	Page 1
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA (ALLENTOWN)
2	
3	KHADIDJA ISSA, : 5:16-cv-03881-EGS Plaintiff, : PHILADELPHIA, PA
4	vs. :
5	THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF : LANCASTER, : April 16, 2016
6	Defendant. : 1:29 p.m. to 5:27 p.m.
7	TRANSCRIPT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE EDWARD G. SMITH UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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	(Proceedings re	corded by electronic sound recording,
15	transcript pr	oduced by transcription service.)
16	VERITEXT NA	TIONAL COURT REPORTING COMPANY
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		Page	3
1	INDEX		
_			Page
2	 WITNESS: KADIDJA ISSA (Interpreter-Susanne Abdal	1a)	rage
	Direct Examination by Ms. Moon 8	14)	
3	Cross-Examination by Ms. O'Donnell 27		
J	Redirect Examination by Ms. Moon 33		
4	Redirect Examination by Ms. Moon 33		
4	WITNESS: OASIN HASSAN (Interpretor Daymondes Sam	~] . \	
5	WITNESS: QASIN HASSAN (Interpreter-Raymondea Sam	alul)	
5	Direct Examination by Ms. Tack-Hooper 36		
_	Cross-Examination by Ms. O'Donnell 63		
6	Redirect Examination by Ms. Tack-Hooper 69		
7	WITNESS: VAN NI LANG (Salai Lian-Interpreter)		
	Direct Examination by Mr. Rothschild 76		
8	Cross-Examination by Ms. O'Donnell 86		
	Redirect Examination by Mr. Rothschild 93		
9			
	WITNESS: SUI HNEM SUNG (Salai Lian-Interpreter)		
10	Direct Examination by Ms. Moon 95		
	Cross-Examination by Mr. 103		
11	Redirect Examination by Mr. 105		
12			
	EXHIBITS		
13			
	PLAINTIFF'S		
14	NUMBER DESCRIPTION MARKED ADMITTE	D	
15			
	8 Description of the ESL *		
16	Services		
	25 Abstract *		
17	15 Khadidja Issa's School *		
	Records		
18			
19			
20			
21			
	(* Marked prior to the start of the proceeding.)		
22			
23			
24			
25			
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	Page 4
1	DEPUTY CLERK: All rise. United States District
2	Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is now in
3	session. The Honorable Edward G. Smith presiding.
4	THE COURT: You may be seated. Thank you. The
5	Court is called to order. All parties previously present are
6	once again present. Counselor will you be calling the next
7	witness?
8	MS. MOON: Yes, Your Honor, Kristina moon for
9	the plaintiffs and we call Khadidja Issa.
10	THE COURT: Very well. And I understand my
11	court officer is going to have to contact the interpreter
12	through the telephone?
13	MS. MOON: That's right, Your Honor.
14	THE COURT: Very well. And you can have a seat
15	for now until we get the interpreter. How are you?
16	THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.
17	THE COURT: Good afternoon.
18	THE WITNESS: My name is Khadidja.
19	THE COURT: And we can't promise this technology
20	will be quick.
21	MS. MOON: Okay.
22	
23	(CALL PLACED TO INTERPRETER)
24	
25	THE COURT: And there is a possibility because

	Page 6
1	
2	
3	INTERPRETER: I do.
4	THE COURT: And ma'am, would you please state
5	your full name?
6	INTERPRETER: My name is Susanne Abdalla.
7	THE COURT: Very well. Counsel you may proceed.
8	Oh, we got to swear the witness, first. One moment, please,
9	I'm sorry.
10	ESR OPERATOR: Would you please raise your right
11	hand?
12	THE WITNESS: My name is Khadidja.
13	
14	(KHADIDJA ISSA - SWORN)
15	
16	MS. MOON: Interpreter you can begin
17	interpreting as we swear in the witness, please.
18	INTERPRETER: Mm-hmm.
19	
20	(KHADIDJA ISSA - SWORN)
21	
22	INTERPRETER: Okay.
23	THE COURT: And also if at any time you do not
24	understand what is being said please stop us; okay?
25	THE WITNESS: Okay. Okay.

	Page 7
1	THE COURT: Counselor you may proceed. Thank
2	you.
3	MS. MOON: Thank you, Your Honor.
4	
5	EXAMINATION
6	
7	BY MS. MOON:
8	Q. Khadidja, could you please scoot your chair to the
9	front so that you're closer to the microphone and we can all
10	hear you clearly?
11	A. Okay.
12	THE COURT: And please try to keep your voice up
13	as loud as possible.
14	BY MS. MOON:
15	Q. Okay. And we need you to answer in complete words
16	rather than mm-hmm, okay? Do you understand that?
17	A. Okay.
18	Q. All right.
19	THE COURT: Would maybe, Miss, would you
20	please state and spell your name for the record?
21	THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Khadidja Adam
22	Issa [indiscernible].
23	THE COURT: And how do you spell your name?
24	THE WITNESS: K-H-A-D-I-D-J-A, Adam, A-D-A-M,
25	Issa, I-S-S-A.

- 1 THE COURT: Thank you very much. Counselor you
- 2 may proceed.
- MS. MOON: Thank you.
- 4 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
- 5 BY MS. MOON:
- 6 Q. Khadidja, what is the first language that you learned
- 7 to speak?
- 8 A. [Indiscernible] is with language for --
- 9 INTERPRETER: She responded in English.
- MS. MOON: Yeah, so --
- 11 | INTERPRETER: I can't really hear her. Can she
- 12 raise her voice?
- 13 BY MS. MOON:
- 14 Q. Khadidja, we need you to speak loudly and into the
- 15 | microphone so that the interpreter who's on the phone can hear
- 16 | you clearly; okay?
- 17 A. Okay. Okay.
- 18 | Q. Okay. And because it's important that you fully
- 19 understand we want you to wait for the interpreter to
- 20 | translate so that we're sure that we get your complete
- 21 response.
- 22 A. Okay.
- 23 | Q. All right. So you said that the first language you
- 24 | speak is Fur. Is there another language that you're
- 25 comfortable speaking?

- 1 A. Arabic.
- 2 Q. And where did you learn Arabic?
- 3 A. I learned at school.
- 4 | Q. Where was this school that you learned Arabic?
- 5 A. I learned at school.
- 6 Q. Where was this school that you learned Arabic?
- 7 A. In Chaad.
- 8 Q. Where were you born, Khadidja?
- 9 A. I was born in Sudan.
- 10 Q. Why did your family leave Sudan?
- 11 A. Because of the extreme heat and the insecurity.
- 12 Q. Can you explain what you mean by insecurity? What was
- 13 | happening in the country?
- 14 A. There was problems with the President Omar Bashir.
- 15 | Q. Okay. And how old were you when your family first left
- 16 home in Sudan?
- 17 A. I was five years.
- 18 | Q. Where did you live after leaving home at five years
- 19 old?
- 20 A. We went to Chaad.
- 21 | Q. And in Chaad were you living in a refugee camp?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. How old were you when you left the refugee camp in
- 24 | Chaad?
- 25 A. I left the camp, IDP [ph] camp in Chaad when I was 17

- 1 | years old.
- 2 | Q. Okay. And where did you go when you left Chaad?
- 3 A. We came to the states.
- 4 | Q. And where in particular in the United States?
- 5 A. Lancaster.
- 6 | Q. When you were living?
- 7 A. Pennsylvania.
- 8 | Q. Yes. When you were living in refugee camps you said
- 9 that you learned Arabic in school; is that right?
- 10 | A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And did you study anything else?
- 12 A. I learned Arabic in school.
- 13 | Q. Did you --
- 14 A. There were Arabic, they were teaching us Arabic, some
- 15 | English and some French, but it was mostly Arabic?
- 16 Q. Okay what grade level did you complete before leaving
- 17 | for the United States?
- 18 A. Sixth grade.
- 19 Q. Okay. And when you arrived in the United States could
- 20 you speak English?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 \ Q. Could you read or write English?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. When did you first arrive in Lancaster?
- 25 A. She's asking you to repeat the question.

- 1 | Q. When, what month and year did you first come to
- 2 | Lancaster?
- 3 A. The first of October 2015.
- 4 | Q. And how old were you when you arrived in Lancaster?
- 5 A. 17.
- 6 Q. Can you describe for me the family that came with you
- 7 to Lancaster?
- 8 A. It was six of us.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. It was six of us.
- 11 Q. Your mom was with you; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 | Q. And do you have siblings?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. So can you give us the names and ages of your
- 16 | siblings?
- 17 A. Narsham Ibrihim [ph], Howa Angela and Howa was born
- 18 [indiscernible] and Howa was born here in the states.
- 19 Q. Okay. And how old is your older sister Narsham?
- 20 A. She's 16.
- 21 Q. Okay. Kadidja, when you first came to the United
- 22 | States, what was your goal?
- 23 A. We came to get a better education.
- 24 Q. Okay. So turning to your process enrolling at
- 25 Lancaster School District. Go ahead interpreter.

- 1 A. We went and starting applying in November.
- 2 | Q. Okay. Did your family get help from any agency to
- 3 | enroll in school?
- 4 A. I did not hear the last part. I'm going to ask her to
- 5 repeat. I'm sorry, I just got the [indiscernible] I did not
- 6 get what she said after that, although I asked her to repeat
- 7 twice.
- 8 Q. Okay. I can rephrase the question.
- 9 A. Sure.
- 10 Q. Do you remember the names of people that helped you
- 11 | enroll in school? Okay.
- 12 A. Bilal, he helped me to get in school.
- 13 Q. Okay. And was there anyone else working with Bilal
- 14 | that helped you get to school?
- 15 A. [Indiscernible].
- 16 Q. Okay. And does Aleese speak Fur or Arabic?
- 17 A. No. She speaks English.
- 18 Q. Okay. And what language does Bilal speak?
- 19 A. He speaks Arabic and English.
- 20 Q. Okay. And do you remember at some point did you go to
- 21 | see a doctor for immunization shots here in Lancaster?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Do you remember when you received those immunization
- 24 shots?
- 25 A. October.

- 1 Q. Okay. Did anyone ever tell you that you could not go
- 2 to school because of not having immunization shots?
- $3 \mid A.$ No.
- 4 | Q. And did you bring with you from Sudan any education
- 5 records from Sudan or Chaad?
- 6 A. No. I did not bring anything.
- 7 | Q. Okay. And you said that you started to apply in
- 8 November. Do you remember going to a meeting at the school
- 9 around that time in November?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you remember a meeting at the school with
- 12 | Bilal and Aleese about registering you to start classes?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. What happened at that meeting with Bilal and
- 15 | Aleese about registering you for school?
- 16 A. That meeting was in November and they submitted all the
- 17 papers in November, but I did not, but I was not able to start
- 18 | school until the 19th of February and when I started school
- 19 they told me that respect is the most important thing in
- 20 school and that you're not supposed to be late and that you're
- 21 supposed to respect your teachers and your colleagues.
- 22 | O. Okay. You said that you submitted papers and there was
- 23 a meeting in November and then you started classes in
- 24 | February. So do you recall -- did anybody tell you why you
- were not in school right away in November?

- 1 A. In November the initial meeting when we submitted the
- 2 papers for enrollment I was told -- they told me that I am too
- 3 old for school and that I should get a job and I responded
- 4 | that I do not want to get a job if I don't get an education
- 5 | why would I work if I don't get an education?
- 6 Q. Okay. At that meeting when they explained that you
- 7 | would not be starting school right away was there an
- 8 interpreter from the School District to translate into Arabic
- 9 for you?
- 10 | A. There was no interpreter. It was only Bilal who spoke
- 11 Arabic.
- 12 Q. And Khadidja, did anyone explain to you that you could
- 13 challenge or appeal the decision that the District was saying
- 14 | that you could not immediately enroll in November?
- 15 A. Nobody told us.
- 16 Q. Okay. And when you started school in February what
- 17 | school were you assigned to attend?
- 18 A. Phoenix Academy.
- 19 Q. Were you given an option or choice to attend McCaskey
- 20 | High School instead of Phoenix?
- 21 A. They told me that my current option is Phoenix and they
- 22 might look for a different school for me and when they find a
- 23 different school then I can leave Phoenix.
- Q. Since -- where does your sister Narsham attend school?
- 25 A. McCaskey.

- 1 | Q. And do you remember when Narsham starting attending
- 2 classes at McCaskey?
- 3 A. She started school before me, but I do not remember
- 4 what month exactly.
- 5 Q. When you started school were you given a test about how
- 6 | well you speak, read and write English?
- 7 A. They did a test, but I do not know how to read or
- 8 write.
- 9 Q. Okay. So at Phoenix what grade were you placed in when
- 10 you started classes?
- 11 A. 11th.
- 12 | Q. And did anyone at the school ask you what grade you had
- completed before coming to the United States?
- 14 A. No. Nobody asked me. Nobody asked me.
- 15 | Q. Okay. At some point before you started classes did you
- 16 attend a meeting at Phoenix where they explained the school
- 17 rules?
- 18 A. Yes, we did.
- 19 Q. Is this the same meeting you referenced earlier where
- 20 they said to respect teachers, is that the same meeting?
- 21 A. Yes. Yes, it was that meeting and I went with Bilal
- 22 and Aleese.
- 23 | Q. What language were the school staff speaking at that
- 24 meeting?
- 25 A. English.

- 1 Q. Did the school provide an interpreter into Arabic for
- 2 you at that meeting?
- 3 A. Bilal was there and he was interpreting for me.
- 4 Q. Okay. But Bilal was the only person there who spoke
- 5 Arabic; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Interpreter --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. Looking at the school day at Phoenix, what's the
- 10 first thing you have to do when you come into the school
- 11 building?
- 12 A. First thing when they arrive at school that they pat us
- down.
- 14 Q. And can you describe to me what happens? What does the
- 15 | pat down look like?
- 16 A. I think they have to do the pat down and search all the
- 17 students, because some students use drugs.
- 18 | Q. Okay. Did -- have you ever experienced a pat down like
- 19 this before starting at Phoenix?
- 20 A. No. I was -- I was never patted down like that and
- 21 | I've never even witnessed or heard of patting down like this.
- 22 | Q. And how does it make you feel to have to be patted
- 23 down, physically touched when you come into school everyday?
- 24 A. I have been to school before and I was never -- I have
- 25 never seen a place where they pat you down in order to enter

- 1 | school and they actually do it everyday.
- 2 | Q. Are you -- are there particular circumstances or
- 3 occasions that a pat down is more uncomfortable for you going
- 4 to school?
- 5 A. I'm going to ask her to repeat. I feel the same about
- 6 it everyday.
- 7 | Q. And what's that feeling about it everyday?
- 8 A. Like you're not allowed to bring anything with you from
- 9 your home.
- 10 | Q. Okay. Are you allowed to bring anything from school
- 11 home with you?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 | Q. Do your teachers send activities or class work for you
- 14 to do at home in the evening?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Would you like to do class work and more school
- 17 activities at home in the evening?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Do you -- does your sister at McCaskey, Narsham, does
- 20 | she bring school work home?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 | Q. And do you ever follow along with your sister in her
- 23 homework?
- 24 A. No. She does her own stuff and I do my own thing.
- 25 Q. Okay. Do you think that Narsham has better English

- 1 than you do?
- 2 A. She learned.
- 3 Q. I'm sorry, interpreter can you repeat that.
- 4 A. She said she learned.
- 5 | O. I'm still not.
- THE COURT: Her sister learned.
- 7 MS. MOON: Learned. Okay.
- 8 THE COURT: [Indiscernible] learning.
- 9 INTERPRETER: Yes.
- 10 BY MS. MOON:
- 11 Q. Okay. At school what happens after the pat down when
- 12 | you first enter? What do you do next?
- 13 A. We go and get food and then we have a very short
- 14 | meeting and then we go to class.
- 15 | Q. Okay. And that short meeting what happens there?
- 16 A. I don't really know what happens in that meeting
- 17 because they speak in English and I do not understand English.
- 18 | Q. Okay. And after that meeting do you go to your
- 19 classes?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 | Q. Can you describe for me what classes you took at
- 22 Phoenix this past semester?
- 23 A. First class is math.
- Q. Okay. What's the next class?
- 25 A. After math is English.

- 1 Q. And what comes after English?
- $2 \mid A$. There's a different class that we have to go to in a
- 3 different room.
- 4 Q. Do you know what you're studying in that class?
- 5 A. They speak and write in English and I don't understand.
- 6 Q. Is there another class after that one?
- 7 A. No. We go to recess.
- 8 Q. Okay. Is there a class after recess?
- 9 A. Yes, there is a different class.
- 10 Q. And do you know what you're studying in that class?
- 11 A. They speak in English and I don't understand them.
- 12 Q. Does anyone speak Arabic in any of your classes?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 | Q. Can you tell me how well you understand the teachers
- and staff speaking in English?
- 16 A. I don't understand them.
- 17 Q. Okay. And how well do you understand your classmates
- 18 | that speak in English?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Are there students in your classes that speak English
- 21 | well?
- 22 A. They speak, but I can't judge.
- 23 Q. Because you don't speak English, you mean?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 | Q. Okay. Can you explain to me what you're learning in

- 1 | your first class, math you called it?
- 2 A. Math, I actually understand, because math is mostly
- 3 | numbers and I do understand math.
- 4 Q. And the second period class you called English, who's
- 5 you teacher for that class?
- 6 A. Ms. Ortiz.
- 7 | Q. And is everyone in that class with Ms. Ortiz brand new
- 8 | to English like you?
- 9 A. No. They know English.
- 10 Q. I'm sorry, they do know English, the other students?
- 11 A. I'm going to -- ask. I'm going to ask here to repeat,
- 12 I can't hear her. They know English, yes.
- 13 | O. What do you think of this English class? Are you
- 14 | learning English?
- 15 A. I -- I do, but I don't understand much.
- 16 Q. What would help you understand more, do you think?
- 17 | A. I just don't know their language.
- 18 | Q. What if anything does your teacher do to try to help
- 19 | you understand?
- 20 A. There is no interpreter.
- 21 | Q. Okay. Khadidja I'm going to ask you to look at some
- 22 documents and for Your Honor's reference and counsel these are
- 23 pages pulled from what is marked 15 in the binder.
- 24 | Specifically sheets with bates number 39 through 42 and
- 25 | counsel I have a copy pull out.

MS. MOON: Yes. We're going to turn to the

25

- 1 second page.
- 2 BY MS. MOON:
- Q. Can you tell me how you completed this activity sheet?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What was the assignment for this? What was the
- 6 assignment or instruction for this worksheet?
- 7 A. I'm going to ask her to repeat. We were asked to
- 8 underline the correct answer.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Letters that are similar.
- 11 | Q. I'm going to show you another set of documents. This
- 12 is also in tab 15, but behind the green divider. And for the
- record this is bates stamp 354 through 362.
- 14 MS. MOON: Your Honor, may I approach?
- THE COURT: Certainly counselor.
- 16 BY MS. MOON:
- 17 Q. Do you recognize this set of papers?
- 18 A. Yes, I remember.
- 19 Q. Do you recall what class you completed these in?
- 20 A. I'm sorry, I did not hear the question.
- 21 Q. Yes. I'll back up. Is this your handwriting on these
- 22 pages?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And what class did you complete these papers in?
- 25 A. Class that we draw in.

- 1 | Q. Okay. And looking at that top page, can you tell me
- 2 | how you completed this?
- 3 A. I copied from the board.
- 4 Q. Okay. And can you tell me about what you wrote? Do
- 5 | you understand what you wrote there?
- 6 A. No, I don't understand.
- 7 Q. Okay. You can set those aside. I don't have anymore
- 8 questions about those. Does Ms. Ortiz ever come into your
- 9 other classes to help you?
- 10 A. Yes, she helps me.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you -- and you said that you have Ms. Ortiz
- 12 | in your second period class of English; is that right? Does
- 13 Ms. Ortiz --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 | Q. I'm sorry. Does Ms. Ortiz ever come into your other
- 16 | class periods, not your English class?
- 17 A. No. Only her [indiscernible].
- 18 Q. Okay. And do you know a teacher named Ms. Weathers
- 19 [ph]?
- 20 A. No, I don't know her.
- 21 Q. Khadidja, do your teachers help you understand your
- 22 classes?
- 23 A. I'm going to ask here to repeat. I don't know their
- 24 name.
- 25 | Q. Okay. If you were to have a question in class do you

- 1 | ask for help?
- 2 A. The teacher helps me.
- Q. Okay. How does your teacher help you?
- 4 A. When I don't know the answers I tell him -- I tell him
- 5 or her I don't know the answers.
- 6 Q. Okay. And what did they do when you say you don't know
- 7 | the answer?
- 8 A. They answer for me.
- 9 Q. Okay. How often has the school called someone on the
- 10 | phone to interpret in Arabic for you?
- 11 | A. Usually if there's nothing serious they don't interpret
- 12 for me, only if I have an appointment with a doctor or a
- 13 | nurse. Even if I'm sick and can't -- cannot come to the
- 14 | school, to the school day I come to class and show the teacher
- 15 | my, like, my worksheet if I have a worksheet or an assignment
- 16 I show it to the teacher and then I think back home.
- 17 | Q. Okay. Has the school ever used a computer to speak to
- 18 you in Arabic?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 | Q. And when you take tests in class do you receive help
- 21 | from the teachers?
- 22 A. Yes, they help me.
- 23 | Q. And how do they help you when you're taking a test?
- 24 A. If there is a test and I don't know the answers I tell
- 25 them that I don't know the answers.

- 1 | Q. Okay. And then what do they do when you say you don't
- 2 know the answer?
- 3 A. They answer for me.
- 4 | Q. Okay. Khadidja, what do you understand to be different
- 5 about learning at McCaskey versus Phoenix?
- 6 A. I don't like this school. I don't like Phoenix, this
- 7 school because it's a bad school and since I started I was
- 8 | told that I was -- I will study there until people who are
- 9 | helping me and who can find me a different school and it's
- 10 better to find a different school than go to school while you
- 11 | don't understand anything and just go and sit there.
- 12 Q. Okay. And do you understand that at Phoenix classes
- move faster than classes do at McCaskey?
- 14 A. The classes move fast, but I don't understand anything.
- 15 Q. Okay. And Khadidja, why is it important to you that
- 16 | you learn at school?
- 17 | A. In America, if you don't get an education you'll have a
- 18 | very hard life and it's very important to get an education.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 MS. MOON: No further questions at this time,
- 21 Your Honor.
- 22 THE COURT: Thank you very much, counselor.
- 23 Attorney O'Donnell --
- MS. MOON: Khadidja --
- THE COURT: You may --

- 1 | Q. Khadidja, when you met with Bilal at the School
- 2 District for enrollment was he the only person who translated
- 3 for you?
- 4 A. He was the one who interpreted for me. In that meeting
- 5 he was the only one who interpreted for me.
- 6 Q. Okay. Khadidja, so when you learned that you were too
- 7 | old initially to enroll in school, is that what Bilal told
- 8 you?
- 9 A. Yes, he told me this.
- 10 | O. And did he ever tell you that there was some problems
- 11 | with your immunization papers initially?
- 12 A. No. He did not mention something like that.
- 13 | Q. Okay. Khadidja, when you were in Sudan, you said that
- 14 | the last great you attended was sixth grade; is that correct?
- 15 A. Yes; correct.
- 16 Q. And did you finish when you were 17 years old?
- 17 A. Seventeen years is when I came to America.
- 18 | Q. How old were you when you finished sixth grade?
- 19 A. I finished sixth grade and then we came to America.
- 20 Q. Khadidja, how old were you when you finished sixth
- 21 | grade?
- 22 A. I was 17 years old and I did, I sat for the first for a
- 23 semester exam and then I did not continue on the sixth grade
- 24 because we came to America.
- 25 | Q. Okay. And Susanne, I'm sorry, I didn't understand what

- 1 | you said. Did she testify to an age?
- 2 A. Yes, she said 17. She was 17 years old and she sat for
- 3 like a midterm or a semester exam during the sixth great, but
- 4 | she did not complete the whole year and then they came to the
- 5 states.
- 6 Q. Okay. So you were 17 years old halfway through sixth
- 7 | grade; is that correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. And Khadidja, how many grades would it have
- 10 | taken you to finish to graduate when you were in Sudan?
- 11 | A. I did not study in Sudan. When I was in Sudan I was
- 12 | five years old and when my family took me to be enrolled, they
- were -- you have to be seven years before they enroll you in
- 14 the first grade, so I did not study in Sudan.
- 15 | Q. Okay. Where did you have your education before you
- 16 came to the U.S.?
- 17 A. I studied in Chaad.
- 18 | Q. In Chaad. I apologize. So Khadidja, what was the
- 19 | highest grade you could achieve to graduate when you studied
- 20 in Chaad?
- 21 A. I studied there for six years.
- 22 | Q. And what was the most time? What's the highest grade
- 23 you could have reached if you had stayed in Chaad?
- 24 A. I studied until I reached the sixth grade.
- 25 Q. Is that the highest grade you -- you could have

- 1 | finished and then you would have graduated?
- 2 A. No. You move forward.
- Q. How many grades can you move forward before you finish?
- 4 A. You study -- you study until you graduate.
- 5 Q. How old in Chaad do you have to be to graduate?
- 6 A. When I was in Chaad I was 17 years old then our papers
- 7 | were finished and then we came to the states.
- 8 Q. Did you receive a school leaving certify in Chaad?
- 9 A. No, because I didn't finish the year.
- 10 | Q. Would you have -- if you had stayed would you have
- 11 received a school leaving certify in Chaad if you stayed to
- 12 | finish the year?
- 13 A. Yes, they give you a paper.
- 14 Q. Okay. How do you know so much about the education at
- 15 McCaskey if you don't go there?
- 16 A. I know because I hear things.
- 17 | Q. Okay. If you had a chance to finish your education at
- 18 Phoenix or go to school with your sister at McCaskey what
- 19 | would you choose?
- 20 A. Phoenix Academy the classes go very fast and I do not
- 21 | understand anything and I'm not benefiting so I want a school
- 22 that is slower in pace so I can understand.
- 23 Q. How do you know that Phoenix is, pardon me, how do you
- 24 know that McCaskey is slower in pace?
- 25 A. Yes, I know they do go, they do have a slower pace and

- 1 | people in Phoenix are moving very, very fast.
- 2 Q. Do you know that if you were to transfer to McCaskey
- 3 you would not graduate in time to get your diploma? Pardon
- 4 me. Susanne, strike that. Strike that. Do you know that if
- 5 | you transfer to McCaskey you would not have infer time in
- 6 order to graduate?
- 7 A. I don't just want to graduation, I want to receive an
- 8 actual education. Now, even if I graduate, I know nothing.
- 9 Q. Khadidja, did anyone use hand computer, an iPad to
- 10 translate into Arabic for you when you were are at Phoenix?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. What language are you taught mathematics at Phoenix?
- 13 A. English.
- 14 Q. Okay. The papers that you have in front of you,
- 15 | Khadidja, were prepared by you? Did you write that?
- 16 A. I did not write it on my own.
- 17 Q. Okay. Can you read it?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Do you know what the pictures -- can you identify those
- 20 pictures?
- 21 A. She's asking to repeat the question.
- 22 | Q. Sure. Do you know what those pictures are?
- 23 A. I don't know.
- Q. You don't know or you don't want to read for me?
- 25 A. I drew, but I do not know how to read them.

- 1 | Q. Do you know what the pictures are? Can you point to
- 2 | the hat on that first page?
- 3 A. She said she did not understand --
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. -- my question.
- MS. O'DONNELL: May I approach, Your Honor?
- 7 THE COURT: Certainly counselor.
- 8 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 9 Q. Khadidja, do you know what this is?
- 10 A. That's hat.
- 11 Q. That's a hat; right.
- 12 A. Hat.
- 13 Q. And do you know what this is?
- 14 A. Heart.
- 15 | Q. That is a heart. And do you know what this is?
- 16 A. Camera.
- 17 Q. Camera; right. And do you know what this is?
- 18 A. Bed.
- 19 Q. A bed. Did you try to apply this year to go to
- 20 McCaskey?
- 21 A. Yes, we are now in the middle of the processes to apply
- 22 to McCaskey.
- 23 Q. Okay. And do you think you have enough credit to
- 24 transfer?
- 25 A. It's not written like that.

- 1 Q. How is it written?
- 2 A. My results says just shows my -- my grades and my
- 3 subject, and the subject that I take.
- Q. Okay. Thank you, Khadidja, those are all the questions
- 5 I have?
- 6 A. You're welcome.
- 7 THE COURT: Thank you very much, counselor.
- 8 Attorney Moon, you may redirect the witness.
- 9 | - -

10 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

- 11 | - -
- 12 BY MS. MOON:
- 13 Q. Khadidja, the meeting that we were talking about in
- 14 which you were told that you were too old to enroll; do you
- 15 remember that?
- 16 A. Yes, I remember when I went to enroll in school they
- 17 | told me that I'm too old to study.
- 18 | Q. Okay. And was Bilal interpreting what the school staff
- 19 | were saying at that meeting?
- 20 A. No, this was in the office.
- 21 | Q. Okay. And Bilal was there with you at that time?
- 22 A. [Indiscernible].
- 23 Q. Okay. And was Bilal interpreting what the school staff
- 24 | were saying?
- 25 A. Yes. This was not in the meeting.

- 1 | Q. What was not at the meeting?
- 2 A. She's saying that this was not all during the
- 3 orientation meeting. This was when we went and applied to
- 4 | enroll in school.
- 5 Q. Right. Okay. So at that time when you were trying to
- 6 apply to school, Bilal was interpreting for you what the
- 7 | school staff were saying; is that right?
- 8 A. Him and [indiscernible] Oscar.
- 9 Q. I'm sorry, interpreter can you repeat that?
- 10 A. Him and [indiscernible] Oscar.
- 11 | Q. Who is -- okay. Did anyone at the school ever tell you
- 12 you could go to McCaskey?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 MS. MOON: No further questions, Your Honor.
- 16 THE COURT: Thank you very much, counselor.
- 17 Attorney O'Donnell, anything further for this witness.
- 18 MS. O'DONNELL: No further follow-up, thank you.
- 19 THE COURT: Thank you very much.
- THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
- 21 THE COURT: You may step down. We've been on
- 22 the record for an hour and a half, would you like a short
- 23 break or would you like to press on with the next witness?
- MS. TACK-HOOPER: Okay. I think we're okay if
- 25 Your Honor is okay.

	Page 34
1	THE COURT: Very well. You may call your next
2	witness, thank you.
3	MS. TACK-HOOPER: Next I'd like to call Qasin
4	Hassan.
5	INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, did you want me to hang
6	up?
7	MS. TACK-HOOPER: Oh, yes, thank you. We're all
8	set.
9	THE COURT: Thank you very much for your
10	assistance.
11	INTERPRETER: Okay.
12	THE COURT: Have a great afternoon.
13	INTERPRETER: You're very welcome, you too.
14	THE COURT: First we need interpreter.
15	
16	(RAYMONDEA SAMALUI - INTERPRETER - SWORN)
17	
18	THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am, would you please
19	state your full name spelling your last name.
20	INTERPRETER: Raymondea, R-a-y-m-o-n-d-e-a,
21	Samalui, S-A-M-A-L-U-I.
22	THE COURT: Thank you. And what language are
23	you [indiscernible].
24	INTERPRETER: Arabic.
25	THE COURT: Very well. And now, sir, if you

	Page 35
1	
	would please stand.
2	THE WITNESS: Okay.
3	
4	(QASIN HASSAN - SWORN)
5	
6	THE COURT: Thank you very much. You may be
7	seated.
8	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
9	THE COURT: And sir, would you please state your
10	full name, spelling your last name for the record.
11	THE WITNESS: Qasin [indiscernible] Hassan.
12	THE COURT: And how is that spelled, your last
13	name?
14	THE WITNESS: H-A-S-S-A-N.
15	THE COURT: Thank you very much, sir.
16	Counselor, you may proceed.
17	
18	EXAMINATION
19	
20	BY MS. TACK-HOOPER: For the record my name is Molly
21	Tack-Hooper for the plaintiffs. Qasin, when were you born?
22	A. 1998.
23	Q. Do you know what month and day?
24	A. September 9.
25	Q. And so how old are you now?

- 1 | A. I'm 17 years old right now and I will be 18 in
- 2 | September.
- Q. Qasin, where is your family from originally?
- 4 A. From Somalia.
- 5 Q. And why did your family leave Somalia?
- 6 A. Because my father was killed over there.
- 7 Q. How was your father killed?
- 8 A. There was a militia called Shobha. There was -- he was
- 9 killed by a Shobha militia.
- 10 Q. And where did you go after you left Somalia?
- 11 A. He went to Egypt.
- 12 Q. Did you have any schooling in Egypt?
- 13 A. No. They did not accept me in school in Egypt.
- 14 Q. How old were you when you got to Egypt?
- 15 A. I was 12 years old.
- 16 | Q. Okay. Did you study at all while you were in Egypt?
- 17 A. I did not enroll in school, but I took private school
- 18 at home.
- 19 Q. What did you learn at home?
- 20 A. I learned the Arabic language.
- 21 Q. Did you learn to read and write in Arabic?
- 22 A. I write a little bit and I read a little bit.
- 23 Q. How many hours a day did you study with this private
- 24 tutor?
- 25 A. I would study five hours everyday.

- 1 | Q. And when did you come to the United States?
- 2 A. In 2015, in September 9, 2015 [indiscernible].
- Q. Did you speak any English when you arrived in the
- 4 United States?
- 5 A. A few words.
- 6 Q. And did you attempt to enroll in school after you
- 7 | settled in Lancaster?
- 8 A. I tried.
- 9 Q. Did you get into school at some point?
- 10 A. I was [indiscernible] until I enroll in the school.
- 11 Q. I'm sorry, what?
- 12 A. I was [indiscernible] until I enroll in school.
- 13 | Q. You were tired until you enrolled in school?
- 14 A. It was a waiting, I was waiting until I get time to
- 15 enroll in the school.
- 16 Q. So did you go to school at some point?
- 17 A. Yes, I did.
- 18 Q. Okay. Where did you go to school?
- 19 A. I went to Phoenix.
- 20 Q. All right. Going back to the process of enrolling in
- 21 | school, what do you remember about that process?
- 22 A. I tried, I tried a lot.
- 23 Q. Right. You've mentioned and trying a lot, how long did
- 24 | it take to enroll in school?
- 25 A. About five month s.

- 1 | Q. Okay. So who -- was there someone who helped you
- 2 | enroll in school?
- 3 A. Two people helped me.
- 4 Q. Who were they?
- 5 A. Liz and Megan.
- 6 Q. Aleese or Aleese and Megan?
- 7 A. Aleese and Megan, yeah.
- 8 Q. Okay. So what did they do to help you enroll?
- 9 A. They did a lot. They helped me a lot to enroll in
- 10 school.
- 11 | Q. Was there paperwork involved?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Did they go with you to any meetings about
- 14 | enrollment?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can you tell me about the first meeting that you
- 17 remember that was about enrollment?
- 18 A. The first meeting was in an office on Prince Street.
- 19 Q. Who was at that meeting?
- 20 A. Megan was with me and another person his name is Amar.
- 21 Q. And who is Amar?
- 22 A. Amar is a Palestinian man?
- 23 Q. Was Amar interpreting for you?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. Did you at some point meet with Mr. Blackman

- 1 | from the School District?
- 2 A. I met him twice.
- Q. Was that the meeting that you mentioned at Prince
- 4 | Street with Megan and Amar interpreting?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. So who was at the -- you mentioned going with Megan and
- 7 Amar to interpret to the School District offices on Prince
- 8 Street. What did you do at Prince Street?
- 9 A. I went with one from my family or my people and also
- 10 with Megan. We went to this person. We didn't meet with Mr.
- 11 | Blackman, but he said you don't understand English. He said I
- 12 | don't want -- I don't want -- I will not send you to Phoenix
- 13 and I will not send you to McCaskey.
- 14 Q. Who was this person who said that you don't understand
- 15 | English and therefore you don't get to go to school?
- 16 A. Mr. Blackman.
- 17 | Q. Okay. How much could you understand of that first
- 18 | meeting with Mr. Blackman?
- 19 A. I understood my name, that's all. And after that he
- 20 | didn't -- he didn't say anything and he went to leave.
- 21 | Q. Can you describe his -- Mr. Blackman's attitude during
- 22 | that meeting?
- 23 A. He was not paying attention to us even Ms. Megan
- 24 recognized that.
- 25 | Q. How long was this meeting?

- 1 A. Maybe a few minutes. He just asked about a name and
- 2 that's it.
- Q. So what was the outcome of that meeting? What happened
- 4 after that meeting?
- 5 A. He -- he -- he wrote the name of the school that I have
- 6 to enroll in.
- 7 | Q. And what is the name of that school? What did he write
- 8 down?
- 9 A. Beside the hotel near us [indiscernible] for the old
- 10 people.
- 11 | Q. Is this the Literacy Counsel you're referring to?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 | Q. Okay. How did you react to Mr. Blackman telling you to
- 14 go to Literacy Counsel?
- 15 A. He told me if I don't understand English that I have to
- 16 | go enroll in the school.
- 17 Q. In the Literacy Counsel?
- 18 A. In the literacy, yes.
- 19 Q. And how did that make you feel?
- 20 A. I was very disappointed.
- 21 | Q. So after that meeting you were not enrolled in Phoenix;
- 22 | right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know why you were not admitted to Phoenix at
- 25 that meeting?

- 1 A. Because I didn't know English, because I don't know
- 2 English.
- 3 Q. And how did you get into Phoenix eventually?
- 4 A. Megan tried so hard to enroll me in school.
- 5 | Q. How long did it take you a Megan to get you into
- 6 | Phoenix after that meeting?
- 7 A. Almost like three months.
- 8 Q. So at some point you started -- you did get into
- 9 | Phoenix; correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. When you started there did any teachers or staff at
- 12 | Phoenix understand or speak Arabic?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 | O. You also understand some Somalia; correct?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Did any teachers or staff at Phoenix speak or
- 17 | understand Somalia?
- 18 | A. No.
- 19 Q. All right. I want to talk about how much you
- 20 understood in your classes at Phoenix?
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. Can you tell the Court what classes you took at
- 23 Phoenix?
- 24 A. I took five classes.
- 25 Q. What were they?

- 1 A. Art, English, Gym.
- 2 | Q. Gym?
- 3 A. Mathematics and the computer.
- 4 Q. What is computer class?
- 5 A. All we watched the pictures on [indiscernible].
- 6 Q. Okay. Do you know what you were supposed to be
- 7 | learning in that class?
- 8 A. I tried to learn as much as I could, but it was hard.
- 9 Q. Okay. So you didn't really understand the point of the
- 10 | computer class?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. How well did you understand the teachers and the
- 13 staff in your classes when they spoke English?
- 14 A. I understand only one person.
- 15 Q. Who is the one person you understood?
- 16 A. The English teacher.
- 17 | Q. Okay. Other than the English teacher did you
- 18 understand anything that your teachers were saying to you in
- 19 English?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 | Q. What about your classmates? How much did you
- 22 understand your classmates who could speak English?
- 23 A. A few words not much.
- Q. What about the content of your classes? Could you
- 25 understand what you were supposed to be learning in your

- 1 classes?
- 2 A. The things I understood, I understood a little bit. I
- 3 used to, you know, solve the problems, but the rest I
- 4 couldn't.
- 5 | Q. Okay. How -- what was the pace like in these classes?
- 6 How quickly or slowly did your teacher cover material?
- 7 A. It was fast paced.
- 8 Q. Let's talk about your English class where you
- 9 understood the teacher. Do you know the name of your teacher
- 10 for English?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. For how many class periods a day did you have English
- 13 | with this teacher?
- 14 A. Only one hour a day.
- 15 | Q. Do you feel like one class period a day was enough time
- 16 | with this English teacher?
- 17 A. It's not enough, one hour English a day it was not
- 18 enough.
- 19 | Q. Were the other students in the class also brand new to
- 20 | English like you or were there students in the class who could
- 21 | speak some more English than you could?
- 22 A. Some of the students they speak English, but Khadidja
- and I were the most people did not speak English.
- Q. So most people in the English class could speak more
- 25 | than you and Khadidja?

- 1 A. They speak better than us.
- 2 | Q. And what did your teacher do to try to help you
- 3 understand what was happening in that class, in English class?
- 4 A. She will help -- she will help me a lot. She showed me
- 5 the letters and she connect them together and she explained it
- 6 to me.
- 7 | Q. I'm sorry, and she explained it to me? Is that --
- 8 A. She explains.
- 9 Q. So how much could you understand what was happening in
- 10 English class after she worked with you?
- 11 A. I understand 1%.
- 12 Q. I'm sorry 1%?
- 13 A. 100%.
- 14 Q. Oh, 100%. Okay. Let's talk about your other classes
- 15 other than English and what kinds of language supports you
- 16 had.
- 17 | A. I don't understand the rest of the classes.
- 18 | Q. Were your other classes full of students who were
- 19 | students who were learning English or were you taking classes
- 20 with students who could speak English fluently?
- 21 A. All the subjects that were in English.
- 22 | Q. Well, so you were in these classes that were taught in
- 23 | English, but you didn't understand its, so what I'm trying to
- 24 ask is whether the other students in your math class, your
- 25 computer class were also English learners or whether they were

- 1 | American students who spoke English?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Yes they were -- your classes had some English
- 4 speakers?
- 5 A. The majority they speak English.
- 6 Q. Okay. Were you allowed to leave your classes, gym,
- 7 | math, computers, art to go work with the English teacher who
- 8 helped you if you needed extra language support to understand
- 9 | what was happening in class?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Did your English teacher ever come into your other
- 12 classes if you needed extra language help to understand them?
- 13 A. No, only in her class.
- 14 | Q. How often did the school bring in an interpreter to
- 15 help you understand something?
- 16 A. Never.
- 17 | Q. How often did your teachers call an interpreter on the
- 18 | phone to help you understand something?
- 19 A. No, none.
- 20 Q. Other than your English teacher were there other
- 21 | teachers who would come to math, gym, art computers to help
- 22 you understand some of the English?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Did a teacher ever use a computer or an iPad to
- 25 translate something for you?

- 1 A. No.
- Q. How often did your teachers show you pictures to help
- 3 you understand a concept that they were teaching?
- 4 A. The only -- the English class only.
- 5 \ Q. What about using hand gestures to act something out to
- 6 help communicate to you what they were talking about?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Which teachers used hand gestures to help you
- 9 understand?
- 10 A. All of them they would use [indiscernible].
- 11 | Q. All of them? So how often was that helpful to you?
- 12 A. Not much.
- 13 Q. Okay. Did you ever get mail from Phoenix or the School
- 14 District?
- 15 A. When before or after?
- 16 0. Before or after what?
- 17 A. When I was in school or after I left the school.
- 18 Q. Let's talk about when you were in school.
- 19 A. I -- I think -- I think once or twice, but it's the
- 20 results of the school.
- 21 Q. Okay. What language was that mail in?
- 22 A. It was in the English language.
- 23 | Q. Did you ever get -- when you were enrolled in school
- 24 | did you ever get mail in a language other than English?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 | Q. Mr. Did Phoenix ever translate any documents into
- 2 Arabic for you so you could understand a document?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 | Q. You mentioned after you stopped going to school, did
- 5 | you get mail from Phoenix or the School District after you
- 6 | stopped going to school?
- 7 A. Yeah, I received [indiscernible] from the school.
- 8 | Q. What language was that in?
- 9 A. In the Somalian language.
- 10 | Q. Can you read Somalia?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Can your mother read Somalia?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What -- how well does she read Somalia?
- 15 A. 50%.
- 16 Q. What language do you read and write best?
- 17 A. The Arabic language.
- 18 | Q. Going back to when you were at Phoenix, when you took
- 19 tests or exams what language were they generally in?
- 20 A. In the English language.
- 21 | Q. Did you have an interpreter to help you understand
- 22 them?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. And after your classes ended for the day were you aware
- of any after school classes at Phoenix that you could attend

- 1 | for extra help?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Were you aware of any teachers who stayed late after
- 4 school to offer you extra help?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Were you aware of any activities after school at
- 7 | Phoenix that you could stay and participate in?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Did you ever get homework assignments, by which I mean
- 10 work to take and do at home so you could practice what you
- 11 | were learning during the day?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 | Q. Could you take books home from school to continue
- 14 | learning from home?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Could you take your class work or tests home to study
- 17 | them in the evening?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Would it have been helpful to you to bring home papers
- 20 and books so you could keep studying in the evenings?
- 21 A. Of course.
- 22 Q. Oh, did anyone ever offer to photocopy a book that
- 23 | stayed at school so that you could take home that part of the
- 24 book?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 | Q. Did anyone ever offer to make a photocopy of your class
- 2 work or tests so you could leave one at school and take an
- 3 extra one home?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 | Q. Okay. I want to talk a little bit about the learning
- 6 environment and the atmosphere at Phoenix. Does Phoenix have
- 7 | rules about what you can and can't bring into the school with
- 8 you?
- 9 A. They told me them all, the rules. They told me the
- 10 | rules that I cannot bring anything from home. You leave your
- 11 | cell phone in the security office or place, that's it.
- 12 Q. Okay. Are there things you would've brought to school
- 13 | with you if you were allowed to?
- 14 A. If I was allowed to bring I would bring my food with
- 15 me.
- 16 O. Your food?
- 17 A. Food and my books.
- 18 Q. Books. Did you ever to go through security screening,
- 19 oh, I'm sorry, why would you bring books to and from school
- 20 | with you?
- 21 A. So I can practice my English.
- 22 | Q. Do you have to go through security screening in the
- 23 | morning at Phoenix?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. What is that like?

- 1 A. It makes me feel like I'm a bad person.
- 2 Q. Can you tell us how they do the security screening at
- 3 Phoenix?
- 4 | A. You open your arms and take off your -- I should take
- 5 off my shoes.
- 6 Q. So you open your arms and then what happens?
- 7 A. They -- they search. They -- they pat you down.
- 8 Q. Does it matter what you're wearing? Do you have to do
- 9 anything special with your clothes while this is happening?
- 10 A. It's from the outside.
- 11 Q. I'm sorry, it's from the outside?
- 12 A. Mm-hmm.
- 13 | Q. So they pat you down on the outside of your clothes?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. How do the pat downs make you feel about the
- 16 | school you go to?
- 17 A. He makes me hate the school and hate the system.
- 18 Q. How do they make you feel about yourself?
- 19 A. It makes me feel bad.
- 20 Q. Why does it make you feel bad?
- 21 A. Police only search those who they carry illegal things.
- 22 Q. I'm sorry, you said the -- the police?
- 23 A. The police only search people who carry illegal things
- 24 with them.
- 25 Q. So it makes you feel like their -- suspect you of

- 1 having illegal things?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Let's talk about your classmates at
- 4 Phoenix. How did you get along with your classmates at
- 5 | Phoenix?
- 6 A. It was good.
- 7 Q. You got along well?
- 8 A. My friends in the class I had a good relationship with
- 9 them.
- 10 O. Okay. What about the students who were not friends
- 11 | from your class?
- 12 A. We were not good together, to each other.
- 13 | Q. Are there negative interactions with those students
- 14 that stand out particularly in your mind?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Is there -- is there anything you remember about having
- 17 | a negative interaction with someone at your school?
- 18 A. In the mathematic class and in the bathroom, but I
- 19 didn't know them.
- 20 Q. Okay. So the first one you said was in the bathrooms?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 | Q. Okay. So what -- what would happen when you would go
- 23 to the bathroom at Phoenix?
- 24 A. I go to the bathroom to use the bathroom and somebody
- 25 comes and knock on the door and I don't know what to do when I

- 1 open the door to see.
- 2 Q. When you say knock on the door or with their hands or
- 3 with their feet? How -- what was this knocking like?
- 4 A. Those who knock on the door use their hand, they were
- 5 respectful, but those who knock on the door by their feet they
- 6 were disrespectful.
- 7 Q. So sometimes someone would just knock on the door,
- 8 | like, to see if you were in the bathroom, is that what you're
- 9 | saying?
- 10 A. The first things that I entered the bathroom they just
- 11 knock on the door.
- 12 Q. Right. So, okay. And that was respectful and you had
- 13 | no problem with that?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 | Q. Okay. So let's talk about the kicking which you said
- 16 was not respectful.
- 17 A. No, it's not respectful.
- 18 | Q. So what -- so what would happen? You were in the stall
- 19 and someone kicked on the door?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Or did they say anything?
- 22 A. When I opened the door they make themselves there is
- 23 nothing happen.
- Q. Were these other students from your school?
- 25 A. [Indiscernible].

- 1 | Q. Did you know their names?
- 2 A. No.
- Q. Could you describe their attitude or demeanor?
- 4 A. I can't describe that.
- 5 \ Q. What tone of -- do you know what tone of voice they
- 6 | were using?
- 7 A. They scream, they yell, they speak in their own
- 8 language.
- 9 Q. Did you understand their language?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. How often did this happen?
- 12 A. It happened about two, three times.
- 13 Q. Two or three times the whole time you were at Phoenix?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. And after the first time that this happened,
- 16 | what did you do?
- 17 A. I -- I didn't know what to do, I'm not in my country
- 18 and I don't know what to do. I just waited there.
- 19 Q. Did you tell anyone about the kicking on the bathroom
- 20 doors?
- 21 A. I was afraid to tell anybody.
- 22 Q. Why were you afraid?
- 23 A. I'm alone here and I have -- there are more people that
- are like a group of people I couldn't do anything.
- 25 Q. Were you -- so you were scared of what, what the

- 1 | students would do to you if you told someone?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. All right. After the second time that this happened,
- 4 how did that make you feel?
- 5 A. I kept silence, I didn't do anything.
- 6 Q. What about the third time that this happened?
- 7 A. The third time I stopped going to the school, period.
- 8 Q. Okay. So before you stopped going to school
- 9 altogether, how many times a day would you have to go into the
- 10 bathrooms?
- 11 A. Whenever I needed I used to go.
- 12 Q. Okay. Did you avoid using the bathrooms at all?
- 13 A. Yeah, I tried.
- 14 Q. Do you know why -- why this kept happening in the
- 15 | bathrooms?
- 16 A. I don't know.
- 17 | Q. Okay. Are there rules at Phoenix about using the
- 18 | bathrooms, like, how many students there can be, who can be in
- 19 | the bathroom at any given time?
- 20 A. From the class only two people can leave the class, one
- 21 girl and boy can use the bathroom during that class
- [indiscernible].
- 23 Q. So the other students in there were not students you
- 24 knew from your classes?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And Phoenix has security guards; right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Can the security guards go in the bathroom?
- 4 A. If he hear screaming in the bathroom.
- 5 | Q. Did you ever see a security guard go into the bathroom
- 6 because there was screaming?
- 7 | A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. Is that when you were in the bathroom or when
- 9 | someone else was in the bathroom?
- 10 | A. I was in the bathroom and the other people were there
- 11 too.
- 12 Q. Okay. What did the security guard do when they got
- 13 there?
- 14 A. He was telling them everybody should return to their
- 15 classes.
- 16 Q. Okay. So apart from the bathroom incidents are there
- other negative interactions with Phoenix students that you
- 18 remember?
- 19 A. There was another girl from a different class, she
- 20 | tried to pull my hair and I didn't [indiscernible].
- 21 Q. Where did this happen?
- 22 A. In the math period.
- 23 | Q. So she was in your math class? You said from -- it was
- 24 a girl from a different class, do you mean she was in a
- 25 different grade than you were?

- 1 A. No. In the same, from the same class.
- 2 Q. Same class. Did you know her name?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. What -- did she speak English?
- 5 A. She speaks English and Spanish.
- 6 Q. Okay. So what did you do when she pulled your hair?
- 7 A. I did not like it.
- 8 Q. So how did you react?
- 9 A. I just told her do not touch my hair.
- 10 | Q. Did she stop touching your hair when you told her this?
- 11 A. Yes, she did.
- 12 Q. Okay. Was the teacher in the room when this happened?
- 13 A. He was talking to other students.
- 14 Q. Okay. How long did this incident affect you?
- 15 A. It bothered me a lot.
- 16 Q. You mentioned at some point you stopped going to
- 17 | school; right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Was that after your first quarter at Phoenix?
- 20 A. I didn't understand.
- 21 | Q. Do you -- are you aware of the school year being broken
- 22 up into four parts?
- 23 A. Can I explain this to him?
- 24 Q. If you interpret for everyone, yes.
- 25 A. I didn't know that.

- 1 | Q. Okay. Do you know what month it was when you stopped
- 2 | going to school?
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 | Q. Okay. Do you know whether you kept getting credit for
- 5 school even after you stopped going?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. Qasin, what do you want to do with your life?
- 8 A. When I came here I want to -- I was [indiscernible] I
- 9 | want to pursue my education and to help my family and I want
- 10 to be a policeman in the United States.
- 11 | Q. How well do you think Phoenix prepared you to pursue
- 12 these goals?
- 13 A. I believe if I stay in Phoenix probably it will take me
- 14 | 10 years to graduate.
- 15 | Q. Do you -- let's set aside when you graduate, do you
- 16 | feel that you learned at Phoenix?
- 17 A. No, it's impossible.
- 18 | Q. Did anyone ever suggest to you that if you got some
- 19 | credit at Phoenix you could transfer to McCaskey?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 | Q. Do you remember your lawyers asking to transfer you to
- 22 McCaskey?
- 23 A. Who's the lawyer?
- Q. I am one of your lawyers, we've met, hi.
- 25 A. Yes.

address scheduling for the rest of the day. I note it's now,

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it's not that I can't see that clock with that sun on there I'm just not sure it's right, but it's now almost 4:00; is that correct.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: Yes.

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THE COURT: And I know we've brought several children up here with interpreters and the hope was that we would have moved along a little more quickly, although the evidence has been very compelling and I understand why it's taking as long as it is, but I understand there's also an issue from the standpoint of the defendants that there is a graduation tonight or something of that sort? Of course there's a graduation, we heard about it in the testimony. Mr Rothschild, what is your thought in this matter?

MR. ROTHSCHILD: So the witnesses that we would like to put on understanding that the challenges of the schedule are the two sisters here who've traveled from Lancaster, they are -- they wrote their testimony up so we translated, it will be much shorter than the first two student witnesses and probably after we get one because they share much of the same life we can make the second sister's testimony shorter. Then we have another witness who's a former teacher at Phoenix who I know is not available tomorrow and I'm not sure about her availability Thursday or Friday we're trying to find out that answer, maybe by the time we finish cross-examination I'll have it for you. I don't know

1	what	for	the	graduation	what	that	requires	for	defendants.
2			7	THE COURT:	And i	Attorn	ney O'Doni	nell	

MS. O'DONNELL: Yes. Yes, Your Honor. So I think generally if you're -- if you had ended court today at 4:30 that would ever been enough time for my folks to get back in time for graduation, but if we don't finish by 4:30 then we'll just continue on, because they won't be able to make it then.

THE COURT: And what would you like me to do?

MS. O'DONNELL: Whatever --

11 THE COURT: You can say it.

MS. O'DONNELL: Well, obviously, I'd like [indiscernible] court at 4:30 so my folks can attend graduation, but, again, if --

THE COURT: Is it at all possible and I know that you won't be here during all of the testimony, but is it at all possible that you would remain but they would depart to go to the graduation?

MS. O'DONNELL: Yeah, they could, they could -THE COURT: Would you feel comfortable doing

that?

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MS. O'DONNELL: Go.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Would that be a solution then?

25 MS. O'DONNELL: That would be a solution.

1	THE COURT: And then we'll press on as best we
2	can. At some point they'll start to complain about the CSOs
3	if we go too much past normal business hours, but why don't we
4	wait until we hear any some complaining and if not we'll
5	try to get as much in today as possible.
6	MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
7	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, very much.
8	THE COURT: So whenever the two of you need to
9	leave, by all means just feel free to depart.
10	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
11	THE COURT: You're welcome.
12	MR. ROTHSCHILD: Okay. And Your Honor, we just
13	got news that Ms. Rivera who's the former teacher can testify
14	Thursday, so that makes things a little bit more manageable
15	and we'll just do the students today and [indiscernible].
16	THE COURT: Very well. So we'll continue with
17	the cross-examination here and the redirect and then we'll put
18	the two other students on and then we'll conclude for the day.
19	MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
20	THE COURT: Very well. Attorney O'Donnell, you
21	may cross-examine the witness.
22	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, very much.
23	
24	CROSS-EXAMINATION
25	

- 1 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 2 | Q. Good afternoon, [indiscernible] Qasin, how are you?
- 3 A. Fine thank you.
- 4 | Q. Very good, yes. So Qasin, I listened to your direct
- 5 | examination and I have a few questions. Remember when we
- 6 talked last week at your deposition? Yes. Okay. You have a
- 7 | brother Abdacata [ph]? And tell us how old he is.
- 8 A. He's 19 years old.
- 9 Q. He's 19. And you have a sister Elham [ph].
- 10 A. Elham, yes.
- 11 Q. And do you have a sister Miriam?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 | O. And how old is Elham?
- 14 A. Twenty years old.
- 15 Q. She's 20? And how old is Miriam?
- 16 A. Eighteen.
- 17 | Q. And your currently 17?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. And out of yourself, Miriam, Elham and Abdacata
- 20 how many of you applied or enrolled to the School District of
- 21 | Lancaster this year?
- 22 A. Me, myself and my brother [indiscernible].
- Q. Okay. That's your younger brother?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. And how old is he?

- 1 A. I don't know this.
- 2 Q. You don't remember how old your brother is?
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 Q. Okay. Is he enrolled in the school?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And what school does he attend?
- 7 A. Hand school.
- 8 Q. High school?
- 9 A. Hand.
- 10 Q. Oh, Hand Middle School, okay. When you were all in
- 11 | Cairo did you apply -- did you enroll in school?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 | Q. So neither you nor Miriam nor Elham nor Abdacata had
- 14 | ever gone to school?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Never been to school in your life?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. How long did you attend Phoenix Academy?
- 19 A. Not exactly probably a month or a month and a half.
- 20 Q. Okay. Do you feel like you gave it enough time to find
- 21 out whether or not you liked to be in school?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Do you remember that after you left school a group of
- 24 people from the School District came to your house?
- 25 A. The English teachers.

- 1 | Q. Right. But I'm talking about a different time when a
- group of people including Ms. Hisey [ph] to speak with you and
- 3 your mother?
- 4 A. No. Only the English teacher and another person came.
- 5 Q. Do you have any recollection of telling anybody at the
- 6 | School District that you didn't want to go to school that you
- 7 | wanted to work?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. Are you working now?
- 10 A. I was working before I enrolled in Phoenix.
- 11 Q. Where were you working?
- 12 A. A place that -- in a market where I sell produce.
- 13 Q. Where does your sister Miriam work?
- 14 A. She works at [indiscernible].
- 15 Q. Okay. And where does your sister Elham work?
- 16 A. She doesn't work.
- 17 Q. Didn't you tell me in your deposition that Elham worked
- 18 at the market selling produce?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. She applied for a job. She [indiscernible].
- 22 | O. Is Elham the one who has the baby, Ali?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 | Q. And isn't she the one who works at the hotel?
- 25 A. No, Miriam.

- 1 Q. Do you know the name of the hotel?
- 2 A. No.
- Q. Do you know the name of the market?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You don't know the name of the market and you worked
- 6 there?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. No? You don't know the name of the market that you
- 9 worked at?
- 10 A. It's [indiscernible] fruits.
- 11 Q. When you were at Phoenix do you remember your English
- 12 teacher telling you that you just needed to come to her and
- she would help you with whatever you needed help with in terms
- 14 of understanding English?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Okay. Do you remember anybody telling you that there
- 17 | was a school program where you could earn extra credits and
- 18 | learn more English?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Did anyone tell you that there was a summer program
- 21 where you can learn more English and engage in other
- 22 | activities like going to the zoo?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Okay. You indicated, Qasin that you wanted to be a
- 25 | police officer?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And do you know that you need a diploma or a diploma
- 3 | equivalents like a GED in order to do that?
- 4 A. It's impossible, because it's [indiscernible]
- 5 education.
- 6 Q. Okay. So are you coming back to Phoenix Academy?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Why not?
- 9 A. They're not supporting me. They're not helping me.
- 10 | Q. Do you recall that -- do you recall anybody telling you
- 11 | that you had a -- there was a plan for you to contact five
- 12 people within the Phoenix Academy that you can go to at any
- 13 | time for help?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. I want to go back to the enrollment. Do you remember
- 16 | visiting the school to enroll?
- 17 A. What do you mean by how did I remember?
- 18 Q. Do you remember coming to the school to enroll? He
- 19 doesn't remember? You don't remember enrolling in the School
- 20 District at all?
- 21 | A. What do you mean by --
- 22 | Q. Did there come a point and time last you're when you
- 23 | visited the School District to tell them you were interested
- in becoming a student?
- 25 A. I was happy to enroll in school.

- 1 Q. Okay. And did you give them your date of birth?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Did you know that there was an issue with your
- 4 date of birth that delayed your immediate enrollment?
- 5 A. No, I did not know.
- 6 Q. Okay. You told me at your deposition, do you remember
- 7 | that you would -- you want to go to McCaskey High School?
- 8 A. I -- yes, I remember.
- 9 Q. And why do you believe that you would do better at
- 10 | McCaskey?
- 11 A. Because they -- McCaskey had a good reputation.
- 12 Q. How do you know McCaskey has a good reputation?
- 13 A. All my friends and my relatives they said McCaskey is a
- 14 good school.
- 15 | Q. Whether your friends and relatives tell you that --
- 16 that McCaskey is a good school?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 | Q. And what relatives do you have that attended McCaskey
- 19 High School?
- 20 A. They were from Somalia. My neighbors.
- 21 | Q. Are they relatives?
- 22 A. Relatives that means that people from my own country.
- 23 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Those are all the questions I
- 25 have.

THE COURT: Thank you very much counselor.

2 Attorney Tack-Hooper, you make redirect the witness. You may

3 redirect.

4 | MS. TACK-HOOPER: [Indiscernible] I'll be brief.

5 | - - -

6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

7 | - - -

- 8 BY MS. TACK-HOOPER:
- 9 Q. Qasin, is it more important to you to get a high school
- 10 | diploma or to learn?
- 11 A. Both.
- 12 Q. Both. Do you feel that at Phoenix you were learning?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. If you had the choice would you rather stay at Phoenix
- 15 | for another year and get a high school diploma or go to a
- 16 better school where you might not get a high school diploma?
- 17 A. No, I would choose to [indiscernible] a better school.
- 18 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 19 MS. TACK-HOOPER: Nothing else, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Thank you, counselor. Attorney
- 21 O'Donnell.
- 22 MS. O'DONNELL: Nothing further, Your Honor.
- 23 | THE COURT: And I just have a few questions.
- 24 | Sir, you came from Somalia to Egypt; is that correct?
- 25 INTERPRETER: Yes.

	Page 69
1	THE COURT: And when you were in Somalia you did
2	not have the opportunity to go to school?
3	INTERPRETER: We were afraid to go to the
4	school.
5	THE COURT: And can you describe what life was
6	like in Somalia as best you can remember?
7	INTERPRETER: They were fighting and my mother
8	will hide us in the house as nothing can harm us.
9	THE COURT: Okay. And so it was a very
10	unstable it wasn't a good life?
11	INTERPRETER: It was.
12	THE COURT: And when you heard you were going to
13	Egypt how do you hear that?
14	INTERPRETER: [Indiscernible] can you repeat?
15	THE COURT: That was a terrible question. How
16	did you hear about the fact that you were going to Egypt?
17	INTERPRETER: From from somebody who was
18	there that my mother find out that he can help us to escape to
19	Egypt, to go to Egypt.
20	THE COURT: And was it a government official or
21	was it a private person?
22	INTERPRETER: I don't know, but only we know
23	that we have to we have to we sold the house and we gave
24	him the money to help us to escape out of the country.
25	THE COURT: Okay. And did you have to hide when

THE COURT: And is Arabic close to Somalian?

25

THE COURT: Okay and why was that? I know you

25

1	were	expect	ing	it to	be	wonde	erful	and	it wa	asn't	wor	nderfu	ıl	and
2	your	you	get	here	you	ır 17	years	old	what	was	it	that	ma	.de

- 3 if not wonderful?
- INTERPRETER: I did not find my opportunity to take my education and I did not find the support that I deserve.
- THE COURT: Now in Egypt you learned Arabic and
 you learned it in at least within five years you can speak
 Arabic; correct?
- 10 INTERPRETER: In three years.
- 11 THE COURT: Three years. Do you find English a
 12 more difficult language?
- 13 INTERPRETER: No.
- 14 | THE COURT: So you will learn English?
- 15 INTERPRETER: Yes.
- 16 THE COURT: And why do you wish to be a police
- 17 officer?
- 18 | INTERPRETER: I love the personality, the
- 19 character.
- 20 THE COURT: Does it have anything to do with
- 21 protecting people?
- 22 INTERPRETER: Yes.
- 23 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And do you feel
- 24 different because you don't speak English?
- 25 INTERPRETER: Yes.

MR. ROTHSCHILD:

Your Honor, Eric Rothschild.

25

	Page 75
1	ESR OPERATOR: Please raise your right hand.
2	INTERPRETER: Yes.
3	
4	(SALAI LIAN - INTERPRETER - SWORN)
5	
6	THE COURT: Thank you very much, sir. And sir,
7	would you please state your full name, spelling your last name
8	for the record?
9	INTERPRETER: Yes, my full name is Salai
10	[indiscernible] Lian and last name is spelled L-I-A-N.
11	THE COURT: And the language you will be
12	interpreting.
13	INTERPRETER: Hakha Chin.
14	THE COURT: And you are qualified and certified
15	to interpret in that language?
16	INTERPRETER: I am qualified interpreter for
17	that language.
18	THE COURT: Very well. Thank you very much,
19	sir. Mr. Rothschild, you may proceed, sir.
20	MR. ROTHSCHILD: We need to swear the witness?
21	THE COURT: Certainly. She's there. Quiet as
22	can be, but she's there.
23	DEPUTY CLERK: Please raise your right hand.
24	
25	(VAN NI LANG - SWORN)

Page 76 1 THE COURT: And Miss, if you would keep your 2 3 voice up as much as you can. 4 INTERPRETER: Okay. Thank you. THE COURT: Mr. Rothschild, you may proceed, 5 6 sir. 7 8 EXAMINATION 9 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD: 10 11 Good afternoon, Van Ni. Are you ready to answer my 12 questions? 13 Α. Yes. 14 And I'm going to ask you to wait until the interpreter 15 has finished my question before you answer; okay? 16 Α. Okay. 17 Van Ni, can you tell the judge your full name? Q. 18 Α. My name is Van Ni Lang. How old are you? 19 0. 20 Α. Seventeen. 21 What's your birthday? Q. 22 Α. October 30, 1998. 23 Where were you born? Q. I was born in Xiao Pai [ph]. 24 Α. 25 Q. Can you repeat that please?

- 1 A. I was born in Xiao Pai.
- Q. And what country is that in?
- 3 A. Chin State.
- 4 | Q. Could you repeat that?
- 5 A. [Indiscernible].
- 6 Q. Where did you live before you came to the United
- 7 | States?
- 8 A. Yeah, I was in [indiscernible].
- 9 Q. Okay. And did you go to school there?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 | Q. Okay. How many years of school did you complete?
- 12 A. Yes, I was eight grade.
- 13 | Q. And what was the last month and year that you went to
- 14 | school there?
- 15 A. Yeah, it was around March, but I don't remember the
- 16 | year for sure. I don't know [indiscernible].
- 17 Q. What language did you speak there before you came to
- 18 | the United States? Did you speak any other -- I'm sorry.
- 19 A. Hakha Chin.
- 20 Q. Did you speak any other languages before you came to
- 21 | the United States?
- 22 A. Yeah, I speak some Burmese as well.
- 23 | Q. But you didn't speak any English?
- 24 A. Yeah, I don't -- I -- I don't speak English.
- 25 Q. Okay. And before you came to the United States did you

- 1 understand any English?
- 2 A. No.
- Q. Why did your family come to the United States?
- 4 | A. Yes, in my country there were -- there was, like, force
- 5 labor by the army, a lot, mean time and because of that my
- 6 | father left the country.
- 7 Q. Was your dad, your father forced into labor before he
- 8 | left for the United States?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 | Q. Did he come to the United States before you and the
- 11 rest of the family?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And did he come to Lancaster, Pennsylvania?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. When did you arrive in the United States?
- 16 A. November 2015.
- 17 | Q. And what city did you -- what city do you live in now?
- 18 A. This is your interpreter, can you repeat again?
- 19 Q. Yes. What city do you live in?
- 20 A. Lancaster.
- 21 | Q. Who came to the United States with you in November
- 22 2015?
- 23 A. My mom and my old siblings and two younger siblings.
- Q. Is your older sibling in the Court with you here today?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 | Q. And what's her name?
- 2 A. [Indiscernible].
- 3 Q. How old is she?
- 4 A. Nineteen.
- 5 Q. And tell us about your younger siblings. What are
- 6 their names and how old are they?
- 7 A. Yes, my younger witness is [indiscernible] and he is 15
- 8 | year old and the younger is [indiscernible] and she is 14 year
- 9 old.
- 10 Q. When you came to the United States did your family have
- 11 | a case worker that helped you settle in Lancaster?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Do you remember his name or her name?
- 14 A. Malcolm.
- 15 Q. Malcolm?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 | Q. When you came to the United States did you want to go
- 18 to school?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Why?
- 21 A. Yes, I want to Phoenix school.
- 22 Q. But why did you want to go to school?
- 23 A. Yeah, I wanted to be educated.
- 24 Q. You go to school at Phoenix?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And that's where Sui Hnem goes also?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Where does -- sorry. Where does your younger brother
- 4 go to school?
- 5 A. McCaskey.
- 6 Q. Did the District give you the choice of going to
- 7 McCaskey?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. And where does your younger sister go to school? Where
- 10 | will she go --
- 11 A. Abraham Lincoln School.
- 12 Q. Where will she go to school next year?
- 13 A. McCaskey.
- 14 Q. Did Malcolm help you enroll in school?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And do you -- do you remember -- do you remember going
- 17 | to the school office to fill out forms to go to school?
- 18 A. Yes, I remember.
- 19 Q. And was that soon after you came to the United States?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Was it in November 2015?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. When did you begin at Phoenix?
- 24 A. In December.
- Q. Do you remember whether it was early December or late

- 1 December?
- 2 A. Yeah, just before Christmas days.
- Q. Did your older sister Sui Hnem start at Phoenix at the
- 4 same time?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. When did she start?
- 7 A. Yeah, February.
- 8 Q. I want to ask you some questions about going to school
- 9 at Phoenix; okay?
- 10 | A. Okay.
- 11 | Q. When you enter school in the morning are you patted
- 12 down?
- 13 A. Hello, this is your interpreter, can you repeat again?
- 14 Q. Sure. When you enter school in the morning are you
- 15 | patted down?
- 16 A. Yes. While we enter the school, yes. We were -- we
- 17 | were always checked.
- 18 Q. Everyday?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. How does that make you feel?
- 21 A. Yes. Sometimes I was afraid of checking because
- 22 | sometime I my clothes got [indiscernible] and the
- 23 [indiscernible] and sometime they ask me what is that so I
- 24 | wasn't able to speak to them in [indiscernible]. I -- I'm --
- 25 I was afraid of.

- 1 Q. I want to make sure I understood. So sometimes my
- 2 | clothes became what?
- 3 A. Yes. In my clothes sometimes I got [indiscernible] a
- 4 | little bit bumps [indiscernible] in the bottom and they --
- 5 | they -- they asking me what is the bump on my clothes and I
- 6 | wasn't able to tell them what it was in English.
- 7 | Q. Did you ever bring a purse or a backpack into school
- 8 | with you?
- 9 A. No.
- $10 \mid Q$. Why not?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 | Q. Why not?
- 13 A. I don't know why.
- 14 Q. Did your teacher send books home with you from school?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Would you like to be able to bring books home?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 | Q. Why?
- 19 A. Yes, if I bring book back to my home I can study and I
- 20 can -- it can help me to speak English better.
- 21 Q. What's your favorite class at Phoenix?
- 22 A. ESL.
- 23 | Q. What is that your favorite class?
- 24 A. Yes, because I don't speak English and I wanted to
- 25 | learn English.

- 1 Q. And is your ESL is that just one class period everyday?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 | Q. Would you like to have more ESL time?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What other classes do you take at Phoenix?
- 6 A. This is your interpreter I would like to request
- 7 [indiscernible] to repeat again.
- 8 Q. Yes, that's fine.
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. Go ahead.
- 11 A. Counseling, yes, like, the -- just mathematic, science
- 12 and history and drawing and counseling.
- 13 | Q. Are those classes taught in English?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 | Q. Are there English speaking kids in the class? English
- 16 | speaking students in the class?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 | Q. Do you have trouble understanding what's being taught
- 19 in those classes?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And why is that?
- 22 A. Yes, when they talk faster or when they talk not clear
- 23 then I could not understand them.
- 24 Q. Is it also hard to understand the English speaking
- 25 students in the class?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Are there ever interpreters in any of the classes?
- 3 A. No, never.
- 4 | Q. If you don't understand something do your teachers ever
- 5 | call to get translation help like we're doing here in the
- 6 Court?
- $7 \mid A.$ No, never.
- 8 Q. Are there any teachers in the school who speak Hakha
- 9 Chin?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. And are there any other students who speak Hakha Chin
- 12 | in Phoenix besides your sister?
- 13 A. No. No one else [indiscernible].
- 14 Q. When the school sends papers home do they translate
- 15 | those papers into Hakha Chin?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 | Q. Could you just give us an example about what you
- 18 | learned in science class?
- 19 A. Yeah. We study about moon, star, rock and the sign.
- 20 | Q. And can you describe the work you actually do in
- 21 science class, what kind of assignments you do?
- 22 A. Yes, first we write a note and then the teacher explain
- and then we answer questions. We pick out the right answers.
- Q. Did you ever take -- have homework from your science
- 25 class?

- 1 A. No. Never.
- Q. Outside of school do you receive any English language
- 3 tutoring?
- 4 A. Yes, at home I receive once a week.
- 5 | Q. And who arranged that? Did your caseworker arrange
- 6 that for you?
- 7 A. Yes, caseworker arranged, yes that work, that
- 8 assignment.
- 9 Q. What grade is your brother going into at McCaskey?
- 10 A. Yes, he was 10th grade last year, but this year he will
- 11 going to 11th grade.
- 12 Q. Does she speak better English than you?
- 13 A. Yes, very much getter.
- 14 Q. Even though he's younger than you?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Why do you think that is?
- 17 A. Yeah, at his school she -- she spend more time on the
- 18 | ESL class and he also brought back books and that way he got a
- 19 | lot of help.
- 20 Q. Does he do work at home?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 | Q. Is it a little frustrating that your little brother
- 23 knows more English than you do?
- 24 A. Yes. Yes.
- 25 Q. Would you like to go to McCaskey like your brother?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 | Q. What would you like to do when you're older?
- 3 A. Yeah, I want to become a medical doctor.
- 4 | MR. ROTHSCHILD: I have no further questions.
- 5 | Thank you, Your Honor.
- 6 THE COURT: Thank you very much, counselor.
- 7 Attorney O'Donnell, you may cross-examine the witness.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.

9 | - - -

10 CROSS-EXAMINATION

11 | - - -

- 12 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 13 Q. Hi, Van Ni. Do you remember speaking with me last
- 14 | week? Yes?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Do you know whether or not there are other students at
- 17 | the Abraham Lincoln School that speak Hakha Chin?
- 18 A. No. I don't know.
- 19 | Q. And do you know whether there are any other students at
- 20 McCaskey that speak Hakha Chin?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 | Q. Who -- do you know the people that speak Hakha Chin
- 23 other than your sibling at McCaskey?
- 24 A. This is your interpreter, interpreter would like to
- 25 [indiscernible] okay. I'm just to [indiscernible] the

- 1 question one more time.
- 2 | Q. Sure.
- 3 A. Yes. I know one person, one student who speak Hakha
- 4 Chin there.
- 5 Q. And is that person your sibling?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Who is that person?
- 8 A. I don't know that student name but he is a friend of my
- 9 brother.
- 10 Q. Okay. So to your knowledge there are two students at
- 11 | McCaskey that speak Hakha Chin like you and your sister are
- 12 | the two students at Phoenix that speak Hakha Chin; is that
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. I'm sorry, this is your interpreter, could you repeat
- 15 | again, one more time?
- 16 | Q. Sure. To the best of Van Ni's knowledge, there are two
- 17 | people at McCaskey that speak Hakha Chin just like there are
- 18 | two people -- go ahead?
- 19 A. I'm sorry.
- 20 Q. That's okay. You could interpret that.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 | Q. And to the best of your knowledge there are only two
- 23 people at Phoenix Academy, you and your sister that speak
- 24 | Hakha Chin; is that correct? Okay.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 | Q. Do you know whether there are any interpreters at
- 2 McCaskey?
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 Q. Let's go back to your education when you were in Burma.
- 5 | I believe you testified that you left Burma when you were in
- 6 | eight grade; is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 | Q. And how old were you at the time you finished eight
- 9 | grade in Burma?
- 10 A. Fifteen.
- 11 Q. Fifteen?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And how old -- can you tell me what grade your sister
- 14 | finished, your older finished when -- when leaving Burma?
- 15 A. Ninth grade.
- 16 Q. And how old was your sister when she finished ninth
- 17 grade?
- 18 A. No. I am not sure. I don't know.
- 19 Q. Do you know how old your sister is now?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. How old is she?
- 22 A. Nineteen.
- 23 Q. And how long ago did you leave Burma?
- 24 A. Almost two year now.
- 25 Q. Okay. Are you happy with your education at the Phoenix

- 1 Academy?
- 2 A. I think not bad.
- 3 | Q. Okay. Last week you told me you were happy with your
- 4 education. Did something change between then and now?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay. And Van Ni do you want to transfer to McCaskey?
- 7 | A. Yes.
- 8 | Q. Why?
- 9 A. Yes. I wanted to spend more time on ESL class and
- 10 | there are -- there are -- there is also my
- 11 | younger sibling and there are -- there are -- there are a lot
- 12 of Burmese student there.
- 13 | Q. When you say you want more time in ESL class are you
- 14 aware that the classes at McCaskey are about half the length
- 15 of time everyday that you receive at Phoenix Academy?
- 16 A. No. I don't know.
- 17 | Q. So if it's just the amount of English language
- 18 | instruction you receive isn't it better for you to stay at
- 19 | Phoenix?
- 20 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Objection. Lacks foundation.
- 21 THE COURT: There's an objection. Hold on.
- 22 INTERPRETER: Sorry.
- 23 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Your Honor, objection, lacks
- 24 foundation when she's just stating the facts about what's
- 25 taught at McCaskey.

THE COURT: It's somewhat of a rhetorical

2 | question in any case, because the idea is we're going to get

- 3 more specific information about what is taught at each school,
- 4 | so it's somewhat rhetoric. Ask her if you get more English
- 5 training at Phoenix, doesn't it make more sense to stay at
- 6 Phoenix. So I'm going to overrule the objection. I think
- 7 it's really tough for this witness to answer that question
- 8 understanding what the mechanics of it all is.
- 9 MS. O'DONNELL: Let me -- let me rephrase it the
- 10 question.
- 11 THE COURT: Very well.
- 12 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 13 | Q. Van Ni, if you learned that there's only 40 minutes or
- 14 | 50 minutes of English instruction a day at McCaskey and
- 15 English is important to you and you get 80 minutes of English
- 16 instruction at Phoenix what's better for you?
- 17 A. This is your interpreter, yeah, interpreter would like
- 18 | to clarify what your question; okay that you say that if
- 19 | you -- if she receive like 40 or 50 a day from in the English
- 20 [indiscernible] ESL at [indiscernible] and you also asked the
- 21 | question about 80 minutes at Phoenix?
- 22 | Q. Are you asking for an interpretation?
- 23 A. Oh, yes, this is your interpreter, yeah, okay. I just
- 24 -- interpreter was trying to [indiscernible] your question.
- 25 Q. Right. I want her to be able to -- to tell me whether

having more minutes of English instruction a day is more important to her than attending McCaskey?

A. Okay.

2.

2.1

MR. ROTHSCHILD: And Your Honor, I'm going to -INTERPRETER: Okay.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: I'm going to object --

INTERPRETER: Thank you.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: Interpreter, could you just wait one moment before translating? Thank you. I'm going to object, because it's incomplete and I appreciate this is challenging to ask this question, but it's incomplete hypothetical, it states facts that are not in evidence and I believe it states facts that will not be in evidence, so I'm going to register that objection. I think it would be very difficult for the witness to answer this question as well.

THE COURT: I'm going to overrule the objection, however, my understanding is the [indiscernible] of the issue is you can't learn in a science class that's taught in English unless you can understand English, so the importance of learning English is paramount in order to be able to learn in all the other subjects. You know, if you put me in a class where they're speaking this language I wouldn't learn one single word, maybe something on the blackboard. So again, the question is a little rhetorical and again, I know where you're going. Would it be better for her to be in a school where she

- gets more English instruction so that her proficiency in

 English increases is I think what you're going for; correct?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, yes, because she's
- 4 testified that she wants to go -- to go to McCaskey because
- 5 | she'll learn more English.
- 6 THE COURT: And there's also been evidence that
- 7 her brother who goes to McCaskey speaks better English than
- 8 she does even though she appears to be a very bright young
- 9 girl, so the question is why we're going to get sooner or
- 10 | later, and I don't think through her, but we're going to get
- 11 to why that might be the case. So I'm going to allow you to
- 12 ask that question about isn't, and you can phrase it yourself,
- 13 | but isn't it more important to you that you get a lot of
- 14 | English instruction so that your proficiency in English can
- 15 get effective so that you can be learning in the other
- 16 classes.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Interpreter, did you -- did you
- 18 understand that question that the judge just asked?
- 19 THE COURT: That would be impossible.
- 20 | INTERPRETER: Yeah, you may -- you may -- you
- 21 | may want to ask me to her.
- 22 MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Let me -- let me -- let
- 23 me pose it to Van Ni.
- 24 BY MS. O'DONNELL:

25

Q. Van Ni, is it more important for you to get more

- 1 | minutes of English instruction a day so that you become more
- 2 | proficient in English than it is to attend a different school
- 3 where you get lessons -- less time per day?
- 4 A. Yes. I wanted to learn English and McCaskey is much
- 5 | more closer to my home than the other one and now the current
- 6 one it took too long for us to get there.
- 7 Q. Thank you, Van Ni?
- 8 MS. O'DONNELL: Those are all the questions I
- 9 have.
- 10 THE COURT: Thank you very much counselor. Mr
- 11 Rothschild -- Mr. Rothschild, you may redirect the witness.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor, just one
- 13 question.
- 14
- 15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 16
- 17 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:
- 18 | Q. Van Ni, did your brother attend the International
- 19 | School at McCaskey?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 MR. ROTHSCHILD: That's all, Your Honor.
- 22 THE COURT: Thank you, counselor. Attorney
- 23 O'Donnell, anything further?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Nothing further, thank you.
- THE COURT: Very well. And Miss, at home you

- 1 A. Nineteen.
- Q. And what's your birthday?
- 3 A. October 19, 1996.
- 4 Q. Sui Hnem, where were you born?
- 5 A. Xiao Pai.
- 6 Q. Sui Hnem is that part of Burma?
- 7 A. Yes, Burma and Chin state.
- 8 Q. Did you go to school in Burma?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. How many years did you go to school?
- 11 A. Yeah, I was ninth grade.
- 12 Q. And do you remember when you stopped going to school in
- Burma, what month and year?
- 14 A. Yes, I don't remember the year, but it was around the
- 15 beginning of March.
- 16 Q. Okay. This year is 2016; right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 | Q. Do you think it was in 2000 -- do you think it was in
- 19 | 2015 in March that you stopped going to school in Burma?
- 20 A. No. No.
- 21 Q. That's --
- 22 A. Not in 2015?
- 23 Q. Was it in 2014?
- 24 A. I don't know. I don't remember the years.
- 25 Q. That's okay. What's your native language? What

- 1 | language did you first start speaking?
- 2 A. Hakha Chin.
- 3 | Q. Did you speak any other languages before moving to the
- 4 United States?
- 5 A. Yeah. I also speak Burmese a little bit.
- 6 Q. Okay. When did you arrive in the United States?
- 7 | A. November 2015.
- 8 Q. And at that time did you speak any English?
- 9 A. No. No, I didn't understand English [indiscernible].
- 10 | Q. Did you understand English?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Interpreter, we're hearing some background noise?
- 13 A. This is your interpreter, yeah, I'm not sure if that
- 14 may be the office.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. Sorry, sir.
- 17 Q. Sui Hnem, what city do you live in?
- 18 A. I'm sorry, this is your interpreter. Did you mean
- 19 | where city she's in?
- 20 Q. I'm sorry, what's -- the question was what city did --
- 21 | does she live in?
- 22 A. Lancaster.
- 23 Q. When you came to the United States did you want to go
- 24 | school?
- 25 A. No. As soon as I came here, no. I didn't going to

- 1 | school right away.
- 2 Q. But did you want to go to school?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Why is that?
- 5 A. Yeah, without education it's not good for the future,
- 6 but if I have education yeah my feature is good.
- 7 Q. When you went to school in Burma do you like going to
- 8 school?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Did your case working help you enroll in school in
- 11 Lancaster?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Was that in --
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 | Q. Was that Malcolm that, Malcolm who helped you?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you -- did you go with your sister in November 2015
- 18 | the enrollment office so that you could enroll in school?
- 19 A. Yeah, we went there together.
- 20 Q. And what school did you eventually go to?
- 21 A. Phoenix.
- 22 | Q. When you did you start going to school at Phoenix?
- 23 A. In February.
- Q. Of this year?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 | Q. Do you understand why you didn't start in December when
- 2 your sister did?
- 3 A. Yeah, my caseworker told me that I -- I am 19 year old.
- 4 | It's very difficult for me to be enrolled in school, but the
- 5 | caseworker were going to help me to get to school.
- 6 Q. Interpreter, could you just repeat that answer? It was
- 7 | a bit hard for us to hear you?
- 8 A. Yeah. Yeah. My caseworker told me that it is
- 9 very difficult for me to get -- to enroll in school, because I
- 10 am 19 year old, but caseworker help me and finally I got
- 11 enrolled in the school.
- 12 Q. Did the School District give you a choice of going to
- 13 McCaskey instead of Phoenix?
- 14 A. No. They just send me directly to Phoenix. No.
- 15 Q. When you go to Phoenix everyday do they search you?
- 16 A. Yes, they -- they check me, yes.
- 17 | Q. Tell me -- tell us what they do. How do they search
- 18 you?
- 19 A. Yes, they check around my -- my hand and all of my body
- and they -- they ask me to take off my shoe.
- 21 | Q. Okay. And do they check out your body by patting you
- down with their hands?
- 23 A. Yes, they use their hand and they check my body.
- 24 Q. How do you feel about that?
- 25 A. Yes, you know, sometime I used to wear a jacket and

- 1 | they asked me to take off and sometime if they thought I had
- 2 bump on my clothes they asked me and -- and I wasn't able to
- 3 | tell them at that time I was afraid of them.
- 4 Q. Do you bring books home from school?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Would you like to be able to do that?
- 7 A. Yeah, if I can -- yeah, bring book back then I wanted
- 8 | to do so.
- 9 Q. Do you take an ESL class at Phoenix?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And how do you feel about that class?
- 12 A. Yeah, it was very good class and the teacher was very
- 13 good at teaching.
- 14 | Q. Would you have liked to do more time in ESL class?
- 15 A. Yes, I wanted to learn more.
- 16 O. Your other classes, math and science and social
- 17 studies, are those all taught in English?
- 18 A. Yes, everything is in English.
- 19 Q. Are they hard for you to understand?
- 20 A. Yes, very, very difficult.
- 21 | Q. Do -- does the school ever provide interpreters in your
- 22 classes?
- 23 A. No, never.
- Q. And if you don't understand something do your teachers
- 25 | ever call a phone interpreter like we are doing here in this

- 1 | courtroom?
- 2 A. No, never.
- Q. Do you receive the same tutoring in home in English
- 4 that you sister described?
- 5 A. Yes, they come once a week for all of my family
- 6 members.
- 7 Q. Van Ni said your brother speaks better English than she
- 8 does. Does he speak better English than you do?
- 9 A. Yes, compared to him we are nothing, because he speak
- 10 | very, very good. A lot more better than us.
- 11 Q. How do you feel about that?
- 12 A. Yes, sometimes when I am not at his level in English I
- 13 | wanted to give up and sometime [indiscernible].
- 14 | Q. I'm sorry, what was the last thing you said?
- 15 A. Yes, yeah, I am not -- I am not at his level in
- 16 | English. Sometimes I wanted to give up our [indiscernible]
- 17 until I [indiscernible].
- 18 | Q. Too sad?
- 19 A. No. Sometime I feel [indiscernible] right and I --
- 20 Q. Oh, you're sad? Thank you?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 | Q. Why do you think your brother speaks better English
- 23 than you do?
- 24 A. Yes, I believe he -- he have more time on ESL class at
- 25 his school. And he also got homework at home and he was doing

- 1 homework everyday. I think that help him a lot.
- 2 Q. Sui Hnem, would you like to go to McCaskey?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And why is that?
- 5 A. Yes, I -- I wanted to go to McCaskey because I wanted
- 6 to learn more ESL class and my sibling are also going to that
- 7 | school and, you know, McCaskey is closer to my home, the other
- 8 | school, you know, it took us about 45 or 45 or 50 minutes to
- 9 get there, it's a little bit far away.
- 10 | Q. How do you get to Phoenix?
- 11 A. By walking.
- 12 Q. Sui Hnem, when you finish your education what would you
- 13 | like to do with your life in America?
- 14 A. School teacher.
- 15 Q. And why do you want to do that?
- 16 A. Yes. Yeah, because I wanted to teach the student and
- 17 | they will become all together and they will be the leader for
- 18 | the country.
- 19 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Those are all my questions,
- 20 thank you.
- 21 THE COURT: Okay. And just to clarify, the
- 22 | question regarding how the witness gets to school, did she say
- 23 | that she walks to school?
- 24 MR. ROTHSCHILD: I believe that's right.
- 25 BY MR. ROTHSCHILD:

- 1 Q. Sui Hnem, you walk to school everyday; right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- THE COURT: And how long is --
- 4 | INTERPRETER: [Indiscernible] walking everyday.
- 5 | THE COURT: I'm sorry, and how long does that
- 6 take.
- 7 INTERPRETER: Yeah, it take us about 45 or 50
- 8 minutes.
- 9 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: Excuse me. Attorney O'Donnell, you
- 12 may cross-examine the witness.
- 13 MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 14
- 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 16 | - -
- 17 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 18 Q. Hi Sui Hnem.
- 19 A. Hi.
- 20 Q. Are you aware that there's a bus system available to
- 21 | student within the School District to ride the bus to school
- 22 if you wanted to do that instead of walk?
- 23 A. No. I know there are school bus there, but they told
- 24 me that we could not get school bus.
- 25 | Q. Can you get to McCaskey and take a bus over to Phoenix?

- 1 A. Yes. I can -- I can walk to McCaskey school by walking
- 2 | because it -- it will only take me about 15 to 20 minutes from
- 3 my home.
- 4 Q. Okay. But from McCaskey you can take a bus to Phoenix;
- 5 | right?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 | Q. Okay. You -- you attend the summer school classes too;
- 8 | right at Phoenix?
- 9 A. Yes, I did.
- 10 Q. And what did you learn during the summer?
- 11 A. Yes, ESL, mathematic and drawing picture.
- 12 Q. Okay. And do you take any extra classes after school
- for additional ESL or any other subjects?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 | Q. Okay. Do you know how many credit you have accumulated
- 16 so far at McCaskey? Pardon me, at Phoenix?
- 17 A. Yeah, I don't know my credit because I don't speak
- 18 | English yet and I don't know how to ask question to them.
- 19 Q. Okay. Did you ever complain to anyone, any of your
- 20 teachers at Phoenix that you don't feel like you're getting
- 21 | enough ESL instruction?
- 22 A. No, never.
- Q. And why not?
- 24 A. Because I don't speak English, that's why I'm not able
- 25 to tell them.

THE COURT: And, ma'am, I just have one

question, it's going to turn into, but did you ever think you

would be testifying in a Federal Court?

23

24

25

1 INTERPRETER: No.

THE COURT: And would you like to take this --

3 INTERPRETER: We never -- we never -- we never

4 thought that we will do this and, you know, we were afraid of

5 doing this [indiscernible].

6 THE COURT: Did it turn out as bad as you

7 thought?

8 INTERPRETER: No. I think, not -- not very

9 difficult day, it's easy.

10 THE COURT: And is there anything else that you

11 | would like to tell me that would help me make a decision in

12 this matter?

13 INTERPRETER: No.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. And I

15 assume there are no other questions of the witness.

16 MS. O'DONNELL: No there's not questions from

17 me.

25

18 THE COURT: Very well. Ma'am, you may step

down. And Mr. Rothschild, I believe that is all the evidence

20 you hope to present today; is that correct?

21 MR. ROTHSCHILD: That's right, Your Honor. I

22 want to thank every [indiscernible] for staying as late as

23 | they did [indiscernible] your staff. The only other thing I

24 | wanted to do is move three exhibits into evidence today.

THE COURT: Very well.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: Two of them were referenced in the opening, those exhibit 8 which was the description of the ESL Services in Lancaster School District and exhibit 25 which is the all the abstract and support of grant and then we'd like to move into exhibit 15 which are Khadidja Issa's school records.

2.4

THE COURT: And Attorney O'Donnell, do you have any objection to the admission of exhibits 8, 25 and 15?

MS. O'DONNELL: I don't -- I don't think that these were the appropriate witnesses to -- to introduce those exhibits into the record for example, there wasn't a witness here that testified that they were the person who wrote the grant or what the purpose was. There was only one excerpt from the exhibit number 25 that counsel read into the record during his opening and I don't believe there was another person who talked about it during this entire examination.

THE COURT: Well, I would agree if you were objecting to 8 and 25 coming in I would probably sustain that objection until we had more evidence to authenticate that and to demonstrate exactly what those are. If you believe that's going to happen anyway we can just admit them now, but if you want to wait until you get that additional evidence.

MS. O'DONNELL: I prefer to wait, 8 and 25.

THE COURT: And Mr. Rothschild, do you have any problem with waiting until additional evidence is presented?

MR. ROTHSCHILD: So I don't think a decision needs to me made this evening, but I think this flags an issue that Ms. O'Donnell and I had discussed and I don't think we're reached a clear resolution on it and so let me just flag it now and it's late, so.

2.4

THE COURT: It's no -- it's no problem. It's easy for me to say, I don't have to drive far.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: So exhibits -- all of the exhibits have been [indiscernible] authentic and business records [indiscernible] in the inquiry. Exhibit 15 which is Khadidja's school records and this would be true for the school records, each of our six plaintiffs [indiscernible] we think are clearly relevant evidence. They don't need a witness to sponsor to bring them into evidence.

The exhibit 8 which is basically the template for the delivery of the English language learning in Lancaster I think would similarly fit that description. What's important here is whether we need to call witnesses such as the ones who were in court today for each one of these business records that the School District has produced to us in order to get them into evidence. And so, in a sense, I'm testing a proposition here --

THE COURT: Right.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: -- of whether we actually need to call Ms. [Indiscernible] and Ms. Hisey and maybe other

witnesses in our case-in-chief solely for that purpose for documents that I think have been already, you can, just, you know the face of it are going to be relevant to this case.

2.

And the last thing I'll say is for exhibits 8 and 25 this won't necessarily fit all of the examples or the exhibits that I'm raising this issue for, but they actually were shown to witnesses and there will be designated to testimony for them. So those may be easier cases than some of the other business records. We certainly did not show every page of them, 15,000 pages of exhibits.

THE COURT: Is it fair to say that many of these exhibits will be relied upon by the expert in rendering the expert's opinion?

MR. ROTHSCHILD: Many will.

THE COURT: And of course in any case they would be admissible just to establish the facts upon which the expert relied, but if there's no objection to the authenticity and there's no hearsay objection and they've actually been provided by the School District what is the objection to them being introduced into evidence?

MS. O'DONNELL: Well, it -- it goes to relevance. So far they haven't really been introduced.

They've been -- the authenticity -- so -- so these records were produced in discovery and they were produced from the District Solicitor and so they are authentic and they are kept

in the normal course of business within the district and we stipulated to that, but there's the next standard, the next standard for review would then be or the next standard for admissibility is whether or not they're relevant, they're probative in one way or another to the plaintiff's case-in-chief and I believe that a witness has to testify to those documents in order to give it some meaning.

2.

So I don't know how this court can make a decision about the abstract that was only mentioned in counsel's opening and so for right now all we're talking about is number 8 and number 15, pardon me, number 25 and [indiscernible] has been here and she will be testifying and certainly counsel could move for their admission after she testifies, but no one's testified to them today.

I don't know about all the other documents and certainly if -- if the Court is [indiscernible] find to allow the expert to testify about all the records that she read and have them admitted into evidence through her that's -- I may object, but that's your ruling, so we'll deal with that eventually.

THE COURT: And why don't we defer on the ruling even addressing that issue. Obviously, this is a preliminary injunction hearing the rules of evidence are relaxed. Even the hearsay rules are relaxed within the discretion of the Court and obviously I would not allow anything in that I

thought was unfair to either side or that could somehow be confusing or misleading, but if that's the concern, of course, I'm always going to be vigilant to make sure nothing of that sort does get in.

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I want to recess and wish you all a good night and I also want to urge you I cannot assist you in trying to settle this matter because of the nature of it and it is nonjury. I wish I could, because I do believe that both sides have the same interests, the best interests of the children always are in the best interest of both sides and also ensuring that you're in compliance with the state and federal law obviously is both sides are on the same page and want to make sure that you are in compliance, but even beyond that making sure you're doing everything for these children that reasonably can be done within the challenges that schools have to face everyday in trying to educate children. And these are unique challenges, unique circumstances, very important for both sides to get it right. So if I can help you to get to somebody to help you or I hope there's a dialogue between you to, at least be discussing those areas where there is no dispute so we can narrow the issues to where there is a dispute. That said, everyone have a great night. I'll see you at 9:30 tomorrow morning. We'll stand in recess.

MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.

DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.

	Page 112
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2	(Whereupon, the proceeding was concluded
3	at 5:36 p.m.)
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14	
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16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

[& - airplane] Page 1

&	1:29 1:5	5	academy 14:18
& 2:6	2	50 47:15 90:14,19	29:20 63:18 66:6,12
	20 62:15 104:2	102:8 103:7	87:23 89:1,15
0	20 02.13 104.2 200 2:2	5:16 1:2	accept 36:13
02 1:24	200 2.2 2000 96:18	5:27 1:5	acceptance 71:7
03881 1:2	2000 70.16 201 2:7	5:36 112:3	accumulated 104:15
1	201 2.7 2014 96:23		achieve 28:19
1 44:11,12	2015 11:3 37:2,2	6	aclu 1:14,23
10 57:14	78:16,22 80:21	60173 1:24	aclupa.org 1:16,25
100 2:2,6 44:13,14	96:19,22 97:7 98:17	63 3:5	act 46:5
103 3:10	2016 1:5 96:16	69 3:6	action 113:6
105 3:11	113:12	7	activities 17:13,17
10th 85:10	215-346-6907 1:20	717-255-1155 2:4	48:6 65:22
1181 2:3	215-592-1513 1:25	717-651-3503 2:8	activity 22:3
11th 15:11 85:11	215-772-3125 1:21	76 3:7	actual 30:8
12 36:15	215-789-2661 1:20	777-6690 2:18	adam 7:21,24
1315 1:19	215-981-4750 1:12	8	additional 104:13
14 79:8	215-981-4813 1:12		107:22,25
15 3:17 20:23 22:12	25 3:16 107:3,8,14	8 3:2,15 107:2,8,18 107:23 108:15	address 58:25
58:9 79:7 104:2	107:18,23 109:5	107:23 108:13	addressing 110:22
107:5,8 108:10	110:11		admissibility 110:4
110:11	27 3:3	80 90:15,21 86 3:8	admissible 109:16
15,000 109:10	3	888 2:18	admission 107:8
15213 1:15			110:13
16 1:5 11:20	30 76:22	9	admit 107:21
17 9:25 11:5 27:16	3000 1:11	9 35:24 37:2	admitted 3:14 40:24
27:22 28:2,2,6 29:6	313 1:15	93 3:8	110:18
36:1 62:17 72:2	33 3:3	95 3:10	affect 56:14
17011 2:7	354 22:13	9:30 111:23	aforesaid 113:3
17108 2:3	36 3:5	a	afraid 53:21,22 69:3
18 36:1	362 22:13	abdacata 62:7,19	81:21,25 100:3
1800 2:17	39 20:24 21:10 3:37 58:16	63:13	106:4
1801 2:17	3:55 58:16	abdalla 2:10 3:2	afternoon 4:16,17
18th 1:10		5:19,25 6:6	34:12 58:7 62:2
19 62:8,9 96:3 99:3	4	ability 113:5	74:20,21 76:11
99:10	40 21:20 90:13,19	able 13:17 58:7 60:7	95:20,21
191 1:24	400 1:19	70:19 73:14 81:24	age 28:1
19103 2:17	412-681-7864 1:16	82:6,16 90:25 91:20	agency 12:2
19103-2799 1:11	42 20:24 21:10	100:2,6 104:24	ages 11:15
19107 1:19	45 102:8,8 103:7	abraham 80:11	ago 88:23
1996 96:3	453013 74:18	86:17	agree 107:17
1998 35:22 76:22	4:00 59:2	abstract 3:16 107:4	ahead 11:25 83:10
19th 13:18	4:30 60:5,6,13	110:9	87:18
			airplane 70:7,8

[aleese - born] Page 2

aleese 12:16 13:12	appropriate 107:10	attended 27:14	bathrooms 51:20
13:15 15:22 38:6,6	april 1:5	67:18	54:10,12,15,18
38:7	arabic 9:1,2,4,6 10:9	attending 15:1 91:2	becoming 66:24
ali 64:22	10:12,14,14,15	attention 39:23	bed 31:18,19
allentown 1:1	12:16,19 14:8,11	attitude 39:21 53:3	beginning 96:15
allow 92:11 110:16	16:1,5 19:12 24:10		believe 57:13 67:9
	/	attorney 5:7 25:23 26:4 32:8 33:17	88:5 91:13 101:24
110:25	24:18 30:10 34:24		
allowed 17:8,10	36:20,21 41:12 47:2	60:2 61:20 68:2,20	102:24 106:19
45:6 49:13,14	47:17 70:23,23,25	73:16,19 74:25 86:7	107:15,20 110:6
altogether 54:9	72:7,9	93:22 103:11 105:5	111:8
amar 38:20,21,22	arch 1:10	105:19 107:7	benefiting 29:21
38:23 39:4,7	areas 111:20	atwood 1:15	best 47:16 61:1 69:6
amazing 5:8	arms 50:4,6	audio 2:12 113:4	87:16,22 111:9,10
amber 2:9	army 78:5	aura 2:10	113:5
america 25:17 27:17	arrange 85:5	authentic 108:9	better 11:23 17:25
27:19,24 102:13	arranged 85:5,7	109:25	25:10 44:1 67:9
america's 71:14	arrive 10:24 16:12	authenticate 107:19	68:16,17 82:20
american 45:1	78:15 97:6	authenticity 109:17	85:12 89:18 90:16
amount 89:17	arrived 10:19 11:4	109:23	91:25 92:7 101:7,8
angela 11:17	37:3 71:15	availability 59:23	101:10,22
answer 7:15 22:8	art 42:1 45:7,21	available 59:22	beyond 111:13
24:7,8 25:2,3 59:24	aside 23:7 57:15	103:20	bilal 12:12,13,18
76:11,15 84:23 90:7	asked 12:6 15:14,14	avoid 54:12	13:12,14 14:10
91:15 99:6	22:7 40:1 90:20	aware 47:24 48:3,6	15:21 16:3,4 27:1,7
answers 24:4,5,24	92:18 95:23 100:1,2	56:21 89:14 103:20	32:18,21,23 33:6
24:25 84:23	asking 10:25 21:24	b	binder 20:23
anybody 13:24	30:21 57:21 82:5	b 3:12	birth 67:1,4
53:21 64:5 65:16	90:22	baby 64:22	birthday 76:21 96:2
66:10 73:9	assigned 14:17	back 22:21 24:16	bit 36:22,22 43:2
anymore 23:7	assignment 22:5,6	37:20 47:18 60:5	49:5 61:14 70:24
anyway 107:21	24:15 85:8	66:6,15 82:19 85:18	82:4 94:10,10,12
apart 55:16	assignments 48:9	88:4 94:12 100:7	97:5 99:7 102:9
apologize 28:18	84:21	background 97:12	blackboard 91:23
appeal 14:13	assist 111:6	backpack 82:7	blackman 38:25
appearances 1:8	assistance 34:10	bad 25:7 50:1,19,20	39:11,16,18 40:13
appears 92:8	95:1	89:2 106:6	blackman's 39:21
applied 33:3 62:20	assume 106:15	bashir 9:14	board 23:3
64:21 71:6	asylum 71:6	basically 73:5	body 99:19,21,23
apply 13:7 31:19,21	atlantic 2:16	108:15	book 48:22,24 82:19
33:6 63:11	atmosphere 49:6	bates 20:24 22:13	100:7
applying 12:1	attempt 37:6	bathroom 51:18,23	books 48:13,20
appointment 24:12	attend 14:17,19,24	51:24,24 52:8,10	49:17,18,19 82:14
appreciate 91:10	15:16 47:25 60:13	53:19 54:19,21 55:3	82:16 85:18 100:4
approach 21:6,21	63:6,18 93:2,18	55:4,5,8,9,10,16	born 9:8,9 11:17,18
22:14 31:6	104:7	22.1,2,0,2,10,10	35:21 76:23,24 77:1

[born - concern] Page 3

96:4	calling 4:6 73:24	87:12,17,24 94:2	clear 83:22 108:4
bothered 56:15	74:1	96:7 97:2	clearly 7:10 8:16
bottom 21:10,20	camera 31:16,17	choice 14:19 68:14	108:13
82:4	camp 2:7 9:21,23,25	80:6 99:12	clerk 4:1 58:13,18
box 1:24 2:3	9:25	choose 29:19 68:17	75:23 95:4 111:25
boy 54:21	camps 10:8	christmas 81:2	clock 59:1
brand 20:7 43:19	car 70:6	circumstances 17:2	close 70:25
break 33:23 58:7,12	carry 50:21,23	111:17	closer 7:9 93:5
brief 68:4	case 79:11 90:2	city 78:17,17,19	102:7
bright 92:8	92:11 98:10 109:1,3	97:17,19,20	clothes 50:9,13
bring 13:4,6 17:8,10	109:15 110:6	clarify 90:18 102:21	81:22 82:2,3,5
17:20 45:14 48:19	cases 109:8	class 17:13,16 18:14	100:2
49:7,10,14,14,19	caseworker 85:5,7	18:23,24 19:2,4,6,8	coleman 2:6
82:7,16,19 100:4,7	99:3,5,8,10	19:9,10 20:1,4,5,7	colleagues 13:21
108:14	cell 49:11	20:13 21:16 22:19	come 11:1 16:10,23
broken 56:21	center 1:18 2:6	22:24,25 23:12,16	23:8,15 24:13,14
brother 62:7,22,23	certainly 21:7,23	23:16,25 24:14,20	37:1 45:11,21 65:12
63:2 80:3 85:9,22	22:15 31:7 58:8,11	42:4,7,10 43:8,12	66:22 71:7,18 78:3
85:25 87:9 92:7	75:21 105:7 109:9	43:15,19,20,24 44:3	78:10,13 101:5
93:18 101:7,22	110:13,16	44:3,10,24,25 45:9	comes 19:1 51:25
brought 49:12 59:5	certified 75:14	45:13 46:4 48:16	comfortable 8:25
85:18	certify 29:8,11	49:1 51:8,11,18	60:20
building 16:11	113:3	54:20,20,21 55:19	coming 15:13 66:6
bump 82:5 100:2	chaad 9:7,20,21,24	55:23,24 56:1,2	66:18 107:18
bumps 82:4	9:25 10:2 13:5	82:21,23 83:1,15,16	communicate 46:6
burma 88:4,5,9,14	28:17,18,20,23 29:5	83:25 84:18,21,25	company 2:16
88:23 96:6,7,8,13	29:6,8,11	85:18 89:9,13 91:18	compared 101:9
96:19 98:7	chair 7:8	91:21 100:9,11,12	compelling 59:8
burmese 77:22	challenge 14:13	100:14 101:24	complain 61:2
89:12 97:5	challenges 59:15	102:6	104:19
bus 103:20,21,23,24	111:15,17	classes 13:12,23	complaining 61:4
103:25 104:4	challenging 91:11	15:2,10,15 18:19,21	complete 7:15 8:20
business 61:3 108:9	chance 29:17	19:12,20 23:9,22	10:16 22:24 28:4
108:20 109:9 110:1	change 89:4	25:12,13,14 29:20	77:11
c	character 72:19	41:20,22,24 42:13	completed 15:13
c 113:1,1	check 99:16,19,21	42:24 43:1,5 44:14	22:3,19 23:2
cairo 63:11	99:23	44:17,18,19,22 45:3	compliance 111:11
call 4:9,23 5:5 34:1	checked 81:17	45:6,12 47:24,25	111:13
34:3 45:17 74:1,9	checking 81:21	54:24 55:15 83:5,13	computer 24:17
74:15 84:5 100:25	chief 109:1 110:6	83:19 84:2 89:14	30:9 42:3,4,10
108:18,25	children 59:6 111:9	92:16 100:16,22	44:25 45:24
called 4:5 20:1,4	111:14,16	104:7,12	computers 45:7,21
24:9 36:8 58:22	chin 74:18 75:13	classmates 19:17	concept 46:3
	77:3,19 84:9,11,15	42:21,22 51:3,4	concern 111:2
	86:17,20,22 87:4,11		

[conclude - drugs] Page 4

conclude 61:18	35:12,15 41:22 58:4	1	72:24 73:1 93:2
concluded 112:2	58:8,11,19,21,22	d	difficult 72:12 91:15
		d 3:1 7:24,24,24	
confusing 111:2	59:5 60:2,4,9,11,13	34:20	99:4,9 100:20 106:9
connect 44:5	60:15,20,24 61:1,8	dad 78:7	diploma 30:3 66:2,2
contact 4:11 66:11	61:11,16,20 68:1,20	date 67:1,4	68:10,15,16
content 42:24	68:23 69:1,5,9,12	day 16:9 24:14	direct 3:2,5,7,10
continue 27:23	69:15,20,25 70:5,8	26:12 35:23 36:23	62:4
48:13 60:7 61:16	70:10,15,17,19,22	43:12,14,15,17	directly 99:14
copied 23:3	70:25 71:2,8,12,15	47:24 48:11 54:9	disappointed 40:20
copy 20:25 21:2	71:19,21,23,25 72:7	58:25 61:18 73:5	discovery 109:24
corporate 2:6	72:11,14,16,20,23	90:14,19 91:1 93:1	discretion 110:24
correct 22:8 27:14	73:1,4,9,11,15,19,22	93:3 106:9 113:12	discussed 108:3
27:15 28:7,8 41:9	74:3,7,11,22,25	days 81:2	discussing 111:20
41:14 59:3 68:24	75:6,11,14,18,21	deal 110:19	dispute 111:21,22
72:9 87:13,24 88:6	76:2,5 78:24 84:6	december 80:24,25	disrespectful 52:6
92:2 94:1 106:20	86:6 89:21 90:1,11	81:1 99:1	district 1:1,1,4,7 4:1
counsel 6:7 20:22,25	91:16 92:6,19 93:10	decision 14:13	4:2 11:25 14:8,13
40:11,14,17 94:17	93:22,25 94:4,8,11	106:11 108:1 110:9	27:2 39:1,7 46:14
107:14 110:13	94:14,16,20,24 95:3	defendant 1:5 2:5	47:5 58:19 62:20
113:5	95:8,12,14 102:21	defendants 59:10	63:24 64:6 66:20,23
counsel's 110:10	103:3,5,9,11 105:4	60:1	80:6 99:12 103:21
counseling 83:11,12	105:7,19,23,25	defer 110:21	107:3 108:20
counselor 4:6 7:1	106:2,6,10,14,18,25	delayed 67:4	109:19,25 110:1
8:1 21:5,7,23 22:15	107:7,17,24 108:6	delivery 108:16	divider 22:12
25:22 31:7 32:7	108:19,23 109:11	demeanor 53:3	doctor 12:21 24:12
33:16 35:16 58:5,24	109:15 110:8,16,21	demonstrate 107:20	86:3
68:1,20 73:22 86:6	110:25	dennehey 2:6	document 47:2
93:10,22 95:15	court's 73:17,20	depart 60:17 61:9	documents 20:22
105:4,19	courtroom 5:18	deposition 62:6	22:11 47:1 109:2
country 9:13 53:17	101:1	64:17 67:6	110:7,15
67:22 69:24 70:1,4	cover 43:6	deputy 4:1 58:13,18	doing 60:20 84:5
70:6 77:2 78:4,6	credit 31:23 57:4,19	75:23 95:4 111:25	100:25 101:25
102:18	104:15,17	describe 11:6 16:14	106:5 111:14
couple 26:23	credits 65:17	18:21 39:21 53:3,4	door 51:25 52:1,2,4
course 48:21 59:11	cross 3:3,5,8,10 26:5	<u> </u>	52:5,7,11,19,22
109:15 110:1 111:2	26:16 59:25 61:17	69:5 84:20	doors 53:20
court 1:1 2:16 4:2,4	61:21,24 86:7,10	described 101:4	downs 50:15
4:5,10,11,14,17,19	103:12,15	description 3:14,15	draw 22:25
4:25 5:7,11 6:4,7,23	cry 71:16	107:2 108:17	drawing 83:12
7:1,12,19,23 8:1	csos 61:2	deserve 72:6	104:11
18:6,8 21:3,5,7,23	current 14:21 93:5	designated 109:7	drew 30:25
22:15 25:22,25 26:4	currently 62:17	dialogue 111:19	drive 2:6 70:5 108:7
31:7 32:7 33:16,19	cv 1:2	different 14:22,23	drugs 16:17
33:21 34:1,9,12,14		19:2,3,9 25:4,9,10	
34:18,22,25 35:6,9		55:19,24,25 64:1	
3 1.10,22,23 33.0,7			

[e - fax] Page 5

e	39:11,15 40:15 41:1	equivalents 66:3	examples 109:5
e 3:1,12 34:20 113:1	41:2 42:1,13,16,17	eric 1:9 73:25	exams 47:19
113:1	42:19,22 43:8,10,12	escape 69:18,24	excerpt 21:2 107:13
earlier 15:19	43:16,17,20,21,22	escaping 70:1	excuse 71:21 103:11
early 80:25	43:23,24 44:3,10,15	esl 3:15 82:22 83:1,3	exhibit 107:2,3,5,14
earn 65:17	44:19,20,21,23,25	85:18 89:9,13 90:20	108:10,15
easier 109:8	45:1,3,5,7,11,20,22	100:9,14 101:24	exhibits 106:24
eastern 1:1 4:2	46:4,22,24 47:20	102:6 104:11,13,21	107:8,11 108:8,9
	49:21 56:4,5 63:25	107:3	109:4,6,10,12
easy 94:10 106:9 108:7	64:4 65:11,14,18,21	esr 5:10,16,21 6:10	expected 71:16,24
	72:11,14,24 73:6	75:1	expecting 72:1
educate 111:16	77:23,24 78:1 82:6	establish 109:16	experienced 16:18
educated 79:23	82:20,24,25 83:13	evening 17:14,17	expert 109:12,17
education 1:18	83:15,15,24 85:2,12	48:17 108:2	110:17
11:23 13:4 14:4,5 25:17,18 28:15	85:23 89:17 90:4,14	evenings 48:20	expert's 109:13
29:14,17 30:8 57:9	90:15,15,19 91:1,18	eventually 41:3	explain 9:12 14:12
66:5 72:5 73:14	91:19,20 92:1,2,5,7	98:20 110:20	19:25 56:23 84:22
88:4,25 89:4 98:5,6	92:14,14 93:1,2,4	everybody 55:14	explained 14:6
102:12	94:5,7,8,9 97:8,9,10	everyday 16:23 17:1	15:16 44:5,7
edward 1:7 4:3 5:17	100:17,18 101:3,7,8	17:6,7 36:25 81:18	explains 44:8
58:19	101:12,16,22	83:1 89:15 99:15	extra 45:8,12 48:1,4
effective 92:15	104:18,24 108:16	102:1 103:1,4	49:3 65:17 104:12
egs 1:2	enroll 12:3,11 14:14	111:16	extreme 9:11
egypt 36:11,12,13	27:7 28:13 32:14,16	evidence 59:8 91:12	\mathbf{f}
36:14,16 68:24	33:4 36:17 37:6,10	91:13 92:6 106:19	
JU.14.1U UO.24			f 113:1
· ·	37:12,15,24 38:2,8	106:24 107:19,22	f 113:1 face 109:3 111:16
69:13,16,19,19	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14	face 109:3 111:16
· ·	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20 10:22 12:17,19 15:6	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18 ensuring 111:11	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15 95:17 103:15 105:9	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16 108:7 109:22
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20 10:22 12:17,19 15:6 15:25 17:25 18:17	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18 ensuring 111:11 enter 16:25 18:12	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15 95:17 103:15 105:9 107:16	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16 108:7 109:22 fast 25:14 29:20 30:1 43:7 faster 25:13 83:22
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20 10:22 12:17,19 15:6 15:25 17:25 18:17 18:17,25 19:1,5,11	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18 ensuring 111:11 enter 16:25 18:12 81:11,14,16	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15 95:17 103:15 105:9 107:16 examine 26:5 61:21	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16 108:7 109:22 fast 25:14 29:20 30:1 43:7 faster 25:13 83:22 father 36:6,7 78:6,7
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20 10:22 12:17,19 15:6 15:25 17:25 18:17 18:17,25 19:1,5,11 19:15,18,20,23 20:4	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18 ensuring 111:11 enter 16:25 18:12 81:11,14,16 entered 52:10	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15 95:17 103:15 105:9 107:16 examine 26:5 61:21 86:7 103:12	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16 108:7 109:22 fast 25:14 29:20 30:1 43:7 faster 25:13 83:22 father 36:6,7 78:6,7 favorite 82:21,23
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20 10:22 12:17,19 15:6 15:25 17:25 18:17 18:17,25 19:1,5,11 19:15,18,20,23 20:4 20:8,9,10,12,13,14	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18 ensuring 111:11 enter 16:25 18:12 81:11,14,16 entered 52:10 entire 107:16	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15 95:17 103:15 105:9 107:16 examine 26:5 61:21 86:7 103:12 example 84:17	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16 108:7 109:22 fast 25:14 29:20 30:1 43:7 faster 25:13 83:22 father 36:6,7 78:6,7
69:13,16,19,19 70:10,13,20 72:7 73:2 eight 77:12 88:6,8 eighteen 62:16 either 94:16 111:1 elc 1:21,22 electronic 2:14 elham 62:9,10,13,19 63:13 64:15,17,22 ended 47:24 60:4 engage 65:21 english 8:9 10:15,20 10:22 12:17,19 15:6 15:25 17:25 18:17 18:17,25 19:1,5,11 19:15,18,20,23 20:4	37:12,15,24 38:2,8 38:9 40:6,16 41:4 63:11 66:16,18,25 80:14 98:10,18 99:9 enrolled 28:12 37:13 40:21 46:23 62:20 63:4 64:10 99:4,11 enrolling 11:24 37:20 66:19 enrollment 14:2 27:2 38:14,17 66:15 67:4 98:18 ensuring 111:11 enter 16:25 18:12 81:11,14,16 entered 52:10	106:24 107:19,22 107:25 108:13,14 108:21 109:20 110:18,23 exactly 15:4 63:19 107:20 exam 27:23 28:3 examination 3:2,3,3 3:5,5,6,7,8,8,10,10 3:11 7:5 26:16 32:10 35:18 59:25 61:17,24 62:5 68:6 76:8 86:10 93:15 95:17 103:15 105:9 107:16 examine 26:5 61:21 86:7 103:12	face 109:3 111:16 fact 69:16 facts 89:24 91:12,13 109:16 fair 109:11 family 9:10,15 11:6 12:2 28:12 36:3,5 39:9 57:9 71:6 73:14 78:3,11 79:10 101:5 far 102:9 104:16 108:7 109:22 fast 25:14 29:20 30:1 43:7 faster 25:13 83:22 father 36:6,7 78:6,7 favorite 82:21,23

[feature - hakha] Page 6

feature 98:6	flag 108:4	give 11:15 29:13	99:12 102:6 105:24
february 13:18,24	flags 108:2	67:1 70:13 80:6	107:21 109:3 111:3
14:16 81:7 98:23	fluently 44:20	84:17 99:12 101:13	good 4:16,17 26:22
federal 105:25	folks 60:5,13	101:16 110:7	26:23,23 51:6,8,12
111:11	follow 17:22 33:18	given 14:19 15:5	62:2,4 67:11,12,14
feel 16:22 17:5	food 18:13 49:14,16	54:19	67:16 69:10 71:9
40:19 43:15 50:1,15	49:17 70:17	go 10:2 11:25 12:20	74:20,21 76:11
50:18,19,20,25 54:4	force 78:4	13:1 18:13,14,18	95:20,21 98:5,6
57:16 60:20 61:9	forced 78:7	19:2,7 25:10,11	100:12,13 101:10
63:20 68:12 72:23	former 59:22 61:13	29:15,18,20,25	111:5
73:1 81:20 99:24	forms 80:17	31:19 33:12 36:10	government 69:20
100:11 101:11,19	forward 29:2,3	37:16,18 38:13	grade 10:16,18 15:9
100.11 101.11,19	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,	0
	foundation 89:20,24	39:15 40:14,16 45:7	15:12 27:14,18,19
feeling 17:7 feet 52:3,5	four 56:22 105:15 free 61:9	49:18,22 50:16 51:22,24 54:9,11	27:21,23 28:7,14,19
· ·			28:22,24,25 55:25
fifteen 88:10,11	freedom 71:18	55:3,5 60:18,22	77:12 85:9,10,11
fighting 69:7 fill 80:17	french 10:15	61:3 64:6 66:12,15	88:6,9,13,15,17
	friday 59:23 friend 87:8	67:7 68:15 69:2,3 69:19 70:19 77:9	96:11
finally 99:10		79:17,22,24 80:4,9	grades 28:9 29:3 32:2
find 14:22 25:9,10 59:24 63:20 69:18	friends 51:8,10	·	
70:3 71:24 72:4,5	67:13,15 front 7:9 30:14	80:10,12,17 83:10 85:25 87:18 88:4	graduate 28:10,19 29:4,5 30:3,6,8
70:3 71:24 72:4,3	fruits 65:10		1 ' ' '
fine 21:3 26:14,22		92:4,4 96:8,10 97:23 98:2,17,20	57:14,15
62:3 71:17,19 83:8	frustrating 85:22 full 6:5 34:19 35:10	99:15 102:2,5	graduated 29:1 graduation 30:7
finish 27:16 28:10	44:18 75:7,9 76:17	105:12	59:11,12 60:1,6,14
29:3,9,12,17 59:25	95:9,11	goal 11:22	60:18
60:6 102:12	fully 8:18	goals 57:12	grant 107:4,13
finished 27:18,19,20	fur 8:24 12:16	goes 74:3 80:1 92:7	great 27:14 28:3
29:1,7 76:15 88:8	further 25:20 33:15	109:21	34:12 58:10 111:22
88:14,14,16	33:17,18 68:22 86:4	goggin 2:6	green 22:12
first 5:8 6:8 8:6,23	93:23,24 105:20,21	going 4:11 5:7,18	group 53:24 63:23
9:15 10:24 11:1,3	future 98:5	12:4 13:8 17:3,5	64:2
11:21 16:10,12		20:11,11,21 21:25	guard 55:5,12
18:12,23 20:1 27:22	g	22:7,11 23:23 26:1	guards 55:1,3
28:14 31:2 34:14	g 1:7 4:3 58:19	37:20 39:6 47:4,6	gym 42:1,2 45:6,21
38:16,18 39:17	95:13	47:18 54:7,8 56:16	
51:20 52:10 53:15	ged 66:3	57:2,5 58:12 65:22	h
56:19 59:18 84:22	generally 47:19 60:4	69:12,16 71:3 74:5	h 3:12 7:24 35:14
97:1	gestures 46:5,8	74:11 76:14 80:6,16	hair 55:20 56:6,9,10
fit 108:17 109:5	getter 85:13	81:8 85:9,11 90:2,6	hakha 74:18 75:13
five 9:17,18 28:12	getting 57:4 104:20	91:4,6,9,14,16,25	77:19 84:8,11,15
36:25 37:25 41:24	girl 54:21 55:19,24	92:2,9,10,11 94:25	86:17,20,22 87:3,11
66:11 72:8	92:9	95:22 96:12,19	87:12,17,24 94:2
		97:25 98:7,22 99:5	97:2
	1	<u>'</u>	

[half - injunction] Page 7

h-16 22.22 (2.10	h 21 . 1 4 . 1 5	40.22 40.2 10 02.14	:U1 50-01 02 51-1
half 33:22 63:19	heart 31:14,15	48:23 49:3,10 82:14	illegal 50:21,23 51:1
89:14	heat 9:11	82:16,19 84:14 85:4	immediate 67:4
halfway 28:6	heisey 2:10	85:20 93:5,25 94:3	immediately 14:14
hamilton 1:10 2:1	hello 5:15,16 81:13	94:11,13 100:4	immunization 12:21
hand 5:22 6:11 30:9	help 12:2 20:16,18	101:3,25 102:7	12:23 13:2 27:11
46:5,8 52:4 63:7,9	23:9,21 24:1,3,20	104:3	importance 91:19
63:10 75:1,23 95:4	24:22,23 38:8 44:2	homework 17:23	important 8:18
99:19,23 113:11	44:4,4 45:12,15,18	48:9 84:24 101:25	13:19 25:15,18 68:9
hands 52:2 99:22	45:21 46:2,6,8	102:1	90:15 91:2 92:13,25
handwriting 22:21	47:21 48:1,4 57:9	honor 4:8,13 7:3	108:18 111:17
hang 34:5	65:13,13 66:13	21:1,21 22:14 25:21	impossible 57:17
happen 51:22 52:18	69:18,24 73:14	31:6 33:15,25 58:3	66:4 92:19
52:23 53:11 55:21	74:19 80:14 82:20	58:6 60:3 61:6,12	incident 56:14
107:21	84:5 85:19 98:10	61:19 68:19,22	incidents 55:16
happened 13:14	99:5,10 102:1	73:18,25 86:5 89:23	including 64:2
40:3 53:12,15 54:3	106:11 111:18,19	91:4 93:12,21 94:18	incomplete 91:10,11
54:6 56:12	helped 12:10,12,14	94:19 95:2 103:10	increases 92:2
happening 9:13	38:1,3,9 45:8 79:11	103:13 106:21	indicated 65:24
44:3,9 45:9 50:9	98:15	honor's 20:22	indiscernible 7:22
54:14	helpful 46:11 48:19	honorable 1:7 4:3	8:8 11:18 12:5,15
happens 16:14	helping 25:9 66:9	58:19	18:8 23:17 32:22
18:11,15,16 50:6	helps 23:10 24:2	hooper 1:23,25 3:5	33:8,10 34:23 35:11
happiest 71:10	hi 26:11,11,13,19,20	3:6 33:24 34:3,7	37:2,10,12 40:9
happy 66:25 88:25	57:24 74:17 86:13	35:20,21 58:2,12	42:5 46:10 47:7
89:3 94:11,12,14	103:18,19	68:2,4,8,19 73:16	52:25 54:22 55:20
hard 25:18 41:4	hide 69:8,25	73:18	57:8 60:13 61:15
42:8 83:24 99:7	hiding 70:3	hope 59:6 74:3	62:2,22 64:14,21
100:19	high 14:20 63:8 67:7	106:20 111:19	65:10 66:4 68:4,17
harm 69:8	67:19 68:9,15,16	hotel 40:9 64:24	69:14 71:11,18 74:1
harrisburg 2:3	highest 28:19,22,25	65:1	74:13 75:10 77:5,8
hassan 3:4 34:4 35:4	hill 2:7	hour 33:22 43:14,17	77:16 79:2,7,8
35:11	hilt 2:9	73:6	81:22,23,24 82:3,4
hat 31:2,10,11,12	hisey 64:2 108:25	hours 36:23,25 61:3	83:7 84:13 86:25,25
hate 50:17,17	history 83:12	house 63:24 69:8,23	90:20,20,24 91:17
hear 7:10 8:11,15	hmm 5:23 6:18 7:16	70:2	97:9 101:13,16,17
12:4 20:12 22:20	26:25 50:12	howa 11:17,17,18	101:19 103:4 106:5
29:16 55:4 61:4	hnem 3:9 80:1 81:3	hypothetical 91:12	106:22,23 108:9,10
69:13,16 71:2 94:5	95:6,11,20,25 96:4	i	108:12,25 110:12
99:7	96:6 97:17 102:2,12	_	110:16
heard 16:21 59:12	103:1,18 105:12	i.d. 74:18	infer 30:5
69:12	hold 89:21	ibrihim 11:17	information 90:3
hearing 1:6 97:12	home 9:16,18 17:9	idea 90:2	initial 14:1
110:23 113:4	17:11,14,17,20	identify 30:19	initially 27:7,11
hearsay 109:18	24:16 36:18,19	idp 9:25	injunction 1:6
110:24	48:10,13,14,16,19		110:23

[inquiry - learned] Page 8

inquiry 108:10	95:13 97:12,13,18	26:19 27:1,6,13,20	kristina 1:17 4:8
insecurity 9:11,12	99:6 100:25 103:4,7	28:9,18 30:9,15	kulick 2:12 5:7,16
instruction 22:6	106:1,3,8,13	31:9 32:4,13 43:22	74:25
89:18 90:14,16 91:1	interpreters 59:6	43:25 107:5	l
92:1,14 93:1 104:21	84:2 88:1 100:21	khadidja's 108:11	1 34:21 75:10
interaction 51:17	interpreting 6:17	kicked 52:19	labor 78:5,7
interactions 51:13	16:3 32:18,23 33:6	kicking 52:15 53:19	lacks 89:20,23
55:17	38:23 39:4 75:12	kids 83:15	lancaster 1:5 10:5
interest 111:10	95:1	killed 36:6,7,9	10:24 11:2,4,7,25
interested 66:23	introduce 107:10	kin 113:5	12:21 37:7 59:17
113:6	introduced 109:20	kind 84:21	62:21 78:13,20
interests 111:9,9	109:22	kinds 44:15	79:11 97:22 98:11
international 93:18	involved 38:11	kmoon 1:21	107:3 108:16
interpret 24:10,11	ipad 30:9 45:24	knew 54:24	lang 3:7 75:25 76:18
26:8,24 39:7 56:24	issa 1:2 3:2 4:9 6:14	knock 51:25 52:2,4	language 8:6,8,23
75:15 87:20	6:20 7:22,25	52:5,7,11	8:24 12:18 15:23
interpretation 90:22	issa's 3:17 107:5	knocking 52:3	20:17 30:12 34:22
interpreted 27:4,5	issue 58:24 59:10	know 15:7 18:16	36:20 44:15 45:8,12
interpreter 2:10,11	67:3 91:17 108:2	19:4,10 20:9,10,12	46:21,22,24 47:8,9
2:11 3:2,4,7,9 4:11	109:6 110:22	20:17 23:18,20,23	47:16,17,19,20 53:8
4:15,23 5:5,8,9,13	issues 111:21	24:4,5,6,24,25 25:2	53:9 72:12 74:6
5:15,20,23,25 6:3,6	j	29:14,16,23,24,25	75:11,15,17 77:17
6:16,18,22 8:9,11	j 1:9,14 7:24	30:2,4,8,19,22,23,24	85:2 89:17 91:22
8:15,19 11:25 14:8	jacket 99:25	30:25 31:1,9,13,15	94:1 96:25 97:1
14:10 16:1,7 18:3,9	jaime 2:12	31:17 35:23 40:24	108:16
20:20 21:24 26:7,10	jamie 5:16	41:1,1 42:6 43:3,9	languages 77:20
26:13 33:9 34:5,11	janine 2:13 113:14	51:19,25 53:1,5,17	97:3
34:13,14,16,20,24	job 14:3,4 64:21	53:18 54:14,16 56:2	late 13:20 48:3
45:14,17 47:21	judge 1:7 5:17 19:22	56:25 57:1,3,4,6	80:25 106:22 108:5
68:25 69:3,7,11,14	76:17 92:18	59:5,22,25 60:15	law 1:18 111:12
69:17,22 70:2,7,9		63:1,3 65:1,3,5,8	lawyer 26:1,10
70:12,16,18,21,24	k	66:2 67:3,5,12	57:23
71:1,5,10,14,16,18	k 7:24	69:22,22 71:12,25	lawyers 57:21,24
71:20,22,24 72:4,10	kadidja 3:2 11:21	74:11 77:16 82:13	leader 102:17
72:13,15,18,22,25	kathleen 2:1	86:16,18,19,22 87:3	learn 9:2 25:16
73:3,8,10,13 74:2,9	keep 7:12 48:20	87:8 88:1,3,18,19	36:19,21 42:8 65:18
74:15,17,18,21,23	76:2	89:16 91:21,24	65:21 68:10 72:14
74:24 75:2,4,9,13	kept 54:5,14 57:4	96:24 99:25 102:7,8	82:25 91:18,20,22
75:16,16 76:4,14	109:25	103:23 104:6,15,17	92:5 93:4 100:15
78:18 81:13 83:6	key 5:2	104:18 106:4 109:3	102:6 104:10
86:24,24 87:14	khadidja 1:2 3:17	110:8,15	learned 8:6 9:3,4,5,6
89:22 90:17,17,23	4:9,18 6:12,14,20	knowledge 87:10,16	10:9,12 18:2,4,6,7
90:24 91:5,7,8	7:8,21 8:6,14 9:8	87:22	27:6 36:20 57:16
92:17,20 94:2,6,9	14:12 20:21 21:9	knows 85:23	70:22 72:7,8 84:18
94:12,15,22 95:2,11	23:21 25:4,15,24		10.22 12.1,0 04.10

[learned - moved] Page 9

90:13	logan 1:11	mathematics 30:12	met 26:12 27:1 39:2
learners 44:25	long 37:23 39:25	42:3	57:24 70:12,12,12
learning 18:8 19:25	41:5 56:14 59:9	matter 50:8 59:13	microphone 7:9
20:14 25:5 42:7,25	63:18 73:5 88:23	74:23 106:12 111:7	8:15
44:19 48:11,14 49:5	93:6 103:3,5	maura 1:18	mid 2:16
68:12 91:20 92:15	look 14:22 16:15	mccaskey 14:19,25	middle 31:21 63:10
108:16	20:21 21:10	15:2 17:19 25:5,13	midterm 28:3
leave 9:10 14:23	looking 16:9 23:1	29:15,18,24 30:2,5	militia 36:8,9
36:5 39:20 45:6	lot 37:22,23 38:9,9	31:20,22 33:12	mind 51:14
49:2,10 54:20 61:9	44:4 56:15 78:5	39:13 57:19,22 67:7	minutes 40:1 58:9
88:23	85:19 89:11 92:13	67:10,11,12,13,16	90:13,14,15,21 91:1
leaving 9:18 10:16	101:10 102:1	67:18 80:5,7,13	93:1 102:8 103:8
29:8,11 88:14	loud 7:13	85:9,25 86:20,23	104:2
left 9:15,23,25 10:2	loudly 8:14	87:11,17 88:2 89:6	miriam 62:11,15,19
36:10 46:17 63:23	love 72:18	89:14,25 90:14 91:2	63:13 64:13,25
78:6,8 88:5	m	92:4,7 93:4,19	misleading 111:2
length 89:14	m 1:23 2:5 7:24	99:13 102:2,5,7	mm 5:23 6:18 7:16
lessons 93:3	34:20,21	103:25 104:1,4,16	26:25 50:12
letters 22:10 44:5	ma'am 6:4 34:18	105:13,16	mmcinerney 1:22
level 10:16 101:12	71:19 94:20 95:8,9	mcinerney 1:18	molly 1:23 35:20
101:15	105:23 106:18	mdwcg.com 2:8	mom 11:11 78:23
lian 2:11 3:7,9 75:4	mail 46:13,21,24	mean 9:12 19:23	moment 6:8 71:17
75:10	47:5	48:9 55:24 66:17,21	91:9
life 25:18 57:7 59:20	majority 45:5	78:5 97:18	money 69:24
63:16 69:5,10	making 71:16	meaning 110:7	month 11:1 15:4
102:13	111:14	means 61:9 67:22	35:23 37:25 57:1
light 73:16 94:17	malcolm 79:14,15	mechanics 90:8	63:19,19 77:13
liked 63:21 100:14	80:14 98:15,15	medical 86:3	96:13
lincoln 80:11 86:17	man 38:22	meet 38:25 39:10	months 41:7
line 26:8 94:23	manageable 61:14	meeting 13:8,11,14	moon 1:17 3:2,3,10
listened 62:4	march 77:15 96:15	13:16,23 14:1,6	4:8,8,13,21 6:16 7:3
literacy 40:11,14,17	96:19	15:16,19,20,21,24	7:7,14 8:3,5,10,13
40:18	marked 3:14,21	16:2 18:14,15,16,18	18:7,10 21:1,4,6,8
little 36:22,22 43:2	20:23 21:9,20	27:4 32:13,19,25	21:21,25 22:2,14,16
49:5 59:7 61:14	market 2:2,17 64:12	33:1,3 38:16,18,19	25:20,24 26:1 32:8
70:24 74:4 82:4	64:18 65:3,5,8	39:3,18,22,25 40:3	32:12 33:15 84:19
85:22,22 91:24 94:9	marshall 2:6	40:4,21,25 41:6	morning 49:23
94:10,12 97:5 102:9	material 43:6	meetings 38:13	81:11,14 111:23
live 9:18 70:11 77:6	math 18:23,25 20:1	megan 38:5,6,7,20	mother 47:12 64:3
78:17,19 97:17,21	20:2,2,3 44:24 45:7	39:4,6,10,23 41:4,5	69:7,18
lived 70:13,15 71:5	45:21 55:22,23	members 101:6	move 25:13,14 29:2
living 9:21 10:6,8	100:16	mention 27:12	29:3 106:24 107:5
liz 38:5	mathematic 51:18	mentioned 37:23	110:13
llp 1:10 2:1	83:11 104:11	39:3,6 47:4 56:16	moved 59:7
	05.11 10 7 .11	110:9	

[moving - open] Page 10

moving 30:1 97:3	new 20:7 43:19	objecting 107:18	42:6,9,12,17 43:5
mtack 1:25	news 61:13 71:8,9	objection 89:20,21	44:14 45:6 46:13,21
mullen 2:1	ni 3:7 75:25 76:11	89:23 90:6 91:14,16	49:5,12 50:15 51:10
mullenk 2:4	76:17,18 86:13 89:6	107:8,19 109:17,18	51:20,22 52:12,15
n	90:13 92:23,25 93:7	109:19	53:11,15 54:8,12,17
	93:18 101:7	obviously 60:12	55:8,12,16 56:6,12
n 3:1 34:20 35:14	ni's 87:16	110:22,25 111:12	56:14 57:1,4 58:1
75:10 95:13	night 111:5,22	occasions 17:3	61:12 62:6,19,23,25
name 4:18 6:5,6,12	nineteen 79:4 88:22	october 11:3 12:25	63:4,6,10,20 64:9
7:20,21,23 23:24	96:1	76:22 96:3	64:15,20 65:16,24
34:19,19 35:10,10	ninth 88:15,16	offer 48:4,22 49:1	66:6 67:1,3,6,23
35:13,20 38:20	96:11	office 32:20 38:18	68:18 69:9,25 71:2
39:19 40:1,5,7 43:9	noise 97:12	49:11 80:17 97:14	71:8,12,15,25 72:23
56:2 65:1,3,5,8 74:17 75:7,7,9,10	nonjury 111:8	98:18	73:11,15 76:4,15,16
76:17,18 79:1,13,13	normal 61:3 110:1	officer 4:11 65:25	77:9,11,25 81:9,10
87:8 95:9,10,11,12	notary 2:13 113:14	72:17	83:9 86:25 87:10,20
named 23:18	note 58:25 84:22	offices 39:7	87:24 88:25 89:3,6
names 11:15 12:10	november 12:1 13:8	official 69:20 113:11	90:18,23 91:3,5
53:1 79:6	13:9,16,17,23,25	oh 6:8 34:7 44:14	92:22 94:11,16 95:2
narrow 111:21	14:1,14 78:16,21	48:22 49:19 63:10	95:14,23,24 96:16
narsham 11:17,19	80:21 97:7 98:17	90:23 101:20	96:25 97:6,15 99:21
14:24 15:1 17:19,25	number 3:14 20:24	okay 4:21 6:22,24	102:21 103:9 104:4
national 2:16	71:14 74:18 107:14	6:25,25 7:11,15,16	104:7,12,15,19
native 94:1 96:25	110:11,11,11	7:17,21 8:16,17,17	105:1 106:14
nature 111:7	numbers 20:3	8:18,22 9:15 10:2	old 9:15,19,23 10:1
near 40:9	nurse 24:13	10:16,19 11:9,15,19	11:4,19 14:3 27:7
necessarily 109:5	0	11:21,24 12:2,8,11	27:16,18,20,22 28:2
need 7:15 8:14	o 34:20	12:13,16,18,20 13:1	28:6,12 29:5,6
34:14 61:8 66:2	o'donnell 2:5 3:3,5,8	13:7,11,14,22 14:6	32:14,17 35:25 36:1
74:1 75:20 94:25	25:23 26:4,9,11,12	14:16 15:9,15 16:4	36:14,15 40:9 62:7
108:13,18,24	26:14,18 31:6,8	16:9,18 17:10,25	62:8,13,14,15,25
needed 45:8,12	33:17,18 60:2,3,10	18:7,11,15,18,24	63:2 72:2 76:19
54:11 65:12,13	60:12,19,22,25 61:7	19:8,17,25 20:21	78:23 79:3,6,8,9
needs 108:2	61:20,22 62:1 67:24	21:4,17,19 22:9	88:8,13,16,19,21
negative 51:13,17	68:21,22 73:19,21	23:1,4,7,11,18,25	95:25 99:3,10
55:17	74:13 86:7,8,12	24:3,6,9,17 25:1,4	older 11:19 78:24
neighbors 67:20	90:9,12 92:3,17,22	25:12,15,19 26:2,3	81:3 86:2 88:14
neither 63:13 113:5	92:24 93:8,23,24	26:6 27:6,13,25	omar 9:14
never 16:20,21,24	94:19 103:11,13,17	28:6,9,15 29:14,17	once 4:6 46:19 58:23 70:10 71:15 74:5
16:25 45:16 63:16	105:2,20,21 106:16	30:14,17 31:4,23	
84:3,7 85:1 100:23	107:7,9,23 108:3	32:4,18,21,23 33:5	85:4 101:5
101:2 104:22 106:3	109:21 111:24	33:11,14,24,24,25	one's 110:14
106:3,3	object 91:6,10	34:11 35:2 36:16	ones 108:19
	110:19	37:18 38:1,8,13,25 39:17 40:13 41:21	open 50:4,6 52:1
		39.17 40:13 41:21	

[opened - problems] Page 11

opened 52:22	paperwork 38:11	philadelphia 1:3,11	plaintiffs 4:9 35:21
opening 107:2,15	paramount 91:20	1:19,24 2:17	108:12
110:10	pardon 29:23 30:3	phoenix 14:18,20,21	plan 66:11
operator 2:12 5:10	104:16 110:11	14:23 15:9,16 16:9	please 5:21 6:4,8,10
5:16,21 6:10 75:1	part 12:4 48:23 96:6	16:19 18:22 25:5,6	6:17,24 7:8,12,20
opinion 109:13	participate 48:7	25:12 29:18,20,23	21:10 34:18 35:1,9
opportunity 69:2	particular 10:4 17:2	30:1,10,12 37:19	75:1,7,23 76:25
72:4	particularly 51:14	39:12 40:21,24 41:3	94:23 95:4,9
option 14:19,21	parties 4:5 58:22	41:6,9,12,16,20,23	point 12:20 15:15
order 4:5 16:25 30:6	parts 56:22	46:13 47:1,5,18,25	31:1 37:9,16 38:25
58:22 66:3 91:20	party 113:6	48:7 49:6,6,23 50:3	41:8 42:9 56:16
108:21 110:7	pat 16:12,15,16,18	51:4,5,23 53:13	61:2 66:22
orientation 33:3	16:25 17:3 18:11	54:17 55:1,17 56:19	police 50:21,22,23
originally 36:3	50:7,13,15	57:11,13,16,19	65:25 72:16
ortiz 20:6,7 21:16	patted 16:20,22	59:22 63:18 64:10	policeman 57:10
23:8,11,13,15	81:11,15	65:11 66:6,12 68:12	pose 92:23
oscar 33:8,10	patting 16:21 99:21	68:14 73:4 79:21,24	position 74:22
outcome 40:3 113:6	paying 39:23	80:23 81:3,9 82:21	possibility 4:25
outside 50:10,11,13	pennsylvania 1:1,14	83:5 84:12 87:12,23	possible 7:13 60:15
85:2 94:4	1:23 2:17 4:2 10:7	88:25 89:15,19 90:5	60:17 61:5
overrule 90:6 91:16	78:13	90:6,16,21 98:21,22	practice 48:10 49:21
	people 12:10 25:8	99:13,14,15 100:9	prefer 21:1 107:23
p	30:1 38:3 39:9	102:10 103:25	preliminary 1:6
p.m. 1:5,5 58:16,16	40:10 43:23,24	104:4,8,16,20	110:22
112:3	50:23 53:23,24	105:12,13,15	prepared 30:15
p.o. 1:24 2:3	54:20 55:10 63:24	phone 5:2,9,17 8:15	57:11
pa 1:3,11,15,19,24	64:2 66:12 67:22	24:10 45:18 49:11	present 2:9 4:5,6
2:3,7	70:12 72:21 86:22	100:25	58:22,23 106:20
pa.org 1:21,22	87:17,18,23	photocopy 48:22	presented 107:25
pace 29:22,24,25	pepper 1:10 2:1	49:1	president 9:14
43:5	pepperlaw.com	phrase 92:12	presiding 4:3 58:20
paced 43:7	1:13 2:4	physically 16:23	press 33:23 61:1
page 3:1 21:19,19	period 20:4 23:12	pick 84:23	previously 4:5 58:22
22:1 23:1 31:2	43:15 54:7 55:22	picture 104:11	prince 38:18 39:3,7
109:10 111:12	83:1	pictures 30:19,20,22	39:8
pages 20:23 21:9,13 22:22 109:10	periods 23:16 43:12	31:1 42:5 46:2	prior 3:21
pai 76:24 77:1 96:5	person 16:4 27:2	pittsburgh 1:15	private 36:17,23
_ •	38:20 39:10,14	place 16:25 49:11	69:21
palestinian 38:22 paper 29:13	42:14,15 50:1 64:4	64:12 70:13	probably 57:13
paper 29:13 papers 13:17,22	69:21 70:3 71:10	placed 4:23 5:5 15:9	59:19 63:19 107:18
14:2 21:10 22:17,24	87:3,5,7 107:12,16	74:9,15	probative 110:5
27:11 29:6 30:14	personality 72:18	plaintiff 1:3,9	problem 52:13
48:19 84:14,15	ph 9:25 11:17 23:19	plaintiff's 3:13	107:25 108:6
70.17 07.14,13	62:7,9 64:2 76:24	110:5	problems 9:14
			27:10 43:3

[proceed - right] Page 12

5.10 C.7.7.1	22.0		90.25 96.12 06.12
proceed 5:18 6:7 7:1	questions 23:8	recognized 39:24	80:25 86:13 96:12
8:2 35:16 75:19	25:20 26:2,23,24	recollection 64:5	96:14,24
76:5 95:15	32:4 33:15 62:5	record 7:20 22:13	rendering 109:12
proceeding 3:21	67:24 68:23 73:16	33:22 35:10,20 75:8	repeat 10:25 12:5,6
58:15 112:2	73:17,20,20 76:12	95:10 107:11,14	17:5 18:3 20:11
proceedings 2:14	81:8 84:23 86:4	recorded 2:14	22:7 23:23 30:21
process 11:24 37:20	93:8 94:17,17 95:22	recording 2:14	33:9 69:14 76:25
37:21	102:19 105:2,17,21	113:4	77:4 78:18 81:13
processes 31:21	106:15,16	records 3:17 13:5	83:7 87:14 99:6
produce 64:12,18	quick 4:20	107:6 108:10,11,12	rephrase 12:8 90:9
produced 2:15	quickly 43:6 59:7	108:20 109:9,23	reporting 2:16
108:20 109:24,24	quiet 75:21	110:17	reputation 67:11,12
proficiency 92:1,14	quite 5:8	redirect 3:3,6,8,11	request 83:6
proficient 93:2	r	32:8,10 61:17 68:2	requires 60:1
program 65:17,20	r 34:20 113:1	68:3,6 93:11,15	resettled 71:3
promise 4:19	raise 5:21 6:10 8:12	105:5,9	resolution 108:4
proposition 108:22	75:1,23 95:4	reference 20:22	respect 13:19,21
protecting 72:21	raising 109:6	21:22	15:20
provide 16:1 100:21	0	referenced 15:19	respectful 52:5,12
provided 109:19	raymondea 2:11 3:4	107:1	52:16,17
public 2:13 113:14	34:16,20	referring 40:11	responded 8:9 14:3
pull 20:25 55:20	reached 28:23,24	refugee 9:21,23 10:8	response 8:21
pulled 20:23 56:6	108:4	regarding 102:22	rest 43:3 44:17
purpose 107:13	react 40:13 56:8	region 2:16	58:25 78:11
109:1	read 10:22 15:6,7	register 5:1 91:14	results 32:2 46:20
purse 82:7	21:24 30:17,24,25	registering 13:12,15	return 55:14
pursue 57:9,11	36:21,22 47:10,12	regular 5:2	review 110:3
73:13	47:14,16 70:23	relationship 51:8	rhetoric 90:4
put 59:15 61:17	107:14 110:17	relatives 67:13,15	rhetorical 90:1
91:21	ready 76:11	67:18,21,22	91:24
	really 8:11 18:16	relaxed 110:23,24	ride 103:21
q	42:9 90:7 109:22	relevance 109:22	right 4:13 5:21 6:10
qasin 3:4 34:3 35:4	reasonably 111:15	relevant 108:13	7:18 8:23 10:9
35:11,21 36:3 57:7	recall 13:24 22:19	109:3 110:4	11:11 13:25 14:7
62:2,4 65:24 68:9	66:10,10	relied 109:12,17	16:5 23:12 31:11,17
qualified 75:14,16	receive 24:20 29:8	remain 60:17	33:5,7 36:1 37:20
quarter 56:19	30:7 85:2,4 89:15	remember 12:10,20	37:23 40:22 41:19
question 10:25 12:8	89:18 90:19 101:3	12:23 13:8,11 15:1	51:3 52:12 54:3
22:20 23:25 30:21	received 12:23	15:3 22:18 32:15,16	55:1 56:17 58:2
31:5 69:15 76:15	29:11 47:7	37:21 38:17 51:16	59:2 64:1 72:23
87:1 90:2,7,10,18	recess 19:7,8 58:9	55:18 57:21 62:5	73:20 75:1,23 84:23
90:21,24 91:11,15	58:15 111:5,23	63:2,23 65:11,16	90:25 95:4 96:16
91:24 92:9,12,18	recognize 21:11,13	66:15,17,18,19,19	98:1 101:19 102:24
93:13 97:20 102:22	22:17	67:6,8 69:6 77:15	103:1 104:5,8
104:18 105:6,24		79:13 80:16,16,18	106:21 108:23
		17.13 00.10,10,10	100.21 100.23

[right - sister] Page 13

110:10 111:18	12:3,11,12,14 13:2	107:3,5 108:11,12	seven 28:13
rise 4:1 58:13,18	13:8,11,15,18,18,20	108:20 109:19	seventeen 27:17
111:25	13:25 14:3,7,8,16	schooling 36:12	76:20
rivera 61:13	14:17,20,22,23,24	schools 111:15	share 59:19
rock 84:19	15:3,5,12,16,23	science 83:11 84:18	sharon 2:5 26:12
room 19:3 56:12	16:1,9,10,12,23,24	84:21,24 91:18	she'll 92:5
70:14,15	17:1,4,10,16,20	100:16	sheet 22:3
rothsche 1:13	18:11 24:9,14,14,17	scoot 7:8	sheets 20:24
rothschild 1:9 3:7,8	25:6,7,7,9,10,10,16	scream 53:7	shobha 36:8,9
59:4,13,14 61:6,12	27:1,7 29:8,11,18	screaming 55:4,6	shoe 99:20
61:19 73:25,25 74:5	29:21 32:16,18,23	screening 49:18,22	shoes 50:5
74:20 75:19,20 76:5	33:4,6,7,11 36:13	50:2	short 18:13,15 33:22
76:10 86:4 89:20,23	36:17,17 37:6,9,10	seal 113:11	shorter 59:18,21
91:4,6,8 93:11,11	37:12,13,15,16,18	search 16:16 50:7	shots 12:21,24 13:2
93:12,17,21 94:18	37:21,24 38:2,10	50:21,23 99:15,17	show 22:11 24:14,16
94:22 95:19 102:19	39:1,7,15 40:5,7,16	seat 4:14 74:7	46:2 109:9
102:24,25 103:10	41:4 45:14 46:13,17	seated 4:4 35:7	showed 44:4
105:5,6,11,17	46:17,18,20,23 47:4	58:21 95:8	showing 21:9
106:19,21 107:1,24	47:5,6,7,25 48:4,6	second 20:4 21:19	shown 109:7
108:1,8,24 109:14	48:13,23 49:2,7,12	22:1 23:12 54:3	shows 32:2
row 74:6	49:19 50:16,17	59:20	sibling 78:24 86:23
rules 15:17 49:7,9	51:17 52:24 54:7,8	security 49:11,18,22	87:5 89:11 102:6
49:10 54:17 110:23	56:17,21 57:2,5	50:2 55:1,3,5,12	siblings 11:13,16
110:24	62:20 63:4,6,7,8,10	see 12:21 52:1,8	78:23,23 79:5
ruling 110:19,21	63:11,14,16,21,23	55:5 59:1 111:22	sick 24:13
S	63:24 64:6,6 65:17	seen 16:25	side 111:1
	66:16,18,19,23,25	sell 64:12	sides 111:8,10,12,18
s 3:12 7:25,25 34:21	67:7,14,16,19 68:9	selling 64:18	sign 84:19
35:14,14 37:25	68:15,16,16,17 69:2	semester 18:22	silence 54:5
95:13	69:4 70:20 73:5	27:23 28:3	similar 22:10
sad 101:18,20	77:9,11,14 79:18,21	send 17:13 39:12,13	similarly 108:17
salai 2:11 3:7,9	79:22,24 80:4,9,11	82:14 99:14	single 91:23
74:17 75:4,9 samalui 2:11 3:4	80:12,14,17,17 81:8	sends 84:14	sir 34:25 35:9,15
	81:11,14,16 82:7,14	sense 90:5 108:21	68:24 73:12,15,23
34:16,21 sat 27:22 28:2	84:8,14 85:2,17	september 35:24	74:22 75:6,6,19,19
sat 27.22 28.2 saying 14:13 32:19	86:17 90:3 91:25	36:2 37:2	76:6 94:24 95:3
32:24 33:2,7 42:18	93:2,19 94:4,6,14	serious 24:11	97:16
52:9	96:8,10,12,19 97:24	service 2:15	sister 11:19 14:24
says 32:2	98:1,2,7,8,10,18,20	services 3:16 107:3	17:19,22 18:6 29:18
says 52:2 scared 53:25	98:22 99:4,5,9,11	session 4:3 58:19	62:9,11 64:13,15
schedule 59:16	99:12 100:4,21	set 22:11,17 23:7	80:9 81:3 84:12
scheduling 58:25	101:25 102:7,8,14	34:8 57:15	87:11,23 88:13,16
school 1:4 3:17 9:3,4	102:22,23 103:1,21	settle 79:11 111:7	88:19 95:23 98:17
9:5,6 10:9,12 11:25	103:21,23,24 104:1	settled 37:7	99:2 101:4
7.5,0 10.7,12 11.23	104:7,12 105:12,15		

[sister's - sure] Page 14

70.00			12.20.22.11.10.10
sister's 59:20	37:3 41:12,16 42:22	start 3:21 13:12,17	43:20,22 44:18,19
sisters 59:16	43:21,22,23,24 44:1	61:2 81:3,6 97:1	44:20,24 45:1 51:10
sit 25:11 73:5	44:20 45:5 53:7	98:22 99:1	51:13 52:24 54:1,18
six 11:8,10 28:21	56:4 64:2 70:22	started 13:7,18,23	54:23,23 55:17
108:12	72:8,24 77:17,18,20	14:16 15:3,5,10,15	56:13 61:15,18
sixth 10:18 27:14,18	77:22,23,24 81:24	25:7 41:8,11	83:16,25 84:11
27:19,20,23 28:3,6	82:20,24 84:8,11	starting 12:1 14:7	86:16,19 87:10,12
28:24	85:12 86:17,20,22	15:1 16:19	105:13,14,15
slower 29:22,24,25	87:3,11,12,17,23	state 6:4 7:20 34:19	studied 28:17,19,21
slowly 43:6	94:1,2,5,8,9 97:3,5	35:9 75:7 77:3 95:9	28:24
smith 1:7 4:3 5:17	97:8 101:8,9 104:17	96:7 111:11	studies 100:17
58:20	104:24	states 1:1,7 4:1 10:3	study 10:11 25:8
smodonnell 2:8	speaker 5:17 58:6	10:4,17,19 11:18,22	28:11,14 29:4,4
smoother 74:4	58:10 60:23 61:10	15:13 28:5 29:7	32:17 36:16,23,25
social 100:16	speakers 45:4	37:1,4 57:10 58:18	48:16 82:19 84:19
sold 69:23	speaking 8:25 15:23	71:3,7,13 73:13	studying 19:4,10
solely 109:1	19:15 83:15,16,24	77:7,18,21,25 78:3	48:20
solicitor 109:25	86:13 91:22 97:1	78:8,10,15,21 79:10	stuff 17:24
solution 60:24,25	speaks 12:17,19	79:17 80:19 91:12	subject 32:3,3
solve 43:3	56:5 92:7 101:7,22	91:13 97:4,6,23	subjects 44:21 91:21
somalia 36:4,5,10	special 50:9	stating 89:24	104:13
41:14,17 47:10,12	specific 90:3	stay 26:7 48:7 57:13	submitted 13:16,22
47:14 67:20 68:24	specifically 20:24	68:14 89:18 90:5	14:1
69:1,6	spell 7:20,23	94:6,22	sudan 9:9,10,16
somalian 47:9 70:25	spelled 35:12 75:10	stayed 28:23 29:10	13:4,5 27:13 28:10
somebody 51:24	95:12	29:11 48:3,23	28:11,11,14
69:17 111:19	spelling 34:19 35:10	staying 106:22	suggest 57:18
somewhat 90:1,4	75:7 95:10	step 33:21 73:23	sui 3:9 80:1 81:3
soon 80:19 97:25	spend 85:17 89:9	94:21 106:18	95:6,11,20,25 96:4
sooner 92:9	spoke 14:10 16:4	stilled 70:22	96:6 97:17 102:2,12
sorry 6:9 12:5 18:3	42:13 45:1	stipulated 110:2	103:1,18 105:12
20:10 22:20 23:15	sponsor 108:14	stop 6:24 56:10	suite 1:19 2:2,7,17
26:7 27:25 33:9	square 1:11	stopped 47:4,6 54:7	summer 65:20 104:7
34:5 37:11 44:7,12	staff 15:23 19:15	54:8 56:16 57:1,5	104:10 105:12
49:19 50:11,22	32:18,23 33:7 41:11	96:12,19	sun 59:1
77:18 80:3 87:14,19	41:16 42:13 106:23	street 1:15,19 2:2,17	sung 3:9 95:6,11
89:22 97:16,18,20	stall 52:18	38:18 39:4,8,8	support 45:8 72:5
101:14 103:5	stamp 22:13	streets 1:10	107:4
sort 59:11 111:4	stand 35:1 51:14	strike 30:4,4	supporting 66:9
sound 2:14	58:8,23 94:25	strokes 5:2	supports 44:15
spanish 56:5	111:23	student 59:18 66:24	supposed 13:20,21
speak 8:7,14,24	standard 110:2,3,3	87:3,8 89:12 102:16	42:6,25
10:20 12:16,18 15:6	standpoint 59:10	103:21 105:16	sure 8:20 12:9 30:22
18:17 19:5,11,12,18	star 84:19	students 16:17,17	59:2,23 77:16 81:14
19:20,22,23 24:17		19:20 20:10 43:19	82:1 87:2,16 88:18

[sure - translate] Page 15

07.10.111.0.10.14	10 16 17 10 60 0	100.00	41 1 50.00
97:13 111:3,13,14	42:16,17 43:6,9,9	testing 108:22	thursday 59:23
susan 26:24	43:13,16 44:2 45:7	tests 24:20 47:19	61:14
susanne 2:10 3:2	45:11,20,24 56:12	48:16 49:2	time 6:23 13:9 25:20
5:19,25 6:6 26:11	59:22 61:13 64:4	thank 4:4 7:1,3 8:1	28:22 30:3,5 32:21
27:25 30:4	65:12 73:7 82:14	8:3 21:5 25:22	33:5 37:14 43:15
suspect 50:25	84:22 100:12	26:14 32:4,7 33:16	53:13,15 54:3,6,7
sustain 107:18	102:14	33:18,19 34:2,7,9	54:19 59:24 60:5,6
swear 5:8 6:8,17	teachers 13:21	34:18,22 35:6,8,15	63:20 64:1 66:13,22
75:20	15:20 17:13 19:14	58:4,21 61:6,7,10	74:4 78:5 81:4 83:3
swearing 5:18	23:21 24:21 41:11	61:19,22 62:3 67:23	85:17 87:1,15 88:8
sworn 5:25 6:14,20	41:16 42:12,18	68:1,18,20 73:15,22	89:9,13,15 93:3
34:16 35:4 74:23	45:17,21 46:2,8	73:23 75:6,18 76:4	97:8 100:3,14
75:4,25 95:6	48:3 63:25 84:4,8	86:5,6,8 91:7,9 93:7	101:24
system 5:1 50:17	100:24 104:20	93:10,12,22,24	times 53:12,13 54:9
103:20	teaching 10:14 46:3	94:20 95:3,14	tired 37:13
t	100:13	101:20 102:20	today 60:4 61:5,15
t 3:12 113:1,1	technology 4:19	103:9,10,13 105:3,4	74:19 78:24 106:20
tab 22:12	telephone 4:12	105:18,19,22	106:24 108:19
tack 1:23 3:5,6	tell 13:1,24 19:14	106:14,22 111:24	110:14
33:24 34:3,7 35:20	21:10 22:3 23:1,4	that'd 58:10	told 13:19 14:2,2,15
35:21 58:2,12 68:2	24:4,4,24 27:10	thereof 113:7	14:21 25:8 27:7,9
68:4,8,19 73:16,18	33:11 38:16 41:22	thing 13:19 16:10	32:14,17 40:15 49:9
take 24:20 32:3	50:2 53:19,21 62:7	16:12 17:24 101:14	49:9 54:1 56:9,10
37:24 41:5 48:10,13	64:17 65:20 66:23	106:23 109:4	67:6 89:3 99:3,8
48:16,23 49:2 50:4	67:15 73:9,12 76:17	things 29:16 43:2	103:23
50:4 57:13 58:7,12	79:5 82:6 88:13	49:12 50:21,23 51:1	tomorrow 59:22
70:3 71:17 72:5	90:25 99:17,17	52:10 61:14	111:23
83:5 84:24 94:25	100:3 104:25	think 16:16 17:25	tone 53:5,5
99:20 100:1,9 103:6	106:11	20:13,16 24:16	tonight 59:11
103:7,25 104:2,4,12	telling 40:13 55:14	31:23 33:24 46:19	top 23:1
106:2	64:5 65:12,16 66:10	46:19 57:11 60:4	touch 56:9
taken 28:10	template 108:15	71:16 85:16 89:2	touched 16:23
talk 41:19 43:8	terms 65:13	90:6 91:14 92:2,10	touching 56:10
44:14 46:18 49:5	terrible 69:15	96:18,18 101:22	tough 90:7
51:3 52:15 83:22,22	test 15:5,7 24:23,24	102:1 105:24 106:8	training 90:5
talked 62:6 107:16	testified 88:5 92:4	107:9 108:1,2,3,13	transcribed 113:4
talking 32:13 46:6	107:12 110:14	108:17 109:2	transcriber 2:13
56:13 64:1 110:10	testifies 110:14	third 54:6,7	transcript 1:6 2:15
taught 30:12 44:22	testify 28:1 61:13	thomas 2:13 113:14	transcription 2:15
83:13,18 89:25 90:3	110:6,17	thought 59:13 100:1	transfer 5:3 30:2,5
91:18 100:17	testifying 105:25	106:4,7 111:1	31:24 57:19,21 89:6
teach 102:16	110:12	three 41:7 53:12,13	translate 8:20 14:8
teacher 20:5,18	testimony 59:12,17	72:10,11 74:6	30:10 45:25 47:1
23:18 24:2,3,14,16	59:21 60:16 109:8	106:24	84:14
25.10 2 1.2,5,1 1,10			

translated 27:2	45:12,15,18,22 46:3	vs 1:3	went 9:20 12:1
59:18	46:9 47:2,21 53:9	vwalczak 1:16	15:21 32:16 33:3
translating 91:9	56:20 58:24 59:8,9	w	36:11 37:19 39:9,10
translation 84:5	78:1 83:23,24 84:4	wait 8:19 61:4 76:14	39:20 71:5 77:13
traveled 59:16	91:19 92:18 97:9,10		98:7,19
tried 37:8,22,22	99:1 100:19,24	91:9 107:22,23 waited 53:18 71:6	who've 59:16
41:4 42:8 54:13	understanding		wish 72:16 111:5,8
55:20	59:15 65:14 73:6	waiting 5:13 37:14 37:14 107:25	witness 3:2,4,7,9 4:7
trouble 83:18	83:18 90:8 91:17	walczak 1:14	4:16,18 6:8,12,17
true 108:11	understood 39:19	walk 103:1,22 104:1	6:25 7:21,24 8:4
try 7:12 20:18 31:19	41:20 42:15 43:2,2	walking 102:11	21:6 26:3,5,6 32:8
44:2 61:5	43:9 82:1	103:4 104:1	33:17,20,23 34:2
trying 33:5 37:23	unfair 111:1	walks 102:23	35:2,8,11,14 58:23
44:23 59:24 90:24	unidentified 58:6,10	walnut 1:19	58:23 59:21 61:21
111:6,16	60:23 61:10	want 8:19 14:4 26:7	68:2 73:24 74:1
turn 21:19,25	unique 111:17,17	29:21 30:7,7,24	75:20 79:7 86:7
105:24 106:6	united 1:1,7 4:1	34:5 39:12,12 41:19	90:7 91:15 93:11
turning 11:24	10:4,17,19 11:21	49:5 57:7,8,9,9	94:23,24 102:22
tutor 36:24	15:13 37:1,4 57:10	58:24 64:6 66:15	103:12 105:5,20
tutoring 85:3 101:3	58:18 71:3,7,13	67:7 79:17,21,22	106:15 107:11
twenty 62:14	73:13 77:6,18,21,25	81:8 82:1 86:3 89:6	108:14 110:6
twice 12:7 39:2	78:3,8,10,15,21	89:13 90:25 92:21	113:11
46:19	79:10,17 80:19 97:4	97:23 98:2 102:15	witnessed 16:21
two 1:11 38:3 53:12	97:6,23	106:22 107:22	witnesses 59:14,19
53:13 54:20 59:16	unstable 69:10	111:5,6,12	107:10 108:18
59:18 61:8,18 78:23	urge 111:6	wanted 64:7 65:24	109:1,7
87:10,12,16,18,22	use 16:17 30:9 45:24	79:23 82:24 89:9	witold 1:14
88:24 107:1	46:10 51:24 52:4	93:4 100:7,15	wonderful 72:1,1,3
u	54:21 99:23	101:13,16 102:5,5	word 91:23
u 34:21 95:13	usually 24:11	102:16 103:22	words 7:15 37:5
u.s. 28:16	V	106:24	42:23
uncomfortable 17:3	van 3:7 75:25 76:11	wants 92:4	work 14:5 17:13,16
underline 22:8	76:17,18 86:13	warner 2:6	17:20 21:17 45:7
understand 4:10	87:16 89:6 90:13	watched 42:5	48:10,16 49:2 64:7
6:24 7:16 8:19	92:23,25 93:7,18	way 5:1 85:18 110:5	64:13,15,16 74:11
18:17 19:5,11,14,16	101:7	we've 33:21 57:24	84:20 85:7,20
19:17 20:2,3,15,16	veritext 2:16	59:5 74:6,11	worked 44:10 64:17
20:19 23:5,6,21	versus 25:5	wear 99:25	65:5,9
25:4,11,12,14 27:25	vigilant 111:3	wearing 50:8	worker 79:11 working 12:13 64:9
29:21,22 31:3 39:11	visited 66:23	weathers 23:18	64:10,11 98:10
39:14,17 40:15	visiting 66:16	week 62:6 85:4	works 5:1 64:14,24
41:12,14,17 42:9,12	voice 7:12 8:12 53:5	86:14 89:3 101:5	worksheet 22:6
42:14,18,22,25 44:3	76:3	welcome 8:4 32:6	24:15,15
44:9,11,17,23 45:8		33:20 34:13 61:11	2 1 .13,13

[would've - zoo] Page 17

would've 49:12	Z
write 10:22 15:6,8	zoo 65:22
19:5 30:15,16 36:21	200 03.22
36:22 40:7 47:16	
70:23 84:22	
written 31:25 32:1	
wrote 21:18 23:4,5	
40:5 59:17 107:12	
X	
x 3:1,12	
xiao 76:24 77:1 96:5	
y	
y 34:20	
yeah 8:10 38:7 47:7	
54:13 60:19 77:8,15	
77:22,24 79:23 81:2	
81:7 84:19 85:17	
86:3 90:17,23 92:20	
96:11 97:5,13 98:5	
98:6,14,19 99:3,8,8	
99:8 100:7,7,12	
101:15,21 102:16	
103:7 104:17	
year 11:1 28:4 29:9	
29:12 31:19 56:21	
62:21 68:15 77:13	
77:16 79:8,8 80:12	
85:10,10 88:24	
96:13,14,16 98:24	
99:3,10	
years 9:17,18 10:1	
27:16,17,22 28:2,6	
28:12,13,21 29:6	
36:1,15 57:14 62:8	
62:14 71:7 72:2,8	
72:10,11 77:11	
96:10,24	
yell 53:7	
•	
young 92:8	
younger 62:23	
78:23 79:5,7,8 80:3	
80:9 85:14 89:11	
l l	