In the Matter Of:

AMY NEVILLE vs SNAP INC.

22STCV33500

MOTION

October 18, 2023



SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT SSC 7 HON. LAWRENCE P. RIFF, JUDGE AMY NEVILLE; ET AL., ORIGINAL PLAINTIFFS, VS.)SUPERIOR COURT)NO. 22STCV33500 SNAP INC., DEFENDANT.) ____) 22STCV36189)22STCV36229 AND RELATED CASES.)23SMCV00061 ____)23SMCV00835 23SMCV01428 23STCV08062 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023 **APPEARANCES:** FOR THE PLAINTIFF: SOCIAL MEDIA VICTIMS LAW CENTER BY: MATTHEW BERGMAN BY: GLENN S. DRAPER BY: LAURA MARQUEZ-GARRETT 600 1ST AVE., #102 SEATTLE, WA 98104 C.A. GOLDBERG, PLLC BY: CARRIE GOLDBERG 16 COURT STREET, 13TH FLR. BROOKLYN, NY 11201 FOR THE DEFENDANT: SHOOK HARDY BACON

GAIL PEEPLES, CSR NO. 11458

555 MISSION STREET., #2300 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

BY: JESSICA L. GRANT

ORIGINAL

1	APPEARANCES, CONT:	
2	FOR THE DEFENDANT:	MORRISON & FOERSTER BY: J. ALEXANDER LAWRENCE
3		425 MARKET STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
4		Sint Financipes, on 51103
5		
6	(APPEARANCES VIA LA COURT	TCONNECT):
7	FOR PLAINTIFFS:	SOCIAL MEDIA VICTIMS LAW CENTER
8		BY: MADELINE BASHA BY: SYDNEY LOTTES
9		600 1ST AVE., #102 SEATTLE, WA 98104
10		
11	FOR DEFENDANT:	MORRISON & FOERSTER:
12		BY: LYNDSEY CAIN BY: JUSTIN REZKALLA
13		BY: ERNESTO ROJAS GUZMAN BY: MARCUS GRIMES
14		425 MARKET STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
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1	CASE NUMBER:	22STCV33500
2	CASE NAME:	NEVILLE V. SNAP; ET AL.
3	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023
4	DEPARTMENT SSC 7	HON. LAWRENCE P. RIFF,
5		JUDGE
6	REPORTER:	GAIL PEEPLES, CSR NO. 11458
7	TIME:	11:00 A.M.
8	APPEARANCES:	(AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED.)
9		
10	THE COURT: GOOD MORNING, ALL	. I'M JUDGE LAWRENCE
11	RIFF. WELCOME TO DEPARTMENT	7.
12	WE HAVE ON CALE	NDAR THIS MORNING A
13	COLLECTION OF RELATED CASES:	MATTERS 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
14	AND 12. I'M GOING TO CALL AL	L OF THEM AT ONCE BY THEIR
15	SHORTENED TITLE.	
16	AMY NEVILLE VER	SUS SNAP, INC., AMANDA
17	EUBANKS, AS SUCESSOR-IN-INTER	EST, VERSUS SNAP, INC., ROY
18	PLUNK VERSUS SNAP, INC., JENN	IFER STABILE, S-T-A-B-I-L-E,
19	VERSUS SNAP, INC., DIANA TRUJ	ILLO VERSUS SNAP, INC.,
20	RHONDA BURRIS VERSUS SNAP, IN	C., AND KATHERINE BREWER
21	VERSUS SNAP, INC.	
22	WE HAVE A REPOR	TER.
23	SO, LET ME GET	APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL
24	STARTING WITH PLAINTIFFS' SID	E AND LAWYERS IN THE ROOM.
25	LET ME MAKE A S	UGGESTION ACTUALLY. SINCE
26	IT'S VERY HARD TO HEAR IN HER	E AND THERE ARE NUMEROUS
27	PEOPLE PERHAPS PARTICIPATING	ON OUR COURTCONNECT, REMAIN
28	SEATED WHEN YOU ADDRESS THE C	OURT. NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

1	USE THE MICROPHONES. THEY MOVE EASILY THERE IS A LITTLE
2	GREEN BUTTON. MAKE SURE THAT WELL, THERE'S A LITTLE
3	GREEN LIGHT. MAKE SURE THAT IT IS ON. AND WE'LL GO FROM
4	THERE.
5	SO, COUNSEL.
6	MR. BERGMAN: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, MATTHEW
7	BERGMAN APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS.
8	THE COURT: THANK YOU.
9	MR. DRAPER: GLENN DRAPER ALSO APPEARING ON BEHALF
10	OF THE PLAINTIFFS.
11	MS. MARQUEZ-GARRETT: LAURA MARQUEZ-GARRETT
12	APPEARING ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFFS.
13	MS. GOLDBERG: CARRIE GOLDBERG APPEARING FOR
14	PLAINTIFFS. GOOD MORNING.
15	THE COURT: THANK YOU.
16	I KNOW IT'S AWKWARD. THANK YOU FOR THAT.
17	ANYBODY APPEARING ON LA COURTCONNECT FOR
18	PLAINTIFFS? ANY COUNSEL WISH TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE?
19	MS. BASHA: THIS IS MADELINE BASHA APPEARING FOR
20	THE PLAINTIFFS.
21	THE COURT: THANK YOU.
22	MS. LOTTES: AND SYDNEY LOTTES FOR PLAINTIFFS.
23	THE COURT: GOT IT.
24	ANYBODY ELSE?
25	HEARING NONE.
26	OKAY. LET'S GO TO THE DEFENSE SIDE OF THE
27	ROOM. STARTING WITH COUNSEL HERE IN COURT, YOUR
28	APPEARANCE PLEASE.

1	MS. GRANT: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. GOOD MORNING.
2	JESSICA GRANT ON BEHALF OF SNAP.
3	THE COURT: THANK YOU.
4	MR. LAWRENCE: YES. GOOD MORNING, YOUR HONOR.
5	ALEX LAWRENCE ALSO ON BEHALF OF SNAP, INC.
6	THE COURT: HOLD ON. I DON'T HAVE YOU
7	MR. LAWRENCE: I'M JOSEPH ALEXANDER LAWRENCE. I
8	JUST GO BY ALEX. APOLOGIES, YOUR HONOR.
9	THE COURT: THAT'S ALL RIGHT. AROUND HERE YOU
10	WILL BE MR. LAWRENCE.
11	MR. LAWRENCE: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
12	THE COURT: WE'RE NOT ON FIRST NAME BASIS WHEN
13	WE'RE ON THE RECORD.
14	OKAY, MR. LAWRENCE. THANK YOU.
15	AND WHO ELSE IS APPEARING ON LA COURT
16	CONNECT FOR THE DEFENDANT PLEASE?
17	MS. CANE: YOUR HONOR, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER
18	FOLKS FROM MORRISON & FOERSTER ON BEHALF OF SNAP WHO WILL
19	BE OBSERVING ONLY WHO ARE ON COURTCONNECT. AND THAT IS
20	MYSELF, LYNDSEY CAIN. AND I'M JOINED BY JUSTIN REZKALLA,
21	ERNESTO ROJAS GUZMAN, AND MARCUS GRIMES.
22	THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, MISS CANE.
23	AND YOU AND YOURS WHO ARE APPEARING ON
24	COURTCONNECT IF YOU DO END UP HAVING SOMETHING TO SAY,
25	SIMPLY IDENTIFY WHO YOU ARE AND SAY IT.
26	LIKEWISE FOR PLAINTIFFS' SIDE, IF YOU HAVE
27	
	SOMETHING TO SAY, SPEAK UP AND JUST TELL US WHO YOU ARE.

1	PRELIMINARY COMMENTS. AND THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE. OKAY?
2	AND EVEN BEFORE I GET TO MY PRELIMINARY
3	COMMENTS, LET ME COMMENT ON JUST HOW I SEE OUR DAY
4	UNFOLDING. OKAY.
5	YOU'RE LIKELY TO BE HERE FOR MOST OF THE
6	DAY. WE ARE GOING TO HOLD OUR PROCEEDINGS UNTIL NOON.
7	WE'RE OBLIGATED TO CLOSE THE COURTROOM BETWEEN NOON AND
8	1:30. WE'LL GET STARTED AGAIN AT 1:45 AND GO PROBABLY TO
9	ABOUT 4:15.
10	I ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY, AND MAYBE THE
11	PROBABILITY, THAT THE HEARING HEARINGS WE ARE HAVING
12	TODAY WILL NOT BE COMPLETED TODAY BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOT
13	TO DO ON CALENDAR. IN ADDITION TO A VARIETY OF MOTIONS,
14	WE HAVE STATUS CONFERENCES IN ALL OF THESE CASES. AND WE
15	NEED TO HAVE THOUGHTFUL AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION ABOUT
16	ALL OF THAT.
17	SO, A LITTLE BIT LATER IN THE DAY WE WILL
18	PROBABLY BE TALKING ABOUT FURTHER DATES NOT TOO FAR OFF
19	BY THE WAY.
20	I HAVE TEN ITEMS OF PRELIMINARY COMMENTS.
21	THESE CASES BEFORE THE COURT ASK SOME VERY
22	PROFOUND AND VERY PENETRATING QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE
23	NORMS AND THE LAW THAT APPLIES AND WILL APPLY TO OUR 2023
24	WORLD OF INTERCONNECTEDNESS, THE ELECTRONIC
25	INTERCONNECTEDNESS IN WHICH OUR SOCIETY NOW OPERATES.
26	NOW, WHAT I JUST SAID IS A PRETTY ABSTRACT
27	STATEMENT, IS IT NOT?
28	AND I WANT TO OBSERVE THAT BIG PICTURE

1	ABSTRACTS ASIDE, WE DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF I DON'T LOSE
2	SIGHT OF THE FACT, AND I THINK NO ONE HERE DOES, THAT
3	THESE CASES INVOLVE FOR SOME DOZENS OF FAMILIES A
4	TERRIBLE LOSS: A LOSS OF A CHILD OR INJURIES TO A CHILD
5	FROM THE TERRIBLE SCOURGE OF A DRUG OVERDOSE.
6	IT'S APPARENT TO ME, FROM READING LOTS OF
7	THE PAPERS SUPPLIED TO THE COURT TODAY, THAT THE PARTIES
8	HAVE VAST DISAGREEMENTS AS TO WHAT THE TRUE FACTS ARE,
9	WHAT THE LAW IS, AND HOW THE LAW SHOULD OPERATE. BUT, IT
10	IS ALSO CLEAR TO ME THAT THE PARTIES ARE NOT SEPARATED AS
11	TO THE PROPOSITION THAT THESE FAMILIES HAVE SUFFERED A
12	TERRIBLE LOSS.
13	WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING STAGES OF THESE
14	LOSSES. AND GIVEN THE COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THESE CASES,
15	I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND AND THAT I
16	EXPLAIN FOR THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE HERE
17	TODAY WHO ARE NOT TRAINED IN THE LAW WHAT WE ARE DOING
18	TODAY AND WHAT WE ARE NOT DOING TODAY.
19	I WANT EVERYBODY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE
20	ARCHITECTURE BENEATH ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING, ANY LAWSUIT
21	LIKE THIS, ARE PROCEDURAL RULES, PROCESS.
22	WE ALL STUDIED THE CONSTITUTION SOMEWHERE
23	ALONG THE LINE IN OUR EDUCATION, AND WORDS LIKE "DUE
24	PROCESS OF LAW" WERE PUT BEFORE US. PART OF THE U.S.
25	CONSTITUTION, PART OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
26	CALIFORNIA, PARTIES ARE ENTITLED TO DUE PROCESS OF LAW.

THAT APPLIES IN THESE CIVIL CASES AS WELL.

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ABOUT WITH COUNSEL ARE THE PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES OF 1 LAW THAT WILL APPLY. 2 3 THE PRINCIPAL MATTER BEFORE US TODAY IS A 4 PROCEDURAL MATTER THAT OCCURS AT THE FRONT END OF THE 5 LAWSUIT. THE PLAINTIFFS IN THE CASE, THROUGH THEIR LAWYERS -- THE PLAINTIFFS IN THESE CASES, THROUGH THEIR 6 7 LAWYERS, HAVE MADE A COLLECTION OF FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS. THEY HAVE DONE SO IN THE FORM OF A DOCUMENT CALLED A 8 9 COMPLAINT. THE COMPLAINT IS FILED IN COURT, AND IT'S 10 THERE FOR EVERYBODY TO READ. TECHNICALLY, AT LEAST IN 11 THE NEVILLE --12 LET ME FIND OUT FROM COUNSEL HOW DO I 13 PRONOUNCE --14 MR. BERMAN: NEVILLE. 15 THE COURT: IN THE NEVILLE CASE, WHICH IS THE CASE IN WHICH SOME OF THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES ARISES TODAY, 16 17 TECHNICALLY IT'S A SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT, MEANING THAT 18 THE PLAINTIFFS' SIDE, WITH THE COURT'S PERMISSION, HAVE 19 AMENDED THE SETS OF -- THE SET OF ALLEGATIONS. 20 AND SNAP, THE DEFENDANT IN THE CASE, HAS 21 RAISED A COLLECTION OF LEGAL ARGUMENTS BY FILING 22 SOMETHING CALLED A DEMURRER, D-E-M-U-R-R-E-R. DEMURRER. 23 AND I WANT TO EXPLAIN TO YOU ALL, BRIEFLY, 24 WHAT ALL THAT MEANS TO ME. I'LL TRY TO DECIPHER IT FOR 25 THOSE WHO AREN'T LAWYERS. 26 THE CHALLENGE THAT SNAP HAS RAISED -- I WILL PARAPHRASE. THIS IS ME TALKING, NOT SNAP. 27 28 BASICALLY WHAT THE DEMURRER SAYS IS EVEN IF

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1	ALL OF THE ALLEGATIONS IN THIS COMPLAINT ARE TRUE AND
2	I DON'T KNOW, BUT I ASSUME IN FACT, I DO KNOW THAT
3	SNAP DENIES A GREAT MANY, IF NOT ALL, OF THE ALLEGATIONS
4	OF THIS COMPLAINT. BUT, FOR PURPOSES OF THEIR LEGAL
5	CHALLENGE, OF ITS LEGAL CHALLENGE, SNAP IS SAYING EVEN IF
6	EVERYTHING IN THIS COMPLAINT WERE TRUE, THE PLAINTIFFS
7	ARE NOT ENTITLED TO THE LEGAL RELIEF THAT THEY SEEK IN
8	THIS LAWSUIT.
9	AND IN THIS LAWSUIT AMONG THE THINGS THAT
10	THE PLAINTIFFS ARE SEEKING ARE MONEY DAMAGES AND CERTAIN
11	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, AS WELL CERTAIN COURT ORDERS TO
12	REQUIRE CERTAIN THINGS ARE PRECLUDE CERTAIN THINGS.
13	SO, WHAT I NEED EVERYBODY TO UNDERSTAND
14	HERE TODAY IS WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE DEBATING WHETHER THE
15	ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE OR NOT TRUE. THERE WILL COME A TIME
16	IN THIS CASE WHEN THOSE DEBATES HAPPEN. THAT'S CALLED A
17	TRIAL. ALL RIGHT.
18	AND A TRIAL OCCURS SOUNDS TO ME LIKE IF
19	THERE EVER IS A TRIAL IN ANY OF THESE CASES, AND WE WILL
20	SEE, THAT ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES MAY WANT A JURY,
21	THEY WILL SIT OVER THERE IN THE JURY BOX, THEY WILL HEAR

WE'RE NOT DOING THAT TODAY.

WHAT IS MORE LIKELY THAN NOT TRUE.

COMPETING BITS OF EVIDENCE ON FACTUAL MATTERS, AND THEY

WILL DECIDE WHAT'S TRUE OR WHAT'S NOT TRUE. OR AT LEAST

BY AND LARGE, FOR PURPOSES OF THE DEMURRER BEFORE US TODAY, I AM OBLIGATED TO ASSUME EVERYTHING THAT THE PLAINTIFFS HAVE ALLEGED IN THE COMPLAINT, EVERYTHING,

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1
     IS TRUE.
               AND THEN THE QUESTION IS, WELL, DOES THE LAW
 2
     PROVIDE A REMEDY EVEN IF EVERYTHING IS TRUE?
 3
                   THAT'S WHAT A DEMURRER IS. OKAY?
 4
                   I'M ON 3 OF MY 10, COUNSEL.
 5
                   NEXT TOPIC FOR PRELIMINARY COMMENT.
                   I WANT TO OBSERVE THAT WE HAVE A
 6
 7
     VOCABULARIZATION ISSUE, COUNSEL, AMONG US. AND WE'RE
     GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE SOME COMMON LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE
 8
 9
     WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IN THE CASE.
                   SO, FOR EXAMPLE, I AM CALLED UPON BY THE
10
     DEMURRER CHALLENGE TO DECIDE IF THE FACTS ALLEGED, IF
11
12
     TRUE, STATE OR CONSTITUTE A CAUSE OF ACTION. A CAUSE OF
13
     ACTION.
              THAT IS A DEFINED TERM OF ART UNDER CALIFORNIA
14
          AND AS THE LAWYERS IN THE ROOM KNOW, IT'S A
     LAW.
15
     PROBLEMATIC -- IT'S A PROBLEMATIC TERM BECAUSE FREQUENTLY
     LAWYERS AND JUDGES USE THE TERM "CAUSE OF ACTION" AND "A
16
17
     COUNT" AND "A THEORY OF RELIEF", LEGAL THEORY,
18
     INTERCHANGEABLY EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE VERY SEPARATE
     THINGS. SO, I NOTE THAT.
19
20
                   WE ALSO HAVE A VOCABULARY PROBLEM WITH THE
21
     TERM "PRODUCTS LIABILITY." PRODUCTS LIABILITY.
                                                      AND I
22
     WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT I THINK THOSE WORDS MEAN.
23
                   "PRODUCTS LIABILITY" REFER TO THE VARIOUS
24
     LEGAL THEORIES THAT WILL PERMIT A REMEDY FOR A DEFECTIVE
25
     PRODUCT. IT INCLUDES STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY, IT
26
     INCLUDES NEGLIGENCE, IT MAY EVEN INCLUDE CERTAIN
27
     INTENTIONAL TORTS. BUT, I THINK THE PAPERS HERE MAY USE
28
     THE TERM "PRODUCTS LIABILITY" WHEN THEY MEAN STRICT
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1 | LIABILITY IN TORT, WHICH ARE DIFFERENT THINGS.

"STRICT LIABILITY IN TORTS" MEANS TO ME
THOSE COLLECTIONS OF LEGAL THEORIES, GENERALLY, THAT DO
NOT REQUIRE A SHOWING OF NEGLIGENCE OR PRIVITY OF
CONTRACT AND HAVE A REDUCED BURDEN OF PROOF UPON THE
PLAINTIFF WHICH RELATE -- WHICH LEGAL THEORIES RELATE TO
PRODUCTS.

SO, AS WE GO FORWARD, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE

TO MAKE SURE WE ARE COMMUNICATING ON THESE VARIOUS WORDS.

NEXT COMMENT.

AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT IS NOT MY GOAL
HERE TO BE GIVING A LECTURE IN CIVIL PROCEDURE. BUT, I
THINK, SO THAT YOU ALL KNOW WHAT I AM DOING, YOU NEED TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM THINKING ABOUT.

I TOLD YOU THIS IS A DEMURRER HEARING

PRINCIPALLY WHERE SNAP SAYS EVEN IF EVERYTHING IS TRUE

THE PLAINTIFFS DO NOT HAVE A LEGAL REMEDY AND, THEREFORE,

THE PLAINTIFFS LOSE. I MEAN, THAT'S -- THE OUTCOME OF A

DEMURRER IS THE PLAINTIFFS LOSE AND THE LAWSUIT IS OVER,

IT'S DISMISSED IF THE DEMURRER IS VALID.

NOW, I WILL DROP A FOOTNOTE TO SAY THAT ALMOST ALWAYS IF THE COURT IS GOING TO GRANT A DEMURRER THE PLAINTIFFS ARE GIVEN A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK TO -- TO AMEND THE COMPLAINT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM IF IT'S SOLVABLE. BUT, IF IT'S A PURE LEGAL PROBLEM, IT PROBABLY CAN'T BE SOLVED.

MY POINT IS THAT'S HOW A DEMURRER IS
RESOLVED. IT'S EITHER SUSTAINED, MEANING GRANTED, OR

SAY THAT DIFFERENTLY.

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IT'S OVERRULED, MEANING DENIED. IF IT'S OVERRULED, MEANS 1 2 WE GO TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE LITIGATION. BUT, THE 3 CASES ROLL FORWARD. 4 MANY OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY SNAP IN THEIR 5 DEMURRER CAUSE ME TO QUESTION WHAT IS THE PROPER STAGE OF 6 THIS LITIGATION FOR THESE ISSUES TO BE CONFRONTED AND 7 DECIDED. MAYBE IT'S ON DEMURRER, WHICH IS RIGHT NOW. MAYBE IT'S NOT. MAYBE THE CORRECT PROCEDURAL -- LET ME 8

MAYBE THE BETTER WAY FOR SOME OR ALL OF
THESE ISSUES TO BE DECIDED IS ON AN ACTUAL FACTUAL RECORD
WHERE THE COURT GETS SOME INKLING OF WHAT -- WELL, OF
WHETHER THE FACTS ARE TRUE OR NOT TRUE, WHICH MEANS THAT
THE COURT RECEIVES EVIDENCE FROM WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTS.
AND THE COURT GETS, AS I SAY, AN INKLING OF WHAT'S TRUE
AND NOT TRUE.

AND I TELL YOU ALL THAT THERE IS ANOTHER
STAGE OF LITIGATION THAT OFTEN COMES UP WHERE ONE SIDE OR
THE OTHER WILL SAY TO THE JUDGE "LOOK, JUDGE, HERE ARE
THE FACTS, HERE ARE -- HERE'S THE EVIDENCE, A BIG STACK
OF DECLARATIONS AND EVIDENCE, THESE ARE THE FACTS OF THIS
CASE AND THERE IS NO DISPUTE AS TO WHAT THE FACTS ARE.
BOTH SIDES AGREE THESE ARE ALL THE FACTS; AND FACTS A
THROUGH J, THOSE ARE THE FACTS. NOW, JUDGE, APPLY THE
LAW TO THOSE FACTS AND TELL US WHO IS -- WHO WINS."

WE DON'T NEED A TRIAL AT THAT POINT BECAUSE TRIALS ARE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE FACTS ARE.

WAS THE LIGHT RED OR WAS IT GREEN IN THE

1	TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CASE? IF EVERYBODY AGREES THE LIGHT WAS
2	GREEN, WE DO NOT NEED A TRIAL TO FIGURE OUT WHAT COLOR
3	THE LIGHT WAS.
4	SO, THIS THING I'M TALKING ABOUT IS CALLED
5	SUMMARY JUDGMENT. AND A PARTY WILL SAY, AS I JUST I'M
6	GOING TO REPEAT MYSELF.
7	A PARTY SAYS "LOOK, HERE ARE THE FACTS,
8	JUDGE, BOTH SIDES AGREE THESE ARE THE FACTS, HERE'S THE
9	LAW; IF YOU APPLY THE LAW TO THESE FACTS, WE WIN."
10	THAT'S CALLED SUMMARY JUDGMENT.
11	WHAT THE OTHER SIDE FREQUENTLY DOES IN THAT
12	SITUATION IS SAY "WELL, THOSE AREN'T WE DON'T AGREE
13	THAT THOSE ARE THE FACTS. IN FACT, HERE ARE A BUNCH
14	HERE'S A BUNCH OF EVIDENCE, JUDGE, THAT SHOWS THAT THOSE
15	FACTS ARE DISPUTED. AND BECAUSE THEY'RE DISPUTED, YEAH,
16	WE NEED A TRIAL. WE DON'T AGREE WHETHER THE LIGHT WAS
17	GREEN OR RED, WE NEED A TRIAL."
18	OR THE PARTY WILL SAY "WELL, OKAY, WE AGREE
19	THAT THOSE ARE THE FACTS; BUT WE SAY WHEN YOU APPLY THE
20	LAW WE WIN, NOT THE OTHER SIDE."
21	SO, IT MAY BE THAT SOME OF THE ISSUES HERE
22	TODAY ARE TO BE DECIDED NOT ON A DEMURRER BUT LATER AT A
23	SUMMARY JUDGMENT.
24	AND THEN ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IS THAT IN
25	FACT THEY NEED TO BE DECIDED AT TRIAL BY A JURY OR A
26	JUDGE WHO SITS AS A FACTFINDER WHO DECIDES WHETHER THE
27	LIGHT WAS GREEN OR RED; WHETHER THE FACTFINDER, IF IT'S A

JURY, DECIDES DO THEY BELIEVE THE WITNESS, DO THEY NOT

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CALIFORNIA PROCEDURE.

1 BELIEVE THE WITNESS. THAT SORT OF THING. 2 OKAY. SO, THAT IS ON MY MIND: ARE THE 3 ISSUES RAISED BY THESE PAPERS TODAY APPROPRIATE FOR A 4 DEMURRER? 5 NEXT -- AND THIS IS WHERE WE GET INTO OUR 6 VOCABULARY CONUNDRUM. 7 THE SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT, THE OPERATIVE COMPLAINT IN NEVILLE, IS 216 PAGES LONG. I DON'T RECALL 8 9 HOW MANY PARAGRAPHS THERE ARE, BUT IT IS SOMEWHERE IN THE 10 800, 900 --11 MR. DRAPER: JUST SHY OF A THOUSAND. 12 THE COURT: IT'S A VERY LONG COMPLAINT, IT'S VERY 13 DETAILED WITH RESPECT TO ITS ALLEGATIONS. AND I HAVE 14 READ IT SEVERAL TIMES. 15 AND IN THAT SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT --WHICH FROM NOW ON I'M JUST GOING TO CALL THE COMPLAINT 16 17 AND EVERYBODY WILL KNOW I'M REFERRING TO THE OPERATIVE 18 SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT -- THE PLAINTIFFS' SIDE SETS OUT 16 -- AND NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT WORD TO USE -- 16 LEGAL 19 20 THEORIES, COUNTS, CAUSES OF ACTION. I'M NOT SURE WHAT WORD TO USE. AND THIS IS WHY IT MATTERS. 21 22 TECHNICALLY, PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL REFER TO THESE 16 THINGS AS COUNTS. AND -- AGAIN, THESE ARE 23 24 PRELIMINARY COMMENTS. BUT, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING -- 42 25 YEARS INTO THIS BUSINESS -- THAT, BASICALLY, COUNTS 26 REPRESENT ALTERNATIVE LEGAL THEORIES BENEATH A CAUSE OF

ACTION. THAT'S HOW I UNDERSTAND THOSE WORDS UNDER

SO, LET'S JUST GO OVER THE COUNTS ASSERTED. 1 2 AND I WANT TO JUST TELL YOU, COUNSEL, 3 BRIEFLY HOW I'M INTERPRETING THEM. ALL RIGHT. 4 COUNT 1 IS DENOMINATED: STRICT PRODUCTS 5 LIABILITY DESIGN DEFECT. 6 NOW, WHERE I COME FROM, WHICH IS TECHNICALLY OHIO BUT I HAVE BEEN IN CALIFORNIA FOR MANY 7 DECADES, STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY ON A DESIGN DEFECT HAS 8 9 TWO PRONGS. IT HAS A RISK/BENEFIT PRONG UNDER BARKER VERSUS LULL AND IT HAS A CONSUMER EXPECTATION PRONG. 10 11 I INFER FROM THE WORDS IN COUNT 1 THAT IT 12 IS A CONSUMER EXPECTATION THEORY BEING ASSERTED. COUNT 2 IS A STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY 13 14 THEORY DENOMINATED FAILURE TO WARN. 15 AND I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THAT. THAT IS A VIABLE THEORY IN CALIFORNIA. 16 17 COUNT 3 IS DENOMINATED RISK BENEFIT TEST. 18 I INFER FROM THAT THAT IS A STRICT 19 PRODUCTS LIABILITY THEORY ON THE OTHER PRONG FROM COUNT 20 SO, THAT IS THE BARKER VERSUS LULL THEORY, AND COUNT 21 1 IS THE CONSUMER EXPECTATION THEORY. 22 OKAY. NOW, COUNTS 4, 5, 6, 7, AND 13 ALL 23 ARE DENOMINATED AS A SPECIES OF NEGLIGENCE. 24 COUNT 4 IS DENOMINATED NEGLIGENCE DEFECTIVE 25 COUNT 5 NEGLIGENCE FAILURE TO WARN. COUNT 6 IS DESIGN. 26 JUST CALLED NEGLIGENCE. COUNT 7 IS CALLED NEGLIGENCE PER 2.7 SE. AND COUNT 13 IS NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION. 28 I JUST WANT TO OBSERVE AT LEAST A INTUITIVE

FEELING THAT I HAVE THAT THOSE ARE ALL SPECIES OF THE
SAME LEGAL THEORY, WHICH IS NEGLIGENCE.
YOU MIGHT WONDER "WELL, WHAT DIFFERENCE
DOES IT MAKE?"
AND THE REASON IT MAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
THE FUTURE IS BECAUSE ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER MAY BE
SEEKING SUMMARY ADJUDICATION UNDER CCP 437(C), AND ABSENT
A STIPULATION OF THE PARTIES, A PARTY MAY NOT SEEK
SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OF LESS THAN A CAUSE OF ACTION. SO,
IT'S NOT CLEAR TO ME, JUST HYPOTHETICALLY, THAT A PARTY
COULD MOVE FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION ON NEGLIGENT FAILURE
TO WARN, COUNT 5, BY ITSELF. I'M GOING TO LEAVE IT AT
THAT.
COUNT 8 IS DENOMINATED TORTIOUS
INTERFERENCE WITH PARENTAL RIGHTS. AND IT IS NOT CLEAR
TO ME WHETHER THAT IS AN ASSERTION OF VIRGINIA LAW OR NOT
AND WHETHER THE PLAINTIFFS ARE ASKING THIS COURT TO APPLY
VIRGINIA LAW IN THIS CALIFORNIA PROCEEDING. I GUESS WE
WILL FIND OUT IN DUE COURSE.
COUNT 9 IS PUBLIC NUISANCE. I UNDERSTAND
WHAT THOSE WORDS MEAN.
COUNT 10 IS DENOMINATED AIDING AND
ABETTING. AND MY INTUITIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE WORDS
IS THAT IS NOT A LEGAL THEORY OR A CAUSE OF ACTION, IT IS
A LEGAL PROPOSITION TO EXTEND VICARIOUS LIABILITY.
COUNT 11 IS DENOMINATED FRAUDULENT
CONCEALMENT AND MISREPRESENTATION. TO ME, THAT IS A

SPECIES OF -- IT IS A SPECIFICATION UNDER A HEADING OF

BOTH CONCEALMENT AND MISREPRESENTATIONS ARE WAYS 1 FRAUD. 2 IN WHICH A FRAUD CAN OCCUR. 3 COUNT 12 IS DENOMINATED FRAUDULENT 4 MISREPRESENTATION. AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT'S 5 DIFFERENT THAN COUNT 11. 6 COUNT 13 IS NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION, 7 WHICH, AGAIN, I THINK IS A SPECIES OF NEGLIGENCE. 8 COUNT 14 IS DENOMINATED WRONGFUL DEATH. 9 AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE WORDS MEAN. CALIFORNIA DOES 10 PROVIDE A LEGAL REMEDY FOR SPECIFIED RELATIONS TO A 11 DECEDENT TO RECOVER FOR A WRONGFUL DEATH. 12 COUNT 15 IS DENOMINATED SURVIVAL ACTION. AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE WORDS MEAN. UNDER CERTAIN 13 14 CIRCUMSTANCES, A PERSON WHO SUFFERS FROM A TORTIOUS WRONG 15 FROM ANOTHER PERSON BUT THE PERSON DIES BEFORE HE OR SHE IS ABLE TO BRING A LAWSUIT, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THE 16 17 CLAIM OF WRONG SURVIVES THE DEATH. 18 AND THEN COUNT 16 IS LOSS OF CONSORTIUM AND 19 SOCIETY. AND I WILL NEED SOME CLARIFICATION TO WHAT THAT 20 REFERS. 21 THOSE ARE ELEMENTS OF DAMAGES AS I 2.2 UNDERSTAND IT. 23 OKAY. NEXT, ONCE WE'RE DONE TALKING ABOUT 24 DEMURRERS, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS ON THE CALENDAR FOR 25 TODAY. 26 SNAP HAS BROUGHT A MOTION FOR SANCTIONS, 27 MEANING PUNISHMENT, DIRECTED TO THE PLAINTIFFS UNDER CODE

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 128.7. AND THE THEORY IS THAT

Τ	PLAINTIFFS AND THEIR LAWYERS HAVE KNOWINGLY MADE FALSE
2	ALLEGATIONS FOR WHICH THERE SHOULD BE LEGAL CONSEQUENCE
3	AND PUNISHMENT.
4	THERE IS A MOTION TO SEAL A PORTION OF A
5	DECLARATION FROM A SNAP WITNESS, A WITNESS NIKESH,
6	N-I-K-E-S-H, SRIVASTAVA, S-R-I-V-A-S-T-A-V-A. AND THERE
7	ARE SPECIAL RULES, I WILL JUST ADVISE, AS TO WHEN
8	DOCUMENTS CAN BE SEALED, MEANING THEY'RE NOT AVAILABLE TO
9	THE PUBLIC. SO, WE WILL HOLD A HEARING ON THAT.
10	AND LAST WELL, SECOND TO LAST ON THE
11	CALENDAR TODAY, THERE IS A MOTION BROUGHT BY THE
12	PLAINTIFFS' SIDE TO STRIKE, WHICH IS A LEGAL CONCEPT OF
13	FIGURATIVELY MARKING OUT WITH A PEN CERTAIN PORTIONS OF
14	SNAP'S DEMURRER PAPERS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED
15	THAT THEY DON'T EXIST. THUS, THE MATERIAL THAT IS
16	STRICKEN. THAT'S THE REQUEST THAT CERTAIN THINGS BE
17	STRICKEN.
18	AND THEN LAST WE HAVE STATUS CONFERENCES IN
19	ALL OF OUR CASES. OKAY.
20	NOW, COUNSEL, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD
21	FOR IT THAT I HAVE PREPARED FOR YOUR HEARING TODAY. I
22	HAVE READ EVERYTHING. I HAVE A TOP-NOTCH RESEARCH
23	ATTORNEY WHO HAS ALSO READ EVERYTHING. WE HAVE
24	CONFERRED.
25	AND I TOLD YOU I DON'T HAVE TENTATIVE
26	RULINGS TO SHARE WITH YOU, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T
27	HAVE TENTATIVE RULINGS.

BUT, I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT MY

TENTATIVE RULINGS ARE BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE NOR WELL,
I'LL JUST SPEAK FOR MYSELF I DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE YET
THAT I UNDERSTAND THE CASE OR THE LAW TO BE APPLIED WELL
ENOUGH TO TELL YOU MY TENTATIVE RULINGS.
SO, WHAT I PLAN TO DO IS, AS I TOLD YOU
YESTERDAY WHEN I POSTED IT ON OUR CASE BULLETIN BOARD,
I'M GOING TO TURN THE FLOOR OVER TO YOU ALL.
I'M GOING TO GIVE THE PLAINTIFFS' SIDE UP
TO AN HOUR TO ARGUE THE DEMURRER. IT MAY NOT BE YOU NEED
ANYWHERE CLOSE TO THAT, BUT YOU MAY HAVE UP TO THAT. AND
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO RESERVE WHATEVER TIME YOU'RE GOING TO
RESERVE FROM YOUR HOUR AT THE FRONT END SO WE KNOW
ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO DO IT THE OTHER WAY
AROUND. AND THE REASON FOR THAT IS THE MOVING PARTY IS
THE DEFENSE. SO, I APOLOGIZE.
OF COURSE, DEFENSE, YOU GO FIRST BECAUSE
YOU'RE THE MOVING PARTY. YOU MAY HAVE UP TO AN HOUR.
AND I WANT YOU TO RESERVE YOUR REBUTTAL TIME.
AS I SAID, WE HAVE TO STOP AT NOON. BUT,
WE CAN PICK UP WHEREVER WE ARE.
AND, PLAINTIFF, YOU WILL HAVE UP TO AN HOUR
TO SAY WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO SAY. REBUTTAL.
AND I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW IT IS ALMOST A
CERTAINTY I WILL BE TAKING THE DEMURRER UNDER SUBMISSION,
I'M NOT LIKELY TO RULE FROM THE BENCH. OKAY?
THEN WE WILL MOVE ON TO OTHER MATTERS.
BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, LET ME TURN THE

FLOOR OVER BRIEFLY TO PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL.

1	ANY COMMENT OR QUESTION AS TO WHAT WE HAVE
2	DONE SO FAR THIS MORNING?
3	MR. BERGMAN: NO, YOUR HONOR.
4	THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.
5	DEFENSE?
6	MS. GRANT: NO, YOUR HONOR.
7	THE COURT: OKAY. ARE YOU PREPARED TO PROCEED?
8	MS. GRANT: I AM, YOUR HONOR.
9	THE COURT: DO YOU WANT TO DO IT FROM THE PODIUM,
10	OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IT FROM RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE?
11	MS. GRANT: WHAT WOULD YOU PREFER?
12	THE COURT: I'M INDIFFERENT AS LONG AS I CAN HEAR
13	YOU.
14	MS. GRANT: I'M HAPPY TO DO IT FROM THE PODIUM.
15	THE COURT: OKAY. ALL RIGHT.
16	FOR THOSE OF YOU IN THE GALLERY, I KNOW
17	COUNSEL APOLOGIZES FOR TURNING HER BACK ON YOU. BUT,
18	THAT'S WHERE THE PODIUM IS, AND IT CAN'T BE MOVED. IT IS
19	BOLTED TO THE FLOOR.
20	ALL RIGHT, COUNSEL, WHENEVER YOU ARE
21	READY.
22	MS. GRANT: YES. THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
23	AGAIN, JESSICA GRANT ON BEHALF OF SNAP,
24	INC. I WILL RESERVE 20 MINUTES FOR REBUTTAL.
25	AND WHAT I WAS PLANNING TO DO, YOUR HONOR,
26	AND IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I WAS JUST GOING TO TAKE MAYBE
27	10 MINUTES OF MY 40 TO JUST KIND OF LAY GIVE AN
28	OVERVIEW SORT OF TO HOPEFULLY HELP YOU UNDERSTAND A

1	LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT OUR ARGUMENTS, AND THEN MAYBE THE
2	NEXT 30 MINUTES ARE JUST IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR
3	THERE IS OTHER ISSUES YOU REALLY WANT TO DRILL DOWN INTO
4	OR EXPLORE WE COULD USE THE REMAINING 30 MINUTES FOR
5	THOSE QUESTIONS.
6	THE COURT: OKAY. I WILL NOT BE BASHFUL ASKING
7	ANYTHING THAT COMES TO MIND.
8	MS. GRANT: AND OBVIOUSLY THE QUESTIONS THAT YOU
9	HAVE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. I WANT TO BE SURE
10	THAT WHEN I LEAVE THE COURTROOM TODAY I HOPEFULLY WILL
11	HAVE ANSWERED ALL OF THE QUESTIONS THAT YOU HAVE BECAUSE
12	THAT'S, I THINK, WHY WE'RE HERE.
13	THE COURT: OKAY. WELL, LET ME JUST SAY THIS UP
14	FRONT.
15	OBVIOUSLY, SECTION 230 IS HUGE. AND WE
16	NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE METES AND BOUNDS OF THAT AND HOW
17	IT APPLIES TO THESE ALLEGATIONS, WHICH I'M OBLIGATED TO
18	ACCEPT AS TRUE.
19	AND I KNOW YOU KNOW THIS AND PROBABLY ARE
20	ABOUT TO TELL ME THIS. WHILE I AM OBLIGATED TO ACCEPT
21	FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AS TRUE, I AM NOT OBLIGATED TO ACCEPT
22	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW ASSERTED AS TRUE. AND I KNOW THAT.
23	AND I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FACTUAL
24	ASSERTION AND A CONCLUSION OF LAW. BUT, PERHAPS THAT'S
25	SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT.
26	THE OTHER THING I WANT TO SAY, THE OTHER
27	MAJOR ISSUE AS I SEE IT ON THE DEMURRER, IS THE QUESTION

OF WHETHER CALIFORNIA'S LAW OF STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY,

Τ	STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY, DO OR DO NOT APPLY TO THIS
2	COLLECTION OF FACTS.
3	AND I WANT TO SAY AT THE FRONT END THAT
4	WHILE RELEVANT, I'M NOT CONVINCED THAT THE HISTORIC TESTS
5	OF TANGIBILITY OF A PRODUCT YOU KNOW, IT'S A CHAINSAW,
6	I CAN TOUCH IT. HERE IT IS. I CAN HOLD IT UP. IT HAS
7	MASKS, OCCUPIES THREE DIMENSIONS IN OUR UNIVERSE.
8	I'M NOT CONVINCED THE TANGIBILITY IS A
9	CATEGORICAL REQUIREMENT.
10	AND I DO WANT TO SAY THIS. THESE CASES I
11	THINK HOW DO I SAY THIS?
12	YOU KNOW, THE LAW OF STRICT PRODUCTS
13	LIABILITY, MISS GRANT, AS I KNOW YOU KNOW, AROSE FROM
14	WHAT THE LAW THROUGH PEOPLE LIKE JUSTICE TRAYNOR DECIDED
15	WERE THE INADEQUACIES OF NEGLIGENCE AND WARRANTY LAW TO
16	ADDRESS A NEW KIND OF SOCIETY IN WHICH PRODUCTS WERE MASS
17	PRODUCED AND MASS MARKETED.
18	AND THE QUESTION A QUESTION POSED BY THE
19	CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT AND ANSWERED BY THE CALIFORNIA
20	SUPREME COURT WAS HOW ARE LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS NEW
21	FORM OF COMMERCE GOING TO BE BORNE IN OUR SOCIETY?
22	AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM ASKING THE
23	SAME QUESTION IN 2023 ABOUT OUR NEW WORLD OF SOCIAL
24	MEDIA: IS STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY APPROPRIATE?
25	I GUESS THAT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO ASK THE
26	QUESTION.
27	AND I WILL BE VERY INTERESTED IN YOU
28	TELLING ME IF YOU THINK THERE IS BINDING CALIFORNIA COURT

28

YOUR HONOR.

OF APPEAL OR SUPREME COURT AUTHORITY THAT ANSWERS THAT 1 QUESTION FOR ME TODAY OR IS IT AN OPEN QUESTION. 2 3 WITH THAT, PLEASE, PROCEED. 4 I'M NOT DEEMING YOU TO HAVE STARTED UNTIL 5 RIGHT NOW. 6 MS. GRANT: SURE. 7 AND WHAT I THINK -- I DO WANT TO ADDRESS YOUR HONOR'S OUESTION. AND I WILL TODAY. BUT, WITH THE 8 15 MINUTES THAT WE HAVE BEFORE LUNCH, I JUST WANT TO GIVE 9 THE OVERVIEW, AND THEN I WANT TO MORE SPECIFICALLY. 10 11 AND I ACTUALLY -- OVER THE LUNCH BREAK, I 12 ACTUALLY WANT TO THINK AND ANSWER YOUR OUESTION AS 13 ADEQUATELY AND AS FULLY AS I CAN BECAUSE -- BUT, THE ONE 14 THING I WILL SAY IS I THINK SECTION 230 IMMUNIZES 15 INTERNET PROVIDERS LIKE SNAP FROM ANY CLAIM, WHETHER IT'S STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY, WHETHER IT'S NEGLIGENCE, ANY 16 17 PUBLIC NUISANCE, ET CETERA. SO, I THINK THAT IS WHY I 18 WANT TO START WITH SECTION 230 AND THEN MOVE OVER TO WHY 19 PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS, HOWEVER THEY ARE ALLEGED -- PRODUCTS 20 LIABILITY, NEGLIGENCE, ET CETERA -- FAIL AS A MATTER OF 21 LAW IF YOU DETERMINE THAT SECTION 230 DOESN'T APPLY. 22 AND YOU STARTED YOUR COMMENTS, AND I WANT 23 TO ECHO THEM, YOUR HONOR, BY SOMETHING THAT I THINK NEEDS 24 TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN THIS COURTROOM, WHICH IS THAT WE 25 ALL FEEL EMPATHY FOR THE PLAINTIFFS AND THEIR LOSSES. 26 THIS CASE IS NO DOUBT TRAGIC. AND, SO, YES, WE ARE ALL

IN AGREEMENT ON THAT. AND I WANTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT,

Τ	I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE AS WELL THAT THE
2	DRUG DEALERS WHO SOLD COUNTERFEIT PILLS THAT WERE
3	SURREPTITIOUSLY LACED WITH A LETHAL DOSE OF FENTANYL
4	SHOULD ALSO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
5	BUT, PLAINTIFFS HAVE NOT AND, INDEED,
6	CANNOT ASSERT ANY LEGAL THEORY UNDER WHICH SNAP WOULD BE
7	LIABLE FOR THE CRIMINAL ACTIONS OF THIRD PARTIES WHO
8	ABUSE SNAPCHAT OR ANY OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION TO
9	SELL DEADLY COUNTERFEIT DRUGS.
10	AND AS NOTED IN OUR DEMURRER, WE HAVE PUT
11	FORTH WHY PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS FAIL FOR TWO INDEPENDENT
12	REASON. ONE IS SECTION 230 OF THE CDA, AND THE SECOND IS
13	THEY FAIL TO STATE A CLAIM.
14	SO, BEFORE I GET INTO THE MERITS OF THAT, I
15	DID WANT TO TAKE A STEP BACK BECAUSE YOU RAISED THE ISSUE
16	ABOUT THE PROFOUND QUESTIONS AND THE NORMS AND THE LAW
17	THAT APPLIES IN OUR 2023 WORLD OF ELECTRONIC
18	INTERCONNECTEDNESS. AND I THINK IN PASSING THE CDA
19	CONGRESS ACTUALLY CONSIDERED THOSE VERY SAME QUESTIONS
20	AND NORMS
21	THE COURT: ALBEIT IN 1996
22	MS. GRANT: RIGHT. BUT, STILL, WE WERE STILL
23	ONLINE.
24	AND A LOT OF THINGS THAT THE TECHNOLOGY
25	TODAY SNAP IS A MESSAGE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM SENDING
26	MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH. DO THE SAME THING ON ZOOM AND
27	OTHER THINGS.
28	AND CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THAT ONLINE

Τ	PLATFORMS CANNOT CONTROL THE ACTIONS OF THIRD PARTIES AND
2	SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PRESCREEN AND SENSOR ALL
3	PRIVATE MESSAGES THAT USERS ARE EXCHANGING WITH ONE
4	ANOTHER. AND THAT'S WHY IT PASSED CDA, TO IMMUNIZE ISP'S
5	FROM CLAIMS LIKE THOSE PRESENTED HERE THAT ARISE FROM
6	THIRD-PARTY CONTENT. AND I THINK WE CAN'T LOSE SIGHT OF
7	THAT.
8	THE CONTENT HERE WAS CREATED BY THE DRUG
9	DEALERS AND THE DECEDENTS, WHO WERE SEEKING TO BUY DRUGS.
10	SNAP, ITS ONLY ROLE WAS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR THE EXCHANGE
11	OF THOSE TWO MESSAGES.
12	SO, QUITE FRANKLY, IF THOSE SAME
13	COMMUNICATIONS HAD HAPPENED VIA TEXT, VIA EMAIL, ON THE
14	PHONE WHICH OF COURSE PHONE CALLS ARE EPHEMERAL, THERE
15	IS NO RECORDS OF THOSE PHONE CALLS AFTER THEY EXIST
16	WOULD ATT BE LIABLE FOR THAT DRUG DEAL?
17	NO. OF COURSE NOT.
18	AND, YET, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE
19	PLAINTIFFS ARE TRYING TO DO HERE, IS HOLD SNAP
20	ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FACT THAT SOMETIMES CRIMINALS DO
21	ABUSE THE PHONE OR SOMETIMES THEY USE OTHER MEANS TO SELL
22	DRUGS.
23	SO, I THINK THE NINTH CIRCUIT IN DOE VERSUS
24	INTERNET BRANDS SAID IT PRETTY WELL, WHICH WAS:
25	THE POLICY OF SECTION 230 IS TO AVOID
26	"IMPOSITION OF TORT LIABILITY UPON COMPANIES THAT DO NOT
27	CREATE POTENTIALLY HARMFUL MESSAGES BUT ARE SIMPLY
28	INTERMEDIARIES FOR THEIR DELIVERY."

1 AND I THINK IT'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO 2 REMEMBER THAT THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT TWICE IN 3 MURPHY AND HASSELL HAVE HELD THAT SECTION 230 IS "TO BE 4 CONSTRUED BROADLY IN FAVOR OF IMMUNITY." 5 SO, EVEN THOUGH --6 THE COURT: CAN I JUST INQUIRE ABOUT THAT? 7 MS. GRANT: SURE. THE COURT: PLAINTIFFS HAVE CITED AUTHORITY TO THE 8 9 CONTRARY, THAT IMMUNITY IS TO BE CONSTRUED NARROWLY. Τ 10 THINK. THAT'S MY RECOLLECTION FROM THE PAPERS. 11 DO YOU RECALL SEEING THAT? 12 MS. GRANT: I DO RECALL SEEING THAT. 13 THE COURT: ARE THEY WRONG? 14 MS. GRANT: THAT IS WRONG BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY 15 CONTRARY TO THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT'S HOLDING IN MURPHY, WHICH IT WAS RELYING ON ANOTHER SUPREME COURT 16 17 CASE, BARRETT VERSUS ROSENTHAL. SO, THEIR ARGUMENT 18 TRYING TO PUSH YOU TO ADOPT A NARROW INTERPRETATION OF 19 SECTION 230 IS COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO CALIFORNIA LAW. 20 AND THE OTHER THING, YOUR HONOR, IS EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN 2023, THERE IS LOTS OF WAYS THAT WE CAN 21 22 COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER ELECTRONICALLY, THE ISSUES 23 THAT YOU FACE RULING ON THIS DEMURRER ARE NOT NEW, AND 24 THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE OF FIRST IMPRESSION. 25 AND, AGAIN, ALTHOUGH WE ALL FEEL EMPATHY 26 FOR THE LOSSES THAT PLAINTIFFS HAVE SUFFERED, THE LEGAL 27 THEORY -- OR THE THEORIES THAT ARE BEING PUT BEFORE YOU

HAVE BEEN TRIED MANY TIMES BEFORE BY OTHER PLAINTIFFS

1 DEALING WITH EQUALLY TRAGIC SITUATIONS.

SO, JUST TO GIVE YOU AN OVERVIEW OF THOSE, WE HAVE SEX CRIMES. IN DOE 2 VERSUS MYSPACE, WHICH IS BINDING AUTHORITY, THE CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL HELD THAT CLAIMS THAT MYSPACE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SURE THAT SEXUAL PREDATORS DO NOT GAIN ACCESS TO OR COMMUNICATE WITH MINORS IS EXPRESSLY BARRED BY SECTION 230.

TERRORISM. IN GONZALES THE NINTH CIRCUIT
HELD THAT GOOGLE'S NEUTRAL COMMUNICATIONS TOOL THAT
PROMOTED TERRORIST CONTENT DID NOT MAKE GOOGLE LIABLE FOR
TERRORISM EVEN THOUGH GOOGLE FAILED TO PREVENT ISIS FROM
USING ITS PLATFORM.

IN TAAMNEH THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT HELD THAT ONLINE PLATFORMS' ALGORITHMS DO NOT SUBJECT THEM TO LIABILITY FOR BAD ACTORS LIKE ISIS WHO USE THE PLATFORM FOR ILLEGAL ENDS.

YOU MAY RECALL, YOUR HONOR, A MASS SHOOTING OCCURRED NOT TOO LONG AGO -- IT WAS HORRIFIC -- IN SOUTH CAROLINA, THE WHITE SUPREMACIST WHO CAME INTO THE PREDOMINANTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH AND JUST MURDERED ALL THESE PEOPLE.

THE PLAINTIFF IN THAT CASE IS THE DAUGHTER
OF THE MINISTER WHO WAS GUNNED DOWN. AND SHE ALLEGED
THAT FACEBOOK'S DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, AND ALGORITHMS
ALLEGEDLY MAXIMIZED ENGAGEMENT WITH WHITE SUPREMACIST
CONTENT.

AND THE COURT HELD THAT ALL OF PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS WERE BARRED BY SECTION 230; IT GRANTED FACEBOOK'S

1	MOTION TO DISMISS NOTING THAT COURTS CONSISTENTLY
2	INTERPRETED SECTION 230 TO BAR CLAIMS SEEKING TO HOLD
3	INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS LIABLE FOR THE CONTENT THAT
4	WAS EXCHANGED AND POSTED. AND THE COURT SAID SOMETHING
5	THERE THAT PERHAPS WILL RESONATE, YOUR HONOR. THEY SAID:
6	"THE BALANCING OF THE BROAD SOCIETAL
7	BENEFITS OF A ROBUST INTERNET AGAINST THE SOCIAL HARM
8	ASSOCIATED WITH BAD ACTORS UTILIZING THESE SERVICES IS
9	QUINTESSENTIALLY THE FUNCTION OF CONGRESS NOT THE
10	COURTS."
11	I THINK THAT GOES TO YOUR QUESTION WHEN YOU
12	WERE POSING ABOUT STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY, YOU KNOW,
13	WHO BEARS THE COSTS. AND I THINK CONGRESS HAS ALREADY
14	MADE THAT DETERMINATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 230.
15	AND, THEN, THE LAST SORT OF AREA WHERE
16	THERE'S BEEN TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES IS DRUG CRIMES LIKE WE
17	HAVE HERE.
18	AND I THINK, YOUR HONOR, DIEROFF IS
19	SQUARELY ON POINT. THERE, A YOUNG PERSON USED A WEBSITE
20	THAT ENABLED ANONYMOUS MESSAGING THROUGH FORUMS WITH
21	TOPIC NAMES LIKE "I LOVE HEROIN"; AND HE POSTED A MESSAGE
22	"WHERE CAN I SCORE HEROIN," AND HE RECEIVED A RESPONSE
23	FROM A DRUG DEALER FROM WHOM HE PURCHASED WHAT HE THOUGHT
24	WAS HEROIN BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS LACED WITH A LETHAL
25	DOSE OF FENTANYL AND HE DIED.
26	AND THE NINTH CIRCUIT ACKNOWLEDGED THE
27	FACTS WERE NO DOUBT TRAGIC BUT AFFIRMED DISMISSAL AT THE
28	PLEADING STAGE ON SECTION 230 GROUNDS

1 AND, IMPORTANTLY, CALIFORNIA COURTS HAVE 2 FOLLOWED THE NINTH CIRCUIT'S SECTION 230 JURISPRUDENCE. 3 SO, IN PRAGER UNIVERSITY VERSUS GOOGLE, 4 AGAIN THE COURT OF APPEALS -- IT'S BINDING AUTHORITY --5 SUSTAINED THE DEMURRER WITHOUT LEAVE TO AMEND ON SECTION 6 230 GROUNDS. AGAIN, DOE VERSUS MYSPACE AS WELL. 7 AND IN ALL OF THESE CASES, THE COMMON DENOMINATOR IS THAT THE DEFENDANTS, LIKE SNAP HERE, 8 9 MERELY PROVIDED A COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM WHICH CERTAIN USERS DECIDED TO USE TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT ILLEGAL 10 11 ACTIVITY. 12 SO, IN ALL THE PRIOR CASES THAT I JUST 13 MENTIONED -- SEX CRIMES, MASS SHOOTINGS, TERRORISM, DRUG 14 CRIMES -- THE PLAINTIFFS HAVE TRIED TO DISTRACT FROM THE 15 CENTRAL ISSUE THAT THE USER-GENERATED CONTENT -- AND JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, WHEN I SAY USER-GENERATED CONTENT, THAT'S 16 17 CONTENT THAT IS CREATED AND EXCHANGED BY THE USERS ON THE 18 PLATFORMS. AND THE PLAINTIFFS IN ALL OF THOSE CASES HAVE 19 DONE WHAT THE PLAINTIFFS ARE DOING HERE, THEY'RE TRYING 20 TO DISTRACT FROM THE FACT THAT THE USER-GENERATED CONTENT HERE, THE HARM IS FROM THE MESSAGES THAT WERE CREATED AND 21 22 EXCHANGED BY THE USERS AND THE DRUG DEALERS TO CONSUMMATE 23 A DRUG SALE. 24 AND I GUESS I WOULD SAY -- PLAINTIFFS ARE 25 SAYING "WELL, WAIT A MINUTE, WE'RE NOT SEEKING TO HOLD 26 SNAP LIABLE FOR CONTENT, WE'RE FOCUSING ON THEM AS A CREATOR OF A DEFECTIVE DESIGNED APPLICATION." 27

DEVELOPER OF A PRODUCT. AND THEY LIST 21 WHAT THEY CALL

```
1
     DEFECTS THAT THEY CLAIM MAKE SNAPCHAT INHERENTLY
 2
     DANGEROUS.
 3
                   BUT, COURTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DETERMINED
 4
     THAT CLAIMS RELYING ON THESE EXACT SAME DESIGN DEFECTS
 5
     CANNOT EVADE THE SCOPE OF SECTION 230.
 6
                   AND I THINK THE NINTH CIRCUIT SAID IT BEST
 7
     IN DIEROFF WHEN IT REJECTED THESE EXACT SAME ARGUMENTS.
 8
     THE NINTH CIRCUIT HELD THAT PLAINTIFFS CANNOT PLEAD
 9
     AROUND 230 IMMUNITY BY TARGETING FEATURES AND FUNCTIONS.
     INCLUDING ALGORITHMS TO ANALYZE AND RECOMMEND CONTENT,
10
11
     EVEN WHEN THE CLAIM IS CLOAKED IN THE GARB OF PRODUCTS
12
     LIABILITY.
13
                   FORCE VERSUS FOR FACEBOOK IS ANOTHER, I
14
     THINK, REALLY IMPORTANT DECISION, YOUR HONOR. THAT'S THE
15
     SECOND CIRCUIT. AFFIRMED THE DISTRICT COURT'S DISMISSAL
     OF PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS HOLDING "WE DISAGREE WITH
16
17
     PLAINTIFFS' CONTENTION THAT -- THAT FACEBOOK'S ALGORITHMS
18
     RENDERS IT A NON-PUBLISHER."
19
                   "ARRANGING AND DISTRIBUTING THIRD-PARTY
20
     INFORMATION INHERENTLY FORMS CONNECTIONS AND MATCHES
21
     AMONG SPEAKERS AND VIEWERS OF CONTENT."
22
                   THAT IS ESSENTIAL RESULT OF PUBLISHING.
23
     ACCEPTING PLAINTIFFS' ARGUMENT WOULD EVISCERATE SECTION
24
     230 --
25
            THE COURT: CAN I INTERRUPT YOU PLEASE --
26
            MS. GRANT:
                        YES.
2.7
            THE COURT:
                        I HEAR YOU; I UNDERSTAND YOUR
28
     ARGUMENT.
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```
IS -- WELL, I, GUESS THE QUESTION IS CAN I
 1
 2
     DECIDE THIS AT THE PLEADING STAGE?
 3
                   I KNOW YOUR ANSWER. YOUR ANSWER IS "YES,
 4
     YOU CAN, JUDGE RIFF."
 5
                   BUT, I'M THINKING TO MYSELF -- ACTUALLY,
 6
     I'M GOING TO WITHHOLD THAT COMMENT. MY QUESTION IS
 7
     REALLY BETTER DIRECTED TO THE NEXT PHASE OF YOUR
     ARGUMENT, WHICH IS BASICALLY, WELL, EVEN IF 230 DOES NOT
 8
     APPLY. THEN MY QUESTION -- I WILL LET YOU THINK ABOUT IT
 9
10
     OVER LUNCH -- IS SHOULD I NOT PERMIT DEVELOPMENT OF THE
11
     FACTUAL RECORD.
12
                   AND I'M PROBABLY DISTRACTING YOU FROM YOUR
13
     230 COMMENT --
14
            MS. GRANT: I CAN ACTUALLY ANSWER THAT OUESTION
15
     BECAUSE YOU ASKED FOR BINDING AUTHORITY AND I CAN GIVE IT
16
     TO YOU.
17
                   SO, YOUR QUESTION IS IS THIS THE PROPER
18
     PLACE OR SHOULD WE WAIT FOR AN EVIDENTIARY RECORD AND
19
     MAYBE DO MSJ OR SOMETHING LATER ON --
20
            THE COURT: YEAH, AND LET ME JUST FLESH THAT OUT A
21
     LITTLE BIT.
22
                   SO, IF THE QUESTION IS -- PUTTING 230 ASIDE
23
     FOR A MINUTE BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I
24
     UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT, WHICH IS THAT NO MATTER HOW
25
     PLED -- WHETHER WE CALL IT A COUNT, A THEORY, OR ANYTHING
26
     ELSE -- 230 IMMUNIZES SNAP'S ALLEGED CONDUCT IN THIS CASE
27
     PERIOD, END OF STORY. I DO UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENT.
28
     OKAY. AND PRESUMABLY AFTER LUNCH YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME
```

1 MORE ABOUT THAT.

BUT, JUMPING AHEAD AND -- IF 230 FOR SOME REASON DIDN'T EXIST OR DOESN'T APPLY AND NOW THE COURT IS CONFRONTED WITH DOES STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY APPLY TO THESE SET OF FACTS, SHOULD THE COURT PERMIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACTUAL RECORD IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT DETERMINATION?

IF YOU DON'T CHOOSE TO ADDRESS THAT NOW,
IT'S FINE.

MS. GRANT: SURE. LET ME JUST -- OKAY. SO, THE DEMURRER IS THE PROPER PLACE BECAUSE NO AMOUNT OF AMENDMENT IS GOING TO CHANGE THIS FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THEIR CASE. THE HARM HERE COMES FROM THE CONTENT. SO, IF THE DRUG DEALER AND THE USER WERE JUST CONNECTED AND THEY NEVER COMMUNICATED -- SO, LIKE, MAYBE YOU HAVE SOME FACEBOOK FRIENDS YOU HAVE NO COMMUNICATION, RIGHT. SO IF THEY'RE JUST CONNECTED, THERE IS NO HARM. THERE IS -- THEY NEVER EXCHANGE ANY COMMUNICATION.

IF THEY WERE CONNECTED AND THEY EXCHANGED COMMUNICATION ABOUT CAT MEMES OR THE LA RAMS OR WHATEVER, NO HARM.

THE HARM HERE IS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO

THE CONTENT OF THE MESSAGE: SETTING UP TO BUY DRUGS THAT

ULTIMATELY WERE LACED WITH FENTANYL.

NO AMOUNT OF PLEADING, NO AMOUNT OF -- YOU

DON'T NEED TO EVALUATE WITNESS CREDIBILITY, NOTHING WILL

CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE HARM HERE IS 100 PERCENT

DEPENDENT ON THE CONTENT. IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THE MESSAGES

```
1
     ABOUT THE DRUGS, WELL, THE DECEDENTS WOULD STILL BE HERE
 2
     AND WE WOULDN'T. THE ONLY REASON THAT THEY WERE HARMED
 3
     IS BECAUSE THEY HAD COMMUNICATIONS ON A NEUTRAL
 4
     COMMUNICATIONS TOOL ABOUT PURCHASING DRUGS.
 5
                   SO, THE DEMURRER IS THE RIGHT STAGE.
                                                          AND,
     IN FACT, SECTION 230 MAKES CLEAR IT'S IMMUNITY FROM SUIT.
 6
 7
     AND, SO, THESE ARE PURELY LEGAL QUESTIONS, THEY DON'T
 8
     DEPEND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACTUAL RECORD.
 9
                   NOW, TO YOUR OTHER OUESTION ABOUT "WELL,
10
     STRICT LIABILITY IF I FIND SECTION 230 DOESN'T APPLY DO
11
     WE STILL NEED TO GO FORWARD IN DISCOVERY, " THE ANSWER IS
12
     NO.
13
                   BUT, I KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS. IT'S NOON.
14
     AND I AM HAPPY TO ANSWER THAT WHEN WE COME BACK FROM
15
     LUNCH BREAK --
            THE COURT: LET'S DO THAT.
16
17
                   IT IS NOON. WE WILL BE IN RECESS -- WHY
18
     DON'T YOU AGGREGATE YOURSELVES RIGHT AROUND 1:30 AND
19
     SHORTLY THEREAFTER WE WILL GET THE DOORS OPEN AND
20
     CONTINUE WITH OUR HEARING.
21
                   THANK YOU.
22
23
                    (ENDING TIME: 12:00 A.M. P.M. SESSION
24
                    REPORTED BY GAIL DAVIDSON.)
25
26
2.7
28
```

1	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
3	DEPARTMENT SSC 7
4	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
5	AMY NEVILLE; ET AL.,)
6	PLAINTIFFS,))
7	VS.) CASE NO. 22STCV33500
8	SNAP INC.,) REPORTER'S) CERTIFICATE
9	DEFENDANT.))
10	
11	
12	
13	I, GAIL PEEPLES, PRO TEMPORE OFFICIAL REPORTER
14	OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY
15	OF LOS ANGELES, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING
16	PAGES 1 THROUGH 35, INCLUSIVE, COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND
17	CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS HELD IN DEPARTMENT
18	SSC 7 ON OCTOBER 18, 2023, IN THE MATTER OF THE
19	ABOVE-ENTITLED CAUSE.
20	DATED THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023
21	DATED THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023/
22	and Tupos
23	GAIL PEEPLES, CSR NO. 11458 PRO TEMPORE REPORTER
24	PRO PEMPORE REPORTER
25	
26	
27	
28	

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