elephants at the circus.

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You will also hear testimony from a gentleman named Pat Cuviello who for 20 years has been monitoring the circus when it comes to California who has seen both the Blue Unit and the Red Unit dozens of times over the years. Mr. Cuviello will testify that the use of bullhook to hit, jab, prod, and strike the elephants is pervasive throughout the circus. We will also show you videotape taken by Mr. Cuviello, Mr. Rider, and others over the years that shows how the bullhook is used on the elephants, and Mr. Cuviello will tell you that Feld Entertainment has gone to great length to thwart his efforts to monitor and record this mistreatment of the elephants. In fact, the record will also show that Feld Entertainment places a high premium on creating the illusion for the public that the endangered elephants used in its circus are healthy, happy, and thriving, when in fact these animals are living monotonous lives chained on railcars and other hard surfaces and in fear of the bullhook.

We will also present testimony from two experts, Carol Buckley who runs the world renowned elephant sanctuary for abused elephants in Tennessee, and Colleen Kinzley, who is the general curator of the Oakland zoo in California, who both once used bullhooks in this abusive way and who will testify that

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using the bullhook in a forceful and punitive way to instill fear in the elephants is the way it has always been done in the circus industry and that this use of the bullhook wounds and injures the elephants in many ways. Ms. Buckley and Ms. Kinzley, who also participated in the Court-ordered inspections, will testify that they saw many scars on the bodies of the elephants they inspected that are consistent with this traditional abusive way of using the bullhook. However, you will also hear testimony, your Honor, from plaintiff's expert Gail Laule, that there are other ways to control elephants and teach them to perform various behaviors that do not require the use of the bullhook and that this method is used by many zoos in this country. Plaintiff's experts will testify that defendant's use of the bullhook on the elephants wounds and harms these animals and also harasses them by significantly disrupting their normal behavior patterns because, in addition to inflicting actual wounds and other injuries on the bodies of the elephants, the use of the bullhook severely restricts the movement and behaviors of the elephants who live in fear of making a wrong move for which they will be corrected or disciplined with the hook. As a result, the experts will tell you these elephants simply do not behave like normal elephants, that even when they are off their chains they do not move about, socialize, and explore their surroundings. Rather, these highly intelligent social animals stand lifeless, dispirited in a stupor, afraid to engage in the most normal of elephant behaviors for fear of being hit with a bullhook other instrument. In short, your Honor, plaintiffs will have no difficulty demonstrating to the Court that the bullhook is used pervasively throughout the circus in ways that take the Asian elephants by wounding, harming, and harassing them.

The evidence will also show that many of these elephants spend a good deal of their time engaged in what is called stereotypic behavior. This is repetitive swaying back and forth or bobbing and weaving of their heads for no discernible reason other than to cope with extremely adverse conditions, being confined on chains for hours on end, and being deprived of the ability to move freely as an elephant should. And we have a clip to show you what that looks like.

(Video played.)

The experts, including Dr. Ros Clubb, one of the world's leading experts on the subject of stereotypic behavior, will explain to you that this behavior is universally accepted by most behavioral scientists as a sign that the animal is suffering from poor welfare. The evidence will show that this stereotypic behavior is seen not only in the older elephants like Karen and Jewell, who you will hear about who have been with the Ringling Brothers Circus for many years, but it is also prevalent in even the younger elephants who were created by Ringling Brothers at the CEC, including Sara and Angelica. We

have a clip of Sara.

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(Video played.)

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Dr. Poole will testify, your Honor, that in her more than 30 years of studying thousands of elephants in the wild, she has never seen that kind of behavior.

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Plaintiffs will also demonstrate that many of the elephants, both old and --

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THE COURT: How long does that behavior exist?

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MS. MEYER: Pardon me?

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THE COURT: How long does that behavior exist?

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MS. MEYER: How long do they engage in it? For hours

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at a time, your Honor. Hours. We'll present testimony about

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Plaintiffs will also demonstrate that many of the elephants, both old and young, have tested positive for tuberculosis, and that this is yet another indicator that the elephants are living extremely stressful lives.

The evidence will also show that all these acts are mistreatment, are rampant throughout the circus, Feld Entertainment has absolutely no system in place for ensuring that such behavior is reported to management, and it also has no system for ensuring that individuals who mistreat the elephants are reprimanded, let alone fired, for doing so.

Plaintiffs will present deposition testimony from James Andacht, Feld Entertainment's vice president of circus

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operations, who testified that there is no company policy, formal or informal, that would keep him informed of incidents of mistreatment, and he further testified that even if it were definitively determined that an employee had made an elephant bleed with a bullhook, this would not necessarily be a basis for taking any disciplinary action against that employee. and circumstances, although you will hear testimony by Archele Hundley and Robert Tom about a particular horrific beating of an elephant that they witnessed a couple of summers ago in Tulsa, Oklahoma by one of the Feld Entertainment's head elephant trainers, Sacha Houck, all of the Feld Entertainment's officials that we deposed about this matter, including both Mr. Feld, Mr. Andacht, and Mr. Houck himself, denied that Mr. Houck was fired or otherwise disciplined in any way for this incident. Rather, they insist that Mr. Houck did nothing wrong and that he left the circus of his own accord. Indeed you will hear Mr. Houck testify that Mr. Feld himself personally praised him for his work and invited him to come back to the circus at any time. Similarly, although you will hear and see with your own eyes that one of the principal elephant handlers on the Blue Unit, Troy Metzler, routinely hits young elephants with bullhooks, you will also hear Mr. Metzler testify via his deposition that he has never been reprimanded for any such treatment, and he continues to work for the circus to this day. In our view, all of this evidence shows that either Feld Entertainment

deliberately looks the other way or actively condones and acquiesces in this mistreatment of the Asian elephants in its care. Hence, these acts of mistreatment which are so pervasive can easily be attributed to the corporation as a whole rather simply the aberrational acts of a few individuals.

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Plaintiffs will also demonstrate that they have standing to bring this lawsuit. Mr. Rider will testify that when he worked at Ringling Brothers in the late 1990s he developed a close relationship with many of the elephants but that he could not stand to see them mistreated on a daily basis by being chained all the time, hit with bullhooks, and denied their ability to engage in normal elephant behaviors. testify that because he cares for these elephants, whom he affectionately refers to as his girls, he wants to visit them, but that whenever he has a chance to do so he is again faced with the suffering of these animals that he cares so much about. Mr. Rider's dilemma, having to choose between visiting the elephants that he cares about or not visiting them to avoid seeing them suffer has already been upheld as a sufficient basis for Article III standing by the Court of Appeals in this case, and Mr. Rider will have no trouble demonstrating this injury to the Court. Mr. Rider is so devoted to helping these elephants get a better life that for the last eight years with funding from some of the organizational plaintiffs and others who care about these animals he has traveled around the country living in a used Volkswagen van to educate the public, legislatures, and the media about what really goes on behind the scenes of the circus. The record will show that Mr. Rider, a man of little means and only a high school education, has proven to be an eloquent spokesperson and advocate for his girls.

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Plaintiff Animal Protection Institute will also demonstrate that it has standing. Through the testimony of its vice president, Nicole Paquette, who will explain that because the defendant has failed to apply for and obtain a permit to engage in any of these unlawful activities, the Animal Protection Institute has been deprived of all the information to which it is statutorily entitled in Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act which governs what must be provided and proven to the official wildlife service in order to engage in otherwise unlawful takes of a endangered species.

The plaintiff will also show that although the United States Department of Agriculture investigators charged with enforcing a different statute, the Animal Welfare Act, routinely finds that Ringling Brothers has violated that statute. The agency officials with authority to bring the enforcement actions against Feld Entertainment consistently either decline to do so or simply look the other way. This is why the plaintiffs in this case have invoked the citizen suit provision of the Endangered Species Act to do something to end these inhumane practices against an endangered species. It is a well

established Endangered Species Act case that once the Court finds that plaintiffs have shown that in the absence of injunctive relief a take of a endangered species is likely to occur, the Court must fashion an appropriate remedy, that will prevent these unlawful acts from continuing, and that this should be done without regard to any financial hardship this may cause the defendant, because the words of the Supreme Court in the 1982 case Weisberger verses Rosemary Barsola, quote: The balance of hardships and the public interest tip heavily in favor of endangered species, end quote. Therefore, should the Court find that any of the plaintiff's claims are substantiated by a preponderance of the evidence, it should issue both declaratory and injunctive relief that will ensure that these unlawful practices will cease.

In addition, your Honor, although the Court has held that Mr. Rider has standing with respect to only the seven elephants with whom he worked, plaintiffs believe that because the record will overwhelmingly show a pervasive pattern of abuse and mistreatment throughout the circus, the Court will need to fashion injunctive relief that will protect all of these endangered elephants from continuing to be chained for long hours and struck with bullhooks because such relief is the only way to ensure that this unlawful conduct will come to an end for any of these endangered elephants.

Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, counsel.

Counsel?

OPENING STATEMENT

MR. SIMPSON: May it please the Court.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. SIMPSON: I'm John Simpson, representing Feld Entertainment.

Your Honor, this case is not about abuse of the elephants. This case is about eliminating elephants from the circus. This lawsuit was brought to challenge Feld Entertainment's use of the guide, the bullhook, whatever term they want to use, and the tethering of Asian elephants. These are husbandry practices that have been used by captive elephant handlers for centuries, if not thousands of years. They are generally accepted. They meet the standards of animal husbandry promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act.

They seek an injunction against these tools because they know as well as we do that if you ban these tools you cannot have elephants in a traveling show. Without elephants, the Ringling Brothers Circus is not a circus. For them to come in here and imply that they're not against the circus is like saying they're not against baseball, just the bats and balls.

This is an assault on an American institution. The Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus has been producing live shows for more than a century. Every one of those shows has had Asian elephants in them. Millions of people have been able to appreciate and see these magnificent elephants through these circus performances. People who can't afford expensive ecovacations in Africa can just go to the show. If they can't afford to buy a ticket, they can watch these animals on the streets of Washington, D.C. as they're walked from the train to the arena. Even if you can't get to the show, all you have to do is go to the arena where most of the time they're outside in their pens and all you have to do is look through the fence.

There's been no abuse of these elephants, much less has there been a "taking," and we welcome the opportunity to come in and put an end to these offensive claims. As far as we're concerned: Bring it on.

This is a case of first impression, your Honor, and there's a reason for that. The result they seek in this case was never intended by Congress when they passed the Endangered Species Act. Ringling Brothers was presenting elephants in this circus in 1973 when this statute was passed. It was presenting them in 1976 when the Asian elephant was declared endangered. At no point has Congress ever said you can't have elephants in the circus. One of their own exhibits shows a long mount on the steps of the United States Capitol: 24 elephants. No one came

out of that building and tried to arrest anybody.

Plaintiff's view of a "taking" is a standard that

Congress never intended and nobody can comply with. Under their

view of a "taking," the only institutions in the United States

that aren't "taking" their elephants are Carol Buckley's

sanctuary, the Oakland zoo, and maybe another zoo in North

Carolina. Every other zoo, circus in the United States would be

"taking" their elephants under these theories, and that includes

the National Zoo in northwest D.C. Congress didn't intend such

an absurd outcome. We submit that if it did, it would simply

have been an easy way to just ban Asian elephants from the

circus. It doesn't take very many words to accomplish that, but

Congress didn't do that.

When this law was passed in 1973, the welfare of captive animals, whether they were endangered or not, was governed by the Animal Welfare Act. That remains the case today. What they're basically saying is that Congress somehow intended that the "taking" provision preempted the AWA with respect to captive animals. The Endangered Species Act says exactly the opposite. Section 11(h) specifically preserves all powers of the Secretary of Agriculture over possession of animals.

What we have here, Judge, is a philosophical debate between two parties, one of whom apparently doesn't like the circus, doesn't like animal acts, doesn't like animals in

captivity perhaps. They're free to express that opinion. It's a free country. But the Ringling Brothers Circus also has an equal right to engage in this form of artistic expression, and the only real constriction here is, are the elephants harmed?

And the evidence in this case will show that they're not.

If I could direct your attention, your Honor, to the statutory framework, what is a "taking"? Under the Endangered Species Act a "taking" is prohibited by Section 9(a)(1)(b). It is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to "take" any such species. "Take" is a concept that only applies to animals in the wild. An animal that's already in captivity can't be taken. That's the ordinary definition of the word. That's the word that the case law when this statute was passed applied. That's the meaning that the existing statutory structure applied. And we say based on this one word, that this is a Chevron Step I case. Congress has spoken to the issue. As your Honor ruled with respect to the preact exception, there's no reason to look at what Fish & Wildlife did.

Now, there's a further definition in Section 319 that lists a long laundry list of things that can't be done. You can't harass, you can't harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect. Those words take meaning by the company they keep. These are terms that apply only to wild animals because they don't lose their original root, which is in the

preceding prohibition, "take." We say this is a list of things that you can't do, a broader list than ever existed before this statute was passed, but it only applies to animals in the wild.

Fish & Wildlife, as they note, has taken a somewhat different view. They've looked at this and said, if you go beyond Chevron Step I, they've looked at this and said in theory this could be applied to captive animals. What they've also said in the same breath, you can't "take" a captive animal if it's, number one, a generally accepted husbandry practice, and, number two, it meets the standards of the Animal Welfare Act, so we get back to the same position through their definition, through our position, does it comply with the AWA?

As they mentioned, what they're alleging in this case out of this definition is these elephants have been wounded, harassed, and harmed. Fish & Wildlife Service have got regulations that deal with two of these terms.

Now, "wound" has no definition, there's no regulatory definition, so that leaves your Honor with the plain meaning. In the dictionary, medical, wound means any penetration of the skin, so a wound is a wound is a wound. There's no basis in this law for saying what are the good wounds, what are the bad wounds? They don't like bullhook wounds, but their definition would preclude surgery, injection of medication, blood tests, foot trimming, cuticle work. It would preclude the acupuncture that Carol Buckley gives her elephants, so we don't think this

even has application here, it couldn't be intended that Congress wanted to ban veterinary care for captive animals.

"Harass" does have a definition. As you can see, as she pointed out, the focus is on disruption of normal behavior patterns, unless, however, as they also said, it's a captive animal, in which case if it's an animal husbandry practice that meets or exceeds AWA standards, it's not a "take," it's not a "take."

And with respect to the rest of this, what's the normal behavorial pattern of a circus elephant? When Fish & Wildlife adopted this definition, 1998, they made it very clear that the comparison is not between what a circus elephant does and what some presumed wild elephant does, because that would automatically make captivity illegal. The relevant reference point is normal behavior for that elephant, and they're going to have no evidence that any of this conduct has disrupted the feeding, sheltering, or breeding patterns of any of these elephants.

The third term, "harm," as defined by Fish & Wildlife, an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. There's no allegation that these elephants are being killed in this case, that the seven elephants are dead, so we're left with injury. The Supreme Court in <a href="Sweethome Chapter">Sweethome Chapter</a> made it very clear actual injury has to be proven, not presumed, not mental distress. An actual physical injury. They can't show that. And the rest of

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this definition, significant habitat modification or degradation, has no application to a captive animal. Again, what's the habitat of a circus elephant? It's the circus.

What this shakes out, Judge, I think, are these critical questions when you analyze their evidence, when you look at their videos, when you look at their photographs, and when you listen to their witnesses, is it a generally accepted husbandry practice that complies with the AWA? If the answer to that is "yes," it's over. That's it. If you go beyond that, is it a wound? Do you really see a wound on some of these videos? They make contact with the elephant. Do you really see cuts? Do you really see penetration of the skin? Most of the time not. In fact, almost all of the time not. Did it significantly disrupt this elephant's ability to have shelter? Did it significantly disrupt this elephant's ability to breed? Did it actually injure the animal? Those are the questions.

Ringling Brother Barnum & Bailey Circus has 54 Asian elephants. It's the largest herd in North America. It represents 18% of all the Asian elephants in the United States. There are 19 of them that travel with the shows. The remaining 35 reside at the Center For Elephant Conservation, which is near Orlando, Florida, or at the Williston II Tails Ranch, which is also in Florida. Ringling Brothers' elephants are cared for by dedicated professionals who live with these animals. They have

dedicated their lives to these animals. This is the case at CEC. This is the case on the Blue Unit.

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Gary Jacobson, who will testify in this case, is a man who has more than 40 years of experience with Asian elephants. He lives on the property at the CEC, or used to. He works there with his wife, Kathy, who recently have been busier than usual because they had two mothers down there who gave birth to two new calfs. During the birthing process, Gary actually slept in the barn with the two mothers. We had, back in the fall, in November, Sally gave birth to a calf named Sindara. Gary slept in the barn to take care of her to make sure she got the proper care. Ten minutes before inauguration day in this January, Bonnie, another elephant, gave birth to Barack, a healthy 250-pound male elephant. Barack was a significant achievement because Barack was the first elephant conceived by artificial insemination techniques at Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey CEC. Bonnie, herself the mother of that elephant, was born to Ringling in 1994. She lives in the CEC with her parents, Sid and Vance.

In addition to the family of caretakers that Feld Entertainment has tending to these elephants, the corporation has made an institutional commitment to these animals. This is a family-run business that produces family entertainment. These elephants are part of the performing family. When they retire, they go to the CEC and live their days out. The company pays

for their care. If it was just simply dollars and cents, they would unload them, they would give them away, or, as happens in some institutions, euthanize them, but this company is dedicated to these animals and it is going to stick with them regardless of the outcome of this case and regardless of the cost.

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The Ringling herd, as I mentioned, is the largest herd of captive elephants outside of Asia. The significant point about that is that this is a herd that is self-perpetuating, and that you can't say that about any other herd in the United States, and when you look at the plight of the Asian elephant today, that is a significant fact. While we're here in a courtroom in Washington, D.C. talking about whether well-cared for circus elephants are "taken," wild Asian elephants die by the hundreds in their home countries. They're shot, poisoned and electrocuted by farmers whose crops they steal. by buses and trains that cross over natural migration routes, they live as beggers on the streets of Bangkok with their mahouts, so given the plight that those animals face, an institution like Feld Entertainment that reproduces these animals, may well be their last defense in their battle against extinction.

Ringling Brother has bred 18 Asian elephants. They've had 22 births. Four of those calfs have died but 18 have survived. That's the most successful breeding program anywhere in North American. Plaintiffs apparently believe that those

elephants are better off never having been born. We believe that they contribute to the propagation of the species.

Feld Entertainment's commitment to this elephant and these species stands in contrast to the plaintiffs and their expert witnesses. None of the plaintiff's has ever bred and elephant in captivity. Carol Buckley's sanctuary prohibits breeding. It's simply an elephant Hospice, and all the baby elephants that have been born at the Oakland zoo have died under the methods advocated by Ms. Kinzley.

Let's look at the elephants at issue. Your Honor, summary judgment rulings of '07 limited this case to six animals, presumably the ones that Mr. Rider claims an attachment to. These are our girls. Jewell, Lutzi, Susan, Mysore, currently reside at the CEC.

I'm going to show you an excerpt from a videotape that was taken during the Court-ordered inspection in this case, which is Defendant's Exhibit 27. As you'll note, as we pan across here, right here this elephant is Jewell, or excuse me, Lutzi. This elephant is Jewell, this elephant is Mysore, and this elephant is Susan. Jewell, Lutzi, and Susan came to Ringling Brothers in 1954 in the first administration of Dwight Eisenhower when John Ringling still owned the show and when Kenneth Feld, the CEO of the company, was seven years old. They've been with the company ever since. As you can tell just by looking at them, they're in outstanding health. They've

lived longer than the average life of elephants in the wild or in captivity.

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Now, Mysore, this elephant right here -
THE COURT: How can I tell they're in outstanding health? I'm sorry.

MR. SIMPSON: I just think just by looking at them from a lay person's standpoint. For their age, in their mid-50s, Jewell is 57, Lutzi is 58, Susan is 57, and Mysore, which is interesting, she's 62 years old. She came to the show in 1986, and may be one of the oldest elephants alive today in North America.

By the way, one of their own expert witnesses will tell you under oath that this scene you're looking at is a "taking" as you see it, because they're there not choosing to be involved in that inspection, so that's a "taking."

"taken" are Karen and Nicole, who currently are performing elephants on the Blue Unit. This was a video taken on November 13th, 2007, at the Palace in Auburn Hills, the home of the Detroit Pistons, where the Court's inspection of the traveling show was ordered. The elephant on the left is Karen. The elephant on the right is Nicole. Karen came to the show in 1969. Nicole was imported in 1980 from the country of Burma. She was born in captivity with five of her sisters. That was the last transaction in which Feld Entertainment imported Asian

elephants. They're standing outside in their pens. You can see the tent in the back is their elephant barn. This wire that goes across the screen is the electric fence that contains them. You can see Karen standing on a tub, which is provided for their amusement. Nobody made her get up on that tub. They're given browse to play with, to eat, to stretch themselves with, and to play with. You can tell that these two elephants are very close. They get a chance to socialize. They ride together in the train cars, they travel together. They're very close.

And let's not forget Zina. Mr. Rider forgot Zina when he was asked. We've not forgotten Zina. Zina is this little elephant right here on the right side. She came to the show in 1972 with the William Smart Circus but your Honor's rulings have excluded her from the case.

Now, tools at issue in this lawsuit. We call it the guide, they call it the bullhook. It's got many terms: ankus, stick, hook. Smokey Jones, a famous elephant trainer from the 1950s, actually called it a guide. Whatever nomenclature you use, it's a husbandry tool that is designed to guide the actions of an Asian elephant, and it is important in this case because the guide is the bedrock of what is called free contact.

And what is free contact? Free contact is a method of handling an elephant where a handler gets right in next to the animal and gives her cues and interacts with her directly. The quide is the necessary tool for that because it's the only way,

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and their experts aren't going to disagree with this, it's the only way that an elephant can be handled safely in a free contact environment. They advocate protected contact, which is a method in which the elephant is interacted with from behind a barrier. There is no direct contact with a human being. If the elephant needs foot care, she's got to stick her foot through the fence, and you can see right away if she doesn't choose to stick her foot through that fence, you're not going to get foot care. Protective contact cannot be used to run a traveling Free contact, centuries old; protective contact, relatively new. Both, however, are generally accepted methods of handling elephants. It depends on the situation. At the CEC, for example, the male animals are handled in protective contact because adult male elephants generally are too aggressive to be handled in free contact. However, all the females are handled in free contact. All the females on the rode are handled in free contact, and all the youngsters, male or female, are trained in free contact.

Plaintiffs have declared war on the free contact system. It's not without of significance that one of their expert witnesses, Gail Walley, sells protected contact methods to institutions it would, I suppose, replace them.

So how does this work? I brought a guide, and I don't know where they got theirs, maybe the Smithsonian, and this is what's used at Ringling Brothers. This guide was produced in

this case during the inspection. This is Gary Jacobson's guide. What is the point of this thing? Ninety percent of the time when you train an elephant the basic approach is to get the elephant to do the behavior by simply having her do it over and over again. Raise your foot: reach down with your hand and grab the foot. Once she figures that out, she gets rewarded either with food or with praise. This is used simply to cue the animal. You can always do foot with your hand; you could always do come here with your hand, but other things, like head down, lay down, you can't reach, so this is an extension of the handler's arm.

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Now, their view of this instrument is absolute. Their view is this is an inherently inhumane instrument. It can't be used in any way that doesn't injure the elephant. They'll probably at some point hand it to your Honor, and just like everybody does, you put it on your palm, what's it like behind my ear and so forth and so on, but this has nothing to do with what an elephant feels. What a human feels has no relationship to how this feels to an elephant, and there's not going to be any credible evidence that use of this instrument actually harms these animals or hurts these animals. Elephants are called pachyderms for a reason. Pachyderm means thick skin. These are very large animals. A baby elephant at birth could weigh as much as an NFL football player. They roughhouse from the earliest years. They scratch themselves with all kinds of

instruments, including brows, including bamboo shards. They are rugged animals. Using this instrument does not harm them, it does not harass them, and it does not hurt them. Anybody who handles elephants will tell you that an elephant will feel pain at some level, but the fact that an elephant feels pain doesn't mean that this instrument causes pain.

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They've got a lot of videos that show people making contact with this instrument and the animal, but what they don't have is any credible evidence that this instrument actually injures an elephant, actually causes the elephant any harm. On the infrequent occasion when the hook penetrates the hide, which happens, it does happen, it looks basically just like a fly bite in the wild. It's no more significant than that. The interesting thing about fly bites is that elephants swat flies but they don't swat the bullhook.

Plaintiffs have about 94 hours of videotape on their list made by people like Mr. Cuviello who made it their life's work to film every minute of the circus, but it's all going to boil down to a few seconds, a few seconds. None of this shows incorrect use of the guide. Some of it shows bad judgment by some people who have been reprimanded or who no longer work for the company, but none of rises to a "taking." And this includes the ancient footage that they want to show you from the days of Gunther Gabel-Williams. Some of this stuff is 21 years old. Gunther Gabel-Williams had different methods, but Gunther

Gabel-Williams was not an animal abusers, and Gunther

Gabel-Williams died in 2001 so he can't come into this courtroom

and defend what is being captured on video as doing.

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Now, the other instrument at issue here are what we call tethers, they call chains. Elephants are very large Tethering is a sound husbandry practice. Chains are animals. used because they're big animals, and they're easy to keep Tethers are necessary for veterinary procedures, including the birthing process, but Ringling Brothers' elephants, regardless of whether they're on the unit or CEC, spend most of their day on tethers totally unrestrained. At the CEC Jewell and her friends spend time out on two hundred acres of pasture land, sandy soil, and grass. Karen and Nicole, as you saw, spent most of their days in an electric pen, totally unrestricted. Tethers are used primarily at night at both institutions. At the CEC they start from about 4:30 in the afternoon and goes to 7:30 the next day. On the Blue Unit it starts about 10:30 or whenever the last show is over with and goes to about 7:30 the next day. Tethering is necessary to ensure that you have a good handle on what the elephant is eating and drinking, and most people will tell you that the first sign of disease is lack of food and water intake. necessary to keep more strong-willed elephants from picking on others and not taking their food, and it's also necessary to prevent them from disturbing each other while they sleep.

Elephants are tethered in such a way that they can take one or two steps to the front, they can socialize with either of their neighbors, they're tethered in compatible groups, they can completely lie down, whether it's at the unit, the CEC, or in the train car.

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Now, there isn't going to be any evidence, any credible evidence, that tethering these animals causes them any When they travel on the road they travel in railcars that are specifically designed to transport elephants. Karen and Nicole ride in a single 90-foot car with another elephant. They're tethered facing each other. They can socialize, they can touch each other with their trunks. They're under constant 24/7 care by the handlers who ride in the car with them. There's a compartment in one of the Blue Unit elephant cars for the tender. All of their waste is picked up. Their solid waste is picked up and bagged. Urine drains out through holes in the floor. When it doesn't drain out, saw dust is put on it. It's swept up and also bagged. They're fed during the transport, they're watered during the transport. On some occasions when they stop, they're bathed. On some occasions when they stop for water they're actually untethered and moved around in the car. Plaintiff's own evidence, if you believe their theories, will show that this does not cause harm. Their numbers indicate that the average time spent traveling by the two traveling elephants is about 13% of the year. The average trip is about a day.

Most of them are shorter. The one or two she pointed out happened once or twice at most a year. And even on these longer trips, the elephants are disembarked for four- or five-hour rest stops. What it basically boils down to is the train is no different than a barn with stalls. It's no different than a traveling barn, and putting them in that train does not cause them harm, an injury, or wound.

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Who knows elephants? Plaintiffs are in here trying to tell you how to handle and train elephants, but they've never done it. The ASPCA, AWI, have never handled or taken care of an elephant. Neither has API. Ironically, one of the organizational plaintiffs, the FFA, actually had an Asian elephant. She died. They now have an African elephant who lives at the Black Beauty Ranch in total isolation with no ability to breed, conditions that one of their own experts say is a "taking," so I guess that means shame on them.

Tom Rider was on the lowest rung of the animal crew. He's got no expertise with elephants. He's never trained one, he's never even seen it done by Ringling Brothers.

So they're bringing in what they call experts. Drs. Hart and Dr. Ensley are two veterinarians. Dr. Ensley is not an elephant veterinarian. His main focus has been on birds. He was not the elephant specialist at the zoo where he worked before he retired. Dr. Hart is a veterinarian who studies the issues in small animals, such as why dogs eat grass, and the

urination marking of house cats. Carol Buckley and Colleen
Kinzley are not elephant trainers. They've not done that or
participated in that for fifteen years or more, and the methods
they say they saw in the 1980s are irrelevant. They don't have
any firsthand knowledge about how Ringling Brothers currently
trains its elephant. Joyce Poole is known for her observation
of African elephants, but she's never had any extensive studying
of Asian elephants and she's never worked with Asian elephants
in captivity. Gail Laule and Ros Clubb have never handled
elephants in free contact, and neither one of them even bothered
to come to our Court-ordered inspection, so they're drawing
conclusions about elephants they've never seen.

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This gap in experience stands in stark contrast to Feld Entertainment's witnesses, who collectively have more than two hundred years in the reproduction, care, and handling of the Asian elephant. Dennis Schmitt is a world-renowned veterinarian in the reproduction of the Asian elephant. He's only one of a handful of people in the whole world who have ever done this successfully. He's worked with the entire Ringling Brothers herd. He's been the veterinarian for numerous zoos and other institutions in the United States. He's worked with Asian elephants for more than 25 years.

Mike Keel, who is the deputy director of the Oregon zoo, has worked with Asian elephants in captivity for 32 years in all aspects of their maintenance and care.

Carrie and Gary Johnson are renowned elephant trainers and presenters, have worked with Asian elephants since they were teenagers. Many of their elephants have appeared in well-known movies, television commercials, and videos.

Finally Ted Friend, who is a renowned professor of animal science as Texas A&M University, is the only expert witness in the case who has done a relevant study on the issues in this case. He was commissioned by the USDA long before he became a witness here to study the traveling conditions of circus elephants in railroad cars and trucks and found that it produced no harm, and by the way, was named Humanitarian of the Year by the Animal Protection Institute in 1986.

Causation is a major issue in this case. A problem that they're going to have is, no matter what "take" really means, they can't prove that the guide and the tethers cause any harm. They can't prove that the conditions that these seven elephants, six elephants, have has anything to do with the guide or tethers.

The most important evidence we think in this case is your Honor's own Court-ordered inspection. This Court ordered that Ringling Brothers produce these animals for inspection by the plaintiff's expert witnesses for four hours at each place. Four hours. They had ample time to cover every square inch of these animals' bodies. We were told to show up, produce the elephants, and follow their directions. The only consideration

was safety. There's no evidence that any direction that these 1 experts gave was denied, or any request that they had was 2 denied, and they found nothing. They found no fresh injuries 3 that are in any way related to the tethers or to the guide. Now 4 they've come up with theories about what might cause this and 5 they've speculated about what might cause some of these 6 7 conditions, but they have all admitted already under oath that there's not a single scientific study that demonstrates that any 8 of the conditions that these people found in these old elephants 9 has anything to do with guides, has anything to do with 10 tethering. We think this is particularly significant for Karen 11 12 and Nicole who currently are performing elephants on the Blue Units, and if you believe Mr. Rider's exaggerated claims, these 13 two elephants should have been covered with bloody hook marks 14 and hook boils, because beaten every day, that's the only way 15 they ever get them to do anything. These experts found nothing. 16 I think when this case unfolds it's going to be 17 18

readily apparent that a lot of this is based on myths and urban legends.

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The first one, myth number one, an elephant only will respond to domination, fear, and intimidation. The only way that an elephant can be successfully trained is through fear and trust. An elephant doesn't do something because the elephant fears a beating. An elephant does something because she and the handler have earned mutual trust and respect for each other.

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understand that that's going to happen. Another myth, swaying, no actual injury, so these elephants, some of which sway, that must be evidence of mistreatment. Nobody knows why some elephants sway. Nobody knows. Carol Buckley's -- some of Carol Buckley's elephants at the sanctuary that she runs were presumably never tethered or managed with a bullhook. They sway. There will be evidence in this case that wild elephants sway. There will be evidence in this case that some elephants sway because they anticipate something good about to happen, like being fed, being watered, or performing. There's evidence that elephants may learn to sway from other elephants. There will be evidence that some elephants sway because they figure out by swaying, since it is now politically incorrect to sway, you might get some food thrown your way, but whatever it is, it's not evidence of a "taking." From a veterinary medicine standpoint, swaying has no adverse effect on the animal whatsoever. It's not injurious, It's not reflective of an injury, so if it's not a veterinarian medicine issue, it's not a "taking."

As the inspection in this case shows, Jewell sways sometimes; Lutzi sways virtually never. Mysore sways not at all, Susan sways not at all. All these elephants have been with Ringling Brothers for 50, 45 years, all under the same conditions at the CEC, so there's no commonality. Karen and Nicole travel on the Blue Unit under identical conditions.

Karen sways sometimes; Nicole doesn't sway at all. Karen sways sometimes when she's tethered, sways sometimes when she's not tethered. So it all ultimately is a myth.

This is another one, myth number three, since they don't have evidence on their videotapes of these elephants being beaten in public, being beaten on these animal walks, being beaten in their performance, they have to have a theory to

explain why. They're beaten behind the scenes to make them perform. Anybody that knows elephants knows that if you use violent and oppressive methods to train an elephant, that elephant is going to have to be handled exactly that way. So if those methods are used behind the scene, they're going to have to be used in public. There's no other way. You don't turn it off and on like a light switch.

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The fourth myth Ms. Meyer mentioned in her opening is what I call the conspiracy with the USDA. The ironic thing about this case, Judge, is that all these -- I wouldn't say all, but most of all of these exhibits and videotapes have been presented by plaintiffs or their compatriots to the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Rider gave them a detailed affidavit of everything he said he saw. Ms. Hundley did the same thing with respect to what she said she saw. has been going on for ten years and the USDA in every single case has come back and said these things that you're telling us don't violate the Animal Welfare Act. Now, they don't like that result, so rather than accepting they might be wrong and USDA might be right, they've invented this theory that there's some kind of conspiracy between Feld Entertainment and the government. Mr. Rider has actually stated publicly that it's a coverup. Now, what the government would have, what interest they would have in covering up anything the circus does is never explained. All the evidence in this case is going to show is

that the USDA is doing its job, but this conspiracy doesn't stop there. Fish & Wildlife was sent the 60-day notice letters that they sent to Mr. Feld. Fish & Wildlife has never intervened or ever written a letter saying Feld Entertainment, you're "taking" your Asian elephants. They've never taken that position.

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This circus is also inspected and investigated by state fishing game officials, local animal control officers, and the ASPCA itself. There were 35 such reviews in the two-year period that Rider worked at the circus. None of these people found any violation of cruelty laws or any other state law with respect to the guide, with respect to the tethers.

This theory that they're pursuing puts the Court in a legal dilemma. They can't sue Feld Entertainment under the Animal Welfare Act because it's well established that there's no private cause of action under that statute. They can't sue the USDA under the Administrative Procedure Act because an agency's decision not to prosecute is judicially unreviewable since the Supreme Court's decision in <a href="Heckler">Heckler</a> verses <a href="Chaney">Chaney</a>. What they could do, if you believe their rhetoric, they could sue the USDA under Section 7 of the ESA for not running its programs in a way that does not preserves the Asian elephant, but I think they must know that that claim would be laughable because the USDA has cracked down on those people who abuse elephants. They've taken the licenses away from elephant exhibiters. They've confiscated elephants. Carol Buckley has two of them right now

as a result of that process. They attempt an end run around these hurdles by suing a private party who has done nothing more than rely on duly promulgated regulations of fish and wild life and have been inspected time and time again by USDA with no finding of violations. We don't think the citizens suit provision of this statute was intended to accomplish that.

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Your Honor, I just want to briefly focus on a couple of points. You're listening to the testimony that Mr. Rider and others, I think, keep in mind the concept "actions speak louder than words." Mr. Rider says that he quit the circus because he could not stand the way the elephants were treated. He quit Ringling Brothers, but he didn't tell this Court and what he didn't tell the D.C. Circuit, is that as soon as he quit that job, he took another job handling elephants or working with elephants in a European circus and he went to work for one of the same people that he says abused the Ringling Brothers' elephants. He also never brought his complaints to the attention of any management people on the show the entire time he was there. He claims that he feared being fired, but even after he had lined up another job and on the very day he quit his job at Ringling, he said nothing about this. Despite what he says now, I think it's pretty obvious that he either had no attachment to these animals, or whatever he saw didn't bother him, but either way, he didn't do anything about it, which makes no sense if you believe his testimony that they're as dear to

his heart as his own children.

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And the evidence will show in this case that he did not speak out about abusive elephants until he started taking money from animal special interests in March of 2000, and he's been paid now over the last nine years more than \$165,000 from animal groups, including the plaintiffs in this case, the plaintiff's lawyers in this case, and the Wildlife Advocacy Project, which is run by the plaintiff's lawyers in this case, and we say actions speak louder than words.

The ASPCA is in here before this Court complaining about how Ringling treats its elephants, complaining about how USDA doesn't do its job. The ironic thing about that is the ASPCA is empowered under the laws of the state of New York to arrest anyone that they think is engaged in animal cruelty. This is a law that has existed since 1866. Their human law enforcement officers are peace officers who can make arrests and seek warrants and seek to have people prosecuted. The Ringling Brothers Circus has gone through New York for the last 50 years. They've gone through Madison Square Garden, the NASA Colosseum. These animals have been walked on the streets of New York. These humane law enforcement officers have gone on those walks. These humane law enforcement officers have inspected these animals at Madison Square Gardens, including two such inspections while this case was pending, and ironically the one that was done, the last one that was done in 2002, the officer

was told specifically look at these elephants, look at these Blue Unit elephants, and at no time did they find any violations, at no time did they find any mistreatment of these animals. They have the power to bust the entire circus if they really thought that these animals were being abused, but they haven't done it, so we say actions speak louder than words.

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I put this next thought in here just to emphasize, Judge, that the way this case has proceeded in discovery and the way it's going to be litigated by the plaintiffs, it's as if the elephants were plaintiffs. It's not an elephant class action. The issue here is injury to these organizations or Mr. Rider, not the elephants. The organizations, your Honor has ruled already don't have any informational injury, and we don't think that is any different, API is no different than the rest of them, so it's going to boil down to Mr. Rider, it going to boil down to Mr. Rider's so-called aesthetic injury. That is the only basis on which the D.C. Circuit allowed this case to go forward. So what they're going to have to demonstrate is harm to the six elephants, and they're going to have to further demonstrate that that constitutes an aesthetic injury to Mr. Rider, because, absent that, there is no case. Absent that, there's no basis to proceed. And absent that, it doesn't matter how some other elephant or some other unit that he never saw is treated or mistreated.

Your Honor, that is our response to what we think is

this case. Head on, we're not going to step aside at all.

We're running it right up the gut. We're not standing on legal technicalities. We're not standing on some abstract legal argument. There is no "taking." But at half time there are some fatal legal flaws that we're going to have to go over.

There's not going to be standing. Even if you believe Rider's testimony, you can't redress his injury because the elephants that he's attached to are not in a position where he's ever going to be able to observe them again at the CEC. If you do what he wants, which is ban this guide and ban chains, Karen and Nicole are coming off the road. They're going to go to either Williston or the CEC where he's got no ability to observe them. There's no way to redress his injury. The case is moot for the same reasons for the five CEC elephants.

The "taking" prohibition does not apply to captive animals. I've already covered that. All seven elephants are preact and are exempt from this prohibition anyway. Now, we went over that a little bit. We went over it in summary judgment, but we're going to have to renew it at the Rule 52(c) stage to preserve it for appeal.

Plaintiffs have a real problem with their 60-day notice letters because they didn't even challenge the use of the chains in the one that they sent Mr. Feld for Rider and the ASPCA. Sixty-day notice letters are more than just notice to the violator. They define the jurisdiction of the Court with

the action.

And finally, we think the entire way Fish & Wildlife has set this up, which is basically to say you can't take a captive animal that's being held in compliance with the AWA, puts this entire matter within the primary jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

I just want to conclude, your Honor, with a single point. They have an Exhibit 113, I think. It's a video called Elephant, Lord of the Jungle. It's a very powerful, moving film. It starts out with a scene with a male elephant with very large tusks coming through the mist in a forest, and you don't know when you first see this film until much later that this elephant has a bullet in his head. He's been shot by a poacher, and what they do is they don't just kill him outright. They'll shoot them in the head and wait for him to wander around the countryside and die a slow, agonizing death, and that's what's happening to Lord of the Jungle. It takes him four months to die. Now, that elephant died and that elephant's tusks were chopped out of his head with an ax. This took place in 1990.

In 1990, Jewell, Lutzi, Susan, Mysore, Nicole, Zion, were all on the Blue Unit or the Red Unit. They were all performing elephants with the Ringling Brothers Circus.

Nineteen years later they're still with us and they're still going strong, and the reason for that is Mr. Feld and Feld Entertainment's commitment to them.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you, counsel.

How long is the direct of your first witness? The reason I'm asking, it's almost the noon hour. I have to be mindful the cafeteria closes at two. I intended to break for lunch at one o'clock for an hour.

MS. MEYER: I think she's going to take probably about an hour-and-a-half to two hours, your Honor, and there's a couple of preliminary things that will take a little bit of time too.

THE COURT: Such as?

MS. MEYER: A couple of --

THE COURT: Before you called her as a witness?

MS. MEYER: Yes. There are some charts that we request like to move into evidence.

THE COURT: All right. Why don't you come up to the lectern there?

MS. MEYER: Your Honor, we have prepared three charts that we thought would be useful for the Court to have to sort of follow. It's basically akin to a glossary, just sort of follow what's going on in this case. One is, the first is a chart of the --

THE COURT: Do you know what? Before you start, let me give the court reporter a short recess. We started around 10:20 or so and it's been a long time. I don't want to overload the court reporter. Let's take a fifteen-minute recess. It may

well be that whatever these preliminary matters are, it may take us to 12:30. Maybe we'll go to lunch before you call your first witness.

MS. MEYER: Okay, great.

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THE COURT: I'll do this periodically. There are some other matters before me. I'm going to keep the time. I'm not going to delegate that. I was kind of hoping that counsel would agree on someone's suggestion to hire a paralegal to do it, but it's too important, so I'll keep the time. I'm not doing a chest clock. I'll just keep pen and paper.

MS. MEYER: Your Honor, if it would help, we do have a paralegal that we brought to court.

THE COURT: I'll do it. Let me just say this: Look,
I want to be fair to both sides. I want you to get your fair
day in court before me, and I recognize it could be a problem
when you start stopping the clock and starting the clock because
someone makes an objection. If someone makes an objection and
states his or her reason for the objection, I'm not going to
track that against anyone. It's going to be too difficult to
keep track of. If you go on and start articulating reasons for
that objection, it's going against your time.

As I indicated, it's nonjury. I'm going to make a lot of provisional rulings allowing exhibits provisionally becoming part of the record because I have the luxury of doing that.

It's non-jury. I can determine admissibility later, I can

determine how much weight, if any, to give to it, I can determine reliability when I'm considering the merits and notes. I can do all of that, so be mindful of that. I want to be fair to both sides, so I'm just going to charge the time that you actually use but don't tack on with your objections because I'm going to start deducting time. I don't want to do that. You've already indicated objections in writing, and I'm sure I'll see more writing with objections, so you can preserve your objection. You can tell me something is hearsay, for example, contrary to the Rules of Evidence, whatever the number is, and you've made your point and you've preserved your record for appeal, whatever, and then just sit down and we'll proceed with the case.

The other thing is Fridays. I don't plan to sit on Fridays only because there are other matters on my calendar. I have other matters scheduled on Fridays. I hope that doesn't work as a hardship to anyone. I think one of the attorneys on my staff spoke with counsel a few days ago and mentioned that to you, so I want you to be aware of that because I have many, many matters scheduled for Fridays.

Monday, this coming Monday, I've been designated by the Multi District Litigation panel to preside over all of the polar bear litigation in the country. I didn't ask for that, but I have an initial scheduling conference scheduled in those cases on Monday at ten o'clock and I would like to proceed with

that. Some of those cases have been pending for months, but keep that in mind. If there's some hardship there in doing that, I need to make an adjustment and you need to tell me before we adjourn today. But I'd like to proceed with that. That could possibly take an hour or more. It may well be that we won't proceed on Monday until one o'clock or so. It may be a shortened day for litigation in this case. Nevertheless, again, I'm sensitive to any hardships, but I'd like to proceed with that. If I need to make an adjustment, you need to tell me today.

I note you have your water in court, and that's fine.

Just at the end of the day just take those little plastic things with you, okay, but you're more than welcome to bring in refreshments. You can do that.

That's all I have to say now.

There is a note that I have to -- let me just read it without discussing it. Let me just see what it says. Then I'm going to have focus on this now. And we'll have to bring the attorneys in, and there's an instruction I'm going to have to give the jury. We're going to start this trial today. I want to take a fifteen-minute recess. I want to hear your preliminary matter, and I'll probably then probably around 12:30 or so bring the attorneys in on the criminal case, because, based on this note, I'm going to have to give the jurors another instruction, but we'll take a fifteen-minute recess now.

There's no need to stand.

We'll give some thought also to utilization of this front row. This is nonjury. You know, it's not a criminal case. There's space here. I'm not sure we'll have an overflow courtroom every day. We'll talk about it, Carol, whether we can utilize this front row or not. The lawyers apparently don't need it, you don't need it. You have enough space. So we'll try to accommodate the public's interest in this case as well.

There's no need to stand. We'll take a fifteen-minute recess. We'll start again with this matter at 12:15. Thank you.

COURTROOM DEPUTY: This Honorable Court now stands in recess until 12:15.

(Recess taken at about 12:15 p.m.)

(Back on the record at about 12:25 p.m.)

THE COURT: We'll recall the civil matter. We're not going to start with the first witness before lunch, but I want to deal with whatever the preliminary issue is, and then we'll break for lunch.

Let me just say to everyone in the courtroom, the use of telephones or laptops in the gallery, that is, outside the well of the court, really interferes with the technological equipment we have up here, especially with the court reporter's ability to do what she has to do, which is to make a transcript, a correct transcript, so we have to ask you to turn off your

laptops and your cell phones, PDAs, whatever you have. I can tell when there's something on because -- well, there's a way I can tell up here, and I know when someone interferes with the court reporter and interferes with my ability to hear, and it also interferes with my laptop that I use. We've had to have marshals sometimes go around and collect because it was a real nuisance, and I don't want to do that. A hint to wise should be sufficient. If you're in the gallery, if you're outside the well of the court, you have to turn off your communication devices, and hopefully I won't have to have a marshal go around and collect them. Again, I'm not looking out there at anyone. A hint to the wise should be sufficient. Hopefully it will be.

Now, what's your preliminary matter?

MS. MEYER: Your Honor, we have three charts, summary charts, of voluminous evidence that we wanted to move in to evidence and also provide to the Court so it could sort of follow this case as it goes. The first one we've actually stipulated to.

THE COURT: Let me make a suggestion.

MS. MEYER: Okay.

THE COURT: You'd like to move them in at this point?

MS. MEYER: Yes.

THE COURT: It's a summary of all the evidence you want to introduce?

MS. MEYER: No, no, no. If I could explain, your

Honor, three charts of specific information. The first one is the chart of the names of the elephants that were born at the Center of Elephant Conservation. That's Chart A. The defendants have stipulated to that one, that's not a problem, and I have seven copies.

THE COURT: Does it have a number? Have you numbered that?

MS. MEYER: We're going to have to give it a number.

THE COURT: Give it a number, and that's admitted.

What else?

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MS. MEYER: The second one is Chart B, which is all the other elephants that are owned by Feld Entertainment that do not include the elephants on Chart A, and that chart has not been stipulated to by the defendant but only because they objected to some of the additional deposition designations we used for that chart as being untimely, but other than that, it's based entirely on admissions that were taken from deposition testimony of Feld Entertainment employees. It's just a history of who this person is and where they worked and what their title was so that the Court can follow who these employees are as they are mentioned throughout the trial, so we'd like to have --

THE COURT: That's Chart B?

MS. MEYER: That's Chart B.

And Chart C -- actually, that's Chart C, that's Chart C. Chart B is the other elephants. Chart C is the names of the

employees who may be mentioned at the trial, and I don't think

Chart B is also based only on information. We based it solely

on information we obtained from Feld Entertainment, so it's all

their own.

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THE COURT: These are just charts then? If I understand you correctly, they don't follow in category of substantive evidence then. They're charts to enable the Court to follow the evidence, is that what they are?

MS. MEYER: Well, it's a combination of both, your Honor. For example, for the employee chart it both is you can follow alphabetically. It has the name of each person, but it also tells where that person worked at any particular time, and we're not planning to read into the record every single line of deposition testimony that establishes that. It's all been designated, but we weren't going to read it to you, so I wanted to make sure that we could rely on it later without reading it to you.

THE COURT: What's the objection, counsel?

MR. SIMPSON: It's inaccurate, Judge. They didn't do what they should have done, which is serve us with an Interrogatory which says give us this information, or take a 30(b)(6) deposition of a witness and this being one of the subject matters. Instead they come together a chart based on information in these various documents, some of which is totally inaccurate. Some of these people have no personal knowledge.

They speculate about when people work. They didn't know, I mean, it's a chart with inaccurate data, and I don't know if that's particularly helpful to the Court.

THE COURT: No, it's not. It's not. It's not, and some of this, some of the data that you're focusing on right now will be data that may or may not become a part of evidentiary record throughout the course of this trial, though. It's not something I really need to focus on today, is it? To the extent charts are helpful, then I welcome them.

MS. MEYER: Just to be clear, your Honor, again, we only base the information in these charts on admissions by deponents that were produced by the defendant. It's their own admissions. There's no hearsay problem. There's no personal knowledge requirement for an admission to come into evidence. And so I don't see why --

THE COURT: The majority of this evidence, though, if I understand what you're saying, is not going to become a part of evidentiary record today anyway. It may well become a part of the evidentiary record at some point in time.

MS. MEYER: We could move it in later and just have you use it.

THE COURT: That's the point I'm making. At the appropriate time I'll consider it. If it's going to help the Court, that's fine, but I don't want to get waylayed by references to evidence that indeed does not find its way into

the evidentiary record, so at the appropriate time, sure, charts are helpful. There were charts in the last trial. They're extremely helpful. Jurors enjoy them. They're fact-finders, I'm a fact-finder here. To the extent the charts can assist the Court with its job, that would be fine. To the extent it's accurate and relies on competent evidence that's going to admitted, so let's wait until the end. More often than not charts become relevant at the end of the trial. To the extent it helps the Court when the Court takes this case under advisement, that will be fine, but I don't need a chart right now, though.

MS. MEYER: Okay.

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THE COURT: At the appropriate time, and probably towards the end of this trial, and we'll talk about that. When is this trial going to end? How many actual witnesses? Since we are now in trial, how many witnesses for the plaintiff?

MS. MEYER: I think we have -- I thought we had six fact witnesses and seven expert witnesses, your Honor.

THE COURT: How long do you --

MS. MEYER: And we have deposition testimony that we're relying on very heavily.

THE COURT: And for defendant just for your case in chief, how many witnesses?

MR. SIMPSON: It depends on what they end up saying, but I think we're talking about between seven and twelve people,

live people.

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THE COURT: You both know I've allotted hours to both sides. Converting those hours into days, what's your best prediction insofar as your case in chief is concerned? I'm just asking that for planning purposes. I'd like to hold you to it, but I just want your best prediction as to how many days for your case in chief.

MS. MEYER: I think we thought seven days and then one for rebuttal.

THE COURT: Counsel for the defendant?

MR. SIMPSON: You gave us 42 hours, your Honor. We'll use them all. We'd take more, but we're going to get done in the timeline.

THE COURT: Okay, that's fair. I think it would be inappropriate to try and start that witness now. Let's do this. Let's just start back at two o'clock, a little bit longer, but there's only one cafeteria here and there are other trials going on in this courthouse, so we'll give you just a few more minutes than an hour. More often than not it will be an hour for lunch, an hour and ten minutes, only because there's one cafeteria here.

We'll start promptly at two o'clock.

MR. SIMPSON: If I can before we start.

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. SIMPSON: I wasn't clear on the rule that's going

to apply to witnesses. The order says all witnesses.

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THE COURT: And that's my intent. I allowed some witnesses to remain here. What's the objection you have?

MR. SIMPSON: I think that based on how this case has developed, that all expert witnesses, all fact witnesses, ought to be excluded from the courtroom unless they're actually a corporate representative of one of the parties.

THE COURT: And that's certainly what the Court said in its order and I intend to abide by that. There was some flexibility with regard to opening statement, but I don't think that's an unfair request, and it's certainly consistent with the Court's order. I did not issue a supplemental pretrial order only because there was no need to do so. I afforded counsel a chance to file supplemental pretrial to address the discovery that I allowed plaintiff's counsel to take in the fall. But I recognized a few days ago I hadn't issued an order, and quite frankly, I don't think there was any need to issue an order. I think that's entirely appropriate, though, allow those witnesses to remain outside the court. We do have witness rooms available for them.

MS. MEYER: Your Honor, if I could just say, in your pretrial order you did exclude expert witnesses from that rule, specifically expert witnesses.

THE COURT: Let me just take a look at it right now. What page did I focus on experts in that order?

MR. SIMPSON: I believe it's page eleven, your Honor.

MS. MEYER: Page twelve.

THE COURT: Let me just read it.

I did carve out an exception for Rule 615. Let me hear from plaintiff.

MS. MEYER: Your Honor, actually, based on that exception, we actually made arrangements for Dr. Ensley, who's from San Diego, to attend the entire trial because we thought it would be helpful to his testimony and for the rendering of his expert opinion, and so he is here and we did want him to be in the courtroom and we assumed that would be fine for him, at least him. I don't care about the other experts, but we did make arrangements for him to attend the entire trial and we think it would be useful and help inform his testimony.

THE COURT: I did focus on Rule 615, and certainly an expert is the person whose presence is shown or could be a person whose presence is shown by a party to be a center to the presentation of the party's cause. So is there an expert you would like to have present?

MR. SIMPSON: Your Honor, we think they ought to all be out. I think the best way to try a case is not have people comparing notes and listen to what somebody who's coming before him is going to say, and whether that's an expert witness or not, their case is loaded on the front end with experts, and I think the same problems applies to them that would apply to fact

witness and that's why the rule exists and we think fairness.

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THE COURT: No one challenged this. No one filed an objection or no one asked me to further interpret the Rule on Witnesses, and I did say, and it does clearly read exception for the party's authorized representatives permitted to sit at counsel table. Under Rule 615 all witnesses shall remain outside the courtroom except while actually testifying.

All right. I'll think about it over lunch. I'm inclined to allow that one expert, and I'd be inclined to allow an expert that you would like to. I'm sorry that no one brought this to my attention, that there was a need for clarification. Someone should have asked me to clarify. I don't think it needs any clarification. But to the extent that there is someone that you would like present, I'll be more than happy allow that person to participate as well.

MR. SIMPSON: Very well, your Honor.

There's only one other thing. I hate to keep you from lunch.

THE COURT: No.

MR. SIMPSON: But since the first witness is an expert witness, there's a Daubert issue that comes up. We filed Daubert motions. Your Honor's order says the Daubert objections would be resolved at trial.

THE COURT: Absolutely. Absolutely. At the merit stage. I'll listen to the testimony. The Daubert objections

are noted, and to the extent that the Court credits the testimony of any expert, I'll say so in my opinion and give the reasons for that and also give the reasons for either Daubert conclusion or inclusion.

MR. SIMPSON: All right. And my question would be when do you want the Daubert issues argued to you? Would it be after the close of their case?

THE COURT: Well, you've made an objection. I think it's more appropriate to do that at the closure of this trial. I'm going to provisionally listen to a lot of evidence, some of which may be excluded in the final analysis, but I don't want to unduly delay either side's presentation of evidence, but I'll give you a fair chance to argue the reasons why the Court should or should not credit expert testimony pursuant to Daubert.

MR. SIMPSON: Very well.

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THE COURT: But note your objection. It's noted. In fact, that's a classic example of how you should note your objections. You've raised Daubert with this expert and other experts. You've preserved it for further consideration by any other court, and I'll give you appropriate time to argue it, probably at the conclusion.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Anyone else? All right. Anyone else have any problems with the pretrial order which was issued months ago for which there was no objections filed? It was fairly clear.

Anyone? If so, speak up now.

All right. We're going to start promptly at two o'clock unless that jury comes back and says -- but I think we're probably going to say we're going to start at two o'clock, but there will be another instruction for that jury, and believe me, I'm not starting any other juries until I finish this trial. Enjoy your lunch. No need to stand. Thank you.

COURTROOM DEPUTY: This Honorable Court now stands in recess until two o'clock.

(A luncheon recess was taken at about 12:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE I, JACQUELINE M. SULLIVAN, Official Court Reporter, certify that the foregoing pages are a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. JACQUELINE M. SULLIVAN 

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